

NATIONAL DAY OF STUDENT PROTEST AS STUDENT ANGER BUILDS

Photos and reporting from the frontline of the student demonstrations: **Page 8**



ISSUE 1475

26.11.10

“Keep the Cat Free”

FELIX



The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

Survey shows concern over debt

Majority of students would be discouraged from attending university by a rise in tuition fees says Union Higher Education Survey: **Page 4**

Challenges for science in media

The need for scientists to communicate their ideas effectively is as pressing as ever but what are the challenges that face researchers?: **Page 5**

Fairtrade fuss over cotton

As Imperial rushes to renew its Fairtrade status, Felix asks, if ‘being Fairtrade’ meant paying much more for Union branded hoodies, would you turn away from the cause?: **Page 11**



METRIC OPENS

Felix compares your Union with others: **Page 2**
Photos from the huge first night at Metric: **Page 6**

ART



Homegrown playwright talent
Page 26

MUSIC



Gloomy blues with Gil Scott-Heron
Page 29

Israeli newspaper slams Justice Week as ‘anti-Western’

Concerns voiced about choice of speakers at Islamic Society events

Ben Scally

The Israeli newspaper The Jerusalem Post attacked Imperial College Islamic Society on Monday, publishing an article entitled “UK university hosts ‘anti-west’ week under ‘justice’ guise”. Justice Week is described by its organizers

at ISoc as an opportunity to “educate ourselves about some of the injustices found in the world and show what we as individuals can do about them”. Scheduled events include talks on exploitation of the 3rd world, Guantanamo bay imprisonment and a screening of the latest Michael Moore film; but will also stage

controversial speakers.

The article in The Jerusalem Post (JP) includes claims made about Justice Week from Douglas Murray, the neo-conservative commentator who featured as a panelist on Question Time earlier this month. Murray is also director of the right wing think-tank, Center

for Social Cohesion, which has come under fire in the past from the National Assembly Against Racism and NUS Black Students Campaign. He said, “If you were a student at Imperial College looking to learn about injustices in the world you might have expected to learn
...Continued on page 10

FILM



Tarantino: style over substance?
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HIGHLIGHTS

On campus

SUR - Hindu Society

This is your chance to get creative on a big scale. At SUR, you can produce your own Indian show in an intensive 12 hour workshop! You'll get taught the fundamentals of Indian dance, music and drama, then you'll be let loose to create your own show. To register, contact Ashni Pau (ap6709@ic.ac.uk).

SAF,
5 December 09:00-21:00

Tug of War!

Come along and get involved, or simply stand back and laugh at them, as the Scientists battle the Engineers in the annual Chemistry vs. Civil Engineering Tug-of-War, then join in the ensuing bar night.



Prince's Gardens
2 December 18:30-23:00

Postgrad Winter Mingle



The Postgrad Winter Mingle looks set to be an amazing night, with live acts from BBC Radio 1 Aled Haydn Jones, All About Flux, and more. And all for only £5 online, or £7 on the door.

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

EDITOR'S PICK

World AIDS Day 80's Night
Wednesday. 20:00-01:00



As part of the Students Stop AIDS campaign, Medsin Imperial collaborates with IC RAG to host 80's Night @ Metric on Wednesday December 1st, in commemoration of World AIDS Day 2010. Get your entry and drinks wristband for only £7, retrieve those old dancing shoes and groove to the 80's vibe. And don't forget that you're partying it out for a great cause!

