

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1474

FELIX



19.11.10

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949



STUDENTS CONQUER HIMALAYAN PEAKS

5,700m up, far from South Kensington and battling the monsoon. [The full report: Page 20](#)

Do overseas students welcome higher fees?

Ian Wei

Proposals to increase the tuition fee cap to £9000 per year for EU and home students were attacked by over 50,000 students protesting on the streets of London last week. However, the opinions of one particular group of students who also have a stake in this matter have mostly been ignored. Felix explores the effect that raising the tuition fee cap will have

on international students.

The leading UK universities have a reputation for world-class research and teaching, which attract many overseas applicants. As a consequence, the number of international students in the top universities is a sizeable chunk of the student population, and the money generated by these students is a significant source of funding. At Imperial during the year 2009, fees paid by interna-

tional students contributed 68.6 million pounds which was over double the income generated by home students' fees, despite only making up 26% of undergraduate numbers.

If the tuition fee cap is raised, it may reduce the incentive for universities to make up the shortfall in funding by excessively increasing the fees paid by international students or by increasing the numbers. However, while raising

the tuition fee cap will plug the gap left by the abolition of the teaching budget, it still leaves many universities underfunded, so international students may yet face a increase in tuition fees. Speaking at Peking University on the 10th of November, Prime Minister David Cameron said that raising the tuition fee cap for home students will mean that "foreign students will still pay a signifi-
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MUSIC



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FASHION



An affordable and close-by place to get pampered: [Page 29](#)

GAMES



Thank heavens! Goldeneye has finally returned: [Page 32](#)

Metric set for opening night

The long awaited new Union club finally opens its doors to eager students on Saturday. Will it dawn a new era of live music at the Union? [Page 3](#)

Has feedback finally improved?

At the beginning of term the Rector told staff that feedback was 'a priority'. Has there been any improvement for students on the ground? [Page 4](#)

Medical faculty reshuffle

New leadership positions within Faculty of Medicine announced while Faculty of Engineering gets yet another new Principal. [Page 6](#)

THE FIGHTBACK AGAINST HIGHER FEES HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN [Page 8](#)

- Sit-ins at Manchester and Sussex
- Activists plan to occupy Lib Dem HQ
- Day of 'direct action' planned on 24th Nov

Photo by Miles Robertson



HIGHLIGHTS

On campus

Plastic Electronics and its applications

Plastic electronics is currently a hot research topic. Members of the Centre of Plastic Electronics talk about it's applications from solar cell efficiency to patterning of polymer films. Wine reception after talks. No registration in advance, free to drop in.

Lecture Theatre D, RCS1
23 November 14:00-17:00

Global Energy Goals

Professor Robert Socolow, of Princeton University, discusses the response of the global energy system to environmental and security constraints including carbon capture and the deployment of energy technology in developing countries. Registration in advance, email r.walters@imperial.ac.uk



LT 220, Mechanical Engineering
23 November 18:00-19:30

The Untapped Potential for Radio Innovation

Although radio spectrum is thought of as a limited resource, the utilization of the spectrum doubles every 30 months, in what's called 'Cooper's Law'. David Cleevely, an entrepreneur and once government advisor, will talk about how this is possible and how innovation in radio technology will ensure that this growth continues into the future.

Room 408, EEE Building
24 November 17:30-18:30

EDITOR'S PICK

Felix Radio Show

Every Monday. 19:00-20:00



It's so awesome, it'll make your ears bleed. Wait that's not right...

Can't get enough of Felix? Do you pick up the paper on Friday, read it cover-to-cover and then find yourself wanting more? No? That's understandable...

However if you find yourself sitting bored on a Monday evening at your computer, tune in to Felix's pioneering radio show (we use the word pioneering loosely...) You'll hear candid discussions about the news that week and get an insight into the on-goings of the newspaper, as well as some great music provided by the Music section.

Every Monday at icradio.com. Tune in!

Editor

Union Notice

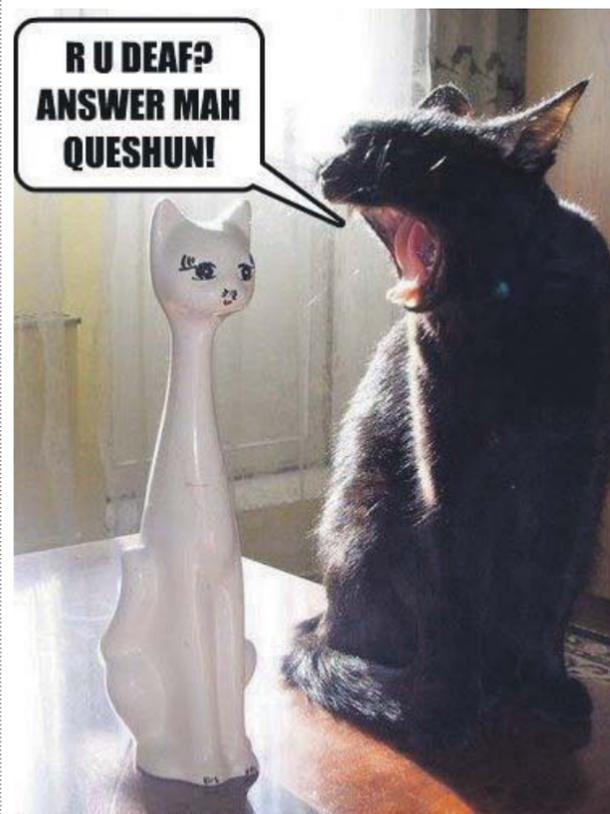
Environmental Policy

Shape the Union's policy on environmental issues for years to come

The Union has taken big leaps forward over the last three years to become more sustainable and more sensitive to the environment. Motion sensor lights are now in use around the Union to save energy, only recycled paper is used and paper usage has been reduced by moving as many forms as possible online.

It's time to formulate a new Environmental Policy for the next three years. Your opinions and ideas on environmental sustainability are needed. Email Alex Kendall at president@imperial.ac.uk to find out how you can get involved.

Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

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Metric finally set to open

After almost two months of delays, the new club opens its doors to students

Kadhim Shubber

After almost two months of waiting, the Union's new club, Metric, is set to open triumphantly on Saturday 20th November. The launch marks the end of 'Phase 3' of the £2.5 million Union redevelopment, which included the refurbishment of the old Da Vinci's bar, now FiveSixEight, and a scrub up of the Union Bar.

The refurbishment, which began at the beginning of the summer, has been beset with problems relating to the age of the building, including the discovery of asbestos a month ago. In addition the removal of a central pillar in Metric, which threatened to jeopardise the clubs' ability to act as a live music venue, proved to be a greater construction challenge than thought. As a Union spokesperson put it, "the club would have opened for Welcome Week if it weren't for the pillar". The original opening date of the 2nd of October was first moved back to the 29th, but the discovery of asbestos meant it was pushed back again to the

"At the time of writing over 400 tickets had been sold in advance"

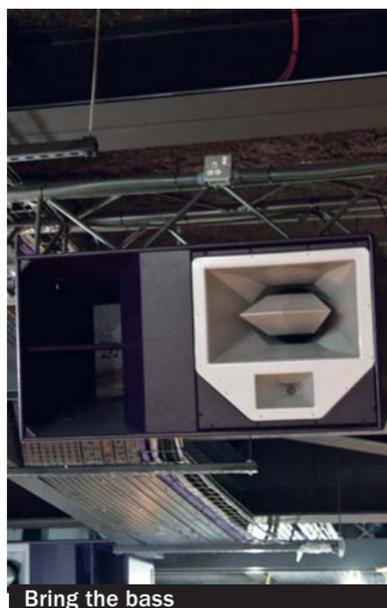
20th of November.

The event is almost guaranteed to be a sell-out. At the time of writing over 400 tickets had been sold in advance and builders were working well into the night adding finishing touches to the venue. However some students have complained that the cost of entry is too high, citing the delayed opening as a reason to have free entrance, "This is actually a joke. How is this not free considering how long its taken to open?" said one student on the Facebook event. The issue was also brought up during the Union Council meeting on Monday 15th November. However the Union rejected this criticism saying, "bands don't come for free regardless of whether there's asbestos delays or not". In addition Union President Alex Kendall told Council that the Union were spending £6,000 on the event and even if they sold out, they would still make a £3,000 loss on ticket sales.

The event has a focus on live music that will become the hallmark of Union events for this year and years to come. The club was redesigned with live music in mind and so finally the theory, drawn from student surveys, that Imperial students want more live music will be put to the test.

Editorial: Page 16

A sneak peek inside Metric



Bring the bass



Lighting in the 'snug' area



Booth seating, similar to that in FiveSixEight

Here's to a new era of live music

Greg Power
Music Editor



I'm quite pumped about the opening of Metric and what I'm most interested in seeing – as a live music fanatic – is the new stage. For those who dare to recall dB's, it was a pretty terrible setup, far from ideal for playing gigs. We should now have ourselves a swag gigging venue, and that's great news for everyone from Jazz n' Rock, to Music Tech Soc, to KnitSoc. Hopefully the opening of Metric will usher in a new era of Imperial home brew activity with many a live night ahead of us. There's also hope that a more badass venue should attract a higher caliber of touring artists, and coupled to IC Radio's increasingly popular recording studio we might yet see a few awesome live records produced in-house capturing electrifying stage performances. The possibilities are endless!

For now though we'll have to make due with tomorrow's grand opening, which in any case is bound to be massive. Roaming back and forth between the club and 568's impossibly long bar you should be able to catch a few decent tunes, with DJ Elles providing your indie rock fix and Miss Pink smearing some electro filth all over the floor. Citadels will be present, showcasing their tender

synth-pop. Don't expect moshing or ruthless self-mutilation, but if you have a thing for MGMT, The Flaming Lips and over-the-top pastiches of 70's drug-induced psychedelia, then you might enjoy this. And they seem like nice chaps, and may bring a little happiness into your bleak heart when you stumble into the room, drunk as hell, having just been shot down by that girl you will have been hitting on all night. Finalists (but losers) of Sky1's answer to X-Factor – 'Must Be The Music' – Missing Andy mix stadium pop-rock and emo-rap. It's like that hip-hop song Keane did, except all the time. Finally the femmes fatales of Robots in Disguise will turn the volume up with their frantic, shouty brand of electro-rock, which is perfect if you thought the fembots from Austin Powers were hot.

I hope it is a night for all to remember, whether or not the music on display is your thing, and here's to hoping the Union does not forget to include performances by interesting, cutting-edge artists. Obviously there will always be the need to cater to as wide a taste as possible. But when you've spend gazillions on a sweet-ass live music venue, you want to do it justice with some sweet-ass live music.

Details

Drinks: £4.50 Double Vodka + Red Bull

Tickets: £5 advance/£7 on the door

Music: Tom Morley, Citadels, Missing Andy, Robots in Disguise, DJ Elles, Miss Pink

Time: Saturday 20th, 20:00 – 03:00

NEWS

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

Simon Singh speaks on libel success and the road ahead

Photo by Slobodan Radosavljevic



On Monday the 15th, Simon Singh announced that he would deliver a talk at Imperial College. He was talking at the Neonatal Update 2010 seminar taking place at the college for academics from around the world. Dr Singh's talk was free for all to attend, but sadly poorly promoted to the rest of the college. Since his packed-out talk last year, the author of 'Fermat's Last Theorem' has won the libel case that has propelled him from being a brilliant science journalist to a crusader for the reform of Britain's byzantine and horrendously damaging libel laws and the de-facto spokesman for anti-alternative medicine – while keeping the incredibly cool hair.

A short history of the case of Singh vs. the British Chiropractic Association highlights all that is currently wrong with the libel laws in this country. From the almost worshipful tones that the audience phrased their questions to Simon, there was a real indication of how much the scientific community appreciates his efforts to tackle the libel laws head on. After he published an article in The Guardian in 2006 criticising chiropractors for offering to treat infant diseases such as colic when there was no scientific evidence to support their claims that it worked, Singh was personally sued by the BCA for libel. If the fact that a person can be sued for libel by simply stating scientific fact makes you angry, the rest of Singh's talk would leave you blind with rage. He outlined how incredibly easy it is to accuse someone of libel; how even legal victory can lose you well over £100,000 in legal fees; and worst of all, how hard it is to defend yourself in terms of the law, even when science backs you up.

A brilliant and entertaining public speaker, Singh's lecture was given with the effortless cool that we expect from the only astrophysics professor to have wire-framed round glasses and a meticulous hi-fade, even in photographs of him having acupuncture to the face. Informative and funny, Imperial's coolest alumnus since HG Wells convinced all and sundry present to sign up to his campaign at www.libelreform.org.

Matt Allinson

At the beginning of term, the Rector called for action to improve coursework assessment and marking, so...

Has feedback improved?

Sophia David

The start of term saw Imperial announce a campaign to improve the assessment of students' work. Ahead of the end of term surveys, Felix investigates the improvements that have been made. Has the college gone far enough or is there still more that should be done?

The National Student Survey showed assessment and feedback were lagging way behind other areas in college which otherwise scored exceptionally. The Rector, Keith O'Nions called for 'strong and concerted action' and recommended a two week feedback deadline.

This deadline is now being implemented in almost every department across college. If a piece of work takes longer to mark, lecturers must justify this to the Director of Undergraduate Studies and inform the students.

The only department not implementing the two week deadline is Civil Engineering, whose 'timetable did not permit the change', remarked Alex Dahinten, Deputy President (Education). 'They have, however, reduced the average time to return feedback to students considerably over the past years'. The department itself was not available for comment.

From my own experience in Biology, lecturers judge the new rules as fair to students even if they generate added pressure for staff. Steve Cook, Head of first year Biology, commented that, 'For essays, balancing the requirements for speed and consistency in marking is tricky, but this has always been the case.' In second year, one exception to the rule has been permitted, a 20+ page bioinformatics project, with one lecturer marking 150 pieces of work. Students are very reasonable and understand the 3 week turnaround given to this project.

However, general consensus among students across departments is that whilst timeliness of feedback has almost certainly improved this year, the quality of feedback is much the same. The main issue raised by students questioned by Felix was that feedback remained 'impersonal'.

'Quality of marking to me is far more important that the speed with which we get it back. Of course I don't want it back months later as happened in a few instances last year, but a little more one-to-one interaction between lecturer and student would help tremendously', commented a second year biology student.

But students and staff differ in their criteria of what constitutes good feedback. Whilst students call for more detailed personal feedback, many staff readily dismiss its importance.

Photo by Tom Welch



Look at her waste away her degree on Facebook. Damn you Zuckerberg!!!

Frank Berkshire, director of undergraduate studies in Mathematics, told Felix that 'Personal feedback is deliberately not aimed to provide a full blow-by-blow account of what has gone wrong, but to indicate where and how, so that students can find their way through to an improvement in performance.'

Perhaps students also need to broaden their ideas on what constitutes feedback and accept that it comes in a variety of forms, an idea suggested by Alex Dahinten, Deputy President (Education). 'A lecturer discussing the major issues in the last coursework is feedback. Red pen annotations on your lab scripts is feedback. Even verbal conversation about the previous coursework is feedback.'

Students take feedback very seriously and rightly so. 'If College wishes for Imperial to be 'world-class' in teaching and learning, then it needs to be 'world-class' in feedback as well; lecturers have an obligation to ensure that the feedback students receive is of good quality', said Alex Dahinten.

When students put a great deal of time and effort into a piece of work, they expect their marks to be justified, wrong-doings explained and methods for improvement highlighted. Late and poor quality feedback not only dissatisfies students but prepares them poorly

for exams.

With tuition fees for international students of over £20,000, and the prospect of UK/EU fees being trebled to £9000, there is growing consensus among students that they should still get value for money. Rightly so, students should expect nothing more than exceptional standards in all areas of teaching including feedback.

Dissatisfied students have the right to challenge their department over any issues by approaching their year or departmental reps. The rep system can play a vital role in seeking out those members of staff whose feedback does not live up to the standards students expect.

Improving student satisfaction with assessment and feedback is going to be no easy task. Positive steps have certainly been made this term by strict implementation of deadlines and students should recognise that. But they should also not be afraid to speak out and voice their concerns over departments and staff neglecting their obligation to provide decent feedback.

Perhaps a significant shift in mind-set of students is also required of students. We must forget the days of being spoon-fed in school and accept the different nature of university feedback. It is our responsibility to pave our own way forward.

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

Should international students plug the funding gap?

...Continued from Front Page
cant amount of money – but we should be able to keep that [international tuition fee] growth under control”.

International students at Imperial currently pay over 7 times the amount that home students pay per annum, though the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) subsidizes some of the teaching costs for home students. International tuition fees are set by the Management Board within College in the previous year. When deciding upon how much international students are charged, a college spokesman stated that “Imperial takes into consideration a number of factors, including the fees set by its national and international com-

“Another difference is that overseas fees are not frozen for the year of entry”

petitors, and course demand”.

The average tuition fees faced by international students have steadily risen since 2005 and are set to rise by a further £430 for next year. The most noticeable example of an increase in fees is for undergraduate medicine years 1-3, which has been increased by around a third since 2005. International tuition fees must also be paid upfront and on top of that, bursaries for international students are few and far between.

When asked whether the current disparity between home fees and international fees was fair, the student reaction was mixed, though it was mutually agreed that the issue of international fees is controversial.

One student, who wishes to remain anonymous, believes that he can “see that high fees for foreigners may damage a prestigious university’s ability to take on only the very best students”, but thinks that UK students are more likely to stay in the UK, which could potentially have positive effects on the UK’s economy and skilled workers base. On this basis, he believes “the same benefits will not be seen from foreign students, and so perhaps it is justified that they bear the brunt of university costs” though added that it “sounds to me as if more bursaries should be offered for internationals – this would allow UK universities to acquire outstanding students”.

Another difference for the interna-

tional fee system is that tuition fees are not frozen for the year of entry, which means that the fees paid by any international students who are currently studying at the university could potentially be affected by changes in the economic climate.

The instability of the international fee system is something that the union finds worrying. The union president, Alex Kendall, believes that “the [international fee] system needs to be transparent, [international] students need to know how much they pay each year”. The union will be discussing this issue with the College in the coming weeks.

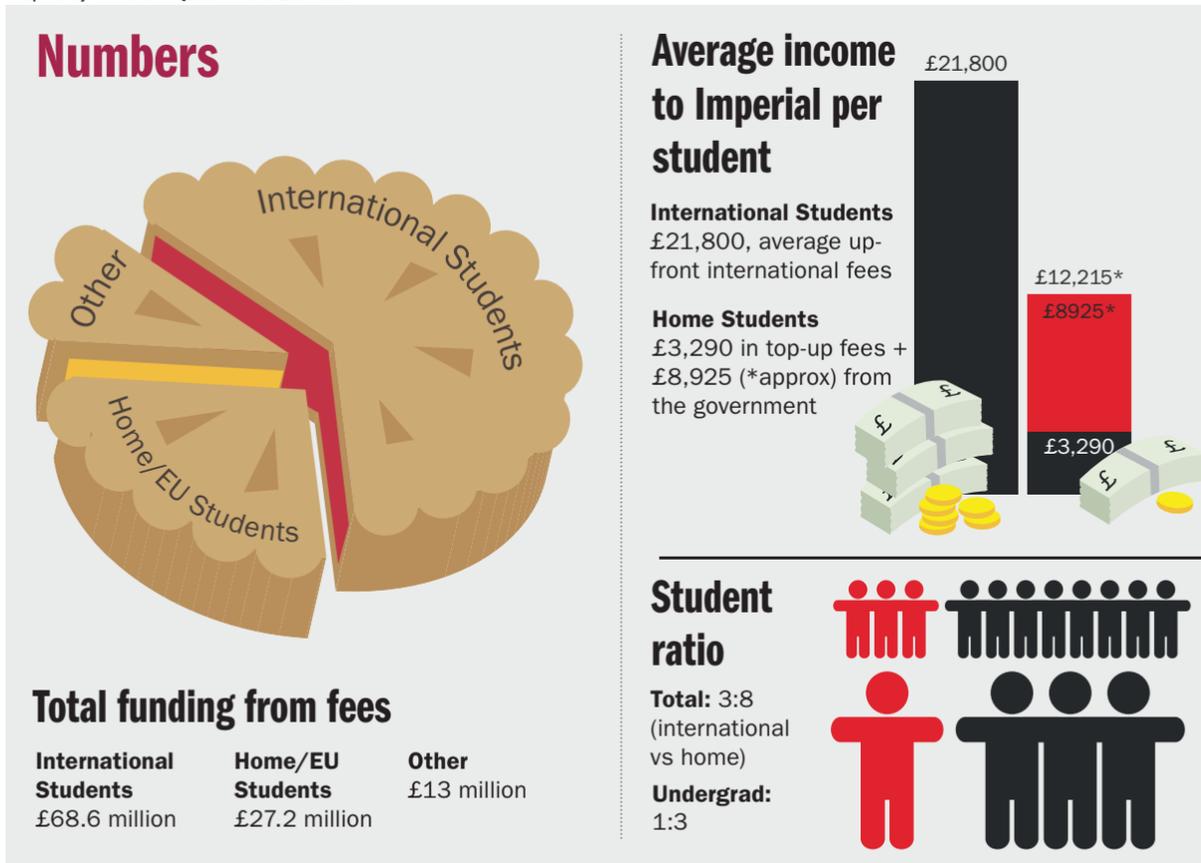
The question of how much top universities can charge before overseas applicants are put off by the fees is a tricky one. An international student, who wishes to remain anonymous, believes that for more well off international students, increasing fees would not deter them from applying to the UK, but added that “for another part of international students, maybe the fees will be too high. Maybe they will choose to go to other European universities, like Germany which has some universities which don’t charge tuition fees at all”. When asked whether a rise in tuition fees would have stopped her from applying to the UK, she answered that it would not have, but that if she was offered a bursary elsewhere, such as the USA, she would have opted to go there instead.

On the other hand, raising tuition fees for home students is also fraught with complications. Imperial student Rebecca Clarke, a 3rd year undergraduate physicist, believes that raising fees for home students would be “more fair for all the non EU students” but she had reservations as to whether raising the tuition fees for home students would be fair overall, “because home students outweigh the numbers of international students, if not at Imperial then certainly across the UK”.

Not raising the tuition fee cap will mean that overseas students may have to shoulder the burden of the shortfall in funding raising their already substantial tuition fees. Raising the tuition fee cap will double or treble the amount of debt that home students leave university with.

Any increase in tuition fees for home students will undoubtedly reduce the financial burden faced by their colleagues from overseas. Nevertheless as the cap on home tuition fees remains, it is likely that the fees paid by international students will continue to play a disproportionate role in plugging the hole in the university’s funding.

Graphics by Veronika McQuadeova and Zulfi Khan



ICU photosoc TUTORIAL WEEK 22nd - 27th November

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NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
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Entry standards

Imperial's Maths Department has 'highest' entry standards in UK



Cambridge uses the Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP) for Mathematics

Potential undergraduate maths students may find it harder to receive an offer from Imperial this year as a result of the A*. Imperial's Mathematics Department has the highest A level entry requirements in the UK, asking for A*A*A with the A*s in Maths and Further Maths. Although these criteria are much more demanding than those of other universities, they are only a marginal change from Imperial's previous highest offer of AAA with As in each maths module. "We rely entirely on the UCAS form and A level results, so it is not surprising that our minimal entry requirement is higher." Prof. Alexei Skorobogatov, Imperial's Mathematics Admissions Tutor, explains.

A College spokesperson said: "The College aims to identify, attract and develop students of the highest ability and the admissions criteria reflect this" and added that "The A* grade for A levels is one way to help academic departments [...] identify those who would benefit most from an education at Imperial". However some students believe that the current system is unfair. "Everyone always drops a few marks in exams," Navid Nabijou, a first year undergraduate mathematics student, states, "some people who have a clear knowledge of mathematics will be ruled out because they make errors in calculations. Many students also find that they aren't used to the way university mathematics is. A good STEP test mark shows a lot more about mathematical understanding than an A* at A level."

The Sixth Term Examination Paper, or STEP, is used by Cambridge University, which requires lower A level grades of A*AA. "STEP is a far better predictor of success in our mathematics examinations than A-levels." Steve Siklos of Cambridge University Admissions Office believes. "The questions are less standard and less structured, which helps to distinguish between ability and good teaching." The STEP test helps Cambridge to select students while preparing them for the sort of mathematics they will experience at university. Interviews are also conducted for all successful applicants, though only 1200 students apply for Mathematics at Cambridge each year. Interviews are logistically difficult to conduct at Imperial due to the sheer number of applicants: 2000 students apply for only 220 places.

The current system of A*A*A without interviews or additional tests has only been enforced for a year and so it is too early to tell whether it has any real faults. The system is not yet fixed and Imperial may even consider an alternative form of testing in future years. "Our admissions criteria are reviewed every year to make sure that we are selecting the best qualified students for our degrees" Prof. Skorobogatov reassures.

Zainab Ali

New Pro-Rector announced

Major personnel changes in Engineering and Medicine

Alex Karapetian

New senior medical leadership positions have been announced in a bid to strengthen integration with the UK's first Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC). Professor Stephen Smith, Principal of the Faculty of Medicine and Chief Executive of the IC Healthcare NHS Trust, is to become Pro Rector (Health) and combine his roles. Professor Smith formed the AHSC in 2007 by leading the integration of College and the NHS Trust. He is also the Founding Dean of the Nanyang Technological University Medical School, Imperial's campus in Singapore. Responsibilities of the new role include managing Imperial's strategic opportunities in health science research and education across the world.

The AHSC is a partnership intended to transform the health and quality of life of patients by integrating healthcare research, teaching and clinical care. The IC NHS Trust is supported by the National Institute for Health Research through its Biomedical Research Center designation. Plans to extend the AHSC to form an Academic Health Science System (AHSS) are under way, and this will be chaired by the rector of Imperial College, Sir Keith O'Nions, who said "Building on the success of our original AHSC model, which ties together teaching, research and healthcare through integrated



Professor Stephen Smith

leadership and governance, we are making governance changes to become more inclusive and that will open doors to other potential associates in the AHSS."

Additionally, Professor Jeff Magee, currently Head of the Department of Computing, and Deputy Principal (Research), has been appointed Principal of the Faculty of Engineering and will commence his role in January 2011. With over 30 years experience in the field of Computer Science research and extensive work with BP, BT, Barclays Capital and others under his belt, he will lead the Faculty of Engineering's activities and be a member of the senior decision-making body of the College.

Professor Magee will succeed Professor Ste-

phen Richardson, Principal and Deputy Rector since November 2009. Sir Keith O'Nions welcomed the appointment and said: "this is a demanding job, requiring great energy and vision, but over his time at Imperial Jeff has demonstrated these qualities many times over. It is with great confidence and pleasure that we welcome him to his new role."

In response to his appointment to the role, Professor Magee said "The Faculty of Engineering at Imperial has a world-leading breadth and depth of engineering expertise and talent. It is a very great honour and privilege to be appointed its Principal, a great opportunity to facilitate the application of its engineering expertise to the serious problems that face our society and a great personal challenge to live up to the record of my predecessor."

Regarding the senior medical leadership positions, Professor Jenny Higham, Director of Education for the Faculty of Medicine, said "This is an exciting and challenging time for Imperial's Faculty of Medicine. I look forward to working closely with others to ensure our continued success in research, education and translation, both in London and with our international partners."

The changes to both the Medicine and Engineering Faculties should further their long standing respectable positions within the UK and on a global scale.

RAG Week raises over £2,000

RAG Week kicked off with a bar night on Monday, followed by the joint CGCU/RCSU RAG Ball the day after. Held at Carbon, attendees enjoyed a free glass of champagne and a classy atmosphere for a good night. The CGCU Slave Auction saw our own Chief Editor Kadhim Shubber sold for £15 amongst others for quite a bit more. A cooking sale took place on Thursday, and an ACC pub-crawl the day after.

The most talked about event, however, was LOST – in which over 100 people participated, a large contrast to the 27 last year. 2 coaches carried them to a small town on the coast in Dorset called Christchurch, about 2 and a half hours away. Participants got free Ben's cookies, food from Pizza Hut, free beer and much more. Over £1000 was raised for RAG, and the fastest team to get back were Ben Krikler, Lorena Freitas and Simon Good, raising £95.29.



This reminds me of my first kiss. Don't ask why, I promised to never speak of it

Biology Professor awarded Weldon Prize



Professor Russell Lande

Alex Karapetian

Russell S. Lande, a Royal Society research professor from the Division of Biology at Imperial, has been awarded the Weldon Memorial Prize for 2010. The prize, known as the Weldon Memorial Prize and Medal, is awarded annually by the University of Oxford and is named in honor of Walter Frank Raphael Weldon, a former professor of Zoology at Oxford.

The prize is defined to be awarded “without regard to nationality or membership of any University to the person who, in the judgement of the electors, has, in the ten years next preceding the date of the award, published the most noteworthy contribution to the development of mathematical or statistical methods applied to problems in Biology.” The award is open to biological fields of study, such as zoology, botany, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and medical science.

Delighted to receive the award, Professor Lande commented: “I am especially pleased to be awarded the Weldon Memorial Prize medal because much of my research concerns evolution of quantitative traits (such as body size and shape) which Weldon also studied. It is a great honour to join the previous recipients including Karl Pearson who pioneered modern statistics motivated to a large extent by Weldon, and Sir Ronald Fisher, J.B.S. Haldane and Sewall Wright who founded population genetics and the modern synthetic theory of evolution.”

“These people have long been my intellectual heroes”, Professor Lande added. The award, established through the efforts of Francis Galton and Karl Pearson, although intended to be handed out annually, is often given less frequently.

Deutsche Bank

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NEWS

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

Student success

Imperial iGem team win in U.S.



A team of 10 Imperial undergraduates presented a research project at MIT last week and took away an impressive number of awards. The field was synthetic biology; a groundbreaking approach to designing biological systems using engineering practices. There was some stiff competition between the 130 teams taking part from all over the world, with each project showing the incredible potential of this revolutionary field. From yeast designed to terraform Mars, to using *E. coli* as a form of data storage, every idea was both inspiring and original.

The Imperial project focused on a detection kit for the waterborne parasite *Schistosoma*, which causes schistosomiasis (bilharzia). This neglected tropical disease infects 200 million people around the world, and is found in developing countries where sanitation is inadequate. In addition to discussing the biological processes involved, the team contextualised the project by considering how the detection kit would be implemented in the field. An application has actually been put forward to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with the hope that the research may one day become a reality.

The team also ran a series of school workshops around London, explaining the concept of synthetic biology to A-level students. They were encouraged to come up with their own ideas for new synthetic biology applications, and then act out TV adverts to explore exactly how they would bring these products to market. The team hopes to continue this as a wider public engagement program around the UK in partnership with other iGEM teams. Like many emerging fields, synthetic biology raises many ethical, social and legal questions. Addressing them requires scientists to fully understand and engage with the wider public, something that needs to improve in the future for people to find new technologies like synthetic biology socially acceptable.