Union Notice

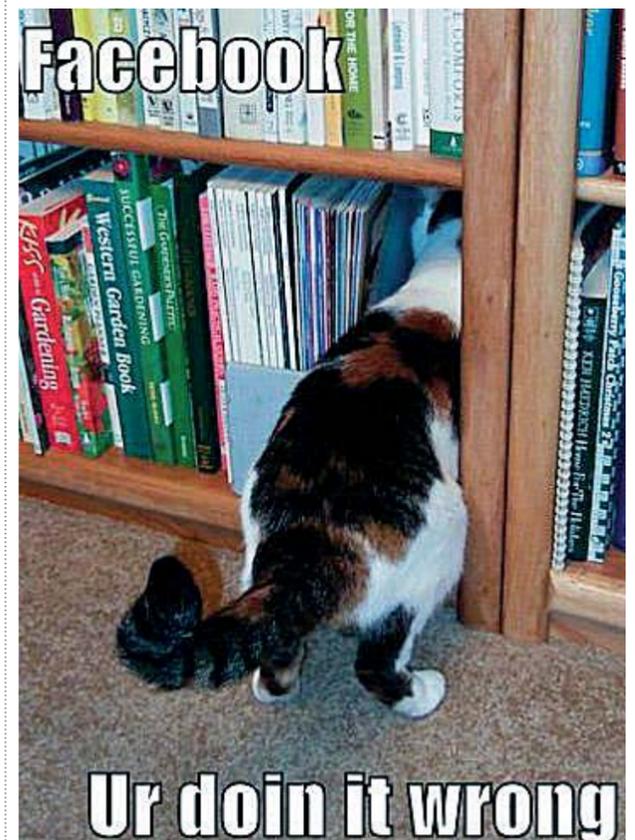
President's Surgery

Student Hub
Thursday 2 December 12:30-14:00

Got an issue with the Union? Alex Kendall, the President, is all ears

To be accessible and accountable to students, Alex Kendall, the Union President, will hold weekly surgeries where you can come and ask or talk about anything, from academic or welfare issues to questions about the bars, nightclub, clubs & societies or upcoming elections and Union politics. The next one is being held in the Student Hub, which is located on Floor 2M in the Union Building. He likes questions, apparently. So ask away.

Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

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Special Thanks: Dan Wan, Miles Robertson, David Wilson, Ben Scally, Pete Davies

NEWS

HOW DOES OUR UNION COMPARE?

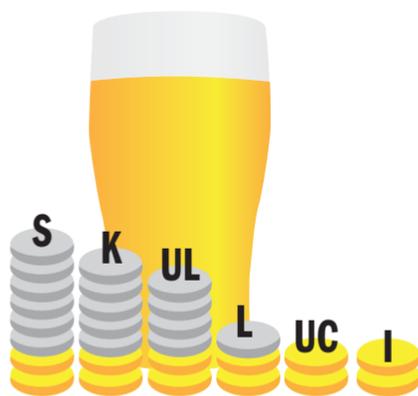
With the £2.5 million renovation of the Union's entertainment venues finally complete, the overall student response is one of enthusiasm - but how does the newly refurbished FiveSixEight bar stand up against other student union bars across London? Felix set out to in-

vestigate just what draws students to rival establishments and whether other London universities have got the upper hand, or if Imperial College Union has spent its money in all the right places.

Reporting by Matt Colvin and Alex Karapetian

Illustrations by Veronika McQuadeova

Imperial - FiveSixEight



BEER

- SOAS - £2.60
- Kings - £2.50
- ULU - £2.40
- LSE - £2.10
- UCL - £2.00
- Imperial - £2.00

The Kriss Akabusi Pleasure Lounge - UCL



Student opinions

Two UCL 3rd years were less than impressed with the "absurdly expensive ales". They said that FiveSixEight would have to be made of gold for it to be worth the long trip to South Kensington.

Student opinions

There is "a good selection of beers" and the bar "functions quite well and the drinks are cheap enough". Some criticisms were that the layout "prevents more people sitting and having drinks".

The price of beer in FiveSixEight is one of the cheapest compared to other Unions. For wine and shots the prices are of comparable price to others. The design and quality of the bar was far beyond any other university, but that's what you get when you spend £2.5 million.

The UCL bar is much larger than Imperial's but this ruins the atmosphere when less full. A less robust entertainment program than FiveSixEight promises discounted drinks on certain nights, with some selected drinks being as low as £1 alongside such deals as 4 pint pitchers for £4.

SOAS - SOAS Bar



WINE

- SOAS - £2.20
- Kings - £2.50
- ULU - £1.80
- LSE - £2.40
- UCL - £1.50
- Imperial - £1.90



The Duck and Dive - ULU



Student opinions

We gained a positive overall impression about the bar from the students with one masters student telling us she came to the bar every day and that she "wouldn't change a thing".

Student opinions

An anthropology PhD student said that the bar was "awesome and cheap", explaining that friendly bar staff, dressed in casual wear rather than uniforms, helped contribute towards a more relaxed bar.

SOAS' bar is casual to the extreme, resembling a backpacker hostel if anything. Two pool tables were in full use by students and there was even a microwave for students to use. In terms of events, SOAS does not provide a great deal in the bar itself, with a quiz night the main regular highlight.

One of ULU's student union bars, The Duck & Dive has a professional look and numerous television screens showing sports. There were deals on food, with 2 burgers available for £6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is a strong lineup of daily events with a focus on reduced alcohol prices.

LSE - The Three Tuns



SHOTS

- SOAS - £2.20
- Kings - £2.50
- ULU - £1.80
- LSE - £1.90
- Imperial - 1.80

Tutu's - King's College



Student opinions

A group of SOAS Freshers said that it was "amazing" and that they would "come back often". Upon hearing of Imperial College Union's new renovation, they expressed interest in visiting.

Student opinions

There were few positive comments about Crush. One student said, "it's terrible." The students also commented that they often visit King's College Union due to its close proximity.

This was the biggest disappointment. The entire room was completely devoid of anyone by 10pm and last orders were called before 10:30pm. LSE often holds popular student nights in its bars such as Crush or Candybox, alongside comedy nights for just £3 compared with UCL's £8 entry.

Similar in taste to Imperial's Eastside Bar, Tutu's has a fantastic view of London's skyline across the river. With a separate website for events, the Union attracts popular comedians and performers. Entry for club nights is often £3 but for more prominent acts entry goes as high as £16.

NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
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In brief

BP Refining Chief Exec delivers Newitt Lecture

Photo by Jacky Kwan



Iain Conn, the Group Managing Director and Chief Executive of Refining and Marketing for BP delivered this year's Newitt Lecture to a packed Chemical Engineering Lecture Theatre on Tuesday 16th November. Iain is a former student of the college, graduating in Chemical Engineering in 1985 and was introduced to the students by Deputy Rector Prof. Stephen Richardson who was his personal tutor during his time at Imperial.

The lecture covered a broad range of energy issues from the current BP view of world energy markets to the pathways to lower carbon energy technologies of the future.

In addressing the recent BP problems in the Gulf of Mexico, Iain shared his views on the likely impact on the engineering and politics of future large energy projects.

As a senior member of BP's management team, Iain spends time liaising with governments on energy policy and he gave students a fascinating insight into the wider role of engineers in an increasingly complex energy world. After delivering his talk, Iain presented three awards to departmental graduate students Mahdi Sharifzadeh, Yiyun (Jessy) Zeng and Fausto Ciotta, recognizing their research achievements then joined staff and students for refreshments before leaving immediately to fly to the USA.

Ian Swords

Discouraged by higher fees

Results show majority of Imperial students would be discouraged from university by £10,000 tuition fees

Priyantha Kulatilake

With protests going on up and down the country, there is a great deal of anger about the government's plans for higher education. Almost all of us will be leaving university with some debt, however this debt did not deter us from coming to Imperial in the first place. However a Union survey has shown that Imperial students are just as concerned by debt and rising fees as other students in the U.K. In light of the Union's support for the Browne Review and the government's proposals, is it being truly representative of the majority of Imperial students?

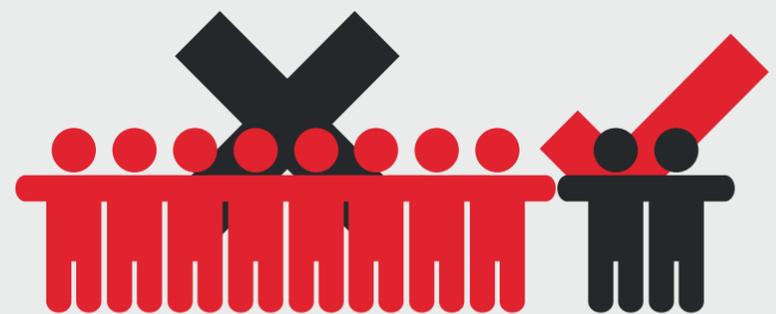
Chances are, that during your GCSE's or A-Level's, university tuition fees was not a deal breaker in your decision to go to university. However it is something we all think about at some point, whether it is "How will I pay it back?" "Where will the money come from?" "How long will I be paying it back for?" we are all in the same boat. Right now for a three-year course as a home student total tuition fees equal £9,870, if fees increased, a total of almost £30,000 would need to be paid back by the student. For many students, this cost is now an issue in deciding in whether going to university is feasible. In the recent study carried out by Imperial before the Browne Review was released, 9.3% of Imperial students said that they felt they should have no debt on leaving university. 31.3%, the largest proportion, of students felt a debt of £10,000-£20,000 was reasonable. But only 5.3% thought debts above £30,000 would be reasonable. Under the government's new system, a student on a four-year course at Imperial would likely leave with £36,000 debt. It is therefore clear that although the vast majority of students agree that they should contribute somewhat to the funding of their course (78.9% agreed that they should contribute), they have strong reservations about the amount that they should have to contribute.