Continuing Imperial's amazingly successful string of projects at iGEM, the team won awards for Best Website, Best Human Practices Advance and the peer-reviewed iGEMers Award, as well as reaching the final 6 of the competition. This meant they had to present the project to over 1500 people, an experience most of them would like to forget. But don't let that put you off! If you think iGEM might be for you, check out their website at 2010.igem.org/Team:Imperial_College_London.

What's so unique about the iGEM competition is the fact that it's the students who come up with the ideas and actually put them into practice, something very few undergraduates have the opportunity to experience at university. So make sure you get involved in next year's team!

Benjamin Miller and Harriet Gliddon

Activists plan Lib Dem HQ occupation

'Day of Action' planned for 24th November

Matt Colvin

The dust has barely settled from the thousands of students who descended on London last week to demonstrate against the planned rise of tuition fees, but plans are already being set in motion across the country for further protests. Wednesday 24th November has been proposed by several anti-cuts groups as the next significant occasion to bring the issue to the forefront of both the political and public mindset.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, following the media storm produced by a minority of anarchic protesters, further aggressive action is being organized by radical groups, with the intention of the next protest to focus on attacking the Liberal Democrats rather than the Conservatives with the aim to have the same result at both the Liberal Democrat headquarters in Westminster and Downing Street as they did at Millbank Tower.

The N.U.S. have not collaborated with plans for next week's events. N.U.S. President Aaron Porter said: "we won't condemn non-violent direct action where students support it, but I also won't organise activities that will have no impact, that rob us of influence and public support, or that claim criminal damage is somehow 'legitimate violence'." The N.U.S. has instead launched a new scheme, calling on students to vote against their MPs should they renege on their pre-election pledge to oppose any raise in fees. Aaron Porter has admitted that the new scheme is particularly targeted against Liberal Democrats. Speaking to Sky News, Mr Porter outlined that "[the politicians] need to be held to account and we believe this is the best way to do it."

The Education Activist Network (EAN) helping organise the protests and run by a member of the N.U.S. national executive committee Mark Bergfeld, has been in discussions over plans to not only target key locations in London on what they are calling 'Day X' but also to attempt a raid on Clegg's home in his constituency of Sheffield Hallam. They are also encouraging schoolchildren to become involved alongside students and walk out of lessons on the day.

The EAN has based its attack on the Liberal Democrats on 'revelations from the Guardian' suggesting that MPs planned to go back on their tuition fee promises before they were even made.

Another group of activists, the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts, also strongly support the planned walkouts on Wednesday. A press statement released by NCAFC states that they 'expect over 1000 people' followed by 'direct action', though a disclaimer warns that

Photo by Miles Robertson



Student groups are seeking to recreate the scenes seen at Conservative HQ

'all actions planned are of legal, non-violent nature'.

Elsewhere across the country, other protests are ongoing, with 200 students occupying a lecture theatre at the University of Sussex on Monday evening. Those involved have fashioned a series of timetabled events alongside a 'quiet study space' (presumably for those who want to put their prime location to use) in the room, with debates and discussions hosted by political societies and open mic events taking

place. The protest has seen support from local MP Caroline Lucas, who became the first ever Green Party candidate to be elected at the last general election in May.

The repercussions from the demonstration on November 10th are clearly still ongoing across the country. Whether the next set of protests will achieve the same level of media coverage and public awareness, whether for the right or wrong reasons, will likely determine how the next stages of the debate will proceed.

Students occupy uni buildings

Manchester and Sussex students stage sit-ins to protest cuts to higher education

Around 70 students from the University of Manchester and over 170 from the University of Sussex have staged sit-ins and occupied university buildings in order to protest that government's near 80% cut to teaching budgets.

Students at Manchester university occupied an 'admin' building on the 11th of November, the day after the N.U.S. march in London. They demanded that the university open its finances to the students, and properly explain: "where the cuts will fall, how many voluntary redundancies have already been made and to highlight the fact that the vice Chancellor is paid 20 times the average salary". They also added "We are here to support lecturers and administrative staff who will be losing their jobs. To oppose the rise in tuition fees that will



Students at Manchester occupied an admin building for 3 hours

price out most working class students. And to oppose the privatisation of our Universities."

At Sussex university, students oc-

cupied a lecture theatre and put on a number of events including talks by the Anarchist Society, the Student Worker Student Society and an event entitled "Boycott Israeli Goods". The students decried the rise in tuition fees, coupled with the cuts in government funding saying "This marketization of education will destroy the prospect of free and critical academic enquiry, on which universities should be based"

The sit-in at Manchester university ended relatively quickly. After 3 hours of occupation they left to "better organize the next steps of the campaign". University of Manchester Vice Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell sent this message to the protestors, "As an institution embracing academic freedom, we welcome the expression by students of strongly held views, and accept the right of those advocating such views to assert them," and added that "The University will clearly need to adapt to future financial challenges – but we will do so in a way that fulfils our key commitment to delivering an outstanding student experience."

The Sussex university sit-in lasted for at least two days but is unclear exactly how it ended.

Further blow to Liberal Democrats' credibility

N.U.S. threaten 'Right to Recall' as revelations question sincerity of Lib Dem pre-election pledge

Matt Colvin

Student organizations have expressed outrage after it was recently revealed that a group of senior Liberal Democrat figures planned to surrender their policy on removing tuition fees in the case of a possible coalition government – two months before the general election.

In the document unveiled by The Guardian and dated 16th March, Danny Alexander, current Chief Secretary to the Treasury, suggested that: "we should seek agreement on part-time students and leave the rest," pertaining to the raising of the tuition fee cap.

The news is likely to come as a heavy blow to Nick Clegg, after he backtracked on his signing of the pledge organized by the National Union of Students (NUS) to oppose any vote on raising tuition fees and especially after he admitted last week that he "should

have been more careful" when making the promise.

The document was revealed by Conservative MP Rob Wilson in his new book 'Five Days to Power', detailing the period of coalition negotiations following the general election. It was also revealed that Alexander had not believed that a coalition government with the Conservative Party would have been possible, citing that it would be "extremely difficult to form without splitting [the Liberal Democrats]."

The Liberal Democrats have stood by their decisions, with a spokesman claiming in response that they have fulfilled the "four key priorities which were set out on the front page of [their] manifesto", distinctly laid out as follows: 'fair taxes that put money back in your pocket', 'a fair chance for every child', 'a fair future, creating jobs by making Britain greener' and 'a fair deal for you

from politicians'.

Student organizations are likely to disagree with the 'fair deal' aspect of the manifesto, with various anti-Liberal Democrat protests being organized next week. The Education Activist Network calls on its followers to 'target Lib Dems after [their] new betrayal', planning a 'day of mass walkouts to converge on a demonstration outside the Lib Dem HQ'. The NUS has planned a more physically restrained approach, forming their own 'Right to Recall' pledge for students to sign promising that they will vote against any candidate who broke any pledge on university fees or Education Maintenance Allowances.

The initiative is named after a procedure suggested by the Liberal Democrats themselves, involving penalizing MPs who break promises or are found guilty of impropriety by forcing an immediate by-election.

They should have learned from the scientists

Anna Perman



A wave of students descended on London last week, bringing with them a whiff of lager and 'herbal' cigarettes. I was there. The other march I've been on this term for journalism was a peaceful rally of scientists. That group achieved their aims. The other? I doubt it.

The Science is Vital campaign aimed to protect the science budget before the spending review. It worked. Universities minister David Willetts said the quality of evidence built up convinced the government to protect the science budget. A rally of 4,000 people had a great effect.

Last Wednesday, 52,000 students marched to protect the education budget and prevent higher fees. The "Demolition" rally was just that. A group of protesters stormed the Tory HQ, throwing smoke bombs and lighting fires from the roof.

My problem is not the aim of the protest. I agree that crippling debt will be a barrier to young people, but I don't think attacking the Tories will work.

Perhaps some lessons can be learnt from Science is Vital...

1. Argue in terms Conservatives can understand. Science is Vital put their case in terms of the money. Tories are simple creatures, and humouring them will get you far.

2. Get wittier placards.

Science is Vital: "We want a fair share of the π "

Demolition: "Osbourne F*** off"

3. Play the Government at their own game. Try to get a politician fighting for you. Science is Vital had former MP Evan Harris leading their rally, and campaigning super hard for them. He had good contact with cabinet ministers and played a big part in ensuring the argument reached the right ears.

4. Don't route your march past Tory headquarters. That's just asking for trouble.

5. Don't mention the Nazis. As soon as someone says 'It's like the Third Reich', I zone out. Pictures of David Cameron with a Hitler moustache have exactly the same effect. Thinking about it, I haven't ever seen the two of them in the same room together...

Sponsored Editorial

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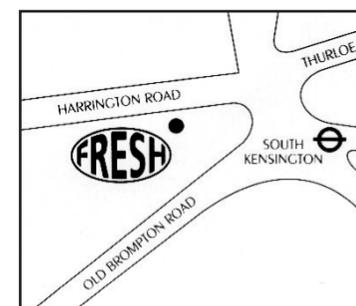
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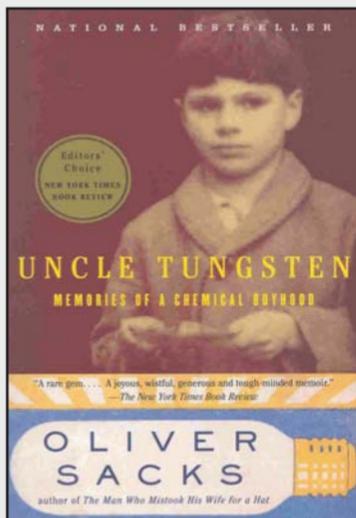


SCIENCE

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

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And a few suggestions...



Uncle Tungsten

by **Oliver Sacks**

In this charming biography, Sacks gives a wonderfully vivid account of his earlier years and his fascination with chemistry. Evoking memories of his family and their fascination with science, he paints a picture of the environment that fostered his curiosity and inquisitiveness. Sacks proves himself to be a brilliant storyteller; his accounts of boarding school and the return to home life where he nurtured his passion for science are witty and endearing.

Particularly poignant are his dry humour and careful comedy, a welcome addition to what is a highly emotive biography (apparently moving some readers to tears). What is most inspiring is the innocence of Sack's early fascination with chemistry; he is now a highly distinguished neurologist and a respected figure in popular science. This innocence leaves us with a sense of resolve; after all, this brilliant mind was once a child too. **Katya-yani Vyas**

Schrödinger's lolcat

i'm in ur fizx lab



testn ur string therry

Fantastic phenomenon from the Natural World

A boa constrictor has given birth without mating. ZZ chromosomes produce males and ZW produce females, but these baby snakes have WW. She gave birth through parthenogenesis (half-cloning) when there were four courting males in her enclosure.

The retrovirus conundrum

How do retroviruses insert their genome into host DNA?

Victoria Bignet

Imperial College researchers from the Department of Infectious Diseases have just succeeded in determining the mechanism of retroviral integration, using x-rays to analyse the key molecular structures involved in this process.

The Diamond synchrotron in Oxfordshire was the researchers' main tool to produce intense X-ray beams enabling them to observe molecular interactions. "This kind of fundamental research is vital if we are to advance our understanding of the viruses and diseases that affect millions of people around the world. Knowing the 3D structure of the mechanisms involved is like being able to see inside the engine of your car. If you can actually see what is happening, you get an idea of how you can fix it", says Professor Thomas Sorensen, who is Principal Beamline Scientist at the Diamond synchrotron.

A retrovirus relies on its host-cell machinery to replicate its genome. The latter is in the form of RNA, and is converted to DNA once in the host cell. Viral DNA must then be inserted within host-cell chromosomal DNA. The way this insertion is carried out has, up till now, been a biological enigma. The Imperial College researchers have managed to describe a

key agent in this vital step for the virus: the intasome, a nucleoprotein complex composed of an integrase tetramer (IT). Integrase is a formerly known enzyme which confines and fuses the ends of viral and host DNA together.

Prototype foamy virus (PFV) is very similar to HIV in its way of integrating its genome. With the synchrotron, the authors analysed crystal structures of host DNA in complex with the intasome of PFV. That is, the 3D structures of integrase bound to both viral and host DNA in atomic detail. From this observation, the authors elucidated the confinement mechanism of target DNA before integration, as well as the intermediary steps of post-catalytic strand transfer. "Only 18 months ago we had a rather sketchy understanding of retroviral integration", says Dr Peter Cherepanov from the Department of Medicine.

Two integrase tetramers (ITs) come together to form a narrow cleft, which accommodates the host DNA in a highly bent configuration, facilitating access for IT active sites to the scissile phosphodiester bonds. For insertion into chromatin, the ITs are thought to interact with host nucleosomal DNA, and/or the histone octamer. Once this is performed, the phosphodiester linking viral and host DNA gets ejected out of the active site. As expected from knowl-

edge on the relatively low degree of sequence selectivity of retroviruses for chromosomal DNA, interactions between IT and host DNA bases are sparse. Indeed, strong selectivity for chromosomal DNA would limit possible integration sites and thus reduce viral fitness. Yet two sites of close contact were identified.

In the context of gene-therapy, Cherepanov stresses that: "one of the main problems with the current method is that retroviral integration is too random. [...] Ideally, we want to insert therapeutic genes in predefined, safe locations of the human genome". With these findings, one could theoretically create site-specific retroviral vector systems by designing an integrase with higher selectivity for a wanted target DNA sequence.

The synthetic retrovirus could insert a functional copy of a desired gene into a human chromosome by greater certainty of insertion site. This greatly improves the technique's safety by for instance reducing the risk of activating an oncogene, thereby avoiding the reoccurrence of former cases such as leukaemia in treated patients. The discoveries would also help improving existing antiviral strategies, facilitate the design of better drugs to combat AIDS, and stimulate novel approaches to blocking viral replication.

Huge leap in quantum computing

Kelly Oakes

Do you think you could make sense of this sentence if every fourth word was missing? How about trying to hold a conversation when you can only hear three quarters of what the other person is saying? Cutting out a fraction of the information being transferred in a given situation may make life slightly difficult, but it certainly doesn't stop the meaning being conveyed in most cases. This is because of the redundancy built into language. However, redundancy is not only useful for conversations on a dodgy phone line - it can also come in handy in the world of quantum computing, as two researchers explained in a paper published in Physical Review Letters last week.

The research was carried out by Sean Barrett, of Imperial College, and Thomas Stace, at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. They found that if a quarter of the qubits (the quantum equivalent of bits, which store information in a classical computer) are lost, the computer can still function as normal. Barrett and Stace looked at the remaining information and used a code that could check for errors to decipher what was missing. "It's surprising, because you wouldn't expect that if you lost a quarter of the beads from an abacus that it would still be useful," said Dr Barrett.

One of the main differences between a classical bit and its quantum equivalent is that the



See? The future isn't 'orange' at all! Idiots... It's quite obviously blue and whooshy

latter can exhibit entanglement. This means that, no matter how far away two entangled qubits are, if one changes so will the other - instantaneously. Quantum computers take advantage of this effect, as well as another property of quantum systems known as superposition, to perform complicated calculations much faster than classical computers. At the moment, though, the largest quantum computers have only two or three qubits.

It had previously been thought that large quantum computers would be very sensitive to missing information, but this research shows that they should be much more robust than we'd imagined. At this stage, the work is theoretical and scientists must do a lot more in order

to make quantum computers bigger than a few qubits in the lab.

When large quantum computers are a reality, they may have the potential to revolutionise fields as far apart as drug modelling, electronics and code breaking. However, we won't know exactly what applications quantum computers will be best suited to until we're able to make one.

"At the moment quantum computers are good at particular tasks, but we have no idea what these systems could be used for in the future," said Dr Barrett. "They may not necessarily be better for everything, but we just don't know. They may be better for very specific things that we find impossible now."

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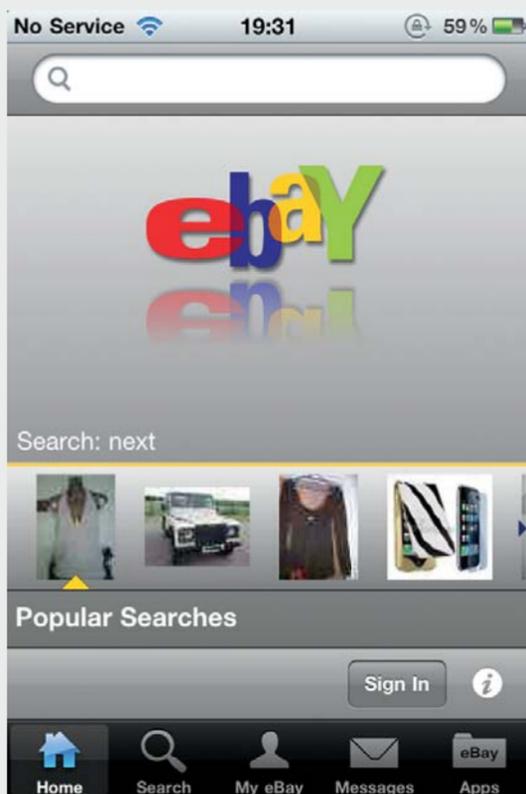
Technology Editor: **Samuel Gibbs**

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TECHNOLOGY

Free App of the Week

iOS - eBay for iPhone



It's almost that time of year again, and how better to arm yourself for Christmas shopping than with the eBay app for your iPhone. Sold!

Android - eBay for Android



Android's not left out of the party. Get your researching, selling, auction stalking and panic buying done all whilst on the go. Sorted.

Eyeball 2 Eyeball

Samuel Gibbs goes hands, eyes and ears-on with Blue's latest HD webcam, the Eyeball 2.0, and finds it wanting

Having loved the Blue Yeti a couple of weeks ago, we had high expectations for Blue's latest webcam replacement, the Eyeball 2.0. Featuring Blue's excellent USB microphone technology, and a retractable 2MP webcam, on paper the Eyeball 2.0 is an excellent upgrade to the stock web chat solution built into most modern laptops and monitors.

On the design front, the Eyeball 2.0 is a nifty little package, fitting neatly into a slide on hard shell for transport, while the pop-out camera is pushed into the side of the microphone out of harm's way. Connection to your PC is made via an included mini-USB cable, which unfortunately is too big to be stored inside the case to save from losing it, and is worth replacing with a slimmer third-party cable that will.

Attaching the Eyeball to a thin monitor or laptop screen is easy, simply looping the frame over the edge and letting it sit securely on the top edge of your screen. The camera and microphone have adjustable angle and can turn side to side to point directly at you. If you want to put the Eyeball on a thicker screen, Blue provides a slide-on rubber wedge that frankly looks a bit dodgy, but does the job well enough as long as there's a sharp edge to the back of your screen.

So setup is easy, it's a nice and compact package, but how does it handle? Well here comes the kicker – the audio as you might

expect is spot on, a world above what you get with your built-in mic, or even most headsets. The video on the other hand is atrocious. Its slow refresh rate, poor low light handling and blocky artifact filled quality are truly poor. Blue boast HD video as one of the Eyeball 2.0's selling points, and while it may be HD resolution, there's nothing high definition about the quality of the video. The built-in camera of my cheap Dell netbook was far better. Frankly the Eyeball 2.0's camera reminded me of something that was available 5 years ago, over saturated and dealing extremely poorly with motion.

It's real shame if I'm honest,

because the mic is really quite good, but the package is marred by the rubbish camera, and for that reason alone I can't recommend it, especially at the £50 asking price.



What's that, an iSquid?

Andrew McDonagh

"What on earth is that? It looks like you've run over a squid and put it on your phone." My sickened friend was referring to my tricked out Incipio Dottie's iPhone 3GS case, complete with customizable 'dottie' inserts.

Ostensibly there to improve grip, these inserts offer little more than to horrify friends and provide cynical cross-selling opportunities to Tweens, who want to mix and match them in various 'dazzling' colour schemes. Being in the grumpy 30-40 demographic, this largely goes over my head. Frankly, something that's bobbly, looking like you squished a tray of smarties onto the back of your phone isn't my cup of tea.

However, bypassing aesthetics for one moment, the Dottie's is a superb case. Excellent grip and sturdy moulding make it feel secure in the hand. Incipio have made it robust enough to not flounce out in the average male pocket, something that can't be said for some of the cheapo silicon affairs.

While the included screen protectors are a nice added bonus to keep your keys from scratching the screen, the case protrudes along the front edge of the screen enough to keep it off the deck when flat on a table. All in all, thickish rubber with coloured dottie's isn't the most attractive design, but as far as flexible cases go, its iPhone protection is excellent. It's available in eight different colour combinations and can be had for around £25.



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POLITICS

Politics Editors: **Hassan Joudi, Rory Fenton**
James Lees, Rajat Jain
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The world beyond College walls



Sudan

Voter registration begins in Sudan on Monday for a January referendum that would allow the country's oil rich South to secede from the north.

The South is expected to vote for independence in the referendum to be held in January, which comes as part of the 2005 peace agreement. South Sudanese living in the North have begun the long journey back to the South to register amidst fears of intimidation in the North and that their vote will be miscounted as part of an attempt to prevent the South from leaving. The UN Security Council will meet to discuss the possible dangers of an independence vote in the South and to press Sudan to ensure that the vote is carried out as scheduled.



Thailand

Thailand has extradited suspected arms dealer Viktor Bout to the United States to face terrorism charges.

He stands accused of attempting to sell arms to the FARC rebels of Columbia and faces a potential life sentence. The extradition by Thailand has prompted an angry response from Moscow who claims that the charges faced by the Russian national were politically motivated and could harm warming ties between the two nations. Viktor Bout's extradition comes after months of legal wrangling in the Thai courts the extradition request.



Iraq

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani has refused to sign the execution order of former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

President Talabani has refused to sign the order on the grounds that Mr Aziz is a Christian, aging and reported to be seriously ill. Mr Aziz was previously sentenced to death by an Iraqi tribunal for persecuting Islamic minorities in Iraq which was classified as a crime against humanity. Tariq Aziz was the international face of Iraq under Saddam but was not seen as one of Saddam's evil insiders. Several countries and groupings including the European Union, the Holy See and the Russian Federation have called on Iraq not to execute Mr Aziz.

Edited by **Kenneth Lee**

Should there be limits

Illustration by Mitesh Patel

Minister for Communities and Local Government, Andrew Stunell visited Imperial last month to speak at Interfaith's student led debate on the right to freedom of speech. Views were heard from members of the Jewish Society, Islamic Society, Christian Union and a secular member of the Debating Society.

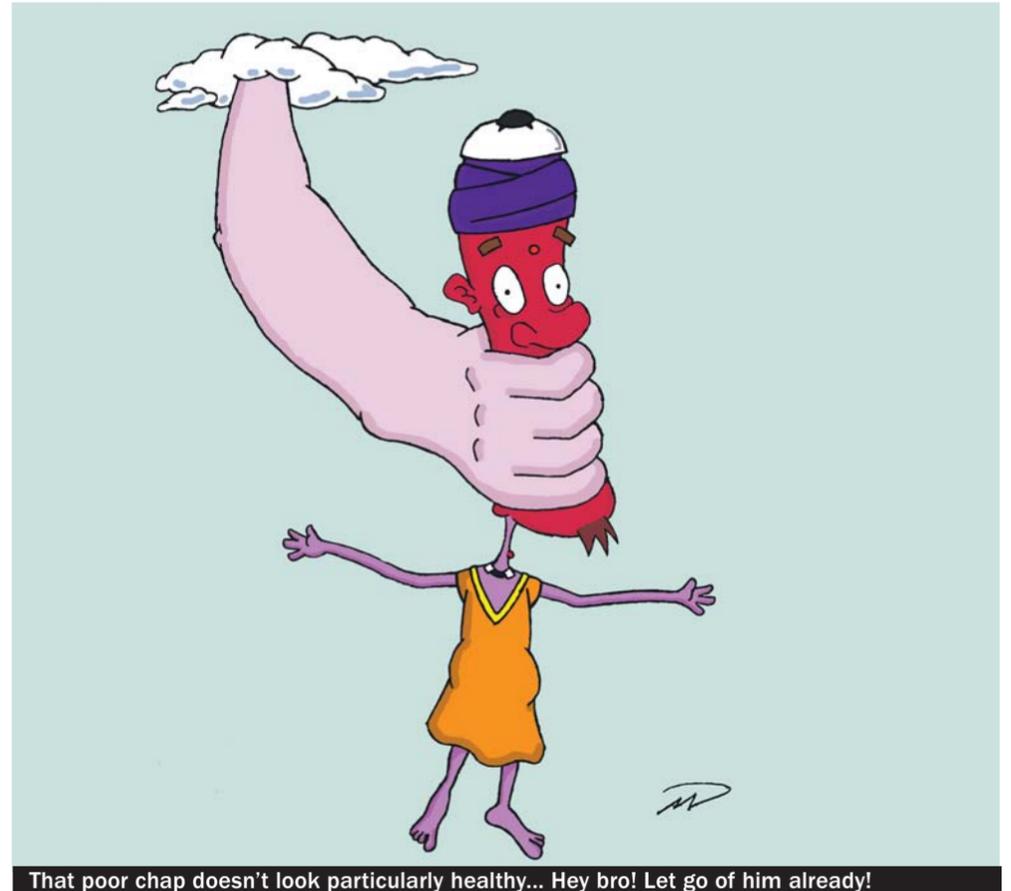
The Minister explained that he predominantly supported the current British legal framework regarding free speech. He considered the UK as not completely secular but pluralist, and called legal amendments to allow Kosher and Halal foods and the allowance of turbans rather than motorcycle helmets as the right thing to do. Below are summaries of the speeches from each of the speakers. Please note, these are the views and religious interpretations of the individuals, not their respective societies.

A Christian perspective from Edward Ip

Jesus claimed in John 14:6 – "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes through the Father except through me." This raises the question of whether Jesus' teaching, and consequently Christians' attitude towards human freedom, is fundamentally oppressive. I wish to show how the teaching of Jesus is not oppressive, but is actually in line with the heart of the idea of human freedom.

There is a difference between engaging on an endeavour to truth openly, and deviating from the existence of absolute truth. To engage on a pursuit to the truth, one accepts that there are absolute truths to be found, and it is human's task to seek evidence to arrive at them. That is fundamentally different to asserting that there is no absolute truth in life, and one must be willing to accept the possibility of many different mutually exclusive propositions being true simultaneously; it is not pluralism.

At the heart of desiring freedom of speech, there is an underlying hope in wanting to arrive at absolute truth with certainty. Often freedom of speech comes to the spotlight when we think our perspective that we regard as true in life is being suppressed. This automatically presupposes a belief that certain propositions about life are absolutely true. Thus, it is the engagement to a particular endeavour to truth that we wish to obtain through the freedom of speech, not the denial of the existence of truths



That poor chap doesn't look particularly healthy... Hey bro! Let go of him already!

themselves and consequently arriving at an *ad hoc* freedom of speech (ability to say whatever we want.)

To summarise, freedom of speech must mean a possibility to engage on an endeavour to arrive at the true proposition of life, rather than the acceptability of any feasible attempt to this task. Our end goal is to arrive at the truth via this engagement, which is an exclusive position (excluding propositions that are contradictory to the supposedly true proposition), but where engagement is still possible having arrived at this position. Further, this is to be done in harmony with each other, with mutual respect and care for each other.

The teachings of Jesus are of such a nature. He proclaimed his teaching is unique and exclusive. This means that he excludes the possibility of all other teachings being true, apart from his own. But what is at the heart of this exclusive message? Firstly it is a message of love; that we should love God's character and love our neighbours as ourselves. Secondly, it is a message of truth; the accessibility to the truth is possible through Jesus himself. Thus at the heart of the gospel of Christianity is one that wishes man to love each other and to pursue the truth, namely, knowledge of God's personal and infinite nature. This is what is non-negotiable and exclusive about Christianity, and whatever opposes that, Jesus claimed, is a false description of life.

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Jesus' teachings concur with the heart

of why man desires freedom of speech. I challenge the reader to carefully distinguish the difference between promoting freedom to engage openly in finding the way to truth and the seeming freedom created by the acceptance of any feasible claims of truth, which is not freedom at all. For in doing so we have completely betrayed the whole purpose of desiring freedom of speech.

A secular view from IC Debating Society

Freedom of speech is a precious gift that should be bestowed to all. Restricting it, especially in religious settings, is inherently bad.

In our personal lives, we exercise our right to freedom of speech to be perceived as a unique individual with personal thoughts and opinions. From the rhetoric of politicians to the gossips of neighbours, speech is used by all to express their innate humanity and personality. Constraining the freedom of speech, therefore, is analogous to dehumanising individuals.

In broader society, freedom of speech is essential to political and religious critique or dissent. Voicing the public opin-

s on the extent of free speech?

ion and holding decision makers to account is crucial to democratic function. Constant electorate feedback should form the basis of a responsible government's mandate.

The freedom of speech prevents the build-up of discontent in the society by allowing one to vent his grievances. Unvented struggles are prone to escalation and thus lead to the breakdown of society. Regimes that allow little freedom of speech are akin to a pressure cooker, building up pressure until the destined violent explosion.

History shows us what freedom of speech has awarded us. The abolition of slavery, universal suffrage and other humanitarian achievements were not gifts from above, but struggles from below. Freedom of speech allowed these pioneering social leaders to effect change and spread their message of revolution to their fellow citizens.

In the religious setting, freedom of speech in our society is especially limited. Many religious dogmas and practices are taboo subjects for believers as well as others. Children or new converts are encouraged to accept things without question. If God says the Amalekites need to be exterminated whereas the Israelis are His "chosen people", that is just the way it is. Douglas Adams questioned at great length why "certain issues...we've decided are holy, above questioning" unlike for say sports controversies or economic policies. We are especially "tolerant" to religion. We treat the criticism of religious practice as "politically incorrect". However, our society's implied restriction of freedom of speech to religious issues had incurred a

huge toll. Recent incidents of Catholic priests molesting children are prime examples of how silence and inaction create problems. Victims, overwhelmed by the idea that priests are absolutely holy and that the Church has unquestionable authority, were afraid to come forward to exercise their freedom of speech and testify against their faith. That reluctance allowed perpetrators to remain at large and harm more individuals.

How about radical and hate speech made by religious groups? Take the restriction of extremist preaching in the interest of national security because of the hatred and anti-governmental feeling it incites. Terrorist attacks are abominable. However, restricting the freedom of speech meant that the requests of extremists are unheard and discounted by the society. That would lead to more discontent in extremist groups and drive them to be even more extreme. Moreover, extremist organisations recruit members often by invoking the restriction of their freedom of speech by the government and convince potential supporters that they are the victims and should be sympathised. By letting extremists air their views and rebut them outright in public, we can extinguish their major propaganda tool and show potential members of extremist organisation we are on the right side.