Union President Alex Kendall agreed that students "are worried about debt and it's something that we definitely need to tackle. We need to make an effort to translate the reality to students it's not the same as a normal debt. It's not like credit card debt. It's the cost of a degree and somebody in the end has to pay for it."

Furthermore students overwhelmingly rejected the idea of removing the caps on tuition fees, i.e. allowing universities to charge whatever they want for degrees. 86.5% of students taking part in the study said they were against the idea of an uncapped funding model which the Browne Review recommended and Imperial College Union supports. A similarly large proportion of students, 78.9%, said they were against the graduate tax idea which is advocated by the N.U.S. and also the Labour leader Ed Miliband. Alex Kendall commented, "The graduate tax model doesn't link money to universities and doesn't give the universities an

Illustrations by Veronika McQuadeova

The results



78.9% disagree with a graduate tax model



Only 5.3% believe that leaving university with more than £30,000 in debt is reasonable



86.5% disagree that universities should be able to charge what they want i.e. support a cap on fees

"It is clear that students are more concerned that previously thought. The data challenges the assumption that Imperial students don't care about the rise in fees proposed by the government"

incentive to develop. It is also worse for poorer graduates because you have to start paying it immediately, not at £21,000 like the government's model."

When asked whether an increase in fees would discourage them from attending university, two-thirds of students agreed that it would. However the data does not specify what size increase would deter students. Of the third that said that they wouldn't be discouraged by higher fees in general, 54% still said that they would be discouraged by tuition fees of up to £10,000. President Alex Kendall attempted to re-assure students saying, "the headline fee does include anything about bursaries or the fact that unless you go into a high-paying job, you won't have to pay back all that you owe."

It is clear that students are more concerned about the current higher education situation that previously thought. Given that fees at Imperial are almost certainly going to rise to £9,000 if the government's plans are enacted, the assumption that Imperial students won't be affected by the changes or don't care about them is certainly challenged by the findings.

Celebrating science in media

An evening of awards and discussion on the challenge of communication science

Lizzie Crouch

On Monday the Public Awareness of Science and Engineering organisation, PAWS, held The European Science TV and New Media Awards Evening at the prestigious Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET). A fitting location to celebrate science in the media, as the IET was once home to the BBC many years ago! This is the first year which has seen the celebration of science in TV and New Media throughout Europe. The awards recognised a variety of countries for documentaries, general programming and new media, as well as more unusual categories such as science in TV drama.

The evening was a celebration of science in media, but highlighted some important points that those involved in science at Imperial should take note of. Susan Rae, voice of Radio 4's news facilitated the evening and highlighted that the awards were presented to those who "bring daunting science and technology to light." This was echoed by Dr Mike Short, Director of the IET. He noted that over the last two decades science have developed at a phenomenal rate, to the point where people cannot keep up. There is always a constant need to communicate science. But it seems that people from different walks of life, from researchers to broadcasters, have vastly different views on who should communicate science, and how that communication should take place.

Professor Ann Dowling, from the University of Cambridge and keynote speaker of the evening, highlighted the importance of science in society. "Choices [about science and technology] are too important to leave to engineers and scientists alone." She emphasised the need for more dialogue between scientists and the public, and suggested that increased objectivity could be obtained on science policies if everyone were more involved in the decision making process. The challenge for any scientist is therefore to find a way to convey the complexity of their science without undermining the fact that they can make a considerable difference to the world. Professor Dowling maintained that "science and engineering communication should remain a priority for the considerable future." Science is undoubtedly increasingly prevalent in society. Professor Dowling's views highlight the views of many; that present and future scientists will need to find a way to communicate their science, or work with those that can do that for them.