Noam Chomsky famously said, "If you believe in freedom of speech, you believe in freedom of speech for views you don't like. Goebbels was in favour of views he liked. So was Stalin". We, as citizens of a democratic nation, should strive to remove all barriers to the freedom of speech.

A Jewish perspective from Charlotte Levene

As a student it is important to me to express my opinions and stand up for what I believe in, but with Judaism playing a central role in my life what limitations does this make on my freedom of speech, or is it a right?

In Judaism there is the principle of Lashon Harah, negative speech, which is the principle of not speaking negative comments about a person even if they are true. This is sourced from "You shall not be a gossip among the people". This would generally encompass bitchy comments, or gossip magazines which cause hurt to the celebrity.

A Chasidic tale vividly illustrates the danger of improper speech: A man went about the community telling malicious lies about the rabbi. Later, he realized the wrong he had done, and began to feel remorse. He went to the rabbi and begged his forgiveness, saying he would do anything he could to make amends. The rabbi told the man, "Take a feather

pillow, cut it open, and scatter the feathers to the winds." The man thought this was a strange request, but it was a simple enough task, and he did it gladly. When he returned to tell the rabbi that he had done it, the rabbi said, "Now, go and gather ALL the feathers". The man protested, "But that's impossible." "Of course it is" replied the Rabbi, "although you may regret the evil you have done and truly desire to correct it, it is as impossible to repair the damage done by your words as it is to collect everyone of these feathers". This shows how careful you have to be when speaking; a hurtful word may spread and not be able to be recovered, as you never know who it might reach. Lashon Harah isn't saying that one can't voice an opinion, but not a personal attack and respect for others must be kept.

Judaism also has a strong principle of love your neighbour as yourself. One can express one's opinions but why would one want to hurt people's feelings or incite hate? This is one of the main problems that are brought on by Freedom of Speech today.

The Talmud is the basis of Jewish Law, however it also contains all the arguments and thought processes that

caused the Sages to come to their decisions. The Sages often had completely differing opinions. The fact that all these arguments are recorded shows how valuable the process of arguing and standing up for your beliefs are in Judaism. G-d gave the responsibility to man to choose the law via a process of democracy – a majority decision.

However, even through all the arguing, one must have great respect for their 'rival'. Two of the greatest rivals who had differing views on everything allowed their children to marry in the end, being at peace with each other.

So, what has this shown me about my role as a Jewish Student, am I allowed to stand with placards at a rally? If we didn't live in a place with differing opinions, society would be quite boring! There are different ways of publicizing my views: I can cause hate and single people out, or I can be composed and treat people with respect. The Talmud shows that that standing up for beliefs is very important, and as a student I have great power to make a change in society – and I should take it.

Judaism gives me the tools of how to speak. It is not freedom of speech - it is responsibility of speech.

A Muslim perspective from Yasser Mahmoud

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

Cutting through the jargon, most people understand that freedom of speech is the right to say what you want. The wording is often a source of disagreement but the notion in itself is laced with hypocrisy; the way we conduct our lives, interact with others and raise our children is not in line with this. Children are taught that if they cannot say anything nice then not to say anything at all. In our interactions at work and our social lives we do not "freely" express ourselves- our speech is limited by common courtesy and if we hold a bitter thought about our supervisor or co-worker we keep that to ourselves for the fear of losing our jobs or upsetting our peers. Some may say you are still free to say these things, when in effect your freedom is limited by the fabric of the society in which you live and so this idea of truly free speech is alien to us.

Some may argue it should be a fundamental right that if we find an ideology,

state or person that we have genuine disagreement with we should be free to express our beliefs. This freedom to criticise is very important; the prophet Mohammed (pbuh) practiced this right with idol worshippers. It was a fundamental part of Islam to be able to critique that which you believed to be wrong, even if the view was held by the vast majority of society.

This freedom to criticise constructively was very important, yet alongside this there was a very careful line drawn in the Quran (surah 16, 125) "call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching." Although there was complete disagreement on fundamental issues between the early Muslims and their countrymen they did not transgress beyond the bounds of good manners. One of the sayings of the prophet (pbuh) was "whomsoever believes in God and the day of Judgement should say good or stay quiet." The idea of freedom of speech being absolute and without bounds does not agree with Islamic tradition. Furthermore in Islam there is a large weight given to what an individual says as well as what he does, not an arbitrary line drawn between actions and words where you can say what you want to me but not physically hurt

me. The prophet (pbuh) said "A slave of God may utter a word without giving it much importance and because of it he will be raised degrees of reward, and he may utter a word carelessly which displeases God without thinking of its gravity and because of it be thrown into Hell."

So what is the solution? Disagreements stem mainly from interpretation of meanings; one individual may believe he has a particular right and another may disagree on what that right entails. As long as there is no consensus on definition of freedom of speech, we cannot move forward. When this definition is set, it must be protected by law so individuals that practice it are not subject to attack and those who go beyond it are held accountable. In a fair society, double standards cannot continue; we invite Belgian M.P. Gurt Wilders to visit the House of Lords and show his film Fitna, yet ban another foreign national, Zakir Naik, from even entering the country. We cannot use the excuse that we are at war or under threat from terrorists- we have to stand for justice for all. But principles of freedom of expression must also be in line with the values we live by and individuals must not be allowed to change that. Only then can we succeed.



Speakers Corner in Hyde Park gives people a platform for their opinions

Comment Editor: Anna Perman

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COMMENT

FELIX

The Union has done all it can. If you're still not having fun, perhaps it's time to look inward

So the Union's £2.5 million refurbishment is finally coming to a close. The horrendous blue shed outside Metric will disappear and smoking builders in high-vis jackets will no longer grace Beit Quad. Even the decrepit lawn is being renewed. But as memories of asbestos grow faint in our minds and the constant thud and screech of construction work fades into the air, what will we think of our new Union?

In the past students have had good reason to complain. Queues in what is now FiveSixEight were unmanageable on busy nights and the decor gave little reason for either students or bar staff to respect and enjoy their bar. The club that came before Metric (we shall not speak its name) was beyond salvation. It was a muddled mess and frankly an embarrassment. And that's before we get on to the service provided in these venues. Suffice it to say that the food in FiveSixEight is much improved and that the emphasis on live music in Metric shows that the Union is at last listening to its students.

The real test now, is less of the Union and its ability to deliver but more on the Imperial student. We shall now see whether it is actually possible to please your average Imperial student. Is there a way to satisfy his or her demands or will we be doomed to an eternity of: "It's still not good enough?"

On balance, most students with any experience of other student unions in London will recognize that they now own something truly special. In fact, most students with experience of other bars and clubs in London will recognize that the new Union is pretty damn good.

But a few will continue to moan that the Union is lame, or full of guys, or some other intellectually lazy gripe. They will try to perpetuate the myth that Imperial is a place where it's impossible to enjoy music and art and where the chance of finding love or adventure is virtually nil. It's time to say 'enough' to those people. We cannot expect to have life handed to us on a plate, we must grab all the opportunities we encounter with both hands. And with the number of clubs and societies at Imperial, the overflowing excitement of London and the new Union bar and club, it's time to quit moaning. The question "Why would anyone from UCL want to come to Imperial to hang out?" is redundant. It should now be, "Why would anyone from Imperial want to go hang out at UCL?"

Antisocial Network

Facebook is a great opportunity for me to extend my hitlist without having to leave the comfort of my room



Angry Geek

"The little opinion-laden buggers are everywhere"

I'm beginning to like Facebook. Fact-fans out there will know that the first A Geek was actually about Facebook and how terrible it was. But even then I noted that at least it would offer a convenient way of sorting you all into groups that could be easily avoided. To be honest, my feelings about Facebook have evolved around that point, the idea that you're all now happily pigeonholed and I can observe you, clipboard in hand, and pre-arrange any avoidances and meetings.

Earlier this month, some angry people burnt some red paper poppies and got onto the news. "Oh dear me," I thought, as I sipped my pureed copy of that day's Sun newspaper prepared for me by Mrs. Geek, "It appears that some angry people have done something inflammatory on these darling, Christian shores." In a world without Facebook, a magical world where farming is still a job, that is the end of the matter. At any time, I could bump into someone and discover their opinion on that news story. The little opinion-laden buggers are everywhere, lying in wait with their reckonings and thoughts.

Despicable, isn't it? So I'm thankful that Facebook is here. I simply put down my mug, saunter over to the computer, and begin taking notes on people's responses. Linda thinks they should "fuk bak off to their own country". Thanks for sharing, Linda. I'll make sure I take your nut allergy into account when choosing your Christmas present, then. Chris has liked Linda's post. Nice to know, Chris. That mouse click really carried a lot of gravitas. You've earned yourself a one-way ticket to the Card And A Smile list, departing from Small Gift And A Man Hug list immediately.



What happens on Facebook doesn't stay on Facebook. It is used by me as comedy material

See? It's easy. You just get a pen and paper, scroll through your Facebook home page, and make two lists. Twat-y and Nice. Would and Would Not Piss On If On Fire. And it's not being vindictive, it's genuinely helpful. You're picking people you like based on the opinions they're willing to express online.

Alright, it's a bit vindictive.

I'm sticking by it simply because it never ceases to wheedle out the particularly covert nutcases. The old school-teacher who thinks that homosexuals basically should be second-class citizens. The young art student you used to know who believes America is being run by communists. Oh, hey! Your neighbours are complaining about students who smell and suck the country dry of money. That'll be you they mean.

It's depressing, sure. Of course it's depressing. Because the further you go through those news feeds, particularly those of your younger siblings and their friends, the more you realise not only that most of the people you know are dicks, but that the useful 1950s habit of keeping the crazy tightly nailed down under a saucepan somewhere at home has fallen out of fashion. People love this shit!

Facebook used to just be a terrifying waste of time. Then it became a magical place where you could see the words "Occupation: Judge" and "Fukin ell the ppl at work were shit 2day" in the same web page. Now it's just this morass of personal confessions and unwanted,

See? It's easy. You just get a pen and paper, scroll through your Facebook home page, and make two lists. Twat-y and Nice

too-much-information diatribes. We like this. They like this. We think this.

As an Englishman, I just feel it was better when we refrained from discussing politics, religion or Justin Bieber on public transport and in court. I wish there was some way to retrofit more repression of emotion into our society, to bottle things up a bit more and fight back any kind of release. How are we supposed to get things done otherwise, eh?

But as I say, that's not the world I've got. Instead I've got a world where my brother can lead a silent online revolution merely by stating that Justin Bieber is dumb and getting fourteen people to agree with him. You'll forgive me, then, for indulging in the small mercy that I can at least write down the names of those fourteen people and append them to the end of the already arm-length gallops waiting list. Be warned, reader. The streets of the internet are no longer safe. A Geek is watching you.

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

Got an opinion? See if I give a shit at anangrygeek@gmail.com.

COMMENT

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

We all judge people on looks



Black Sheep

“Evolution has designed human beings to judge others largely on their appearance”

We are all somewhat superficial. Looks are an easy way to gauge the physiological and genetic stature of a potential mate (someone with one non-functional eye and no legs probably won't be any good at fending off savage beasts), and so evolution has designed human beings to judge other members of the species largely on their appearance. We all do it, however vehemently some of us might try to deny it. Why else would our favourite magazines be filled with advice from the arcane and mysterious world of fashion about what to wear and, much more importantly, what not to wear?

Thousands of products designed specifically to mask the hideous blemishes and other imperfections that afflict us litter the shelves of almost any pharmacy you could name. We strive endlessly to improve our appearance because we know how important it is, with wonderful television shows like *Extreme Makeover* actively encouraging us to hack our repulsive faces apart in the name of beauty.

For both the less aesthetically pleasing members of the public and those semi-humans so unbearably hideous that they refrain from most social interaction (among whom I sorrowfully count myself), this almost universal preoccupation with the cool and sexy is fairly dispiriting. Shows like *Entourage* do their level best to make you feel suicidally inadequate unless you happen to be a gorgeous billionaire actor, while the mere sight of the buxom beauties in *Desperate Housewives* sends most women into a mad frenzy of jealousy.

New toothpastes, moisturisers, and hair products are marketed to the downtrodden, unsightly masses, and those masses, motivated by sheer self-loathing, buy them in enormous numbers. We try so insanely hard to make ourselves look presentable that, paradoxically, most of our efforts simply exacerbate the problem, fueling an extremely powerful low self-esteem engine.

Despite some minor successes in modifying ourselves, we remain largely the same, and, unfortunately, so does the importance of our appearance. What a conundrum! What on earth is there to

do? Are you destined to become as unhealthily bitter and angry as it is becoming increasingly obvious I am? Well, as an unattractive individual myself, I find it productive and moderately therapeutic to channel my resentment and rage into small, barely read columns in university newspapers. This somewhat alleviates the crushing misery of my virtually intolerable existence. I jest, of course (but, depressingly, only very slightly).

The search for a happy middle ground is the goal as far as this issue is concerned. The opinions of other people (be they respected friends or anonymous simpletons) are rarely worth ignoring entirely or taking so seriously that they send you into a spiraling depression. Appearance is important, and people do make judgements based on it, but take solace in the fact that different people often appreciate different looks, one of which may be yours (sadly for me, the scruffy, gangly student look isn't currently in vogue). There is much, much more to you, and everyone else, than your appearance, and if you're still not convinced, there's always *Extreme Makeover*.

Photos can make us immortal



Rhys Davies

“What I'm saying is that photos should be our biographies. And unlike written ones, they're easy to make.”

I was back home the other day, clearing out the attic, where, inexplicably, a great deal of my dearest childhood possessions had wound up; cherished dolls, knitted by a late grandmother; industrious railway tracks by Brio and Tomy; and enough Lego to fill a skip. I was conflicted. On the one hand, relieved; my parents had said they had all been stolen one night by goblins. On the other hand, betrayed; my parents had lied to me. And if they lied to me about this, what other pillars of my reality are built on quicksand. Father Christmas? The Tooth Fairy? Say it ain't so!

But parental deceit aside, I also came across a set of photographs I had at Sixth Form. Proper photography; with darkrooms, heady chemical fugs, and bearded men swearing at size zero supermodels. As I drifted from print to print – out of focus, blurry and overexposed – I came to realise something. I love photography.

Despite centuries of bizarrely bedecked fellows in pulpits assuring them that there is an afterlife of an eternal persuasion, men have sought immortality – usually vicariously through great works. The Pyramids at Giza, defeating the French (at anything) or even *A Clockwork Orange*. The gist of this be-

ing that if someone remembers you, then in some way, you'll still be alive. Admittedly, not in the way that really counts, but it's something.

And that's what I like about photography. Photos are a window into our past. And it's not just the great and the grand. You can look back in your family albums, smile at relatives long-dead and recall their adventures and anecdotes. Photography has offered immortality to the common man in far greater numbers than any religious leader.

But there is a twist to this, a hellfire to this eternity. Photos, especially now, in the days of digital and disposable cameras, have become...repetitive. Open any packet of holiday snaps and I guarantee that the majority of photos will be of families smiling in front of each and every minor landmark, with the occasional mother reclining on a sun-bed in the shade.

Exhibit B, Facebook, that testament to our age. Select an album at a random and have a quick e-flick through. You will see a group of friends, with some variations and substitutions, in a club, bar, or party somewhere, smiling, cheering, and generally indicating how they're having a grand old time. Now, go to the next album. See anything different?

I'm not saying we shouldn't record

the good times. But when our grandchildren, or scouts from an alien race (Or both), go through these documents of our existence, I'm sure they'll reach the conclusion that we lived in a permanent state of bliss and that the Eiffel Tower is only a measuring rule for getting a photo straight. It's repetitive, it's monotonous, it's boring. Of course we should remember times when we were happy, but we should also recall when we were sad or angry, when we were lonely and sick, to complement and contrast. Only then can we remember ourselves and be remembered as people, living, breathing humans – not some horrible all-smiling monstrosity from a *Batman* serial.

What I'm saying is that photos should be our biographies. And unlike written biographies, they're notoriously easy to make. All we have to do is live – something I find comes naturally to most people. The man with the camera will do the rest.

They're also more powerful. They say a picture says a thousand words, and I think they're right. Do you really need words when you see photographs of the Twin Towers or 7/7? Or how about when the Berlin Wall came down? Or that one with Einstein sticking his tongue out?

And with that, there's nothing left for me to say but – CHEESE!

Thanks to the NUS rioters, we all look like morons

As a general principle I hate protests. I would happily bet you my life savings, the savings of my future children, and the eternal souls of all of my ancestors that in a large enough sample of protestors, 50% haven't got a fucking clue what they are protesting about.

That is not to say that you can't have intelligent protests. The Science Is Vital protests outside Westminster in early October were intelligent, well-organised, and above all, realistic. If protests were cars they would definitely be of German make.

Extending the metaphor, the recent NUS protest would be the rusty old banger you buy from a man called Joe who perpetually squints at you, when your financial situation has gone through rock bottom and is plummeting toward shit creek. This isn't because I fundamentally disagree with what the protests were about, though for the record, I do. It is because I thought that as the 'academically elite', we could come up with better placards than 'Fuck Fees', and not resort to violence.

It is true that the rioters were a small minority. But that's not the point. The general public will only remember thuggish students pictured smashing windows and being morons in general.

The NUS could have asked the students to withdraw from the Millbank building, to distance themselves from the extremists. Or you know, actually have adequate numbers of organisers to prevent this sort of situation.

We are all going to be tarred with the same brush by the public. The NUS march hasn't shown 'unity', or that students are 'serious about the issue of the cap', but that a number of students are inarticulate, thuggish brutes. No doubt any day soon the headline 'Students Cause Cancer' will be an exclusive in the *Daily Mail*, and old ladies will complain to local radio stations about how 'students are dragging this country down'.

Ian Wei

GREEN WEEK

Green
Week

What's On

Yes, that week full of all things environmentally aware is here again! Whether you're interested in climate change, what being 'green' means for industry or you want to make your lifestyle a little more environmentally friendly, we've got something for you. Check out the timetable and drop by one of our events to get involved.

Monday – Meat Free Monday. Look out for plenty of veggie goodness at selected outlets across campus including the Union.

Renewable Energy Private Equity – Talk by Hg Capital: 18.00, LTUG, Business School.

Tom Murley from Hg Capital will be discussing trends, opportunities and challenges in renewable energy investing. Sign up: email 'HG Capital' to k.brandon@imperial.ac.uk

Tuesday – Business and the Environment Workshop: 13.00-14.00, SAF 119.

Dr. Mike Tennant (Centre for Environmental Policy) will lead an interactive workshop on how businesses become more sustainable.

Wednesday – Biofuels: Can we have our cake and eat it? 13.00-14.00, SAF 119.

Dr. Richard Murphy (Life Sciences) will be talking about what biofuels are, how they're made and whether they're a viable environmental solution.

Pickling and Preserving Workshop: 13.00-14.00, East Basement Rm3, Beit Quad.

Waste Watch will show you how to reduce your food waste the old fashioned way - make and take away your very own pickled produce for free!

Marketing Excellence in the Low Carbon Industry – Talk by The Carbon Trust: 18.00, LG Square Lecture Theatre, Business School.

Thursday – Freecycle Day, Swap your unwanted clothes: 09.00-18.00, SAF G70:

All of us have unloved clothes sitting at the back of our wardrobe - give them a new lease of life and swap them for something you'll love.

Student Switch Off Social Media Workshop and free lunch + T shirt (Halls students only): 12.00-14.00, Activity Space 1 & 2, Union:

Want to learn how to better promote causes you care about? The Student Switch Off team are here to help, with a free lunch and T shirt!

SSO Green Film: The Yes Men Fix the World: 18.00-20.00, RSM G20: A screwball true story about two gonzo political activists who, posing as top executives of giant corporations, sneak their way into big business conferences and pull off the world's most outrageous pranks.

Friday – KnitSoc Make Your Own Ecobag Workshop: 12.00-14.00, East Basement Rm 4, Beit Quad. Turn old plastic bags into handy reusable eco bags and learn to knit at the same time!

Green Week Finale@Metric with Swaparama: 20.00-01.00, Metric.

Club night at the all-new Metric with a great line-up and more clothes swapping.

The student guide to going green

Small steps that you can take to help the environment

Charlotte Ivison

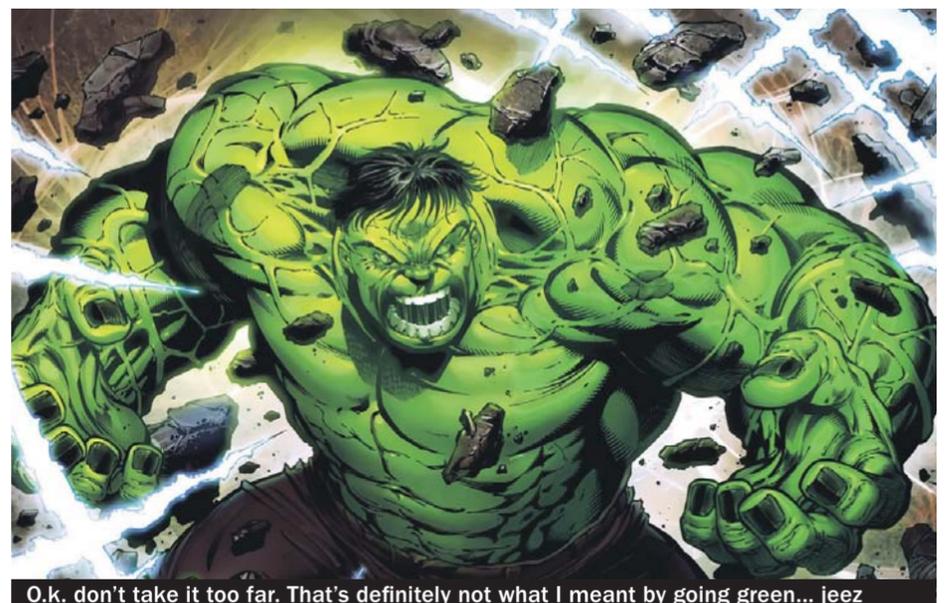
Walk – it sounds simple, but taking time out of your day to walk, rather than bus/train it, isn't just good for the planet, it's good for your health and your wallet.

Go meat free for a day – like our VegSoc President says, going meat free for a day can reduce your carbon footprint without the health homework of going fully veggie.

Buy a reusable bottle – there are tons on the market now, from reusable plastic to steel, so ditch the bottled water habit.

Stock up on reusable bags – if you're short on space, get handy ones that fold up, eg. Fizz-bags.

Be label aware – Some supermarkets now have labels telling you how much carbon is generated in the manufacturing of a certain product. Most packaged fruit and veg has the country of origin on it. Buy locally to reduce your food miles – try local farmer's markets for a better range. When buying eggs, meat and fish look out for labels saying 'Free Range' or that animal welfare standards are adhered to. With fish, look for a Marine Stewardship Council logo which shows that the fish has been sourced sustainably. Buying line-caught tuna also guarantees that no non-tuna marine animals have died in the tuna nets as bycatch, which gets wasted and can easily include endangered animals.



O.k. don't take it too far. That's definitely not what I meant by going green... jeez

Eat out sustainably – look out for affordable restaurants like Wahaca that commit to sustainable sourcing.

Common sense – Turn your heating down, watch your water usage and turn off gadgets and lights when not in use – it's well worth it

Recycle – Dispose of harmful substances responsibly (e.g. batteries) and if you don't recycle at home ask your council if you can get recycling bins or if not, where the nearest recycling facility is. Give your junk to charity

shops, freecycle or eBay it – make sure that anything that can be reused finds a loving home instead of going to landfill.

Charity shops – Go to charity shops the next time you want clothes, a book or some music – you're recycling and giving to charity. With some charities you can also buy online.

Have a responsible Christmas – consider eCards and look at non-material gifts such as the Oxfam Unwrapped range rather than giving people things they don't want.

REDUCE FOOD WASTAGE WITH FOODCYCLE

18 million tonnes of edible food ends up at the landfill each year, worth £23 billion or five times what the U.K. spends annually on international aid. If we stopped wasting this food, the reduction in U.K. carbon emissions would be equivalent to taking 1 in 5 cars off the road. According to FoodCycle, an estimated 400,000 tonnes of surplus food can be reclaimed each year from the food retailer industry to be made into healthy and nutritious meals.

FoodCycle tackles food waste and malnutrition in disadvantaged communities at the same time by empowering local communities to set up groups of volunteers to collect surplus produce locally and prepare nutritious meals in unused professional kitchen spaces. These meals are then served to those in need in the community.

To get involved in the Imperial branch of this initiative, email foodcycle@imperial.ac.uk



A FoodCycle volunteer serving a meal

Ivy Wong

GREEN WEEK

The New Environmental Policy

Three years ago the Union passed its Environmental policy. It has achieved some substantial gains, such as installing motion sensors on lights in the Union, to turn them off and save energy when the room isn't being used.

We now use only recycled paper, and all publicity is printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified paper. Most Club, Society & Project forms are now online, saving paper.

The new Environmental Policy for the next three years should use these and other benchmarks to take the Union forward. It's up to you what we do, so get in touch. Options could be: getting rid of bottled water, stricter controls on leaving electronic equipment on overnight, or even biodiesel in the minibuses.

Get in touch at president@imperial.ac.uk and we can send you the updated policy as it stands. **Alex Kendall**

Pathways to a low-carbon Europe

Imperial College experts took a key role in the recently-published Roadmap 2050, a study of the pathways to a low-carbon Europe in 2050 led by the European Climate Foundation. Alongside collaborators McKinsey & Company, KEMA and Oxford Economics, the Energy Futures Lab at Imperial assessed the technical and economic requirements, and implementation challenges, towards meeting the European Council targets of an 80–95% reduction in CO₂ from 1990 levels by 2050.

The Roadmap focuses on the power sector, where a large share of the decarbonisation must happen. The study analyses the potential impact of several technologies in which Imperial has a strong research profile, including flat-panel and concentrated solar PV, nuclear fission and carbon capture and storage. The report concludes that Europe already has the necessary skills, technology, capital and industrial capability to make the transition to a low-carbon economy. It found that, whilst the techno-economic challenges will be great, the greatest challenge may be to obtain broad, active support for the transition across regions, sectors and political parties.

Current policies and regulations are shown to be well short of what is required; the Roadmap concludes that an earnest decarbonisation effort must be started within around five years to make achieving the targets realistic. The good news for policy-makers, the report finds, is that if efficiency improvements are made alongside power decarbonisation, the transition can lead to higher economic growth and net positive job creation up to 2050. The full report can be read at www.roadmap2050.eu/.

VEGETABLES ARE AWESOME

Stef Piatek

I'm generally against people preaching about vegetarian/veganism, it's against what Veg Soc is all about. So let's assume that you asked us why vegetables are awesome for the environment.

To keep it simple, red meat and dairy are pretty bad in terms of emissions per calorie. It comes down to the inefficiency in converting plant foods into animal proteins, try and remember back to GCSE Biology here. Before someone brings up the classic 'surely the food miles on that

cancels it out' argument, this includes transportation emissions. In fact, changing to a vegetable-based diet decreases emissions more than eight-fold in comparison to magically having all your food produced on your doorstep. Let's face it though, who's going to go through all that effort for Mr. Environment?

So here's the game plan, red meat and dairy are the worst offenders; for the more apathetic, moving away from these to chicken/fish/eggs for one day per week

is as good as having 'zero food miles'. Though in reality, having one vegetable day per week is pretty easy (whilst lacking the usual health concerns) and beats our fantasy transport-free situation. If you're interested in the health and environmental aspects of vegetable-based diets check out our website for fully cited discussions. Meanwhile, enjoy our recipes below which come from a growing collection, also on our website: www.union.ic.ac.uk/vegsoc/

Cooking without meat

Pumpkin and Coconut Soup

Starter for 4

- 600g Chopped pumpkin flesh
- 1 Onion, chopped
- 2 tbsp Vegetable oil
- 2 tbsp Chopped ginger
- 200g Creamed Coconut
- 600ml Water
- 2 stock cubes
- 1 (if you can't handle spice) or 2-3 Chopped chillies
- 1 tbsp Lemon juice
- 1 tbsp Tomato paste
- 8 tbsp Chopped coriander

Sauté pumpkin and onion in oil.

After 5 minutes add chillies, ginger, water, stock cubes and bring to boil. Simmer gently for 15 minutes. Liquefy soup with blender if smooth soup is desired.

Add creamed coconut, lemon juice and tomato paste, and bring to boil. Cook for another 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with coriander (2 tbsp coriander per head).

Coconut and Chocolate Fudge

- 200g/1 cup of chocolate
- 500g/3.5 cups of icing sugar
- 30g/1/3 cup of cocoa powder

- 30g/2 tbsp of margarine
- 125ml or 1/2 cup of coconut milk
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 80g/1 cup of desiccated coconut

Break the chocolate into small pieces, add the margarine and coconut milk and melt in a double boiler or in the microwave (making sure not to burn).

Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well.

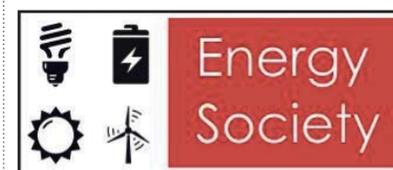
Pour into a pre-lined baking tray. Add some extra coconut on top as a garnish and press in with your hand gently.

Leave in the fridge to set for about 3 or 4 hours.

Cut into small pieces as it's super rich!



The new ICU Energy Society needs you



The new ICU Energy Society seeks to provide a portal for all students interested in energy.

Over £53 million per year is invested in energy-related research across Imperial. The departments and research groups conducting these fascinating research and education programs are very diverse, encompassing distributed academic networks in the physical and biological sciences, engineering and business. Whilst this is a great strength, it means that finding out about energy-related projects and events can sometimes be challenging. The ICU Energy Society seeks to provide a portal for all students, including undergraduates, MScs, MBAs and PhDs, so that they may foster information sharing, collaboration and the building of a vibrant energy community on campus.

Central to achieving these goals is the creation of a networking platform for all students interested in energy. The ICU Energy Society provides a website digesting the energy-related news and events from on- and off-campus and a free mailing list. A key provision currently being developed is a discussion forum on the IC network to facilitate cross-disciplinary discussion. In addition to aggregating and advertising existing activities, we have begun to organise our own workshops, seminars and social events. Themes of events already being planned include private investment in renewable energy; the challenge for offshore wind; carbon footprinting; careers in energy and sustainability; Clean Development in China; business opportunities in energy; a visit to Battersea power station and many more.

The Energy Society is always looking for new members and new ideas, and involvement can be anything from attending one of our events to organising one yourself. Find out more at www.ic-energy.org or email info@ic-energy.org.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

What's On

Justice Week

Monday 22nd

'Faith and Law': Can religion solve moral dilemmas?
– Interfaith event at 6PM in Skempton Building

Tuesday 23rd

'Exploiting the 3rd World'

– student panel on how we can make a difference,
6:30PM, EEE LT408

Justice Exhibition in SAF Foyer

– 12-4pm

Wednesday 24th

'Capitalism: A Love Story'

– Showing of film by Michael Moore, followed by
commentary by Islamic economist Jamal Harwood
– 1PM, Skempton LT 201
– TICKETS: £3
– FREE PIZZA AND POPCORN

Thursday 25th

'Injustices in recent wars and policies'

– Talk by Asim Qureshi of Cageprisoners
– 6:30PM, EEE LT408

Justice Exhibition in SAF Foyer

– 12-4pm

Friday 26th

'This Time We Went Too Far'

– Talks on consequences of the Gaza Invasion of
2009 by Norman Finkelstein
– 6PM & 8PM, Clore LT Huxley
– TICKETS: £5

University Challenge

The much anticipated inter-faculty University Challenge face-off is almost here. Teams from RCSU, CGCU, RSM and ICSMU will battle it out before four students are chosen to represent Imperial in front of the nation. Gilead Amit will be in the quiz master's chair for what is sure to be a nail-biting contest.

22nd November, SAF LT G34

EVENTS

RCSU Buddy Bar Night
At Metric
23rd November, from 7pm
'4 pints for £5' wristbands can be bought from the RCSU office or DepSocs.

Friends of Medecins Sans Frontieres
Film screening: 'Living in Emergency'
(back by popular demand!)
23rd November @ 6pm in the Glenister
LT at the Charing Cross Campus.

Imperial students make mountaineering history

In September, five students summited three unconquered Himalayan mountains. Here's their first-hand account

On day 6 of our mountaineering expedition to India's Obra Valley we were sat outside a small wooden hut, our 200 kg of equipment nestled under its overhanging roof, participating in perhaps the most tenuous game of eye-spy ever played. We had spent the last four days traveling north from Delhi, of which the first 600km were easily dispatched by the New Delhi – Dehra Dun Shatabdi Express train. We had sped along the recently burst banks of the Yamuna river and looking out across the dark red and green landscape, barely illuminated by the metallic grey sky, we didn't think twice about the road ahead. With a mere 100km by jeep left, that we would cover in 6-7 hours, we realised we had underestimated the destructive power of the monsoon rains. The 'road' we were to follow to the road head didn't live up to its name. We found it was blocked in sections, by vast landslides of shale, saturated mud and truck-sized boulders, or in the worst cases, reduced to a single precarious strip of earth, the remnants of the highway strewn across the slopes below. Three days later we finally made it through, and now we were sat, hiding

"Looking out across the dark red and green landscape, barely illuminated by the metallic grey sky, we didn't think twice about the road ahead"

from the rain, next to a wooden hut, playing eye spy, waiting to meet our in-country team. Silently hoping that the overall situation was about to improve, it finally did. Norbu and Darwa had arrived, along with the rest of our 9-strong base camp team. A series of clipped commands from these two hardy Sherpas and half a ton of base camp supplies were unloaded, tents erected and chai served.

Three days of trekking later and we were settling into our base camp, located beside a meander in the glacial torrent of the Obra Gad (river). At just under 4,000m (13,000 ft) we could feel the effects of altitude, although low clouds had so far prevented us from getting a good look at our climbing objectives. A reconnaissance was needed and so we left camp to explore the valley floor and the access to a high glacier, which we believed would enable access to the valley's highest peak – Dauru, at 5,877m. After exploring a rocky spur and establishing a gear cache we left all but the es-

entials and returned to base to prepare a multi-day outing. Unsure of conditions higher up we packed loads to deal with any eventuality and once again headed up the valley. Carrying a load up to 4,900m we made a second cache in what we considered to be a good campsite at the edge of a glacier, a safe distance from crevasses and avalanche prone slopes. To aid acclimatisation, we descended for a final night of sleep in the valley before moving our tents up to our high camp, rising early the next morning to make the first ascent of Peak 5,480m at the back of this hanging valley. The going was difficult in soft, fresh snow, mixed with the occasional rocky step but we were rewarded with our first peak of the trip and a fantastic view of the potential route up Dauru – it looked entirely achievable!

After a second night up high we returned to base to spend a rest day bouldering and reconnoitering an approach to another mountain of interest – Ranglana, 5,554m. With a resupply of food we made a push up to, and past, our previous high camp and pitched tents at 5,175m, close to the valley headwall. An early start the next morning and some cold climbing up the headwall gained a narrow col that would give access to the upper slopes of Dauru. After a close call with a collapsing cornice (a wind-sculpted, overhanging edge of snow) we decided that following the ridge directly to the summit would be rather dangerous, and instead made an ascending traverse of the mountain's North West flank. Reaching the 5,877m summit under clear skies we were afforded spectacular views across not only the Obra Valley, but of hundreds of snowcapped peaks (many still unclimbed) to the North, South, East and West. After many panoramic and group photographs were taken we began the 2,000m (vertical) descent to base, pausing to clear our camp, returning just after nightfall to enjoy yet another excellent meal.

By this point in the expedition our thoughts were turning to the journey back out - our latest update revealed that since our arrival, conditions had worsened in the proximity of Jakhol and we would need to allow extra time on the walk out. The consequence, fewer remaining climbing days than we had hoped, and one major objective still unattempted: The majestic Ranglana. We knew the peak had been attempted at least twice previously and on visual inspection its northern aspect of steep face and complex ridges appeared to be a major mountaineering challenge. After studying the map of the area we believed the key to a rapid ascent was in accessing a col at the base of the mountain's West ridge. Leaving base camp in the afternoon we approached the mountain and established a camp below this col (4,800m). With the end of the day fast approaching, Andy

and Phil ascended to the col and immediately realised that the West ridge, although appearing climbable, would require more time than we could possibly commit. Disappointment? No, by descending from this point we could gain the South face and from there follow a ridge-line directly to the summit! Another early start and we were on our way to the opposite side of the mountain; baked by the sun we made slow progress until gaining the ridge, and a breeze. Some steep snow slopes led to a few rocky steps as we neared the narrow summit. After some attempts we eventually found the line of weakness to the summit and Jonny led up to the top across snow covered slabs, completing our Obra Valley hat-trick. With some light clouds building we took the obligatory photos and began a largely uneventful descent back to our camp. Uneventful, except of course for Phil managing to step into a deep hole filled with powder snow. The consistency and effect was similar to quicksand and so a quick digging operation was required to free him. A

"We knew the peak had been attempted at least twice previously. It was a major mountaineering challenge"

final night was spent in our cold mountain tents before we could descend back to the warmth of base camp and prepare for our withdrawal from the valley.

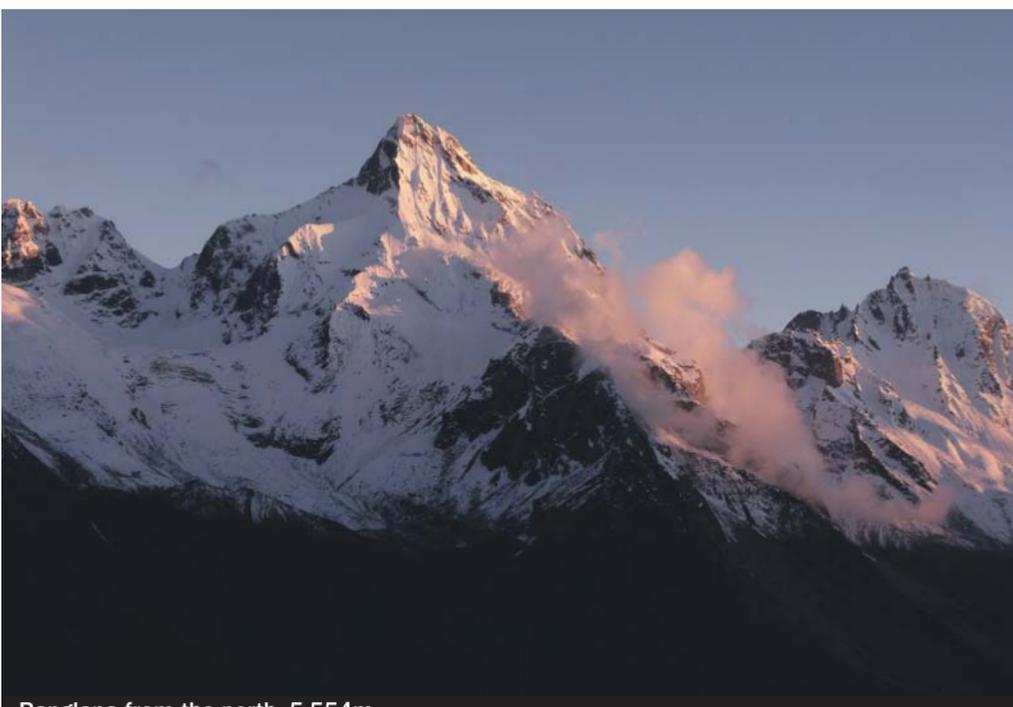
Our retreat from the Himalaya was, thankfully, much more straightforward than our approach. With the assistance of about 15 porters we carried the gear out on foot for two days before once again meeting our jeep, and on the third day were able to make Dehra Dun. A day was spent sampling local fruit and greasy treats, followed by a sleeper train to Delhi, giving us a full day to enjoy the track cycling and athletics at the Commonwealth Games.

The Imperial College Obra Valley Expedition consisted of Boris Korzh, Philip Leadbeater, Kunal Masania, Andrew McLellan and Jonathan Phillips and was supported by the Imperial College Exploration Board, Mount Everest Foundation, British Mountaineering Council, Welsh Sports Association, Lyon Equipment Award, SIS (Science in Sport) Ltd, PHD. Gratitude is expressed to Dominic Southgate, Outdoor Club, Mountaineering Club and Recreational Clubs Committee for the loan of equipment.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



Approaching the summit of Dauru, 5,877m



Ranglana from the north, 5,554m



IC Obra Valley team on the summit of Dauru, 5,877m

Arts Editor: **Rox Middleton**arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ARTS

If you read nothing else this week...**Georgia Hole** chooses a book to put the wintry weather in perspective**The Worst Journey in the World**

by Apsley Cherry-Garrard

As cold winds start to blow in the typical London winter squalls and chills, many of us will no doubt get our moaning caps on and curse the unfriendly British winter. But, for the determined companions of the famous Arctic explorer Captain Scott, depicted in "The Worst Journey in the World", such a trivial winter would have been yearned for. Written by one of the youngest members of the 1912 expedition to the Antarctic, Apsley Cherry-Garrard's gripping account records the fateful journey to the frozen deserts of the South Pole. The first-hand account tells the human story behind the famously tragic race, as well as 'the worst journey', the equally disastrous scientific mission to collect penguin eggs in the Antarctic midwinter.

The twin missions of Polar exploration and scientific advancement came at a time full of excitement for British ingenuity and exploration, buoying the national mood. Taken up by this excitement, Cherry-Garrard was eager for adventure, but was not the archetypal explorer. Taken on board the mission as a "zoological assistant", Cherry-Garrard was initially thought of as little use, with bad eyesight and only modest experience at just 24. He quickly however became vital as a member of the core team, forming close bonds with crewmates Captain Scott, 'Birdie' Bowers, Dr Wilson and the famous Titus Oates.

Along with Bowers and Wilson, he would undertake the challenge to collect penguin eggs for research, and this epic struggle, set in harrowing conditions and beset by bad luck, forms a significant portion of the book. Cherry-Garrard describes feats of unimaginable endurance; marching across ice, dragging sleds by foot, traversing ice-chasms, and persistent frostbite and snow blindness, all faced with an earnestness and sincerity that reveals the nature of the human spirit when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges.

The courage and heroism that characterised this brotherhood is what forms the heart of "The Worst Journey in the World", and is what lifts it from mere travel account to a masterpiece that reflects on the finest qualities of human endeavour and determination. It also saves the book from melancholy when faced with the fact that, despite the men's bravery, there was no victorious conclusion. Through "The Worst Journey in the World", Cherry honoured the selfless British spirit he encountered, and, with it as a reminder of the possibility of such spirit, regardless of circumstance, we should be grateful that he did.

What's your favourite book, and why should we read it? If you want to see it in Felix, send 300 to 400 words to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Over one hundred galleries before 9pm

Shoreditch is the hotbed of all London's most cutting-edge, original talent and a monthly evening of late night openings promises to let you into its heart

Sam Whitcomb

Every now and again London will present something which will not only impress and astonish you, but leave you buzzing for the rest of the week! It's been a long time since this has been the case, and I look back fondly at the time I found out the IMAX was free for Im-

perial students, and someone told me I could pair my student rail card to my Oyster. Well yet again London delivers and this time it comes in the form of free alcohol, more art galleries than you could shake a stick at, and a fantastic array of twee bars (that's twee not free). What I'm talking about is an astonishing, somewhat mysterious event which takes place on the first

Thursday of every month at precisely 6.30pm: the simultaneous opening of all the galleries in East London.

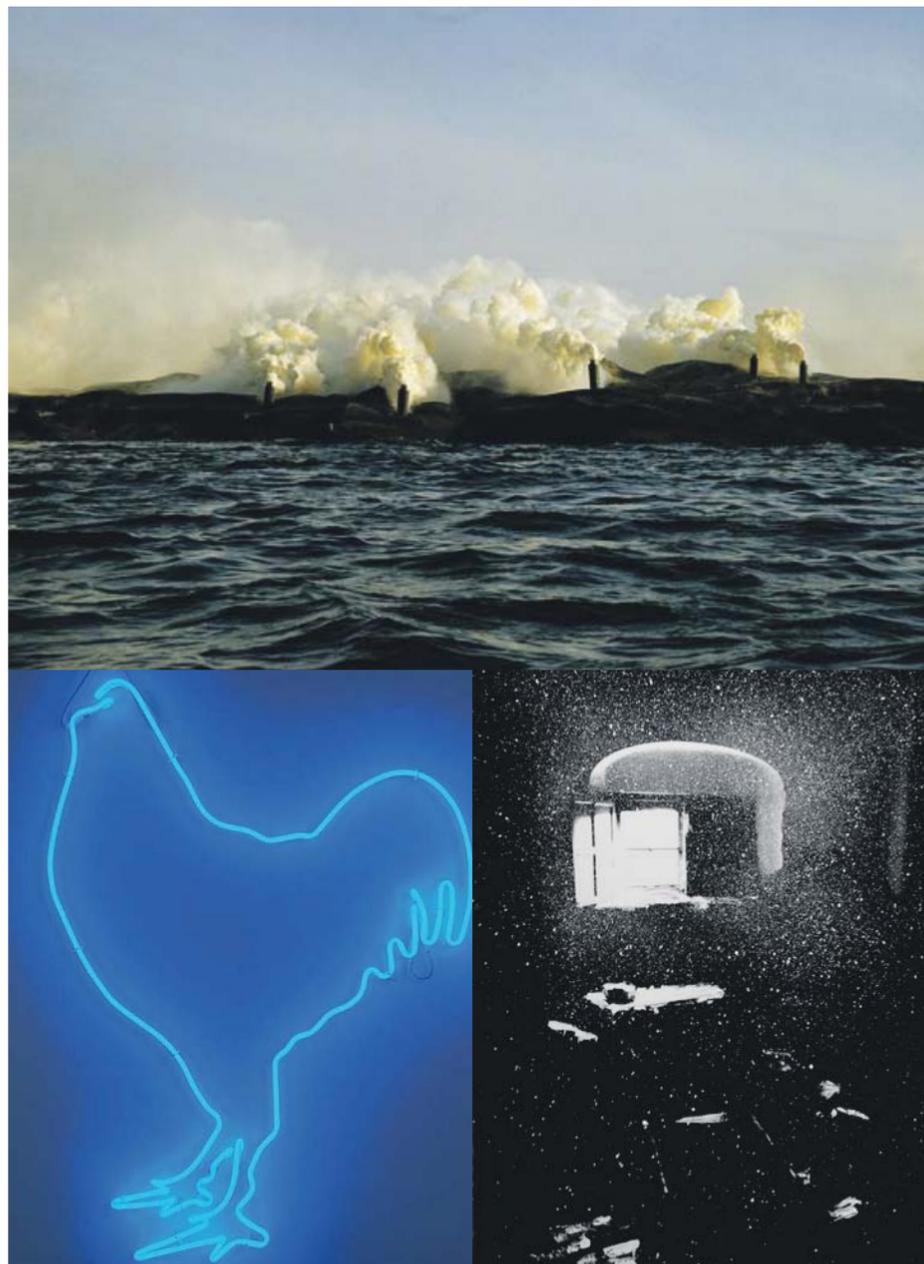
We chose Redchurch Street as the focus of our visit which is just a short walk from Shoreditch High Street tube station. The walk in itself is more than pleasant; passing by are the charming frontages of the local bars, the warm glow from retro chandeliers, and 1960's interiors. For those who have never strayed out of South Kensington, a trip to the Shoreditch/Brick Lane area of London will quite literally transport you from the London you know to a somewhere so dissimilar you will need more than a night to digest it all.

The galleries themselves were not disappointing. Bunched up together on that lone street were about ten, each one a disorientating step from the other, and each one so distinctly different from the last. That's what was so great about the whole thing: you'll be in a photography gallery following the fortunes of Michael Hess as he explores the 'BINGO & SOCIAL CLUB', then step into another world of vibrant Dulux painted spirals whilst listening to jazz, hip-hop or house – the choice was actually yours!

I think it was this which was so fantastic about the whole experience; you were pushed and pulled through a series of completely different ideas, squeezed into feeling happy, and stretched into re-understanding a fear of cats. Some of the exhibitions were weirdly appealing, I mean who would have realised an angelic monkey was actually a stand against animal testing? Or that a school of fish in a sea of red symbolised the desperate problem of overfishing, and more interestingly the human/animal equality issue?

Whether you see faces in paint splatters, see your sister in a melting cat, or toads in islands, the experience is totally consuming and I was sad when the end came at 9 – far too early. Oh and I didn't mention the beer. Either go to the larger galleries, or arrive early: confronting the weird and wonderful is easier with a complementary glass of white wine in hand.

Late Night Art runs throughout Shoreditch every first Thursday of the month. www.firstthursdays.co.uk has all the details. Leonardo Fine Art and Photo-soc are running an open trip to the next, on Thursday 2nd Dec. Join them (join their mailing lists for information).



Oh Art, I totally do not understand you at all. But you look pretty, which is fine for me

The Notting Hill fabrication

What do you do when your erotic obsession with your teenage son drives you to self-destruction? Let's see

Will Prince

Often I find myself wondering why I don't lead the life of a Felliniesque, care-free socialite, generally whilst carving the fossilized Crunchy Nut from my cereal bowl or in those few moments when confronted by the awful reality of capacitance problems. And whilst normally I painfully realize I have neither an Italian passport nor a bottomless supply of wealth nor a wardrobe full of dapper suits and accessories, *Affabulazione* indulged me with a glimpse of a *dolce-er vita*, served with a very Italian warning of such a life's pitfalls.

The play charts the downfall of a Milanese industrialist who destroys his wealth, respect and relationships as he is plagued by a debilitating sexual desire for his adolescent son. Driven to vindictive, devious sex with his wife and infantilisation of his son, we see the

Father, played with gravitas by Jasper Britton, become ever more determined to reconcile his emotions with his offspring. Catalysed by a visit from the

“a strange mixture of tragedy, parody and sexual psychoanalysis, all dressed in a distinctively Italian glamour”

ghost of Sophocles during a fever, the enigma of his love is equivocally solved and spirals deeper into madness crippled

by his jealous obsession.

Affabulazione offers a strange mixture of tragedy, parody and sexual psychoanalysis, all dressed in a distinctively Italian glamour. The obligatory Italian-man-in-crisis-conversation-with-priest scene is given a perverse twist, as we see the dirty Father distracted from the Holy Father as his son walks back up through the garden of his Lombardy summerhouse (the setting of most of the play, commendably simulated in Notting Hill through the use of a cicada recording and turning the heaters up). Depravity is maintained throughout, but nothing is trivialized. Even through the slightly bizarre climactic scene, the play retains a sense of gravity and the perverse desires of the 'Father' are never debased.

That said, the fact that it was at one time adapted for an opera says a lot about *Affabulazione*, big on emotion,

not so on plot. Whilst there is a narrative to the piece, the decay of the Father's sanity is somewhat clunky and consists more a series of emotional crescendos, meaning it is often more enjoyable to just bathe in the bouts of catharsis than to track the unraveling of the Father's morals and mind.

The role of the 'Mother' is arguably underplayed by Geraldine Alexander, who it never seemed had quite grasped the magnitude of her predicament, and Max Bennett, as the son, strikes a believable balance between young adult stallion and subservient teenage son, a sense of immaturity perhaps springing from the actor's own slightly undeveloped acting technique. Written by Pier Paolo Pasolini, a man whose exploits are so broad, that one would think had he been alive a little longer, he may have been the first Italian on the Moon, the play is naturally going to be based

around extraordinary experiences, but *Affabulazione* tends at times to wander outside the realms of the believable.

The intimate nature of the new venue (basically a converted garage) makes the play one of the most intense of recent months and the set, although minimalist, supports the actors whilst allowing the fluency needed by such a fantastical play.

Due to the extremity of the situation, I question how much the standard theatregoer can take from the piece in way of a moral, but *Affabulazione's* delicate structuring of a man's desires consuming him makes for a high-tempo, enthralling spectacle. Not to mention the fact that it's cheaper than a weekend break in Pisa.

FABRICATION (AFFABULAZIONE), until 4th Decmber at The Print Room, Notting Hill, £12/£16

FREE ENTRY
REFRESHMENTS SERVED

imperial college union

UK National Interfaith Week 2010

Imperial College Interfaith presents an enlightening conference

FAITH & LAW

can religions solve moral dilemmas in the UK?

Question Time Discussion & Dialogue Sessions
with guest speakers:

Tamineh Roshanian
(International Solicitor, Bahai)

Prof John Finnis
(Professor Emeritus of Law, Oxford)

Shaunaka Rishi Das
(Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies)

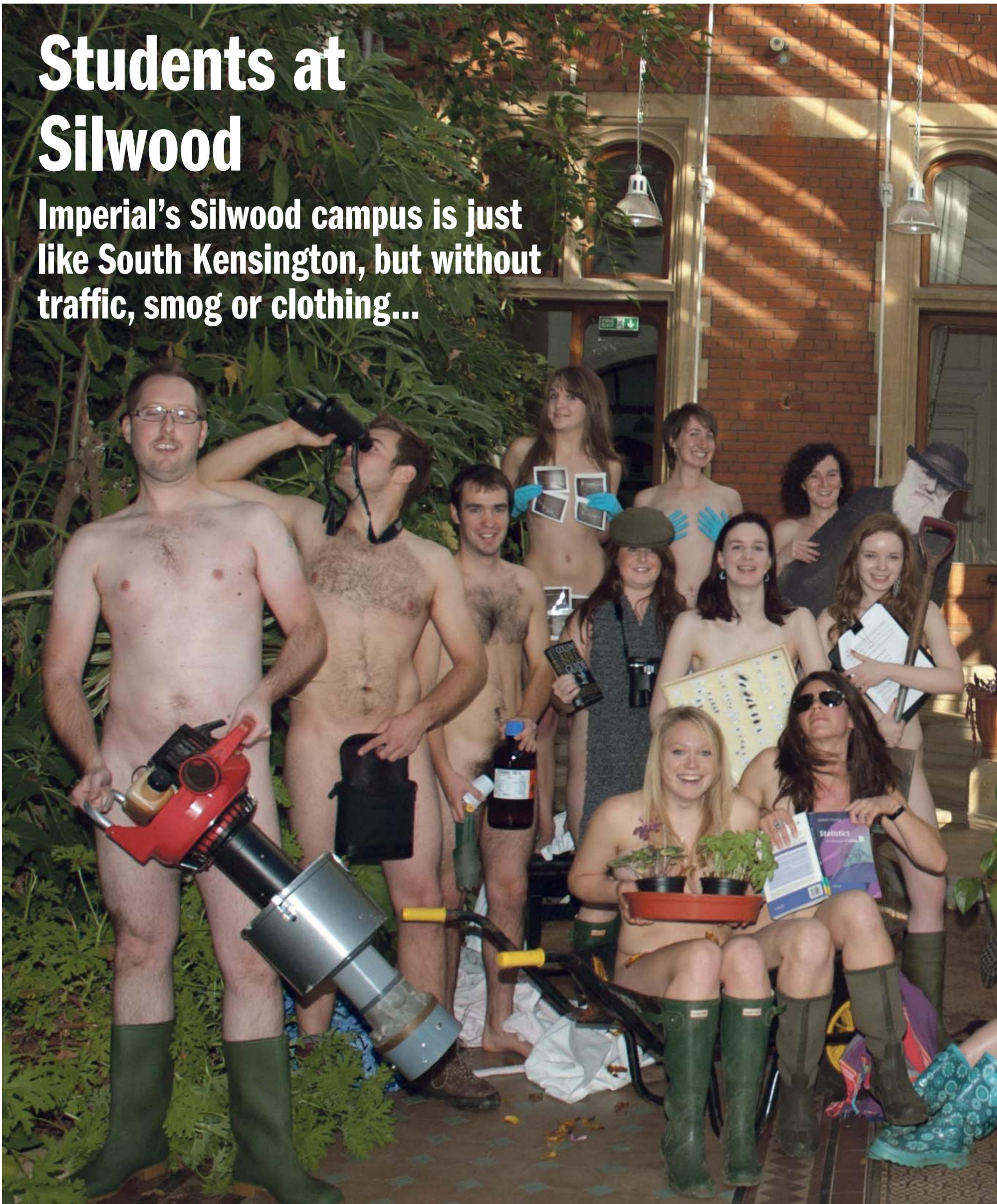
Rabbi Gavin Broder
(Former chief Rabbi of Ireland)

Hamza Tzortzis
(writer & speaker, Islam)

Monday 22nd November
Main LT, Skempton Building
Imperial College, Exhibition Rd
SW7 2AZ
6.00-8.30pm

Students at Silwood

Imperial's Silwood campus is just like South Kensington, but without traffic, smog or clothing...



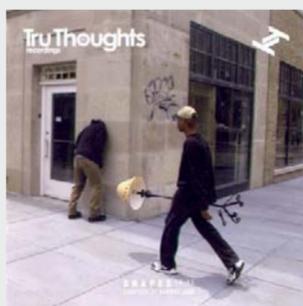


Do you want to do a centrefold? Email felix@imperial.ac.uk

MUSIC

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

Album of The Week



Various
Shapes 10:02
Tru Thoughts
2010

This is another sublime collection of some of the best music around at the moment, from dub to dance, and psychedelic jazz to trip hop and compiled by one of the UK's best independent labels - Tru Thoughts. Feel good grooves mix with rich soulful vocals on tracks like **Alice Russel's** 'Hurry on Now' remix, while sharp horns with swaggering guitars are laid out all over 'Dr Who' by **Smerins Anti-Social Club**. What I like most about this record is that it takes absolutely no effort to enjoy at all, from the instant the CD is in the deck you can't help but feel immediately chilled and encapsulated by the pulsating grooves. It is so well conceived and executed as a compilation album that it should make for essential listening, even for someone with limited knowledge of the genres it covers.

-**Christopher Walmsley**

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

1. Wax Taylor
2. The Jackson 5
3. LCD Soundsystem
4. Four Tet
5. The Correspondents
6. Tom Lehrer
7. James Blake
8. Wild Beasts
9. The Supremes
10. Caribou

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

Make sure not to miss

Beach House & Lower Dens

Shepherds Bush Empire
23rd November
7:00pm

Beach house are quickly rising through indie's ranks, and it's easy to see why, with their enchanting simple melodies and dreamy lo-fi sound. Their latest album released at the beginning of the year 'Teen Dream' showed signs of a band truly refining their sound and Victoria Legrad's husky voice was shown to be more effective than ever. Support comes from another Baltimore band, **Lower Dens**, who are very much in the same vein as **Beach House** and have the potential to follow in their footsteps. Taking to the stage in the Shepherds Bush Empire this Tuesday, **Beach House** are sure to send you into a shoe-gazing daydream!

-**Christopher Walmsley**

Tokyo Police Club Live



Alien abduction of frontman Dave Monks follows

Callum Ballard & Jamie Gollings were whipped up into a frenzy under the arches



Dear Flying Lotus: There is no need to stare daggers at Chiddy Bang... You are far better

Flying Lotus
KOKO
06.11.10
★★★★☆

Kadhim Shubber

I had previously seen **FlyLo** at Bestival this past summer. Forget festival nostalgia, his gig at Koko simply wasn't as freaky as his set as Bestival and there's one simple reason: space to breathe.

I stood at the back of the crowd down on the ground floor of Koko and impatiently waited for the support act to end - they weren't very good, aiming for the 'turn up the whomp' style of dubstep that we all know and 'love'. I was elbowed from the right. Then shuffled into from the left. Inevitably someone taller than me (I'm 6ft 3") with an over-sized rucksack came and stood in front of me. Oh joy.

Flying Lotus sauntered on stage, oozing charisma and beaming his trademark 'high-as-a-kite' smile. He chatted with the crowd for a

moment (a welcome relief from all these shy, awkward folk/indie bands) and then let his music do the talking. I cheered and then tried and failed to let my dancing do the talking. My thoughts were overwhelmed by the fuckwits next to me: bump, stamp, ow that's a high heel on my foot, ow... fuck this.

I went to dance with my friends in the space in front of the downstairs bar. There was space but we looked weird and the sound was shit. All seemed lost until we discovered the secret bar in Koko. I won't reveal where it is (otherwise you'll come and crowd me out) but, safe to say, I was finally able to enjoy **FlyLo's** groovy beats. His remix of 'Idioteque' was even more haunting than **Radiohead's** original and let's be honest, there's no better way to end the night than with "Do The Astral Plane".

In conclusion, Koko was shit but **Flying Lotus** was sick as usual; I just wish it hadn't taken me the first half of his set to find somewhere decent to dance.

Canada has given us a choice, if scant, of alternative music in the last decade, with NME darlings, **Arcade Fire** and **Crystal Castles** both achieving critical acclaim with recent releases, although the chances are you've probably not heard of Ontario's **Tokyo Police Club**.

Announcing themselves on Heaven's dizzily tall stage with a huge burble of bass, the quartet break into their virally catchy opener 'Favourite Colour' whose chorus is unsurprisingly chanted by nearly everyone in the room. Given such a long set, fan favourites from early EPs are given a well received airing early on, as is a good chunk of the debut LP, 'Elephant Shell'. All but two songs from 'Champ' also make an appearance (one unusual absentee being the brilliant upcoming single 'Gone'). New material is eaten up by the crowd, from the jittery Synthesisers of 'Bambi', to the anthemic 'Boots of Danger', whose hook is sung long after they actually stop playing.