The second keynote speaker, Andrew Cohen, head of BBC science, noted

Photo by Lizzie Crouch



From left: Andrew Cohen, Professor Ann Dowling, Susan Rae, Dr Tara Shears, Julian Phillips, Professor Chris Mason

“When budgets are being cut can researchers really find the time to increase their dialogue with the public, and do it in a number of different ways?”

that earlier this year “[science broadcasting] started to get noticed in a way that [the BBC] were not used to.” This was heavily linked in with the public’s reception of the ‘Wonders of the Solar System’ series, and the now phenomenally popular ex D:RREAM keyboard player and physicist Dr Brain Cox. Mr Cohen praised Brian Cox with injecting romance and emotion into science broadcasting. As any researcher knows, despite a relationship with your research that can sometimes fall rather on the hate side of love-hate, you would not be doing it unless you had strong emotions about the subject, so it is interesting to see this recognised.

Mr Cohen also highlighted the importance of finding different methods of communicating science to different audiences. There seems to be an overwhelming push to have more researchers communicating with the public, ei-

ther directly or through media outlets. However, this push is coming from broadcasters and large organisations, not the researchers themselves. When budgets are being cut and researchers are being forced to do even more in the same amount of time; can they really find the time to increase their dialogue with the public, and do it in a number of different ways?

One of the special awards at the evening was for “the best presentation of, or by, a woman in science and engineering”. It is well documented that there are fewer women participating in science, and that is certainly still true. This is also the case across the media, and I wonder whether we shouldn’t be doing more to address this.

“I think everyone in all walks of life should have certain mental objectives. And one of them should be are there enough women on your panels and on

programmes,” explained Andrew Millington, director of the awards. “There is a big gender issue that needs to be addressed. If you do comparisons with other countries, for example in Italy there are? 42%, or about that, of physics undergraduates that are women. That’s well above what that is [in the UK]. There were three reasons that were identified. One of them is that they specialise later [at school], at 19. Two is that physics is seen as part of culture in Italy, going back to Gallileo, Leonardo and so on. And three, they get support in the home. It isn’t seen as something that a girl shouldn’t be doing. Now all those three things aren’t the same here and I’m a little surprised that people haven’t been taking an international comparison and worked on it.”

The BBC and the UK was well represented in almost all categories but notably absent from one; science and technology in TV drama. The representative who presented the award even highlighted this before presenting the award, “It’s a bit sad that the UK isn’t represented. Why aren’t we getting more funding and more commitment from the commissioners [in the UK] for science and technology in TV drama?”

Andrew Millington explained that one of the objectives of the evening was in fact to highlight the potential for science in TV drama. He explained that it is currently an area which is massively underrepresented. Drama is classed under arts, and this label automatically implies a socially imposed separation from science and technology. Where science has featured in drama previously, it has mainly taken the form of science fiction. Andrew explained that “science fiction was born in an era where science wasn’t so dominant,” and now that “real” science is much more dominant it might be easier to incorporate. However, it is still a massive challenge for writers. Andrew gave an example of a BBC drama writer who had explained the depth of research he had to do. “It took him four years, from starting research right up to the end of the production.”

I suggested that people are scared of taking on that challenge. Andrew agreed strongly, “From two points of view. Firstly, writers don’t think the commissioners will respond to it and two because they themselves have got to do a lot of work for which initially they don’t get paid. So there are several barriers to overcome. We find almost all arts people recognise intellectually that science is becoming more and more dominant but they haven’t internalised it emotionally if you like.”

These awards celebrating science in the media may be one step in addressing science’s separation from society, but there are others. I wrote recently about the phenomenon that is Zooniverse, a citizen science project which invites the public to participate in scientific research online. Julian Phillips mentioned that projects such as this could be a way of enticing the lay public’s interest but with the benefit of generating actual scientific data; Zooniverse has over a dozen scientific papers to its name so far. The BBC is doing something similar with LabUK, which “harnesses a huge audience that academics might not be able to.” Earlier this year a Nature paper was published off the back of a huge LabUK study which famously showed that brain training games don’t work.

However, as a final thought, when Andrew Cohen was asked whether he felt the pressure of representing all areas of science, he simply said, “I represent the viewers.” The aspects of science the license fee payers are already interested in are the ones that get broadcast. So as, well as finding the time and best way to introduce dialogue between the science community and the public, it turns out it’s also a competition to get their attention!

NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
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World Aids Day

Universities Allied for Essential Medicines launches campaign

A new campaign has just been launched on campus by the Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) group, which is an international organisation aiming to improve access to essential medicines in developing countries. They hope to do this by changing the way the college licenses out its patents concerning healthcare-related technologies, including but not limited to therapeutic drugs. 10 million people a year die from diseases that have available cures, because of limited access to drugs. As not-for-profit organisations, universities are in a unique position to alter the way drugs are licensed in developing countries, so that research done on campus can make a difference to as many lives as possible.

UAEM started out at Yale in 2001 when both students and academics campaigned for the availability of the HIV antiretroviral (ARV) stavudine for generic production. Since then, UAEM has spread all over the world and has changed the licensing policies of many universities, particularly in America. Last year saw the signing of the Statement of Principles and Strategies for the Equitable Dissemination of Medical Technologies (SPS) by 20 institutions in the US, including the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institute of Health, and the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM). This was a huge advance for improving access to essential medicines in developing countries, but we still have a long way to go. Within the UK, the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh recently adopted Global Access Licensing Policies. UAEM argues that if Imperial is to maintain its position as a centre for excellence in the field of Global Health, it should be a forerunner of this movement.

Another aim of UAEM is to promote research into neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). These diseases affect the world's poorest people and are seriously under-funded. In fact, only 10% of R&D investment goes towards research into 90% of the world's health problems. Imperial is one of the few institutions in the UK to have an organisation entirely devoted to NTD research, called The Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, which is based at the St Mary's Campus. UAEM would like to see NTD research being integrated into the Life Sciences and Medicine curriculums within Imperial and across the UK.

Next Wednesday (1st December) is World AIDS Day. UAEM is organising an awareness campaign in Trafalgar Square. The hope is that this will put pressure on pharmaceutical companies to put patents for HIV ARVs into the patent pool.

Many ARVs are now available, but at astronomical prices well beyond the reach of citizens of developing countries. It is important that students as well as humanitarian campaigners put pressure on the universities and pharmaceutical companies to put ARV patents into the patent pool to allow the generic production of ARVs at dramatically reduced costs. The aim is to think of the Trafalgar Square fountains as the patent pool, and the campaigners (dressed in red, of course) as the patents. Make sure you come along!

Today (26/11/10) there will be workshops for the NTD and Research Team at 4pm in SAF and the IP and Law Team at 5pm in Room 119 SAF. To get involved with UAEM, email uaem@imperial.ac.uk, or come along to the next general meeting at 5pm on 30/11/10 in SAF G70. **Harriet Gliddon**

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The opening of the Union's new club Metric goes off with a bang
By **Kadhim Shubber**

Photos by Kadhim Shubber



Things turned weird when she started demanding that someone smell her armpit...



"Come on lads! Let's go burn down Lib Dem HQ! I say Clegg! You say?" "Had to make some difficult decisions..." Uhhh what?"

Well, finally Metric is at long last open and to answer your question, yes, it definitely was worth the wait.

The sellout opening night was a frenzied affair of live music and absolute disbelief on the part of students at the fact that they were genuinely having a quality night out in their own Union.

The live music was a roaring success. The bands, who sounded mediocre on record, were full of energy on stage. The night took some time to get rolling, with the first band playing to a mostly empty room (a fact that they didn't fail to notice, or remind everyone of constantly). However by the time Citadels took to the stage the room had filled out. They took the maverick step of placing a bunch of percussion instruments on the floor amongst the audience. It was a genius move, often reluctant and reserved students were suddenly

NEWS

banging and bashing away in time with the music.

As the night progressed, Metric packed out and the atmosphere was as electric as you would find at any great gig venue in London. There was crowd-surfing, a momentary moshpit and one excited girl at the front of the crowd during Missing Andy seemed as if she would faint at any moment.

It wasn't all plain sailing. A fire alarm at around midnight was met by groans from students who quickly became restless waiting in the cold outside. However on the whole, students were positive about the night and the new club. One student told Felix, "I had my doubts but actually I'm, I'm well impressed. The bass is still shaking through me at the back and the Soundsystem is better than most of the soho clubs. The bar service is quick and Snakebite is still £2. I don't care about the vodka red bull to be honest."

The Union President from last year, when much of the planning behind Metric was done, Ashley Brown gave his thanks " to everyone [...] who helped make [Metric] a great place" and also to "all the students who gave feedback, particularly those on the phase 3 working group who put their comments directly into the process."