Front man Dave Monks stands at the edge of stage and demands the house

lights go up in order for him to survey the throng below, and by all accounts he likes what he sees. He still has the air of a teenager playing his first ever gig; his giddy excitement is palpable and completely infectious, and that's a large part of what makes this group so endearing. They're a throwback to childhood and more innocent times; lyrical references to grade school, favourite foods and colours, Rubix's cubes and even Disney films, for some reason, just work. And more than that, by the time they break out old singles 'In a Cave' and 'Tessellate' they have a whole venue whipped up into absolute frenzy.

This is all before Graham Wright's synthesiser sings out the opening chords of their last and easily most famous song, 'Your English Is Good', which sends the front half of the crowd (including yours truly) into utter hysteria. But of course there's being confident, and then there's encoring with a Weezer cover. Happily, their rendition of 'My Name Is Jonas' is perfectly executed; far from the garage-rock sacrilege an inferior band would have surely committed.



Chiddy Bang has the power of morphing into his stage name

Chiddy Bang
Heaven
06.11.10
★★★★☆

Matthew Stringer

The prospect of attending an intimate gig with an American hip-hop legend was hugely exciting for me, and as a pretty unknown act here in the UK I had no clue what kind of audience would be turning out, and what the response would be. After supporting **Tinie Tempah** on a national tour, this was **Chiddy Bang's** one and only headlining gig in the UK before heading back to the States.

Supporting Chiddy were group modern rock group **Awol Nation**, and Dizzee-soundalike 'Smurfie Syco'. Awol weren't my type of music, but definitely exceeded my expectations for a rock group. They mixed a classic rock sound and modern quirky electro to produce something new and relevant; it will be interesting to see how much more we see of them in the

UK. Smurfie seemed to please the masses with his take on hip-hop, but it was most certainly a **Tinny Stryder**, **Dizzee Rascal** copycat, and didn't have much to offer except from melodic samples and a good DJ.

Chiddy Bang are a duo from Philadelphia, yet to release an album, so focusing on promoting their EP, 'Chiddy Bang: The Preview'. Their first single 'Opposite of Adults' was a worldwide smash, and largely due to the **MGMT** sample, landed themselves a spot in the music industry. Chiddy were definitely born to perform live, and they seemed hugely comfortable with a crowd and their music. Chidera is most definitely the best freestyler I have ever heard, his on-the-spot vocals both technically challenging, and hugely entertaining. With a few catchy tunes, and a few hard hip-hop beats, **Chiddy Bang** showed they definitely have a place in the UK market, and they're most certainly a group to look out for in 2011.

MUSIC

Cinematic Orchestra

When two things of immense beauty combine, strange things can happen. In this case, music and majesty create brilliance

As an Imperial student, the Royal Albert Hall can easily become a mundane and constant feature of our university lives. It's by no means an ugly building but, after almost three and half years at Imperial, I scarcely give it a cursory glance. Last Sunday, after experiencing **The Cinematic Orchestra** perform within its circled walls, I found a renewed appreciation for our illustrious neighbour.

The **Cinematic Orchestra** last performed at the Royal Albert Hall in 2007 and the night had the air of a triumphant return (an extremely cold triumphant return but triumphant nonetheless). They were as impressive as I expected, but before they took to the stage, we had a couple of delicious appetizers.

The **London Metropolitan Orchestra** opened and, from my seat in Choir behind the stage, for the first time I understood the complexity and skill of the orchestra and the conductor. Strangely enough, I think because I was there of my accord (instead of being coerced by my keen-to-be-cultured parents) I was more open-minded about the classical music and more able to enjoy it. Although trying to explain to the steward, as I waited to return to my seat after using the bathroom, that there were two separate 'orchestras' performing that night but only one was an actual orches-

Photo by Shaun Bloodworth



The pink lighting was the key ingredient to the success of the flamingo impression

tra was slightly infuriating...

Next on the menu was **Dorian Concept**. I'm rather embarrassed to admit that, for me, his music was slightly overshadowed by the **London Metropolitan Orchestra's** performance. Compared with the rich, multi-layered classical melodies, his somewhat flat post-rock didn't play my ears with quite the same dexterity. Although things turned for the better when he moved to scat jazz his drummer unfortunately stole his thunder with his frenzied bebopping.

Then finally, the main course. It's hard

to convey (impossible actually) the effect of **The Cinematic Orchestra's** wistful music in the splendour of the Royal Albert Hall. The acoustics were pitch-perfect. The **London Metropolitan Orchestra**, who were backing them, would swoosh in to sprinkle that something extra as a song crescendoed. The vocals fizzed with emotion and when *'To Build A Home'* was performed at the end of the set, there was nothing to do but close my eyes and self-indulge in tearful nostalgia.

As I left the Royal Albert Hall, I looked back and realized even more

strongly, that although creative expression is subjective, there are some things that are brilliant and no rational person could disagree. The Royal Albert Hall as a venue is brilliant. **The Cinematic Orchestra** is brilliant. And **The Cinematic Orchestra** at the Royal Albert Hall is simply sublime.

The Cinematic Orchestra
Royal Albert Hall
 14.11.10
 ★★★★★
Kadhim Shubber

A playlist from brilliant British songwriters...

Some of the greatest songs to have graced my ears, that influence many of the song-writers today, including myself, came from our little kingdom

The Cure -
 Lullaby

Joy Division -
 Transmission

The Smiths -
 There Is a Light That Never Goes Out

The Clash -
 Guns of Brixton

Morrissey -
 First of the Gang

The Jam -
 The Eton Rifles

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

Smoke Faries

Ghosts
 453 Music
 ★★★★★☆



Love Amongst Ruin

Home
 Universal
 ★★☆☆☆



Skandal

Go
 Halal Beats/Kilamanjaro
 ★★☆☆☆



Lower Dens

Twin Hand Movement
 Gnomonsong
 ★★★★★☆



Badly Drawn Boy

It's What I'm Thinking (Part 1 Photographing Snowflakes)
 Peartree Records
 ★☆☆☆☆



As the days get shorter and the mornings far too bloody cold, this duo from Sussex provide the perfect soundtrack to our ailing weather. Producing lustful and haunting blues-folk, their sound is at its best when it adds a touch of Americana to the classic English setting. The lazy slide guitar stomp of *'Strange Moon Rising'* conjures images of New Orleans swamps, and the distorted blues guitar at the end of *'Summer Fades'* helps elevate the track about the rest of the album. The songs merge together so well that it's over just as soon as it's begun, fleeting but in a good way.
-Christopher Dean

The side-project of **Placebo** drummer Steve Hewitt, this single is heavily led by the distorted, bassy misery-rock of his day-job band, although it's much more direct and a significantly less fey affair than you'd expect from Molko et al. The effects are straight out of the 80's synth-rock box, which may or may not be your cup of tea, but the track suffers as it can't decide what it wants to be. It veers between aiming for a claustrophobic, uncomfortable Deftones-esque sound and an indie club jump-along rock track and as a result, does neither quite convincingly.
Duncan Casey

This week's prize for the worst abuses of auto-tune go to **Skandal**, who apparently hasn't learned the lessons of **Li'l Wayne's** recent crap rock album – and subsequent jail term. Still, the South London rapper has an ear for a beat, and with the addition of a singer that didn't sound like a voice-mail message recorded in a bucket, there'd be a decent tune here. He can rap, even if his rhymes are a little suspect every now and again: I've never heard an enemy described as being "like a bendy bus" before, but I suppose you've got to work with what you've got.
Duncan Casey

Another hazy dream pop band from Baltimore that are well worth your attention are **Lower Dens**, playing with fellow Baltimoreans **Beach House** this week. Their debut record released on singer-songwriter and visual artist; Devendra Banhart's label. *'Gnomonsong'* is raw and lo fi, but after a couple of listens through the shoegaze emerges some addictive melodies. Sometime the album is victim of its own downtempo pace and feels at times uncohesive, however it is clear that this band do have potential, their sound just needs to become a little more focused.
Christopher Walmsey

Before hearing his seventh studio album, I associated **Badly Drawn Boy** with mediocrity; having listened to it, nothing has changed. The tracks range from dull, generic folk-pop, to cheap copies of other, better artists, *'I Saw You Walk Away'*, could be a Morrissey filler track. Aside from the obligatory acoustic guitar, the instrumentation is truly bizarre, including repeated use of a drum machine that adds nothing. Lyrically this is crammed full of clichés and vague, meaningless phrases. This album is only the first in a series of three, I hope for his sake that the next two are a lot better.
Stephen Smith

MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**
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An interview with Micah P Hinson

Daniel Oppenheimer grills the enigma that is...

Micah P Hinson's music combines lyrical wisdom beyond his twenty-nine or so years with the kind of deep, reassuring voice your dad might use to read bedtime stories to you in. Hailing from Abilene, Texas he is often introduced as 'the guy who dated the Vogue model and went to prison for forging prescriptions,' but in person, he comes across as incredibly articulate, grounded and open. Since 2006 he has brought out several EPs and five albums the most recent of which, **Micah P Hinson and the Pioneer Saboteurs**, just released.

What was the trigger for your new record and where did the material come from?

Most of my records come from the same place. I had started writing half way decent songs around my seventeenth or eighteenth year so you have a good five or six years that I was writing songs a lot before I got signed. There's a lot of stuff in the past that I can go back to and kind of re-live and bring to my modern and my present. I think that's a really good way to keep solidarity or continuity between the albums, it's not just music recorded between each release it's stuff that's spanning my whole career.

Your early records had quite a melancholy style, why did you choose to return to that in *The Pioneer Saboteurs* having deviated from it in its predecessor *The Red Empire Orchestra*?

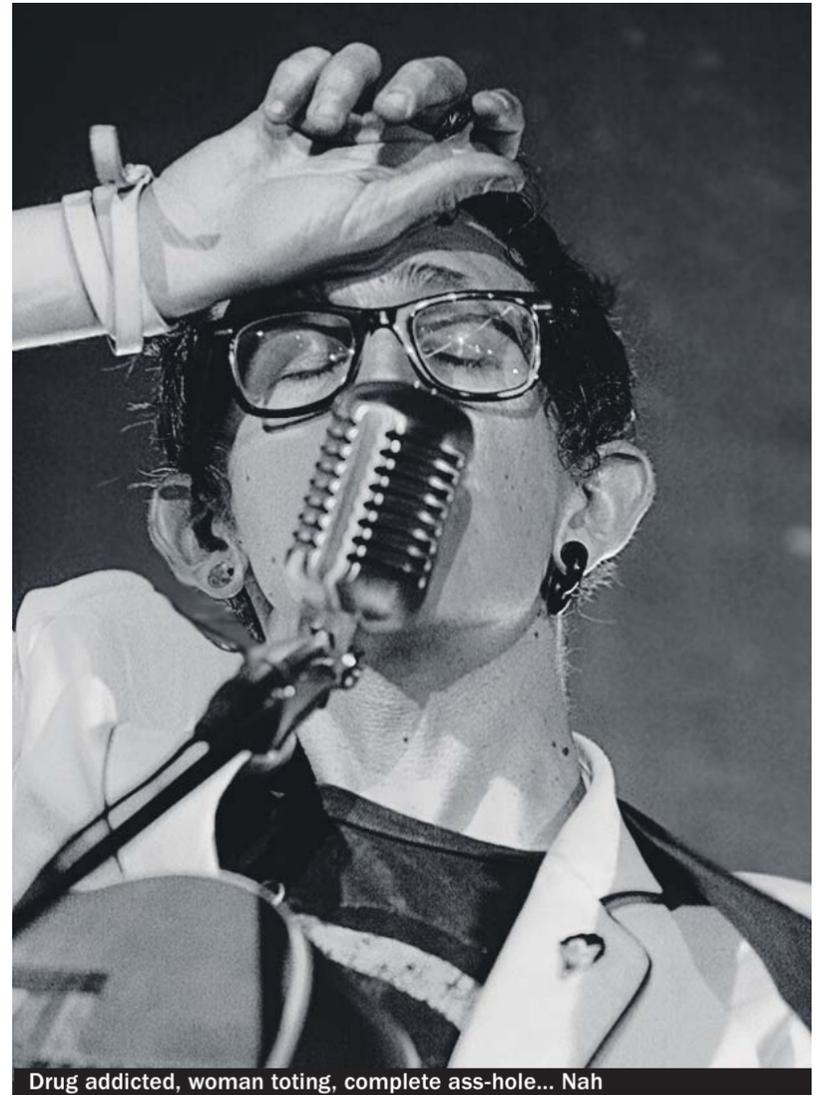
I did *The Red Empire* with a guy called John Congleton from *The Paper Chase*; a really fucking frightening band-amazing epic stuff. He was kind of the one and only producer I've ever had and been able to say to 'here's what I'm doing, what do you want me to re-do, how do you want things to sound?' That's why that sounded so different, but I still think that record has its hefty bit of darkness. I guess I see this new record as a culmination of the sound I'd been gathering in all the different records. It was good to head back in that direction but I guess I never really went away from it because there are a lot of strange, loud and haphazard things on *The Red Empire*. It's hard to categorise things man, when you get down to the nitty gritty there's similarities between so many things you wouldn't even guess.

You've been defined on many occasions by the dark stories of things that happened in the past. Does that frustrate you?

As we were coming in to London this morning I was telling a story about this

interview I did in Australia. This woman comes up and is like, 'Hello! This morning we have Micah Hinson, drug addicted, woman toting, complete ass hole - he's actually been in a mental institution!' Then she went on to ask me the same question and I told her it's actually a good thing for me to speak about it because the more I speak about it the less real it becomes. Clearly, I need to remember things to learn from them, you have to remember certain parts of the past in order not to relay them in to the future but it does help to talk about them. I mean I was born in to a higher middle class family in Texas, my parents were church goers, there wasn't any real reason for me to twist off and do the things I did, whether that be drugs or going to jail and all this. I made those decisions myself whereas some people in life they aren't given a chance, their parents are cock-suckers, their brothers are drug dealers et cetera et cetera. I was given much more of a chance and made bad decisions that led me to hard times so it's kind of a strange thing to have sympathy on any of those matters because they were my choice.

There are people with a similar modern folk sound to your own who've broken in to the mainstream. Does it bother you to see other people, for



Drug addicted, woman toting, complete ass-hole... Nah

whatever reasons, blowing up?

Oh no, no man that doesn't bother me at all! With the idea of a bomb blowing up, it has to go out. That's what I fear. I would never want to be a bomb, I would much rather be the slow burning fuse like four miles away from the enormous warehouse full of gun powder, know what I'm saying? It takes forever to get there, I mean it may even only get there

in my death but slow and steady wins the race. Unless you're fucking **U2** or **The goddamn Eagles**, bands don't last. I'm just thankful for every minute that I get to keep doing this. You just hope that when people go up they don't come down too hard. Some people can rise and they can stay but it's few and far between. The masses are pretty unforgiving and the gods are pretty unforgiving too.

Photo by Christopher Richardson



Magnetic Man or Magnetic Men: Skeam, Benga, Artwork I believe that's 3

Magnetic Man rumbles Heaven

Calling themselves the world's first dubstep supergroup, this talented trio have definitely stepped up their live act (from what initially resembled a Warcraft LAN party) to a blitz of lights and torrent of bass. For those of you who have been living in the library too much, they are composed of dubstep giants **Skeam**, **Benga** and **Artwork** (who? precisely) and have recently released their kick-ass eponymous debut. On Wednesday 3rd they shook Heaven's foundations with the excessive dub that incited chaos on the dance floor as they were joined on-stage by guests that included the likes of **Katy B** and **Ms. Dynamite**.

Magnetic Man towered over the

crowd from a suspended cage plastered with screens sporting images that had even the teetotallers tripping balls beyond belief. An impressive light show always goes down a treat with this sort of thing and theirs was certainly flawless: they even hopped on the festive bandwagon producing Halloween imagery, which I hesitate to admit was pretty scary at times. They banged out all of the greats from the album in perfect sequence in addition to some new mixes, a real Halloween treat.

A personal highlight was the live adaptation of '*I Need Air*' which is by far the best live dance tune I've boogied on down to for a while, if not ever, even in spite of the rushing, gurning mess of a guy stood next to me who insisted on

covering me in sweat through gritted teeth. People, eh? The set was a sequence of carefully interwoven melodies that quickly turned dirty and by contrast made the drops seem much more dramatic.

If you enjoy adrenaline-fuelled noise coupled with temporary blindness and a total inability to hear whatever your lecturers happen to be talking about the subsequent morning (assuming you're alive) these are definitely ones to watch. Get in there fast because no doubt the tickets won't be £15 for subsequent tours as they make a name for themselves as one of the filthiest (apparently words denoting dirt are synonymous with 'good' in this genre) groups on the scene.

Christopher Richardson

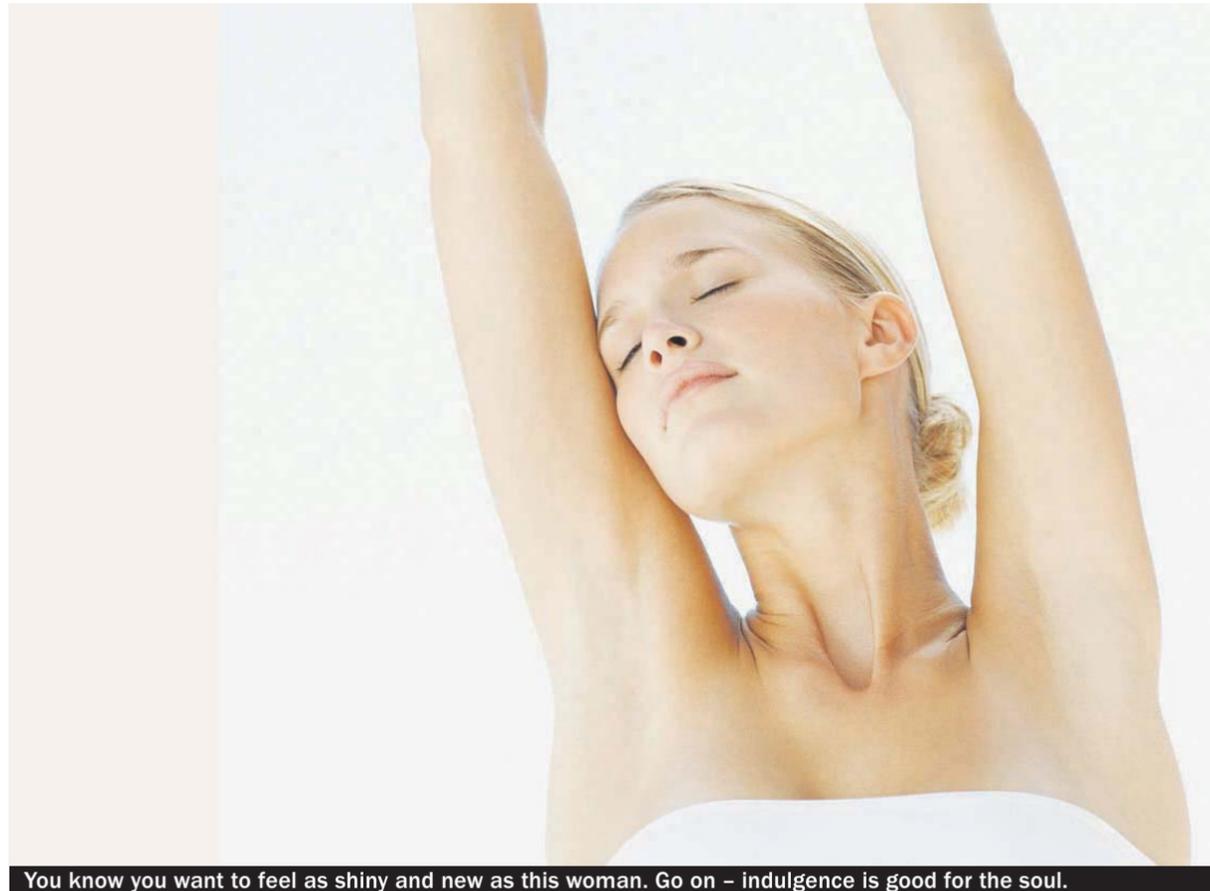
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FASHION

Santi: A South Kensington sanctuary

Saskia Verhagen reveals the tucked-away West London spa which caters for worn-out professionals and students alike – luxury *and* affordable? Show me the way...



You know you want to feel as shiny and new as this woman. Go on – indulgence is good for the soul.

There is a place, inconspicuous and elusive to the untrained eye, where the weathered creatures of West London emerge calm, bright and restored. A spa, in South Kensington, which offers the most advanced techniques to enhance and perfect the skin. Only what they don't tell you, is that it all goes a little deeper than that.

As soon as you set foot inside the elegant Georgian building, you are welcomed in a sprawling front room of purest white; you are checked in and encouraged to help yourself to some of the perfectly placed fresh fruit and berries, and perhaps a cup of tea (Earl Grey, one sugar please). Believe me when I say, a shroud of calm seems already to descend – peace and quiet that you didn't know you needed.

With a Spa Menu spanning from Massage and Facials to Laser Epilation, Tariq Karim and his team of delightful staff are very well equipped to bring you a few hours of much-needed indulgence, some rest and a retreat from the hustle and bustle of the outside world.

Did I mention that all this, and more, is available to Imperial students at a discounted rate? Bring your copy of

Felix with you to your appointment at Santi and receive 50% off all services on weekdays between 11am-3pm. This could mean an hour's massage for £30, or a facial for £50. They are also offering a student Laser Epilation package: 6 full treatments for lower legs, bikini and underarm for £700 – a highly discounted rate for permanent hair removal which usually costs upwards of £1800.

Laser hair removal uses Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) to selectively target the melanin concentrated in the hair follicle. When caught in a particular phase of hair growth, the follicle dies permanently causing the hair to fall out, never to grow back. In comparison to years of shaving, waxing or electronic epilating, it is actually quite an economically sensible option, and is suitable for all skin types.

I implore you, for an afternoon of much-needed you-time, Santi will rejuvenate the tired and over-worked of students. For this level of luxury with a price point that is now actually accessible, this is an unbeatable cure for the winter blues.

Santi Skin Spa, 33 Thurloe Street SW7 2LQ – 0207 584 7000

An iconic life in pictures: Audrey Hepburn by Bob Willoughby

A photography book chronicling Hepburn's ascent to fame from 1953-1966 by her friend and renowned Hollywood photojournalist Bob Willoughby

Saskia Verhagen

Yet another photographic tome on the ubiquitous Ms Audrey Hepburn – there are so many out there now that if you didn't know better, this one, by the late renowned Hollywood photographer Bob Willoughby is just another one on the shelf.

I would beg to differ. Bob Willoughby's favourite subject, amongst all of the 1950s Hollywood starlets including Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor and Jane Fonda, was Audrey, whom he photographed from her ascent to fame after her Oscar-winning performance in Roman Holiday until her brilliant turn as Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady in 1963.

He said of her, "She took my hand like... Well, a princess, and dazzled me with that smile that God designed to melt mortal men's hearts."

"She took my hand like...well a princess, and dazzled me with that smile that God designed to melt mortal men's hearts."

He captured her on and off-set, in the most beautiful, tender photographs – a

product of a great friendship – which are chronicled in this breathtaking Tiffany blue-bound book. With stills from Breakfast At Tiffany's, Paris When It Sizzles and My Fair Lady to intimate photographs of Audrey at home with her pet deer, Ip, the book is completely delightful, a glamorous insight, and a behind-the-scenes look at one of the most beautiful faces of the 20th century.

Published by Taschen, who ran a limited run of one thousand Collector's Editions retailing at £450 which sold out almost instantly just on pre-sale, there is talk of a more affordable edition coming out soon - fingers crossed - this is definitely one for the Hepburn-lover's Christmas list!



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Ed Knock

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FILM

Classic Cinema

Annie Hall



Down it, Allen.

Considering Woody Allen's current wife – adopted daughter of his previous long-term partner and thirty years his junior – I feel pretty reluctant to say that I appreciate his take on love. But, in *Annie Hall* – before Allen got into slightly dubious Lolita-esque territory – that's exactly what's so charming. This is a film about a relationship that goes through all the regular things – bad advice from friends, clinging to something you know won't work, and the last-ditch attempts to give it one last shot.

Woody Allen is perfect, playing a character who is essentially himself, alongside Diane Keaton as Annie Hall, alternately accelerating and trying to halt the car crash that is their relationship. Keaton also deserves a mention for portraying a brilliantly lovable, New England oddball with an amazing sense of style. Also, cameos from younger versions of Jeff Goldblum, Christopher Walken and Paul Simon (of Simon & Garfunkel) are all pitch-perfect and very funny.

In a classic Woody Allen-style tone, his character Alvy Singer opens with a neurotic, twitchy monologue directly to the camera that perfectly encapsulates the nature of what is to follow in a couple of nervously-blurted jokes and stuttered statements. "Annie and I broke up," he says, "and I still can't get my head around that." This is one of Annie Hall's many wonderful qualities – for a film that is a romantic comedy (albeit an off-beat one), it begins with the break-up. It isn't a fluffy, skipping-through-fields-with-open-arms, kind of love story – it's a very human series of events. One of my own personal favourites is the lobster scene, which sees a near-slapstick fumbling with live lobsters as Alvy and Annie try to stop their dinner escaping. This scene is endearing, beautifully exemplifying one of those perfect moments in a relationship where everything is going well. What makes Annie Hall so great, though, is later in the film, after the break-up, where Alvy shamelessly tries to reconstruct this moment with a new girlfriend. She leans, disinterested, against the kitchen counter as Alvy fails to recreate that same charm Annie had. The disappointment is almost palpable, and continues to be with the caricatures of girlfriends Alvy Singer dates, who never quite compare to Annie.

One of Allen's best, this film is warm, sharp and really very funny. More than that, though, it is one of the most honest portrayals of a relationship I've ever seen.

Jade Hoffman

A cracking series

Masiej Matuszewski attends the BAFTA preview of Sky One's latest comedy series of all-star Christmas specials

Little Crackers

Channel Sky One, Sky One HD
Producer Yvonne O'Grady
Cast Stephen Fry, Dawn French, Bill Bailey, David Baddiel, Julie Davis, Victoria Wood, Catherine Tate, Meera Syal, Chris O'Dowd

Last week I visited a preview of Sky One's new series of Christmas specials, *Little Crackers*, as hosted by BAFTA. They are a part of a plan by the channel to introduce more original comedy and make Sky One a "warmer, funnier place", with the series consisting of twelve stand-alone shorts. Showing as a double bill every evening in the weeks leading up to Christmas, they give some of Britain's best known comedic stars the chance to bring their vision to the nation's TV screens.

Fans of Stephen Fry will be very pleased by his film, *Bunce: A Christmas Tale*, which is directed by Peter Cattaneo of *Full Monty* fame. An autobiographical work about his experiences as an 11 year old at boarding school, it details Fry sneaking out to the local village shop to buy sweets. Fry has stated that he wanted this to represent our desire for "the forbidden", but in the safe setting of childhood and this is done brilliantly, contrasting the shop's rich, bright colours and the dull, grey school to emphasise young Fry's obsession. This short also examines his friendship with the eponymous Bunce, a newly arrived pupil who helps Fry with his escapades and is used to set up a very heart-warming ending. Above all, however, the film is hugely funny, especially with Fry's measured, almost genteel, manner of speech being mocked relentlessly.

My favourite short is probably *Capturing Santa* by Chris O'Dowd, best known as Roy from *The IT Crowd*. It tells the story of young Chris's hatred of Santa Claus, whose "break-ins" of people's homes O'Dowd calls "creepy". His opinion is not helped by never getting the



Stephen Fry's quality Movember contribution

Christmas presents that he wants: his relatively poor parents using two-for-one offers to buy the same gifts for him and his sisters. *Capturing Santa* sees him engineering a plan to catch Santa using a number of inventive traps set around the fireplace and Christmas tree. While, for a moment, it seems that this might degenerate into a Home Alone rip-off it is saved by its original humour and the exceptional child actors involved.

Not all of the shorts are autobiographical. In his film *Car Park Babylon* Bill Bailey plays a self-obsessed man on Christmas Eve, avoiding his loved ones to buy himself an expensive new mobile phone in a large shopping centre. Unusual forces, however, conspire to prevent him buying his present or even leaving, presumably as punishment for his selfish behaviour. There are some genuinely eerie moments in this one, especially in the deserted car park, but Bailey does well to balance this out with his gentle brand of humour.

Many *Little Crackers* episodes showcase Lucy Lumsden's (Sky One's Head of Comedy) desire to focus on family and real life situations. She cites *Outnumbered*, which she commissioned whilst at the BBC, as a source of inspiration for Sky One's new wave of comedy. Though this works in most cases, some films do seem to be lacking innovation. Dawn French's *Operation Big Hat*, about the Queen Mother visiting French's family when her father was an RAF serviceman, seems too content to simply tell the story. The archive footage of the real life event is interesting and the film itself is quite pleasant, but it loses out on a

sense of purpose and, in some places, humour. Throwing in a subplot about the young Dawn being afraid of the old Queen Mother after having been just read the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves does provide a few good laughs, but not enough to equal the best shorts. Kathy Burke's piece about her meeting her favourite band, The Clash, suffers similar problems.

There is, however, a lot to enjoy in *Little Crackers*. Other famous names to produce films include Julia Davis, Victoria Wood, Catherine Tate and David Baddiel. Meera Syal's short, which draws on some of her own experiences to create a fictional story of an Indian girl who lives in England but whose parents don't celebrate Christmas, will be the first ever British-scripted program to appear in 3D on television – an impressively ambitious leap.

The almost surreal feeling of seeing so many of the shorts' creators appearing alongside child actors portraying their younger selves is also very enjoyable – the best examples probably being Stephen Fry appearing as his school headmaster, Catherine Tate as her own mother, or Dawn French as the Queen Mother. Even the slower of these films are highly watchable. In addition to the humour and nostalgia, the series draws further strength from its variety. There is something here for everyone and I guarantee that you'll stay riveted until the very end of the last episode. I heartily recommend that you watch *Little Crackers* over Christmas and keep an eye out for more of Sky One's promising new comedic output.

In addition to the humour and nostalgia, the series draws further strength from its variety. There is something here for everyone, I guarantee that you'll be riveted

South Korea's sharp, suspenseful thriller

The Housemaid

Director Sang-soo Im
Screenwriter Sang-soo Im, Ki-young Kim
Cast Do-yeon Jeon, Jung-Jae Lee, Seo-Hyeon Ahn

John Park

The London Korean Film Festival is here and brings with it a wide range of extraordinary films that prove that South Korean cinema is churning out some of the best films internationally. *The Housemaid*, a taut, intricately-plotted erotic thriller, is the perfect example of a suspenseful rollercoaster ride that creates its thrills with a central plot full of twists, outstanding performances, sharp dialogue, evocative cinematography and, quiet but sensual atmosphere.

Eun-yi (Do-yeon Jeon) is a sweet, innocent and vulnerable woman who moves into the home of an incredibly wealthy, upper class family to work as their housemaid. As soon as she enters their marble-floored mansion, she realises that they are living in a whole another universe. Expensive bottles of wine and selection of cheeses are their midnight snack, their wardrobes are a sight to behold and they listen to classical music on their lavish, state-of-the-art stereo. Their extravagance goes on and on. Her bosses are Hoon (Jung-jae Lee) and his heavily pregnant young wife Haera (Woo Seo). Eun-yi also has a mentor in the know-it-all, cold-faced Byung-sik (Yeo-jong Yun), a prying old



Suspicious-looking lamps are only the beginning of her problems

lady who has been serving the family for years.

Perhaps it's because his sex life with his pregnant wife is proving to be too challenging and unfulfilling, Eun-yi is lured into an affair with her boss. One steamy and noisy night attracts the attention of Byung-sik and this of course leads to complications, which draw the women surrounding the handsome, narcissistic boss into a game of power play.

Haera is furious with her husband and wants revenge, but her chilling, manipulative mother (Ji-yeong Park) is more interested in how much Hoon has to offer. Haera needs to stay married to him, not just for money, but for power,

and so should look the other way. It's a woman's duty, the scary lady explains. For these rich people, money is the answer to everything. Haera's mother tries to pay Eun-yi off with quite a sum, but the pure-hearted girl cannot accept. Byung-sik is the one caught in the middle, and although she sympathises with Eun-yi, she cannot do anything to help her. It doesn't matter that Byung-sik has a long-standing connection with the family: she is the servant and dares not to speak out against her employers. As Haera and her mother's methods of trying to get rid of Eun-yi turn more and more violent, Byung-sik can only stand aside and watch with pain and guilt, as

Eun-yi's well-being is threatened.

The lavish set-design of the marvelous mansion, as well as the graceful cinematography that further amplifies the delicate and beautiful home further adds to the tension. This is one fragile house, gleaming with perfection. Quite often, it's too perfect, and many dark secrets are hiding behind the perfectly hung pictures, chandeliers and expensive furniture. When there is so much passion, jealousy, lust, anger and devious backstabbing, the house won't be able to take it for long.

But it is the truly outstanding actresses that dominate the screen and portray their complex emotions exceptionally

well. Jeon is fascinating in the central role, her doe-eyed, gentle nature remaining uncorrupted by the evil around her. She does get in the middle of a marriage, but never in the vindictive sense. Even when the affair is stopped abruptly, Eun-yi is not at all angry, just slightly confused as she goes back to her work, carrying on with her life as normally as possible. Jeon is utterly convincing as the victim, and as her character goes through major changes, everything that she portrays – ranging from vulnerability, to sexy, seductive energy to vengeful fury – is impeccable. Rich supporting roles are also anchored by the three terrific actresses (Yun, Park and Seo). The one who stands out is Yun, whose initial bitter personality is simply a cunning mask for surviving under the rich, pretentious family whom she secretly resents. Park's blunt words spoken in such self-righteous tones rounds off the excellent cast.

Complicated twists and exciting revelations keep this film going and the build-up to the melodramatic finale is undeniably gripping. The ending will not satisfy everyone, since there is no murderous, bloody rampage that gives the feeling of fulfillment of revenge, but as far as Eun-yi's character goes, what she does makes perfect sense. The subtle twists in camera angles, uncomfortable shades of dark colours and intense looks from the characters don't cost a lot of money, but are certainly more than enough to get the pulses racing.

Cannibals and modern family dysfunction

We Are What We Are

Director Jorge Michel Grau
Screenwriter Jorge Michel Grau
Cast Adrián Aguirre, Miriam Balderas, Francisco Barreiro

Jake Lea-Wilson

In 2004 I was travelling in Australia when someone dared me to go to the cinema. The idea was to go to see *Super Size Me*, the Morgan Spurlock documentary, whilst eating two super-sized McDonald's Big Mac meals. I succeeded in the challenge although it put me off McDonald's for the duration of university. I extend that dare to anyone, anywhere, to eat anything even remotely meaty whilst watching the new Mexican horror film based on a family of cannibals, *We Are What We Are*.

The film starts off with an old dying man in a mall, gazing open-mouthed at some partially naked mannequins. It

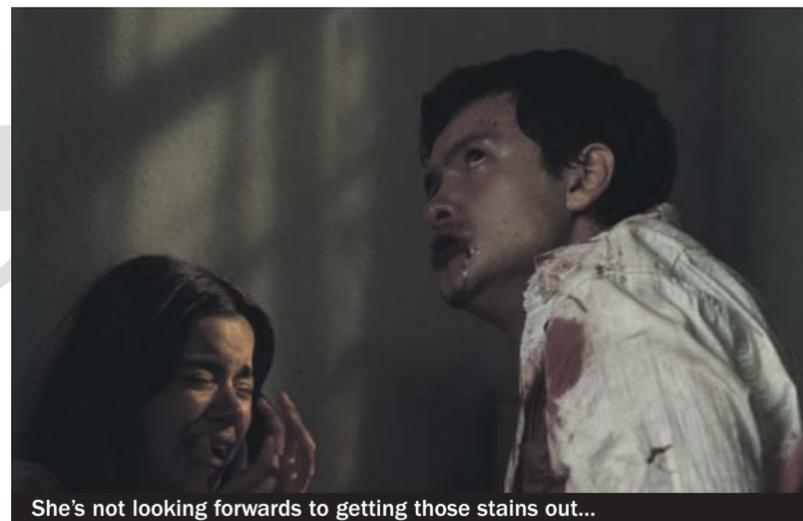
turns out the man has a "whore problem" but unfortunately the problem isn't of the blatantly obvious variety – an autopsy reveals a partially-digested woman's finger in the man's stomach after he dies. This seals the fate of the family who are dependent on his "hunting" skills. What follows is a rite of passage film that promotes the son of the family to the new "leader". Shocking as it is the film will eventually have you rooting for Alfredo to catch his first victim, whether that be a whore (like his father's tactics) or a homosexual, who Alfredo finds much easier to seduce before dinner.

The real genius of the film, however, is not in the raw flesh and shock-gore-tastic violence, like most of the horror films out this time of year, but it's in the questions posed by the narrative. As you're watching, you slowly begin to learn why someone would be eating someone else in the first place. It's pretty slow moving but that gives you time to ask

You will ask yourself questions like: "Can I ever eat meat again?"

yourself plenty of questions like "can I ever eat meat again?" or "why does the family have 500 clocks in their living room?" Although you don't actually see any human-sandwiches being consumed we do get treated to the visible and audible feast of "the ritual". I can tell you now that the Foley artists would have had a great day when they got to make these sound effects.

Heralded as a social satire, the film examines many issues in Mexico and worldwide. It touches upon corruption, poverty, violence and centres on modern day family dysfunction. Using



She's not looking forwards to getting those stains out...

food, albeit people food, is an interesting way to highlight these points. (Isn't our government always saying we don't eat enough meals as a family?) This is one film that is definitely worth a view-

ing, though watch out for the daughter in the family. Don't be fooled by her looks and sense of family loyalty, she's hiding a nasty homospapen hunger under her cute white dress.

GAMES

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**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/>

Achievement Unlocked 2

jmtb02.com/achievement-unlocked-2



Even though it's the most basic platformer it's possible to have – moving and jumping with walls and spikes – something about this 'achievements metagame' makes it too compelling to switch off. Pilot your tiny blue elephant around the 'levels' for no purpose other than collecting the game's 250 achievements. Maybe it's a hard wired aspect of human nature, or maybe we just lead very boring lives, but whatever the cause as soon as you start playing you'll instantly be addicted.

Although the game is basic, it doesn't make it any the less challenging – simply working out what you have to make your tiny elephant do from the vague titles is difficult enough. Graphics and sound, although again basic, are very well executed to a high level of quality and make the hours you might spend here a comfortable enough use of time.

Panda's Big Adventure

tinyurl.com/pandasbigadventure



This point-and-click puzzle adventure sees the titular panda travelling through time in a somewhat familiar blue box. Although it's just your standard formula with no weird time travel effects, it's still pretty fun for a quick play and the puzzles, if a little odd, can be genuinely quite challenging in places.

Double trouble from Daniel C

Matt Colvin tries the new Bond title *007 Blood Stone*...

He's blonde, bad and back. No, Boris Johnson hasn't won a snap mayoral election, but instead Daniel Craig has stepped back into the shoes of James Bond for two (count 'em) new videogame releases. *007 Blood Stone* is an original adventure for the Bond series, not being based on any current or future film, which mixes third person behind-the-shoulder shooting with classic vehicular chase sections. A departure from the previous franchise entry *Quantum of Solace*, Bizarre Creations (creators of popular racing series *Project Gotham Racing*) takes over from Treyarch and Eurocom as developers. They've decided to return to a formula that feels a lot like that from critically lauded 2004 console hit *Everything or Nothing*, but have the new kids on the block struck gold(finger), or are they simply dead on arrival?

With the next cinematic installment of the franchise still a way off, *Blood Stone* is probably the closest you'll get to a new Bond experience. Bizarre have produced a highly polished title with some slick graphics and have enlisted A-list voice talent including Craig himself alongside Judi Dench as 'M' and songstress Joss Stone (sans transatlantic twang) as the obligatory Bond girl.

One thing *Blood Stone* gets right is that it really nails the feeling of Daniel Craig's Bond. Don't expect any world domination schemes by nanobot or platinum tank. This is nearer the knuckle stuff, involving a global biochemical conspiracy, copious torture and a villainous Mongolian chap. If this all sounds a bit serious, don't worry – the creators have added enough extravagant set pieces to remind you that it is a game, including a hugely entertaining pre-credits sequence set in Athens which provides yacht bound espionage, a harbour speedboat chase, a shoot-out on land and a car chase all in the space of the first 10 minutes.

Gameplay-wise, the shooting sections play similarly to *Gears of War* with a focus on cover-based shooting, though with cover feeling a lot more natural, indestructible woodwork aside. One of the unique features is a 'focus aim' system: brutal melee takedowns earn up to three focus aims which allow the player to immediately target and even link headshots, for use either in dispatching difficult enemies or to speed up progress.

The game manages to create a great sense of urgency through these mechanics, aided in part by a fantastic score by Richard Jacques. Gun-fights are often tense, and while some may argue that towards the middle of the game many of the shoot-outs become repetitive, the combination of frantic shooting and melée action do help to create a uniqueness to each encounter. A standout battle that defines the 'be Daniel Craig' mentality of the game takes place on a hovercraft, where a corridor of heavily armed enemies lies in wait. You easily blast through this, moving from person to person in a brutal series of hand-to-hand takedown moves that leaves skulls cracked and legs broken, yet the



Yeah, nice cool pose idiot, pity you're about to get punched in the face

various motion captured animations never get old.

To stave off some of the repetitiveness, Bond gets behind the wheel at select points to chase down his latest target – and these are probably some of the best driving sequences to feature in the series to date. Bizarre Creation's experience in the field as makers of *Project Gotham Racing* really comes to the fore in these sections, as vibrant explosions and debris cascade around you. One particularly memorable section involves an ice lake cracking around your Aston Martin as you desperately pursue a dastardly villain escaping by train. It most definitely puts Electronic Arts' interminable 2000 clunker *007 Racing* to shame – and the entire focus of that was the driving.

However thrilling these sequences are, they do particularly rely on some trial and error – the fantastic visuals of these sections do help draw some of your attention away from the incoming lake – and, in a similar style to *Project Gotham Racing*, Bond's cars are remarkably indestructible and bounce off walls like a hyperactive child. Probably the main criticism is that there isn't enough vehicle-bound action to balance out the run-and-gun segments, especially in comparison to *Everything or Nothing*.

As with every modern shooting game released nowadays, there is an online multiplayer that tries very hard at being the 'next big thing'. Ranks and experience points feature heavily but sadly more time should have been spent on the ol' running around and shooting itself, as compared to the single player *Blood Stone*'s performance here is mediocre. There's certainly nothing particularly bad, it's just not

all that good, and trying to beat big name titles like *Gears* at their own game is unfortunately doomed to failure. The controls become sluggish and don't seem particularly suited for multiplayer. Trying to use cover is difficult, and the uninspiring multiplayer arenas are not designed well enough to accommodate it.

And sadly the criticisms don't end there. There is next to no replay value despite the standard achievements or trophies. Scoring the player and unlockable rewards have been overlooked in favour of a more cohesive and cinematic experience (which, it must be said, is one of *Blood Stone*'s strong points).

While the game makes you feel like Daniel Craig, his in-game face ironically looks a lot less lifelike than fictional characters, and let's not get started on Judi Dench, with an avatar wrinkled into oblivion. You're also slightly aware that Craig is sitting in a voice-over booth rather than in several exotic locales, matched by a plot that, while suited to Craig's interpretation, doesn't exactly match the depth of the last two Bond films.

Bizarre Creations have obviously taken a lot of care in making sure that they do the franchise the justice that it deserves, delivering a thoroughly cinematic experience that is definitely entertaining while it lasts, yet after it does end, it doesn't leave a lot to go back to. It's definitely a solid experience, though one that's more akin to a DVD than a game – you'll return to it occasionally and certainly enjoy it, but have little reason to return to it often.

007 Blood Stone is available now on Xbox 360, PS3, DS and PC.

GAMES

Craig in Bond games spectacular

...while Jamie Gollings and Alex Gray review *GoldenEye 007*

When it was originally released on the N64, Rareware's *GoldenEye 007* was hailed as one of the most influential first person shooter games of all time and went on to sell eight million copies. Unlike traditional movie cash-ins it was released a leisurely two years after the film on which it was based and as a result featured a painstakingly crafted single player mode and the perfectly balanced multiplayer. Every video game fan and almost everyone else remembers a tense *GoldenEye* multiplayer battle far more vividly than Diana's death or New Labour's election. It was immensely popular and every subsequent 3D console shooter takes inspiration from it in some way. However, after 13 years of evolution in FPSs, is Eurocom's updated version for the Wii still worthy of such praise? The short answer is: "of course it isn't!" But the real questions are: is it still fun? Does it work on the Wii?

One of the most recurrent problems with the game becomes apparent before you even get a chance to don a tuxedo. The text in the menu and in-game is a real struggle to read. On the menu, the text is light blue and, over the white selector icon, impossible to make out. During the training mission in single player mode instructional text flashes up at the top of the screen but, by the time you have discerned a few of the tiny words, your time is up and the next instruction replaces it. As student reviewers our TV isn't huge, and it's surprising so little attention to detail was paid in this respect whilst production values are high elsewhere.

However, once you have found your way to the single player game you will be greeted by a Call of Duty style briefing from Judi Dench as 'M', on the payroll to create an authentic Bond experience. It's clear after the first thirty seconds of gameplay that Eurocom have taken the decision to create their own take on the 007 experience, rather than simply replicate the award winning formula Rareware crafted back in '97. This new game is a remake of the classic, starring Daniel Craig as his James Bond, and has been updated for the 21st century.

In keeping with Craig's films, *GoldenEye 007* opens with a far more gritty and brooding atmosphere. The campaign kicks off atop the iconic Arkhangelsk dam which should be familiar to all players of the original. What isn't familiar

is the darker, understated music, the torrential rain, the action packed vehicle sequence and the presence of Agent 006 to provide you with some backup and some motivating chat over the radio. New additions also include a regenerating health system and a melee system for punching enemies in the face with a flick of the nunchuck, to really make you feel like Daniel Craig. It's clear from all of these features, which are staples of console shooters such as *Halo* and *Call of Duty*, that Eurocom's *GoldenEye* is out to emulate current games rather than influence them as the original did. Nostalgic as the game may feel at times, especially during classic moments like dropping on a Russian guard having a cheeky number two, it

"The chance to experience a Brosnan classic if it were given an anti-heroic Craig makeover"

soon becomes apparent what the single player campaign is all about. It isn't a duplicate of or even a tribute to the original game. Instead it's a highly polished, slick and modern Bond game in its own right, designed to slot in right next to the popular shooters of today rather than those of the 90s. It feels more like some of the better Bond games of recent years, like *Everything or Nothing*.

After finishing the training mission and a few single player levels, it was time to try out the biggest addition to the game: the online multiplayer. This would also give us the chance to put the different control systems through their paces. The two main options are to play with the Wiimote or the Gamecube controller. You can also purchase a plastic holder in the shape of a gun (the 'Wii

Blaster') to put your Wiimote in for a more realistic experience, or play with the Wii classic controller.

As widely touted as the Wii controls are for *GoldenEye*, we didn't get on well with them. In the fast paced world of online FPS, trying to turn 360 degrees and shoot your enemy in the head is painfully slow as you have to hold the Wii cursor at the side of the screen and wait. Naturally, after thirty minutes of game-play things weren't going too well. I was awarded the "Quantum of Solace" award for fewest eliminations. It was, however, a lot of fun trying to sneak up on up to 7 strangers across the generally well designed multiplayer maps. Switching to the Gamecube controller naturally makes things far more accurate – the game handles like a conventional FPS with the familiar dual-analogue controls that everyone is used to. Throughout our session there were some issues with lag, and there is no support for WiiSpeak, but otherwise the mode compares favorably with its competitors. It would also have been nice to have seen a larger influence from the franchise – you can choose to play as a generic grunt but not as any of the Bond series' many recognisable faces. 'Golden Gun Mode' is the only thing that really differentiates the multiplayer.

Take the multiplayer offline and the action slows right down. With only two people, the maps are far too large and multiplayer quickly becomes a bit dull in the regular mode. As there is no option for adding AI players, the multiplayer game reduces to just wandering around the map on the off chance of bumping into one of your friends doing the same. The N64 may not have been capable of providing some competent bots but the Wii is more than up to the task. Surely it wouldn't have been too difficult to add in the option to have AI characters?

Although the offline multiplayer perhaps isn't high octane enough for modern players, the finely crafted single player game is a delight. The levels are varied, the shoot out and stealth gameplay are deep and the graphics are fine for the Wii. The online multiplayer is a lot more fun than offline but doesn't draw heavily enough on Bond's rich history to stand out against others FPSs. The reason it's worth playing is for the excellent production values, the all-star cast, the excellent Nicole Scherzinger cover of the theme tune and the chance to experience what a Brosnan classic would feel like if it were given a more anti-heroic Daniel Craig makeover. Whether you are doey-eyed with nostalgia for 1997 or not, Eurocom's *GoldenEye* update provides one of the best FPS experiences on the Wii and gives another great example of how movie tie-ins can work well.

GoldenEye 007 is available now for Wii and DS, retailing at £34.99 RRP.

FPS in your living room

Kin-Hing Lo



Near Orbit Vanguard Alliance (N.O.V.A.) is a sci-fi first person shooter game for iPhone, Android and Palm mobile platforms. I recently had a chance to test *N.O.V.A. HD* on the Samsung Galaxy Tab – a 7-inch Android tablet.

Anyone who has played *Halo* will have a good idea of what *N.O.V.A.* is like – you basically walk around and blow up aliens. A space-based first person shooter, the game is set on Earth in the distant future. The surface of the planet can no longer support life so huge satellites ("Near Orbitals") have been constructed for people to live in. Those satellites are protected by the Near Orbit Vanguard Alliance. In the plot of the game, a threat to the satellites has arisen and you must play the role of a retired marine defending humanity.

I was particularly impressed by the game's intuitive and novel control system. The game makes full use of the gyroscopes available on smartphones today: to look around and to aim your gun, you actually have to physically move and aim your phone! It basically turns your living room into the game map – think of augmented reality applications such as Layar and Google Sky Map but applied to a first person shooter! Whilst playing the game with the gyroscope aiming mode enabled made it difficult to play when slumped on the sofa, it really does add an extra element which was really enjoyable. For those who prefer to play the game in a more relaxed setting, there is an option to disable the gyroscope control system. Looking around and aiming is then performed using the touchscreen.

The game occasionally requires you to interact directly with the map using your touchscreen. For example, doors are opened by placing your finger over the door and pulling it to the side. Again, this was a really nice touch which sets *N.O.V.A.* apart.

The game features 13 single-player 'campaign' levels and an online multiplayer death-match mode. The multiplayer mode can either be played over your wireless network or online through Gameloft Live. The multiplayer mode would be a huge lot of fun to play over a wireless network: imagine a bunch of you in the common room walking about, cursing and destroying each other!

At £3, this game is definitely well worth a download. You could get away with playing this on an iPhone or a HTC Desire but for the best experience, it's well worth playing *N.O.V.A. HD* on a phone with a large screen and fast processor: the Galaxy Tab's 7-inch screen gives a great immersive experience.



Food Editor: Dana Li

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FOOD

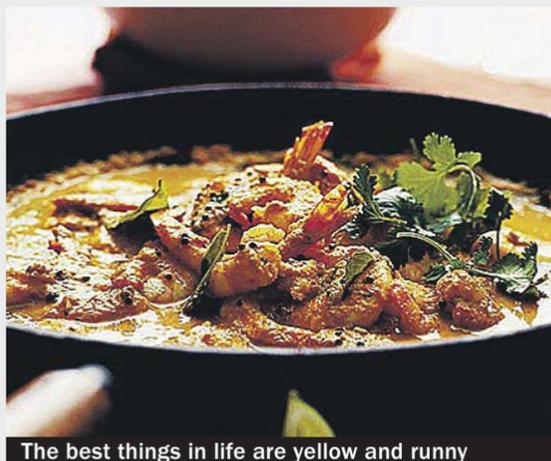
Your review

Dylan says:

Fifteen has received a lot of publicity, not only because it is Jamie Oliver's first ever restaurant, but it also serves as a training ground for underprivileged kids who aspire to have a career in catering. As much as that motive is admirable, it doesn't really reflect in the standards of food that was plated and delivered to me. Whilst the flavours are of a high standard, it still lacks the soul and originality that normally drives the Jamie Oliver brand.

Rant about your recent meal out in 80-100 words, send it to food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Kerala prawn curry



The best things in life are yellow and runny

2 red chillies split, cut into quarters lengthways and deseeded
 1 small red onion, chopped
 2.5cm piece of fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
 1 tbsp vegetable or sunflower oil
 1 tsp black mustard seeds
 ½ tsp fenugreek seeds
 14 curry leaves, fresh or dried
 ½ tsp turmeric
 ½ tsp cracked black peppercorns
 250g jumbo prawns
 150ml reduced-fat coconut milk

In a food processor, blitz the chillies, onion and ginger with 3 tbsp water into a smoothish paste - you may need to scrape it down the sides.

Heat the oil in a heavy pan or wok. When hot, toss in the mustard and fenugreek seeds, and curry leaves - they'll crackle and pop - and fry for 10 seconds. Add the onion paste, turn the heat down a tad and cook without colouring for about 5 minutes. Splash in some water if it starts to catch.

Add the turmeric and cracked peppercorns and stir the spices around for a few seconds before tipping in the prawns. Pour in the coconut milk and bring to a simmer, stirring all the time. The milk will take on a yellow colour from the turmeric. Cook for 1 minute until everything's heated through. Squeeze over some lime, sprinkle with fresh coriander and serve with rice.

Curry at naan o'clock: the real deal about curries

Chicken korma, cobra beer and Slumdog – made in U.K.



Lucie Jichova's internship in India allowed her to escape British curry houses and sample real Indian food (Photo by Lucie Jichova)

Lucie Jichova

A visit to a typical curry house in England would lead one to believe that understanding curry is pretty straightforward. A choice of three types of meat (chicken, lamb, or prawns) with some vegetables (tomatoes, onions, peas, and sometimes even, oh my God, pineapple), all swimming in the same sauce, often enhanced with food colouring (red or purple) and adjusted for your desired level of spiciness: *Korma* if you're a complete chicken, *Madras* if you're feeling rather confident in your ability to tolerate chilli, or *Vindaloo* if you've made a drunken bet with your friends. Wash it down with a bottle of Cobra, the authentic Indian beer that no one in India seems to have heard of. (The company is based in the very exotic location of Fulham.)

Before my internship in India three years ago, I thought that's all there was to curry. Then, while visiting Delhi's legendary Karim's restaurant, my friend, Sajid, corrected my mistaken beliefs: "There's a difference between spicy and hot. Spicy means flavour, hot means chilli," he explained. Sure, the Indians do love their chilli with just about everything. After months of encountering the fiery ingredient in seemingly safe foods like

pizza, sandwiches and burgers, I eventually managed to get past the overwhelming sensation of burning and learnt to appreciate the subtle underlying differences in taste brought on by the myriad of different spices used on the Indian subcontinent: turmeric, cumin, fen-

"An anglicized hodge-podge of food colouring and ready-made Patak's sauces"



Who wants a curry? I want a curry!

ugreek, coriander, mustard seeds, cardamom, cloves, cinnamon, pepper, fennel, asafoetida, mango powder, white poppy seeds, star anise and more. I finally understood the difference between spicy and hot.

Thanks to Anjum Anand, celebrity chef of BBC's *Indian Food Made Easy*, I also learnt that it's perfectly possible to eat a flavour-packed vindaloo which doesn't burn your guts. In fact, she claims the recipe for vindaloo can be traced back to Portuguese sailors, who used vinegar, ginger and garlic to preserve their pork during long sea journeys between their native land and Goa, their former colony in India. And, surprise-surprise, it was also the Portuguese who introduced chilli to India.

Now, how do you find the real curry in London? Indian cuisine varies vastly from state to state, so search for places that serve cuisine from just one region, because those are the ones with chefs who stick to what their mothers taught them. (And, as we all know, *mamma knows best*.) Seeing both tandoori grill (typical of Northern India) and coconut-based curries (typical for the South) on the same menu is typically a sign that you are about to be served an anglicized hodgepodge of food colouring and ready-made Patak's sauces from the local cash & carry of Southhall.

FOOD

Are you coming out for a Ruby Murray tonight?

Vivien Wong and George McIntyre put their curry taste buds through a spin on opposite sides of London

National Curry Week is happening next week (22-26 November) so find yourself some drunken mates who can take the heat of a Vindaloo, bring some beer, and give these places a go...

Sheba, Brick Lane by Vivien Wong

Sunday makes me think of Brick Lane, the buzz and atmosphere there is perfect for a Sunday stroll. There is nothing more perfect than inhaling the smells of the Sunday Upmarket, but this time, apart from basking in the delightful smells, I was going invited to review Sheba of Brick Lane. This is the place where my affair with the Mango Lassi drink began, why it did not enter my life before is unknown to me. Made with yoghurt, fresh mangos, crushed ice and milk, it is healthy yet refreshing.

The Kebab Ke Karishma starter was spot on, with a mint sauce that was not too sour or minty but added zing to the meat. The traditional dish, *Dansak*, was the highlight of the night, with an initial spicy taste that progressed to a subtle sweetness before ending on a slight sour taste! I yearn for it as I reminisce. Usually I steer clear of chicken and opt for something else instead because there is nothing worse than having a mouthful of dry chicken that you're trying to swallow down with as much saliva produce as possible. Nasty. But the chicken in the *Dansak* is tender, moist and soft. Dipped with Naan bread, this is heaven in a curry house.

The King Prawn Malabar combined coconut, spices and nuts in a puree as a thick sauce which is smothered over the prawns and presented to you in a steaming hot plate. Picking up the naan bread and then slowly dipping and savouring the smell and taste. Finger lickin' good. Did I mention that the naan bread here is sweet? It's also smooth, soft, yet thick enough for scooping up those excess sauce puddles on the dish that are just too good to leave behind. I'm salivating now just thinking about the dish.

Located close to Truman Brewery, Sheba has been serving Londoners since 1972 so I am not the only happy customer they get. What's better than sitting down to a splendid curry after a day of browsing vintage clothes and bargain hunting in Brick Lane. Although located in trendy East London, (as are all good things, Shoreditch sigh), it is definitely worth the trek.

Sheba 136 Brick Lane, London E1 6RU. www.shebabricklane.com Nearest tube: Shoreditch High Street

Masala Zone, Earls Ct by George McIntyre

How about this: instead of spending your 'hard earned' student loan on an unfulfilling Domino's pizza, why not try out, very possibly, one of the best Indian restaurants around, Masala Zone.

This place prides itself on authentic Indian cuisine at reasonable prices. You can easily get a meal and two or three drinks for about £13.50 - way cheaper

than a double decadence extravaganza with extra bbq sauce! Even better, being an Imperial student will get you an exclusive 10% off your meal. Interested?

Just across the road from Earl's Court tube station, or a twenty-minute walk from the South Kensington campus, sits Masala Zone, a modern and vibrant restaurant. Your first thought will probably be to think: 'Can my student loan actually survive a hit like this?' Just trust me.

If you're just feeling peckish, you can choose from a wide range of authentic Indian street foods. These little snacks still pack a powerful explosion of flavour. My favourite being *dahi puri* - hollowed-out puffed-up biscuits filled with chickpea mash and splashed over with yoghurt and chutney. Awesome. If you're just feeling like a decent curry dish you can choose from a wide range of types and flavours, or why not try a delicious *Thali*. Described as the way traditional Indian families eat at home, this will include a curry of your choice with rice or chapattis, papadums, two types of spiced vegetables (that change daily) and a lentil dal. Guaranteed to satisfy and less than ten quid!

Finally dessert, my recommendation would be the *Gulab Jamun*, a warm dough ball covered in sugar syrup served with a blob of vanilla ice cream. All this washed down with a lassi yoghurt drink and you will leave very satisfied. Of course, they do take-away too. What more could you ask for!?

Masala Zone 147 Earls Ct Rd, London SW5 9RQ. 020 7373 0220 www.masala-zone.com Nearest tube: Earls Court



Sheba's interior design: more American diner than Southhall curry house



Earls Court's Masala Zone cooking up a heat, what I'd do to have some...

A dummy's guide to Indian curries

Alexander Joseph

Walk through most high streets in London and you're bound to find an Indian restaurant of some sort. The curry industry is worth in excess of £1 billion a year in the U.K. Curry has captured the hearts of the nation to such an extent that the England 1998 World Cup anthem was named after a dish first concocted on the other side of the globe. The curry was only narrowly beaten to Britain's favourite dish by the pizza. But what are the stories behind these national treasures and are they even truly Indian or an example of multiculturalism working at its best.

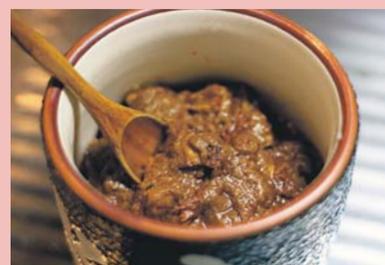
Tikka Masala



Ahh the treasured tikka masala, for so many a delicious regular takeaway and for a few with stranger tastes, a pizza topping. However go to India and ask for a Tikka Masala and you'll be greeted with a blank stare for this so called 'authentic Indian cuisine'. Thought to originate not from the streets of Delhi but rather from the kitchens of a Pakistani or Bangladeshi restaurant in Britain. According to legend the creamy masala sauce was created to sat-

isfy the British need to have gravy with all meats. However the chicken used in the Tikka Masala, known as Tandoori chicken, can trace its roots back to the subcontinent. The tandoor refers to a clay charcoal fire oven where the fire is in the oven itself adding to flavour of the meat being cooked, this technique is still used in Indian restaurants. The Chicken Tikka has done a full circle and is now even exported back to India from Britain!