Deputy President (Finance & Services) Ravi Pall said "I was incredibly impressed with the high calibre of the entertainment. The success of the night, is proof that the venue is amongst the best in the country."

Tonight (Friday 26th November) will host a trio of bands headline by Edith Bowman. As someone who can remember what the Union was like 3 years ago (never mind last year), If the Union can keep this up and if students keep coming back, there's absolutely no reason why Metric won't start to feature as one of the best student clubs in London.



If the Union can keep this up, there's absolutely no reason why Metric won't start to feature as one of the best student clubs in London



"OMG, OMG, OMG, OMG, OMG... I LOOOOVE BIEBER!"

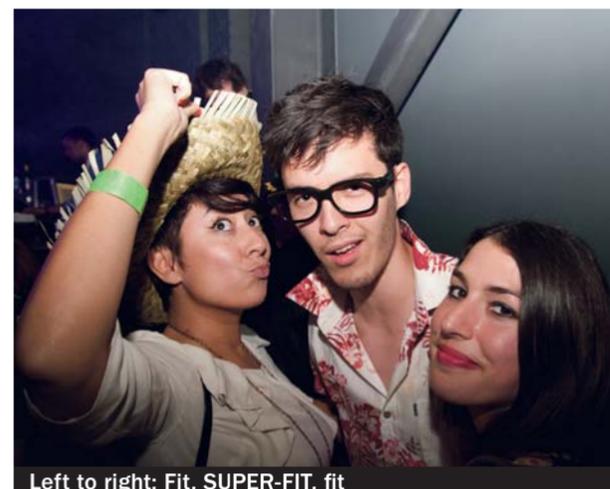
Photo by Kadhim Shubber



What you can't see is that he's holding a cat by the scruff of the neck. It's the latest accessory don't you know?



Left to right: Fit, fit, fit



Left to right: Fit, SUPER-FIT, fit



Totally unimpressed by the size of the fish that she caught one time but forgot to take a photo of even though it was like THIS BIG...



Left to right: About to choke, passive aggressive, fit

NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
Alex Karapetian
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First person

Why I protested, by Caroline Clark

A wave of student occupations has been sparked off by mass protests taking place all over the country. Students from UCL, London South Bank University, Birmingham, Warwick, Oxford, Strathclyde, Cardiff, Dundee, University of East London, Portsmouth, Leeds, Royal Holloway, SOAS, Manchester Metropolitan and UWE Bristol have all gone into occupation this week.

In London, 5000 students converged on Trafalgar Square and attempted to march down Whitehall to Lib Dem HQ. However, in stark contrast to the NUS protest, it soon became apparent that the police wanted absolute control. They kettled the main march for 10 hours in the cold before releasing them in handfuls at around 10pm.

When we arrived at 5pm, a group of 1000 students and workers stood outside one end of the kettle. We tried to join those inside, but could only stand outside in solidarity. The police pushed us towards Trafalgar Square with horses and batons. At one point, without warning, the line of police horses charged the crowd. Panic erupted and people ran down the street or tried to jump over a wall to safety.

We were impressed by the scale of demonstrations yesterday and proud to be part of them. They came only two weeks after the largest student demonstration since 1987, during which thousands occupied the courtyard of Tory HQ. This sparked an intense media and police backlash, leading to the aggressive tactics used by the police yesterday. However, many support the protesters, including trade unions and lecturers.

The savage cuts announced by the coalition government will resonate through Higher and Further Education, with fears that 22,000 university jobs will be lost and fees of £9000 a year threatening to carve a layer of poorer students from university education. Allowing a market in education will create a two-tier education system; only the privileged elite will be able to afford to study at the top universities.

Aaron Porter stated that he “absolutely condemns the actions of violence” at Millbank. However, broken windows are insignificant compared to the damage that will be done to everyone by the government's cuts. In itself breaking windows won't change the position of the government, but it shows workers that it is possible to fight back, giving them confidence to strike. As we have seen from history, civil disobedience is a powerful force that is an integral part in bringing down a government. Through actions like this, the Heath government came crashing down in the early 70's and Thatcher was brought down after the poll tax riots.