Vindaloo



Ahh the treasured tikka masala, for so many a delicious regular takeaway and for a few with stranger tastes, a pizza topping. However go to India and ask for a Tikka Masala and you'd probably be greeted with a blank stare for this so called 'authentic Indian cuisine' is thought to have originated not from the streets of Delhi but rather from the kitchens of a Pakistani or Bangladeshi restaurant in Britain. According to legend the creamy masala sauce was created to satisfy the British need to have gravy with all meats. However the chicken used in the Tikka Masala, known as Tandoori chicken can trace its roots back to the subcontinent. The tandoor refers to a clay charcoal fire oven where the fire is in the oven itself adding to flavour of the meat being cooked, this technique is still used in Indian restaurants. The Chicken Tikka has done a full circle and is now even exported back to India from Britain!

Balti

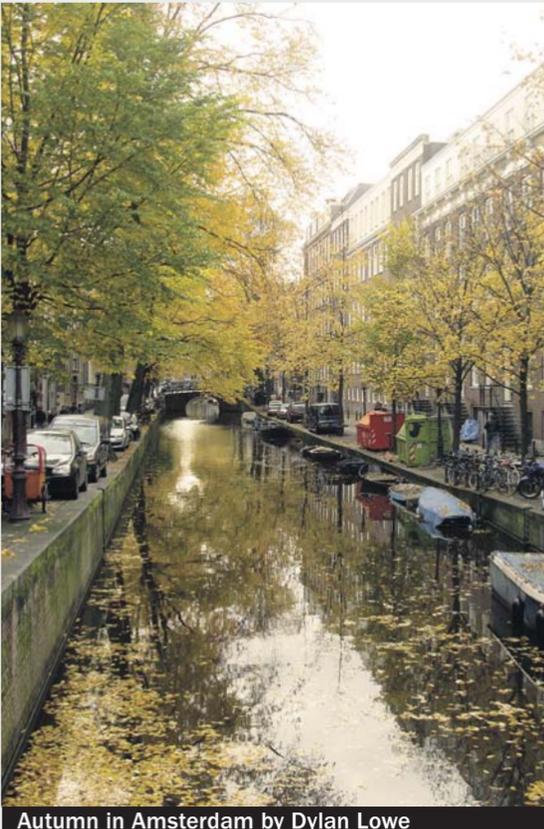
It's a curry with a murky history, no one is sure where it came from or the origins of the name. Some say that it was invented in Birmingham in the 1980s and named after a *Balti*, the Hindi and Urdu word for 'bin'. Others claim that it refers to the Baltistan region of Pakistan, where people cook in cast-iron pots similar to the Chinese wok. Another story states that it is a slang term for hubcap since truck drivers on long journeys would remove their hubcaps and cook curry in them by the side of the road. Whichever story is true, it is fair to say that Balti has really taken Britain, in particular Birmingham, by storm. The Balti-Triangle there has around 50 Balti restaurants in the space of 3 streets. Like whoa?

TRAVEL

Travel Editor: **Dylan Lowe**
Chris Richardson

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Wishing You Were Here



Autumn in Amsterdam by Dylan Lowe

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

Travel Blog of the Week

TRAVEL YOURSELF

Who: Adventure Canadian traveller and film-maker Cailin O'Neil runs **Travel Yourself**.

About: The website hosts Cailin's eponymous travel TV show, which documents her wanderings. The show aims to "expose the good and bad of travel and shares real-life experiences, while focussing more on the experience than the destination itself".

Why: Cailin's superb film-making skills are reflected in her work. The video's quirky presentation and cinematics brings to life her journeys across the world, and can only encourage her audience to follow her footsteps in real life. Informative, fun, Cailin lives up to her aims in her show through interviews with locals, trying out local delicacies and activities. She also advocates solo travelling – hence her blog-name-of-choice – and speaks of companionships made on the road.

Recommended on her website: La tomatina – what to wear, what to bring, what to do; Copenhagen, Denmark; Travel Yourself New York; Viti Levu, Fiji; 10 things to do in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Link: <http://www.travelyourself.ca>

Twitter: @CailinONeil

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

Stingy travelling git

What really is budget travelling? Dylan Lowe discovers more to it than counting pennies and baked-bean meals

Irony simply cannot be expressed in a better way: I was attempting to explain the concept of budget travelling to a PR guy representing Dubai Tourism.

In the previous week I was strolling through the aisles of stands at the World Travel Market, a prominent travel expo which annually lures advertisers and clients alike to The Docklands, when the stark contrast of grandeur smacked me in the gob.

Whereas its neighbouring exhibitors squatted in booths drowning in brochures and giveaways, the United Arab Emirates had installed a double-decker compound, an area dominating the space equivalent to twenty of its counterparts, completed with furnishings and artefacts and manned by cohorts of flamboyantly-dressed advertising experts.

And I shall not forget to mention Emirates, UAE's national airline, whose presence at the expo consisted of a separate gigantic edifice.

Whilst ebbing closer to their star attraction – showcase of their latest onboard first-class

“Budget travellers do not travel for the purpose of shunning companionship and social opportunities – they embrace them”

seats – the glamour could only repeatedly prompt the same question in my mind: will I ever be able to afford this?

I backed off and swore the oath to never contemplate committing such financial atrocity little knowing that, in a week's time, I would receive an invitation to lunch with representatives of Dubai Tourism.

Over mint tea, I steered the conversation towards a field I could self-proclaim to be a specialist of – student travelling.

Reassurance was made to me that a form of tourism merciful to the visitors' wallet does exist in Dubai. Four-plus-starred hotels – mentions of three-stars or lesser rankers were virtually inexistent – designer-Barbie-doll shopping and snazzy wagons aside, there are apparently plenty of budget-friendly options and opportunities.

I had to remind him that he was, in a way, missing the point.

One dimensional as the etymology of the phrase 'budget travelling' may be, its notion and, indeed, its philosophy are a lot more complex than mere financial considerations.

Fundamentally it is a culture – one that bonds together budget travellers with the notion of maximising their travel experience through minimal spending.

Take the hostelling culture for instance. Hos-



tels are sought after not solely for the cheap accommodation they provide; rather, their hosting of like-minded people, budget travellers and backpackers alike, and allowing them to congregate and mingle freely within their premises, appeals.

And whilst luxury-seeking holidaymakers have a great demand for seclusion, the budget travellers tends to have a more casual need for privacy – they compromise it by willingly stay in shared dormitories, for example. Many of them do not travel for the purpose of shunning companionship and social opportunities – they embrace them.

The sharing of local knowledge also brings together budget travellers with the veterans passing on recommendations to newcomers, who will in-turn transfer them to those who have more recently arrived at the scene.

Which makes hostels effective advertising mediums – a word-of-mouth promotion vehicle that propels itself.

The significance of travelling as a learning

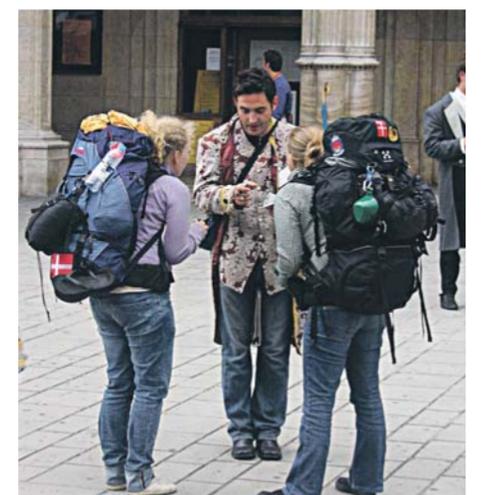
“In countries where the lucrative, legitimate scamming of tourists reigns supreme, locals are used to handling with pseudo-fact finders and dismissing them with condescension”

process, to many of its wandering advocates, brings about a whole new level of curiosity – where travellers lack the financial means they compensate with doubled eagerness to absorb knowledge on local cultures, customs, etc.

Especially in countries where the lucrative, legitimate scamming of tourists reigns supreme, locals are used to handling pseudo-fact finders and dismissing them with condescension. Travellers – and myself most certainly – find it frustrating to not be treated with respect and helpfulness when being genuinely inquisitive.

In a way I was glad to have come away from the event with better understanding of tourism in Dubai – for a country largely enshrouded by secrecy and negative press, the United Arab Emirates has been regarded by many budget travellers as unapproachable.

When the culture of budget travelling is firmly cemented to the UAE's tourism industry, when its attention on money-splashing hoteliers and tight-pocketed traveller reaches equilibrium, when budget travellers begin to perceive it less as a millionaires' playground and congregate, perhaps its appeal as a destination fit for mere mortals may seize our hearts and unleash hordes of backpackers onto the streets in a scale akin to that in Bangkok. But until then, despite its publicity efforts, reluctance is what it will receive from the budget traveller.



Can you refuse to help two hot blondes?

When travelling turns trippy

Chris Richardson has his drink spiked at a sleazy beach bar on one of Thailand's most beautiful islands before hitting the streets. Hilarity ensues

Tightly nestled among the happy snaps and hilarious anecdotes lie the problems you're bound to run into while on the road. For the sake of saving your relatives a heart attack it's probably for the greater good that these are reserved for the likes of memories and private journal entries, but I'll share a great one of mine with you. I suppose my only real regret is that my evening after getting my drink spiked was unfortunately nothing like *The Hangover*.

So there I was on the beauty that is Koh Phi Phi in Thailand: I was sat with an arm around my girlfriend Hannah (with whom I'd been recently reunited after two months apart) and a frosty beer in my other hand, gazing up a blissful night sky from a sandy white beach thinking life simply couldn't get any better. Little did I know that my blissful illusion was about to be shattered. Thankfully my life philosophy is 'shit happens' so I wasn't too disgruntled.

Hannah is famous for (amongst other things) her inability to withstand long nights out, so part of the recipe for disaster was her deciding to leave me on my lonesome for the evening while she tucked in early (or ran off with a Thai man: who knows?). No big deal, right? I'd been travelling solo for months so was more than acquainted with the tiresome process of befriending total strangers and so on. And this party island was full of people looking for good times, so off I set to the nearest beach bar.

Thankfully I had an accomplice by my side who I'd bumped into en-route, so we sat on some bean bags and ordered

“At least my bank card and anal virginity were kept intact”

some shisha with a couple of beers while the DJ cracked out some good old Radiohead: after being flabbergasted with nothing but Akon and the Black Eyed Peas the previous evening this was quite refreshing. Almost as refreshing as the beer in hand, which was my first of the night. Now, I'm no heavyweight, but I don't think I've ever felt so off my face from half a bottle of beer in all my life.

Sensing that something was up, I hazily staggered to the stinky men's room to examine myself in the mirror. That seemingly simple task was skewed by my seized up legs and the excessive



Chris Richardson proves that there's hope for Imperial guys after all... Damn lucky bastard

light show commemorating the half moon (any excuse to celebrate, right?). By the time I made it to the bathroom I knew that something was rotten in Denmark and proceeded to stuff my bank card into my pants (classy), leaving but a few tuppence in my dusty wallet to detract potential thieves.

As the paranoia gripped I decided that the most discreet mode of exit from the bar would be via the Hollywood walkway that was the back alley. I suppose the logic in my twisted head was that nobody would follow me and that I could get back quickly and get help. I escaped onto the main street with some minor injuries and a light coating of mystery sludge on my shins.

I'd been on Koh Phi Phi for about five days before this hilarious incident: I'm not a moron when it comes to directions and besides, the island has one main street and another branching from it, where my hostel was located. The fact is that I knew my way around with ease, yet in this stupor it was all a blur.

I started being recklessly illogical with my subsequent decisions on the way home: I was sort of in control but

compelled to do ridiculous things. At every hotel I passed I demanded that "it's an emergency!" and that the security guards give me all of their pens, which I proceeded to run away with. Cluster of pens in hand and staggering like Frankenstein's beast I approached a gang of Thai youths on motorbikes and in true lad fashion demanded "let's have a go on yer bike son" and was lucky to be sent on my merry way by a push of hands rather than a torrent of fists.

By this point my stomach had started to disagree with whatever it was that was slowly taking me over and I proceeded to 'chunder everywah' in true 'gap yah' fashion. Ironically this was the only time on my trip where I threw up, or so I remember. When you're walking through a party district leaving a Hansel and Gretel trail of vomit behind you, you're hardly greeted with grins. You've obviously had one (or ten) too many, are making a fool of yourself, and are unworthy of any help.

I thought that good Samaritans only existed in works of fiction but eventually one came to my aid. Through bile coated teeth I managed to dribble the

name of my guesthouse to my new best friend who was apparently a walking *Lonely Planet* – he knew the location of my guesthouse and was eager to get me tucked up in bed. I could sense something wasn't quite right as he pulled me closer to darkness and out of town, so quickly latched myself onto an elderly Thai lady, waving some money in her face, just begging to be taken home.

After two hours of wandering the same 50 metre stretch of road, sickly and sobbing, it turns out I'd been approximately outside of my hostel the entire time. She led me the few paces to my door and sent me on my merry way, and refused to take my money. Meanwhile, a certain someone in the land of nod was about to be woken by a pleasant surprise.

Any movement or attempted sipping of water induced nausea, and my knight (nurse) in shining armour (nightie) ensured that I didn't die overnight. Eventually I made it to the bed and slept solidly for a good few hours and when I eventually awoke I was severely disorientated and achy. For the few days that followed I struggled to navigate the streets that were so obvious the previous day, and

often had problems keeping up with conversation – my short term memory had been totally shot.

Koh Phi Phi is still one of my favourite Thai islands and this didn't detract from the fun times at all. I'd heard tales of people having everything robbed, being held at gunpoint and being spiked by evidently much worse chemicals like petrol (which stopped a girl from taking her flight home), so by comparison I felt like I'd got off quite lightly – considering the circumstances I could have come out of that situation much worse off.

God knows what was in the drink, or who was responsible, or what would have happened had I consumed the entire thing. I guess I should have taken the 'watch all of your drinks being opened' advice I'd had rammed down my throat, but you live and learn. Quite an interesting experience while it was happening and perhaps a tad funny in retrospect. At least my bank card and anal virginity were kept intact.

Got a travelling tale to share?
Email us at travel.felix@ic.ac.uk

HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Twitter



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Has everyone got their invites to Will and Kate's weddin?



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

Yeah man, it's going to be sweet



SexyOsama69

Yeah. I can't wait



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

Nah! When did you get yours delivered?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

lol! it's a facebook event



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

How come I wasn't invited?



SexyOsama69

Oh this is awkward



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

See thing is Cleggman. Ur a bit uptight about things. Do everything by the book



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

I'm not uptight. What's this got to do with the wedding? What's going on?



Prince Will.I.AM

Hey guys, ma gran is wondering if u can still get the ounce. She's just ordered the new bong. Cleggman isn't on here is he?

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk (stop sending pictures of naked guys...)

How to officially be the twattiest person in lectures

Hangman knows all about being an asshole. With these easy-to-follow tips, you might also turn into a douche

1) Walk slowly to your seat with an air of arrogance. Perhaps drop your financial times in the aisle and announce to nearby students that you dropped your financial times in the aisle.

2) Assume that everything you say is funny

3) Turn your phone on loud when the lecturer tells you to put them on silent because you want everyone to hear your hilarious ringtone. Probably that fucking 'bird is the word' song from Family Guy

4) Bring your whole filing cabinet to the lecture in your leather brief case and spread all your folders out across the desk, disregarding any workspace the people next to you might need for their pathetic single refill pad

5) Use a colour-code system for highlighting your notes.

6) Laugh at any text you receive because it makes it look like you have funny friends. Then text back with a smirk on your face as if to say 'I'm now writing a funny text back to my funny friends'.

7) Tell your neighbours about a hilarious incident involving the isle and your financial times

8) Ask the lecturer to wait for you to catch up because you were too busy colour-coding your notes

9) Ask the lecturer some stupidly irrelevant question with long words that you found on Wikipedia

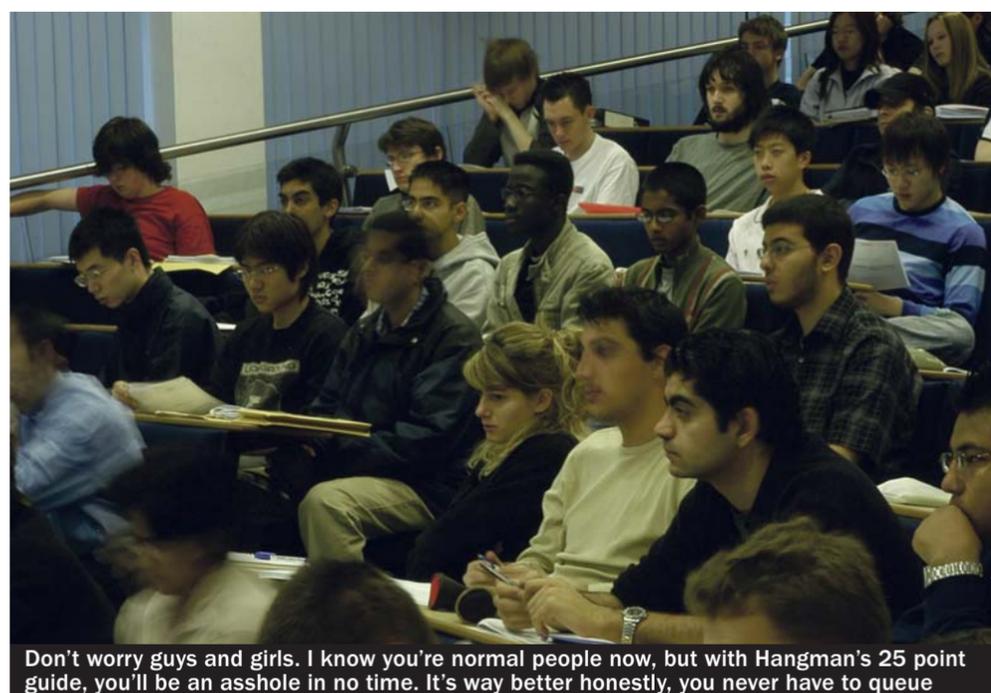
10) Remind your neighbours that you're hung over because you were drinking alcohol the night before

11) When the lecturer asks a question, shout out a really funny answer. PLEASE REFER TO TIP NO. 2

12) When the lecturer makes a statement, try to find some weak contradictory paradox.

E.g. 'At present, it is necessary to destroy an embryo to obtain embryonic stem cells'

'But Professor, if it is necessary to destroy an embryo to obtain embryonic stem cells, it is surely also necessary to destroy the embryonic stem cells in order to completely destroy the embryo.'



Don't worry guys and girls. I know you're normal people now, but with Hangman's 25 point guide, you'll be an asshole in no time. It's way better honestly, you never have to queue

13) Tell the lecturer that he ended a sentence with a preposition

14) You don't understand something. Assume that the lecturer has made a mistake somewhere

15) Remind the lecturer that there should be a problem sheet for this lesson

16) Wear a suit to lectures. (*Dammit! I've done this. Ed*)

17) Wear clothes that 'compliment your personality'

18) Wear a hoodie with a big bold and inventive nick name printed on the back, like 'THE JOKER', so that people know you are an established member of a club with a high-ranking social status that merits such a banterous moniker

19) Invent the word 'banterous'

20) Turn every sentence into a 'ur mum' joke because everything sounds like an innuendo to you. 'Ur mum sounds like an innuendo to you'

21) Write loudly with your scratchy pens

22) Talk with a French accent

23) Over-gesticulate

24) Save your empty adjacent seat for your trappy hippy friend. I didn't want to sit next to you anyway. You have a distorted face and milky breath...fucking whore.

25) Complain to Felix about the unnecessary use of the word 'asshole' at the beginning of this article

Twitter

Hangman is on Twitter. @hangman_felix. We've decided to open our arms to the soulless embrace of the webosphere. Although judging by what happened to the last guy, maybe it's not such a good idea...



You think that you can just skip ahead and check out what's happening over here? Back to the article you snivelling, spineless urchin!

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



“Excuse me, um, um... Oh screw this, I’m going back inside”

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Oh Ed Willans, what would your girlfriend say? Wait, she’s right here I’ll ask her. Ah I’ll ask her later, I don’t want to ruin the mood. Btw she told me to tell you that she’ll have a headache or something tonight so don’t wait up...

Horoscopes

Aries

You spend too much time on Facebook, updating your status with tedious shit like “Alex had a great day today, lol!” Well, let me tell you this Aries, if I had a MyFace account, it would read “my life is fucking better than yours, I’m posh and you’re not, so just fuck off and die.”

Taurus

Get your hair cut, you metro sexual pony git. Hair products are the reserve of gay men and estate agents. Stop pretending to be Jedward, they’re annoying enough without you walking around with a cock on your head. Or I’m getting a samurai sword and dealing with it.

Gemini

This week you are exceptionally relieved to see the Deputy Editor come down to the office to save the issue from near certain disaster. Unfortunately he just reclines in his chair, vegetating and so the issue ended up like this... :(

Cancer

This week you decide to create a meat alternative to the word ‘vegetating’. Meatifying is good, but not quite right. Baconing is better I think. God this horoscope is tedious. Stop reading. Just go. STOP LOOKING AT ME!!!

Leo

This week you start listening to TQ’s ‘Westside’. You start to reminisce about your days growing up on the streets. YO. shit diggity, dem times were tough bro! I remember when we had to start shopping at EMPORIO armani. I’ll never go back to that blud. Never...

Virgo

This week you clench your fist, stare longingly at your knuckles and then punch yourself in the balls. You fall to the ground and await the inevitable wave of crippling nausea. There it is, concurrent with the need to vomit. At least you *felt* something today.

Libra

This week you’re sitting in the library when across the table another student pulls a sandwich from his bag. You’ve finally got him! You rush to find security and have him hauled away for violating section 32 of the library code. He spends 30 years in the Gulags. You smile.

Scorpio

This week you’re hanging out with a pretty girl. The feminist inside you keeps reminding you to look at her eyes but the human inside you keeps screaming, “STARE STARE STARE STARE STARE STARE!!! TOUCH!!!” *slap ow... you didn’t need to hit me that hard...

Sagittarius

This week you see your lecturer on the walkway. As you pass him, you smile and try to say hi but he puts his left hand on your face, pushes you out of his way and strides into the distance. In your next lecture you run to the front, chop off his hand and make him eat it...

Capricorn

This week you refuse to keep any of your promises. That one about not cheating on your boyfriend? Nah screw it, screw everyone in fact! That one about picking your sister up from the airport? Nah, screw it, screw her in fact! Uh, that just got weird. Damn you brain!!!

Aquarius

The last horoscope that you wrote was a complete flop so you have another go. You dredge the filthiest waterways and canals of your brain, toss away the used condoms and search deeper and deeper. Umm... unicornsfuckingeachotherwith theirhorns... awww yeah

Pisces

Finally the last fucking horoscope. This week you’re in trouble and need bail money. Luckily you’ve made millions out of unicorn porn and simply pay it yourself. Ah life is good as the world’s largest distributor of childhood bestiality porn.



JUSTICE WEEK

"Be the change you want to see in the world"
Mahatma Gandhi



22ND - 26TH NOVEMBER

**CHECK OUT THE EVENT LINEUP
ON PAGE 20**

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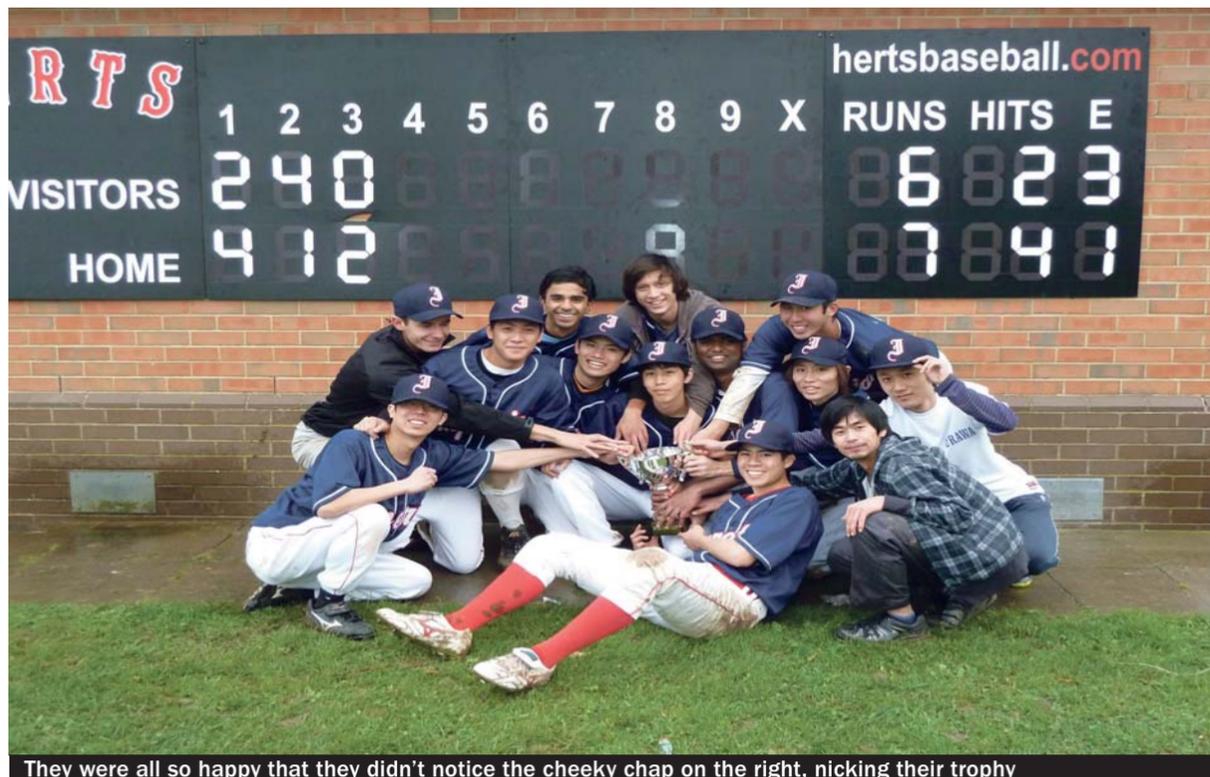
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SPORT

Baseball: Not just rounders played by men... honest!



They were all so happy that they didn't notice the cheeky chap on the right, nicking their trophy

Hugh McDowell

I would love to say that I am profiling the Imperial Baseball team as an oath of allegiance to Boston Red Sox owner John W. Henry, the not-so-evil American who is replacing the most definitely evil American former-owners of my beloved Liverpool. How romantic it would have been, after all, to celebrate Mr Henry's arrival on these grey shores by engrossing myself in anything and everything to with America.

We Liverpool fans love America, after all. We've always loved it. I for one certainly do not remember the hatred towards Messrs. Gillette and Hicks spilling over into anything untoward being said about their homeland. Any flags to the effect of 'Yanks Out' that you think you may have seen at Anfield over the last number of years were probably a figment of your imagination.

However, rather than being the product of a definitely-not-xenophobic football fanatic, this article was born through far more mundane circumstances. Somewhere between studying stochastic calculus and contemplating the ramifications of my own withering

job prospects, I received a timely and cheerful message from my editor/superior, demanding I write something about baseball. Being the obedient subordinate that I am, I obliged.

Relatively speaking, the Imperial Falcons are a young club. Founded in the summer of 2009, the Falcons boast an impressive record of success, and have already won this year's Fall Cup, which features the top six university teams in the country. The team remain undefeated this season and hope to follow on from the Fall Cup by defending their Southern League title.

The team trains every Wednesday, varying between Harlington, Hyde Park, and Northwick Park batting cages. Work on a baseball pitch at Harlington which will allow Imperial to host matches is nearing completion. The team is coached by the club's senior members, several of whom are accredited coaches.

One Falcon, Kevin Ling, is keen to stress the inclusive nature of the club: "The club welcomes all, irrespective of ability. A lot of returning members, which had no experience with the sport before joining, are now integral parts of the Falcons and have earned starting

roles.

"The team embodies the philosophy of camaraderie and team work. One of the winning factors the Falcons have is the encouragement that can be heard from the field and dugouts. We play because we enjoy being in a competitive team and have a collective interest in Baseball, whether acquired or not."

The club owes a debt of gratitude to Sport Imperial, which it says have been very supportive of the fledgling Falcons. It provided the club with an equipment grant as well as helping to construct the club's first pitch and mound at Harlington. Ling also cites support received from the Union and from the Harlington Grant as instrumental in the club's success.

Although the club is still considered 'new', Ling says that they have had little difficulty in recruiting; there were over fifty attendees at their first ever training session last year. He is keen to stress that the club welcomes beginners. "No previous experience is necessary; the basics of the sport can be taught very quickly, all you need to do is turn up to sessions. Every single person on the team is learning all the time."

Ultimate Frisbee qualify for Wolverhampton nationals



This kind of move can get you to the nationals...in Wolverhampton

...Continued from back page
 structured their zone defence. Recording a 9-1 victory, Imperial took their biggest win of the season so far. Despite this rout, dD finished third in their pool, losing on a head-to-head tiebreaker with Brunel. The final game of the day saw dD play a crossover against the University of Kent third team who, despite at one point being 2-1 up, proved little challenge for Imperial, who duly took the victory.

Sunday was a very important day, with each team that Imperial played knowing that a loss could see them miss out on a Nationals spot. The University of Reading provided Imperial's first opponents of the day and, with both teams evenly matched, the game was gritty and tight. Despite a tough performance dD came out on top, grinding out a win on a sudden-death point. Roehampton University, fresh from their defeat of King's College London, gave Imperial their next headache, giving nothing away cheaply and forcing dD to play hard and smart. Another close game saw Imperial win by a single point.

The mysteries of scheduling meant that dD knew their opponents for their next match very well, having played Brunel less than thirty-six hours ago. Imperial were a very different team from the one that played the day before and competed with the confidence that developed over the tournament. Winning by a solid margin, Imperial earned a rematch against Portsmouth. With the winner of the game qualifying for Division 1, and the losers Division 2, dD knew it was all to play for. In front of a capacity crowd, Imperial played coolly and had the vast majority of possession, but mistakes were forced and Sublime's

transition from defence to offence was fast and effective. Portsmouth took the spot for Division 1, but in qualifying for Division 2 Imperial have the opportunity to defend the trophy they won last year.

Imperial's other teams gave good performances and, despite having only a handful of experienced players, matched up to several quality sides. The second team, dD2, started the tournament with a resounding win over the University of Surrey's Mohawks 3, followed by a tough game against Thrown 2, from King's College London. Even playing teams ranked up to thirteen places above them, dD2 showed cool heads to score well-worked points but, owing to the lack of tournament experience, could manage only conciliatory scores in their final match against Kent 3. With an average of less than a month's experience across the team, dD3 suffered a steep learning curve but no loss of enthusiasm. Overcoming the first-tournament nerves quickly, dD3 kept calm and played smart. Their team spirit shone through as they maintained the dream of qualifying for Nationals until, and even after, it was impossible.

Once again Imperial College Ultimate qualified for Nationals, to take place later this month. Gelling as a team and playing with confidence and style, dD displayed the qualities necessary to perform at the highest level and go to Wolverhampton to defend their Division 2 title. With both of the other Imperial teams holding their own at such a competitive tournament, the future bodes well for this year's influx of new players who, this time next year, could be looking forward to a place at Indoor Nationals 2011.

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

SPORT

Surfers brave the freezing waves of Westward Ho

Ashton Berry

Before we get on to the frivolities of SurfSoc's weekend, we'd just like to put out a quick word of respect to one of the biggest names in the surfing world, who sadly passed away last week of dengue fever. Andy Irons, 32, was widely regarded as being one of the most genuine, in-it-for-real big surfers, an admirable trait in the commercial world of competitive surfing. As someone who represented the true spirit and love of surf, his sudden death hit the community hard and we're amongst the tens of thousands who wish his widowed wife and child-to-be our condolences. RIP A.I.

Awkwardly jumping from that sad bit of news, SurfSoc's first trip of the year! London did its best to discourage our 32 keen surfers on Friday, with classically grey skies and droplets of rain giving the weekend a bleak prediction. Undeterred, moods were high as our buses trundled their way towards the coast. A couple of traffic accidents and speed restrictions meant we arrived in Westward Ho late, making the scrum for beds in the hostel all the more vicious. Drinking games quickly started up and the rest of the night became a blur of slaps, failed basic arithmetic and excessive consumption.

As ever, people miraculously managed to ignore an epidemic of sore heads and shaky limbs the next day, somehow crawling out of bed to hit the beach early. Cold water and a bit of sunshine are still undoubtedly the best cure for hangovers, sorting out pretty much ev-



This scene would be even more appealing the sun was blazing and every had a nice cold one in hand

eryone except for the SurfSoc president, who ended up lamely blaming a bout of "sea-sickness" for his loss of balance. The Irish contingency showed off their high calibre, letting Devon know how it was done with a sweet weekend's worth of surfing. Massive kudos to John McGuckin for managing to pull off a cut-back on a foamie. Hendrik Frentrup and Julius Klein brought about some new class to our ranks with their considerable skill, and kindly lent assistance and advice to the less experienced - good fellahs. Lanky James Pye looked like some kind of lighthouse out there, 6'4" of chilled longboard casualness. Roxy Jourdain spelt out the opposite, blurring

across waves with her bodyboard and shouts of ecstatic joy, excellent stuff. Dario Mazza, Will Hunt and Elliot Taylor and the rest of SurfSoc's regulars all had to be dragged out the water by the day's end, testament to great waves, sunshine and good company.

Over the afternoon, people trickled back to the hostel, hitting the warm showers and beds for some much-needed napping. A bodged ginger/apple/orange roast pork concoction started off the evening...our hungry surfers managed to polish off over 11 kgs of meat in one sitting. Nice! Dessert (Tesco Value cider, 2 litres of 4.8% death for £1.20) was immaculately presented in a wetsuit

boot courtesy of Tom Utley. It marked the start of another long night, with Milana Shapira most definitely winning the prize for "Littlest Big Voice". Lizzy Griffiths became victim to the "one girl, two cups [and a bit of duct tape]" game, but proved her status as our social secretary by leading the party with her smiles and giggles all night long.

Sunday's surf died down a bit, but not enough to stop the extra-keen from heading out there before 9AM. Devon's sun came out to play once again, and it was good to see everyone willing to don damp wetsuits, boots and gloves in order to get back into the waves. Things picked up as the sun climbed higher, and

when the time came to go, everyone left with water with massive cheesies plastered across their faces.

The Darwin Award of the weekend had to go to Serkan "Duncan" Karaagac, who (after a few drinks) decided that tackling Ireland's Kickboxing champion extraordinaire, David Harkin, would be a really, really good idea. It wasn't, Dave rapidly executed a couple of ninja death moves that turned the rascal into some kind of mouldable, human-type putty rag-doll. He then proceeded to demonstrate with great flourish the various anatomical positions a human body was never meant to perform. Once Serkan had been abused enough, a pat on the back saw him off merrily in the search for more booze and mischief, somehow none the worse for wear and still grinning ear-to-ear. Additional Darwinian mention goes to Alex Bowers, who unsuccessfully attempted to bounce a surfboard off his head (in retrospect, he was quite successful but the board won). "Hardcore" Harvey could probably use some mention in the Darwin Award books, but we're just going to shake our heads sadly at him for now, and make the poor lad put on some clothes next time. A shout-out to fresher B.J. King for having the world's worst initials.

All-in-all, the trip proved to be a massive success and the SurfSoc committee are proud to say we've nabbed a great bunch of new Freshers and members. Hope to see you all, and anyone else wanting to get in on the action, next month when we take on Newquay!

Waterpolo travel to Aachen despite their sat-nav

IC Waterpolo

Following a prompt departure we began our journey and headed North to Dover then, after consulting a compass, we turned the map around and were on our way. Hydration was key for a successful tournament and to that end Tom BF provided the isotonic-like purple beverage. After a brief encounter with Customs, which included some inspired fuel saving measures, we were on our way to Calais. The inclement weather conditions during the crossing added the brains of some of the younger team members but a combination of support and advice from the more experienced amongst us and a minibus journey through four countries with suitable refreshments rectified the situation. Following a brief loss of power to the Sat Nav, we decided we would circumnavigate AAcen before heading into the City Centre for our big arrival. Before turning in for an early night, Jamie decided

he preferred a yellow pavement and Peter continued in the civic-minded nature of the trip by meticulously inspecting the pavement for cracks. He reported findings to the water department via a large porcelain telephone.

Well rested and in high spirits we headed off for our first game of the tournament. Our draw was a tough one, we begun by facing last year's champions where, after a well meaning but ultimately unsuccessful spell between the posts Ian WP decided to show his outfield prowess, maintaining his previous form. Despite this, and after a hard fought battle, we were narrowly defeated.

After a light lunch we were ready for our next challenge. Some Harry Redknapp style negotiations in the transfer market brought some native knowledge into the team and resulted in David Martinez grabbing our first goal, followed by a dramatic vindication of our transfer dealings as Tim "The German"

Detert snatched a second. Unfortunately, a late rally from the opposition saw the game just slip from our grasp despite a powerful defence. Later in the afternoon there were some dubious interpretations of the rules by Jack Ellis whilst refereeing a match. This severely damaged international relations with two countries and ended his otherwise distinguished career.

After a brief tug of war, which the conscripted contingent assigned to the task claimed was only lost due to "waterlogged conditions", we headed to the evening's main event with lofty expectations. Mysteriously titled "The Beer Relay" we were hoping that the newly shortened course would be to our advantage. Fresher Will Stocker stepped forward to enhance his reputation by doing a double leg which put us into the lead, which was held for most of the race before Jack was thwarted by the high pool sides for a solid 30 seconds. Rich Thornburn helpfully provided post race analy-

sis by demonstrating the effectiveness of a commando roll in Jack's situation.

The evening ushered in the renowned "Mid Tournament Party", arguably the highlight of the competition. After several party games, David excelled at the "Fresher's Challenge", even going the extra mile by providing free childcare for several of the parents at the party. Certain members of the team opted for different ends of the age spectrum, our tour sec showing us how it's done by meeting us at the pool the following morning, bright eyed and ready for more Water Polo.

After a team reunion we exchanged fragmented memories of the previous night and a renewed sense of optimism set in as the team disposed of their hangovers as they plunged into cold liquid. Joe Gibbs defied the opposition and made his international debut on the score sheet whilst Will celebrated his birthday in style by following suit shortly afterwards. The second match

was presided over by Alex Ferguson, who selflessly declined to play for the good of the team, opting instead to take on a managerial role. This was in sharp contrast to Thanasios Platon, who was the only team member to survive a whole match in the pool. With some members of the team feeling a little worse for wear, rolling subs took on a whole new meaning.

The journey back was a welcome rest for many although the game of leapfrog between the minibus (speed limited to 62mph) and Nick Ball's car provided additional entertainment. In the end they "manned-up" to show us that the earlier ferry was not an unrealistic target (speeding tickets are in the post).

The team now begins training for next year's tournament, having bravely promised to both win and learn German.

Results: England 0 - 11 Germany; England 3 - 9 Belgium; England 1 - 7 Switzerland; England 3 - 6 Germany.

SPORT

Felix Sports League



sponsored by

ERNST & YOUNG

Quality In Everything We Do

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Hockey W1	3	3	0	0	22	5	19	5
2 Basketball M1	1	1	0	0	76	58	18	5
3 Football M3	1	1	0	0	10	0	10	5
4 ICSM Hockey M2	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	5
5 Netball W2	1	1	0	0	34	30	4	5
6 Squash M2	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	5
7 Table Tennis M2	1	1	0	0	17	0	17	5
8 Table Tennis W1	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	5
9 ICSM Hockey M3	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	5
10 ICSM Netball W1	2	2	0	0	78	47	31	5
11 Netball W1	2	2	0	0	73	51	22	5
12 Squash W1	2	2	0	0	8	0	8	5
13 Table Tennis M1	2	2	0	0	30	4	26	5
14 Tennis M1	2	2	0	0	20	4	16	5
15 Tennis W1	2	2	0	0	17	5	12	5
16 Hockey M3	3	2	1	0	6	2	4	4
17 Rugby M1	4	3	0	1	97	63	86	2.75
18 Fencing M3	3	2	0	1	373	335	38	2
19 Basketball W1	2	1	0	1	55	47	8	0.5
20 ICSM Badminton M1	2	1	0	1	5	11	-6	0.5
21 ICSM Football M2	2	1	0	1	5	7	-2	0.5
22 ICSM Hockey W1	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	0.5
23 ICSM Netball W2	2	1	0	1	56	78	-22	0.5
24 Lacrosse M1	2	1	0	1	34	32	2	0.5
25 Rugby M4	2	1	0	1	43	74	-31	0.5
26 Squash M4	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	0.5
27 Fencing M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 Fencing W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Ice Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 ICSM Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 ICSM Hockey W3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 ICSM Rugby M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34 Water Polo M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Water Polo W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 Fencing M2	1	0	0	1	106	132	26	0
37 ICSM Badminton W1	1	0	1	0	4	4	0	0
38 ICSM Hockey M1	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
39 Squash M1	3	0	0	3	1	14	-13	0
40 Badminton W1	1	1	0	0	5	3	2	0
41 Lacrosse W1	1	1	0	0	19	2	17	0
42 Volleyball M1	0	3	0	0	6	0	6	0
43 Volleyball W1	0	3	0	0	6	0	6	0
44 Football M1	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	-1
45 Hockey M1	2	0	1	1	4	6	-2	-1
46 Hockey M2	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	-1
47 Badminton M2	3	1	0	2	12	12	0	-1
48 Hockey M4	3	1	0	2	4	5	5	-1
49 ICSM Rugby M1	3	1	0	2	61	74	-13	-1
50 Rugby M3	3	1	0	2	10	19	-9	-1
51 Squash M3	3	1	0	2	7	8	-1	-1
52 Tennis M2	3	0	0	2	0	22	-22	
53 Fencing W2	1	0	0	1	107	135	-28	-4
54 Football W1	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	-4
55 ICSM Football M1	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	-4
56 ICSM Hockey W2	1	0	0	1	0	13	-13	-4
57 ICSM Rugby M2	1	0	0	1	10	86	-76	-4
58 Badminton M1	2	0	0	2	5	11	-6	-4
59 Hockey W2	2	0	0	2	0	7	-7	-4
60 ICSM Badminton M2	2	0	0	2	5	11	-6	-4
61 ICSM Netball W3	2	0	0	2	23	75	-52	-4
62 Netball W3	2	0	0	2	35	43	-8	-4
63 Rugby M2	2	0	0	2	22	31	-9	-4
64 Football M2	3	0	0	3	5	14	-8	-4

Pedal to the Vettel



Eventual 2010 World Champion, Sebastian Vettel making his way around the spectacular Yas Marina circuit in Abu Dhabi

Charles Betts

Nine months is a long time in Formula 1. In March the motoring clique feverishly anticipated the return of the seven-times world champion Michael Schumacher. Arguably the best driver in the history of the sport was making an epic comeback, driving the car that was originally intended for the then current world champion Jenson Button. But the enticing combination did not work. What could have been the fastest driver in the fastest car turned out to be a disappointingly mediocre mix, lingering far behind the pace of Red Bull, Ferrari, and McLaren. The legendary German just did not know when to pack it in – Take That, take note. That Sebastian Vettel, also known as “Baby Schuey”, took the 2010 crown on the weekend only serves to underline how the sport has moved on from the days when the season results read: Australia: Schumacher 1st, Brazil: Schumacher 1st, Malaysia: Schumacher 1st... well, you get the gist. Or has it?

Back in 2002, Ferrari manipulated the Austrian GP by ordering Rubens Barrichello to allow Schumacher, his teammate, to overtake

and win the race. The farce led to a ban on team orders, that did not stop Ferrari repeating the same trick this year, when in Germany they asked Felipe Massa to let Fernando Alonso through. This was a direct breach of the sport's regulations: article 39.1 states that “team orders which interfere with a race result are prohibited”. Article 151.c reads “any fraudulent conduct or any act prejudicial to the interests of any competition, or to the interests of motorsport generally” can be punished. Yet Ferrari got away with a slap on the wrist and a paltry (in F1 terms) fine of \$100,000. That Jean Todt, the president of the FIA, claimed there was not enough evidence to convict the prancing horse was a complete kick in the teeth to all F1 fans who believe in racing. Sadly, Ferrari are still very much the darlings of the FIA. It should be a PR relief to Ecclestone and Todt that Alonso did not win this year's championship – far from being a gallant prancing horse, the Spaniard would have resembled a Machiavellian limping donkey. It is certainly poetic justice.

The other unpleasant boil on the face of F1 is the teams that make up the back of the grid.

Again in 2002, Minardi were the comedians of F1, qualifying over four seconds off the pole sitter. Imagine a 100 metres race between Usain Bolt and a Zimmer frame yielding granny. Minardi have since disappeared from the sport, though another three verrucas materialised in their place: Virgin, Hispania, and Lotus Racing. The latter has nothing in common with the legendary team of the 1970s other than the name. These teams are to racing what Ann Widdecombe is to dancing. Virgin were not even capable of designing cars with the right size fuel tank to get to the end of races! What should we read into Richard Branson's recent disinvestment of his shareholding in the team? Is F1 not supposed to be the pinnacle of motorsport?

Let us not detract from the wonders the 2010 season had to offer. It was as exciting as Angelina Jolie's bottom - five drivers were in contention for the championship right up until the last races. Vettel had not lead the championship this season until the moment it mattered most; at the chequered flag on Sunday. Next year, five world champions will be in the hunt – Miss Jolie's posterior has some serious competition.

Rugby slump to first defeat

David Wilson

Any hopes that the Imperial College 1st XV had of remaining unbeaten in the league this season were quashed on Wednesday. They were on the receiving end of a 39-13 drubbing at the hands of Reading on an overcast and cold afternoon.

Imperial had gone into the game knowing that it was the most important of their season so far; Imperial and Reading both stood at the summit of the league with both teams unbeaten. As only one team gains promotion a victory

would have put Imperial above their closest rivals and in pole position to achieve their goal.

Throughout the warm up Imperial had looked sharp and focused; team moves looked slick and precise. A solitary penalty was Imperial's only contribution to the first half score line; Reading had scored two penalties and a converted try. Their lead was minimal and had been gifted to them through Imperials own mistakes and inability to convert their hard work and endeavour into points.

Imperial hit back in the second half with a try finished by the forwards rumbling over the

try line.

The very next play resulted in a Reading score from an interception pass. Further tries were added from slopping play by Imperial resulting in a score line which not only flattered their hosts but gave them an impressive points difference which may be influential in a promotion decider.

The game and the manner in which it was lost will hopefully serve as a wake up call to a talented squad who now realise that they cannot expect to be gifted results; they have to be earned.

SPORT

Wolverines progress well in South Coast Open

Adam Cutmore

On the weekend just gone, our 1st and 2nd team entered the South Coast Open Dodgeball tournament in Southampton with both teams (Imperial Wolverines I and II) reaching the quarter-finals and producing an all round solid result. The tournament report follows:

On Sunday 7th November we had 9 keen dodgeballers meet early in the morning in Waterloo station. We'd found out that 3 of the guys from the second team had dropped out for various reasons so it was not a great start to the day!

We managed to get our tickets to Sholing train station and boarded the train, although Ben "I'll happily miss the train for a BK bacon double cheeseburger" Bell managed to cut it so fine that even Adam "I never panic. I'm the president." Cutmore went a little pale.

After a couple of train changes and a "short" walk from the station to the leisure centre, we finally arrived. We were running a little late as Imperial were playing the first game of the tournament. After getting changed and quickly warming up, it was straight into the action!

The way tournament matches work is that you have five 2 minutes games and the team to have won the most out of that 5, wins the match.

The 1sts had their opening match against the best team in their group, the Derby Seahawks 1sts. After the first two games, we were level at 1-1. This was due to some brilliant throwing by Steve "I'm not too bad at running" Ndumbe and about 37 catches by Alan "Careful, or I'll drop you" Soltani. After this, they

changed their tactics and, catching us off guard, went on to win 4-1.

Fortunately, Imperial I then went on to win their next two matches 5-0 (Soton Dodgettes) and 3-2 (Portsmouth B) with brilliant team play all round. (We're not going to mention that one of those matches was against Southampton women's team... Ben Bell summed it up: "Either they're all gonna be absolute dykes or amazing at Dodgeball. Or both!").

Unfortunately, they were neither. Hence, the first team qualified second in their group and went on through to the quarters.

During all this, dark horses Imperial II, plus some borrowed players from the Derby 3rds, were steaming through their group as well. With Tom "I refuse to catch anything" Lowndes captaining the team, Dan "Suicide" Price getting someone out with virtually every throw and Scott "I'm a goalie, therefore I can catch" Edwards catching, they managed to win matches against the Soton Pirates 2nds and Winchester Reloaded, at times with only 4/6 players on the team! Their third match was against the reigning national champions, Jammy Dodgers, who happen to have two England players in their team. Despite some of our 1st team stepping in to help out, we were demolished as expected.

Still, the 2nds had qualified for the quarters as well and everyone was in great spirits!

The II's had their quarter final first. They were up against the Southampton 1sts, whom were obviously in their home ground. We borrowed players from Derby 3rds but could not overcome their experience and strength. We

took solace in the fact that the Soton 1sts went on to be runners up of the whole tournament. The II's had fought a good fight.

The I's had their quarter final against Minotaur Dodgeball. Their captain "the world hates me, so I'm gonna moan about every decision, even after I've won the game" was their only decent player and we were looking for a result. With some blistering throws from Rupert "These ***** balls are so *****".

Some brilliant catches from Adam "Throw together, Dodge alone" Cutmore saw us go 2-0 up. Unfortunately, a change in mentality from the Minotaurs led to them edging the next two games.

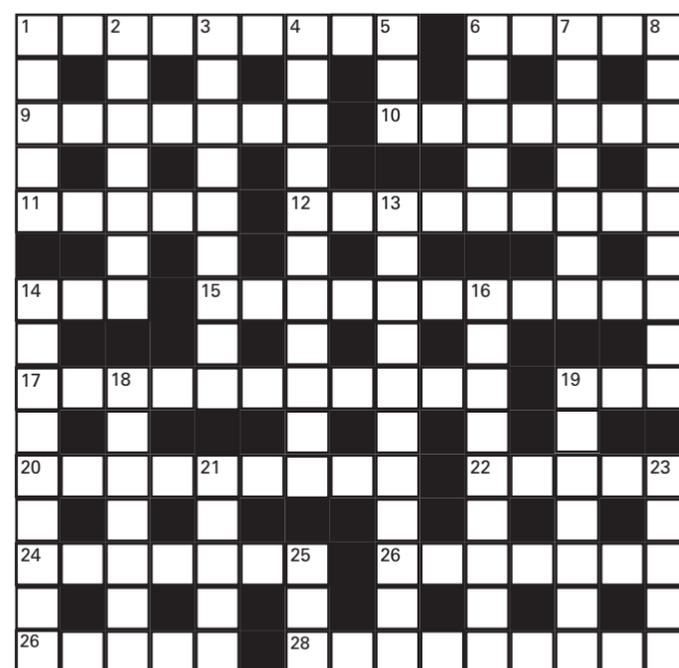
This left for a very tense final game. In the last 10 seconds both teams were down to two players each and the Minotaurs had all 3 balls. They threw one. Adam went for a heroic catch to wrap it up...and dropped.

Everyone was gutted and felt very hard done by. We had definitely been the better team and received nothing but praise from the Derby 1sts who would have been our semi-final opponents.

At the end of the day it was a great performance by all involved and we are looking forward to the University Championships at Warwick University on November 28th and a friendly against Royal Holloway University pencilled in for November 24th.

And never, ever forget the words which will be forever immortalised by the legend of dodgeball, Patches O'Houlihan; 'If you can dodge a wrench...'

Cryptic Crossword 1,474



Across

- 1. Reject CD discovered, say, by computing (9)
- 6. Sound intensity surrounding small nerd (5)
- 9. Average counter, containing mean, is movement across a boundary (7)
- 10. Poorly defined exchanging of primary and secondary elements provides explosive energy form (7)
- 11. One enclosed by sky light can be used to gain a height advantage (5)
- 12. Country having Irish vehicle and Spanish water (9)
- 14. "Quite cold, as I understand it" declared (3)
- 15. Basically, I suntan fantastically where there are fires of suffering (2,1,3,5)
- 17. Might this provide better insight on assembly around 6? (5,6)
- 19. Distress signal whichever way you look at it (3)
- 20. Inverse of hyperbolic cosine, for instance, changing last digits, equalling high rank in religion (9)
- 22. Endless container of money reflects without variable liquid with vast quantities of sugar (5)
- 24. South to Imperial, everyone unaffected by pain (7)
- 26. Veteran in contention for her love (3,4)
- 27. Donkey and alien provide help (5)

28. Mix of investments backing cooking fat of succeeding harbour (9)

Down

- 1. Bad Rossini piece? (5)
- 2. In essence, a total woman (7)
- 3. Pause for deluge with time for prevention (9)
- 4. Being bored and leaving altar, perhaps? (1,1)
- 5. Not over weight (3)
- 6. Final alteration made to camouflage decoration (5)
- 7. Electrical engineering representative upturns table centrepiece (7)
- 8. Store for drinks, 100, they make sailors scrape the barrel (9)
- 13. Vegetable adapted to awful recoil (11)
- 14. Ionise an alternative, one body of water (6,3)
- 16. One in army to increase fires, not in a new, Roman way? (4,5)
- 18. Gravitational reverberations sounding out reptiles (6)
- 19. Surfed half of Madrid, which cannot be true (7)
- 21. Place to race a sloth, primarily, on company time (5)
- 23. Formal dance with official advertising (5)
- 25. Margin of rudeness (3)

Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership imperial college union sport Imperial

<p>Saturday 13th November</p> <p>FOOTBALL ULU</p> <p>Men's 5th 0 Queen Mary's</p> <p>Men's 6th 4 Imperial Medicals 3rds</p> <p>Men's 7th 5 Heythrop College 1st</p> <p>Sunday 14th November</p> <p>BADMINTON ULU</p> <p>Mixed 1st 9 Imperial Medicals 1st</p> <p>FOOTBALL ULU</p> <p>Women's 1st 4 Royal Holloway 2nds</p>	<p>RUGBY ULU</p> <p>Women's 1st 5 King's 1st</p> <p>VOLLEYBALL</p> <p>Men's 1st 4 Kingston University 1st</p> <p>Men's 1st 5 University of Sussex</p> <p>Men's 1st 0 Royal Holloway 1st</p> <p>Women's 1st 0 UCL 1st</p> <p>Women's 1st 4 University of Kent 1st</p>	<p>Women's 1st 5 Essex 1st</p> <p>25</p> <p>Monday 15th November</p> <p>NETBALL ULU</p> <p>Women's 2nd 2 UCL 4th</p> <p>Women's 3rd 0 Queen Mary's</p> <p>Women's 4th 0 Saint Mary's 1st</p> <p>WATERPOLO ULU</p> <p>Men's 1st 2 Imperial Medicals 1st</p>	<p>Wednesday 17th November</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>Men's 2nd 0 University of Surrey 1st</p> <p>Women's 1st 28 King's 1st</p> <p>Women's 1st 30 King's 1st</p> <p>FENCING</p> <p>Men's 2nd 18 University of Kent 1st</p> <p>Men's 3rd 22 UCL 2nd</p> <p>FOOTBALL</p> <p>Men's 1st 6 Saint Mary's 3rd</p> <p>Men's 5th 3 RUMS 2nd</p>	<p>Men's 6th 0 Royal Holloway 6th</p> <p>7</p> <p>Men's 7th 1 King's 6th</p> <p>5</p> <p>HOCKEY</p> <p>Men's 1st 3 King's 1st</p> <p>106</p> <p>Men's 2nd 132 Buckinghamshire New University 1st</p> <p>127 98</p> <p>Men's 3rd 7 Brunel University 3rd</p> <p>2</p> <p>Men's 4th 3 University of Sussex 2nd</p> <p>2</p>	<p>2 Women's 1st 17</p> <p>2 University of Chichester 2nd 0</p> <p>LACROSSE</p> <p>Men's 1st 20 Royal Holloway 1st</p> <p>11</p> <p>2 Women's 1st 19 University of Brighton 1st</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 NETBALL</p> <p>Women's 3rd 17</p> <p>3 Royal Holloway 3rd 21</p> <p>1 RUGBY UNION</p> <p>Men's 1st 13 University of Reading 1st</p> <p>3</p> <p>SQUASH</p> <p>Men's 3rd 0 King's 1st</p> <p>Men's 4th 20 University of Essex</p> <p>11</p> <p>Women's 1st 19 University of Sussex 2nd 0</p> <p>TABLE TENNIS</p> <p>Men's 1st 17</p> <p>21 University of Bath 1st</p> <p>TENNIS</p> <p>Men's 1st 13 LSE 2nd</p> <p>39</p> <p>Women's 1st 8 Kingston University 2nd</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Saturday 20th November</p> <p>FOOTBALL ULU</p> <p>3 Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 3rd</p> <p>2 Men's 2nd vs King's 2nd</p> <p>1 Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 2nd</p> <p>Men's 5th vs LSE 4th</p> <p>Men's 6th vs Goldsmith's 3rd</p> <p>Men's 7th vs St Bart's 3rd</p> <p>TENNIS</p> <p>3 Men's 2nd vs Middlesex University 1st</p> <p>VOLLEYBALL ULU</p> <p>0 Mixed 1st vs Queen Mary's 1st</p> <p>8</p> <p>4</p>
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Frisbee progress in Sutton

Imperial's Ultimate Frisbee team will head to the Wolverhampton Nationals to defend their title

Phil Sandwell

A 6.30am start proved no hindrance to Imperial College Ultimate at Indoor Regionals 2010 as dD once again secured their place at Nationals in Wolverhampton. Three teams were sent to compete in Sutton, south London; the first team competed against the best in the South East, whilst two further teams of new players held their own to learn the game in a competitive environment.

The first game of the day saw dD play Brunel. The transition from the outdoor game, having only five players and competing on a hardwood pitch roughly the size of a basketball court, played in Brunel's favour as they played a zone defence through which dD struggled to break. Despite better communication and flow, and a late resurgence, Brunel took the game by one point.

Sublime, from the University of Portsmouth, were dD's next opponents. Last year's national champions both outdoors and indoors, Imperial were proud

to make them work hard for their points during the game and managed to break through the Portsmouth defence on several occasions. Eventually Portsmouth's inherent quality shone through, leaving the south coast team as deserved winners.

The match against HU?, from Royal Holloway, became a must-win game if dD wanted to qualify for Nationals 2010. Starting with the intensity that was lacking in the first two games, Imperial put enough points on the board to guarantee victory despite a late HU? comeback. This momentum carried through into the following game against Chichester, who had no reply to the improving Imperial team which beat them comfortably.

Playing with confidence and flair, dD faced up to local rivals UCL. Normally challengers for a place at Nationals, the Under Cover Lovers were destroyed by an Imperial team which shut down their offensive plays, had runs of up to sixty completed passes and tactically decon-

... Continued on page 44



C&G record historic victory

Ed Labinski

C&G 38 - 24 RSM

Sunday was not only for remembering those lost, but also for creating new history. The day for mourning was earmarked for the battle between two past greats; it was time for the annual C&G vs. RSM grudge match. A gloomy start saw both teams arrive an hour after the scheduled kick-off time due to the ever reliable London Transport Network.

After a quick jog from both teams and some imaginative lineout calls being thought of the game kicked-off. The engineers quickly took advantage of the RSM's lack of pace and Sasha Maitala scored his first of two tries punching through the gaps left by the props in the miner's back line. The engineers didn't

give the RSM time to think when a few phases later Rob Dowden slotted a kick through the eye of a needle and into the hands of Tom Beswetherick on the RSM try line, the score line rose to 14-0. The engineers made it look easy. The RSM pack hastily stepped up to the plate and produced some fabulous forward play giving RSM fly half Louie Barnét a great platform to work off. A few phases later the RSM were back in the game and the engineers looked worried.

The miners constantly used their Russian spawned battering ram Bogdan Golenkov to try and pierce the engineer's defensive line; however the C&G had an answer in the form of James Allan and debut rugby player Lukas Michalitsch, both of whom putting in some crunching tackles to stop the beast in his tracks. The game was closely fought with

regular tries from both sides. The RSM looked like taking the lead on several occasions most notable after a well earned try from Simon Fenton in the centres (one of six props in the starting line up for the miners). Their organisation in the pack was very impressive; however, due to some great upfront tackling and some good old fashioned flare, the engineers took the victory.

The final score: 38-24 to C&G. The last time this happened was 17 years ago. The RSM have definitely got some work to do if they wish to reclaim their precious bottle. C&G have offered some coaching tips but are yet to hear back.

Man of the match went to Rob Dowden for his fantastic kicking game and special mention must also go to Sasha Maitala and Tom Beswetherick for some great performances in the backs.

POLITICS



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COMMENT



Facebook will destroy you, if I don't first. Angry Geek: **Page 16**

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Stephen Fry: Do I need to say anymore?: **Page 30**

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Everything you need to know about curry (and more): **Page 34**

HANGMAN



The ultimate guide to being an arsehole: **Page 38**