Our Union President may be attempting to distance himself from the growing student rebellion, but growing numbers of Imperial students are showing that they're prepared to get out and march. The protests, strikes and occupations we've seen so far all hint that an enormous wave of organised resistance to the government is on its way.

At Imperial, those involved in the demonstration yesterday will be holding an organising meeting early next week – look out for posters on the walkway or email swss@ic.ac.uk. Everyone is welcome to join us. Just as the anti-poll tax campaign ended the Thatcher era, so too is it possible for protests, occupations and direct action to break today's government.

Caroline Clark is the Chair of the Socialist Workers Students' Society at Imperial.

Students around the U anger grows over edu

Olivia Ribeiro
Kirsty Seager

Students have once again clashed with police during protests over proposed changes to higher education. The protest, the second this month, planned to target the Liberal Democrat headquarters in central London.

Thousands of students and school pupils gathered around Whitehall and Trafalgar Square to fight against government plans to raise tuition fees and cuts to university teaching grants and the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Violence escalated quickly as one police officer had his arm broken and with was dragged from the crowd unconscious with leg injuries. The police deployed the controversial ‘kettling’ technique used at the G20 protests. Bottles and placards were thrown at police and fires were started as darkness fell.

Vandals damaged and graffitied a police van stranded in the protest. School

Milly, aged 14, said she had attended the protests as she was “one of the people affected by the changes”

children who disagreed with the violence, however, formed a protective shield around the van to prevent further damage. Later protesters broke into a van, smashing the windows, stealing police uniforms and using the van as a dance platform.

The demonstration, organised by several groups, began peacefully with a “Carnival of Resistance” at 11am, starting at Malet Street and progressing to Trafalgar Square, where students from across the nation assembled prior to the planned protest outside of the Liberal Democrat's headquarters in Central London and later in Downing Street.

However, in light of the Millbank Riots two weeks ago, police detained protesters in the Whitehall area before they reached Parliament Square. Attempts to break through the police cordon were unsuccessful, a stark contrast to the attack on Conservatives' headquarters a fortnight ago.

Organisers, who have dubbed the mass demonstration “Day X”, are call-

ing students to protest against the Liberal Democrat party leaders, accusing them of breaking their promised pledge of voting against a hike in tuition fees.

Tuition fees are set to soar to £9000 per year by September 2012, with plans to withdraw public funding for arts-based university subjects and removing the EMA which is paid to students who would otherwise not be able to remain in education past the age of 16.

Protests, walk-outs and marches took place across the country. The largest were in Manchester (3000), Bristol (2000), Sheffield (2000) and Brighton where 3000 students marched. There were also demonstrations in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Liverpool, Southampton, Oxford, Cambridge, Bournemouth and Cardiff. Occupations were also staged in colleges and universities including SOAS, London South Bank, Royal Holloway, UCL, Essex and UWE Bristol.

Nick Clegg, in a speech made on Tuesday night, pleaded with students to “Listen and look before you march and shout. Our plans will mean that many of the lowest income graduates will repay less than they do under the current system.” The Deputy Prime Minister, who has been warned against cycling to work amidst fears he could be attacked, was further targeted by angry protesters who hung an effigy outside a building where he was due to give a speech on Tuesday.

Many school children attended the protests on Wednesday. Milly, aged 14, from a north London school, said she had attended the protests as they were relevant to her and that she would be “one of the people affected by the changes”. Her friend Harry, also 14, said that they agreed with the protests, but disagreed with the violence, saying “it won't achieve anything”.

Another protester, a current student at UCL, said, “Violence gets our point across, they can see how strongly we feel and it will make them change what they have said”. Most people that we spoke to believed that the violence was sending the wrong message across about students and that those who were being violent were out looking for trouble, rather than protesting for the cause.

Sixty arrests have been made so far following the occupation of Millbank two weeks ago. Student Edward Woollard, 18, from Southampton, is facing jail after admitting throwing a fire extinguisher from a rooftop during the violent riot. Woollard has been charged with violent disorder, an offence that carries a maximum of five years in prison.

Photo by Miles Robertson



A protestor climbs onto a building at Whitehall

Photo by Olivia Ribeiro



Police were far better prepared this time around

NEWS

UK protest as education cuts



Photo by Miles Robertson



A demonstrator shouting slogans

Photo by Miles Robertson



'Kettled' students try to keep warm

Photo by Miles Robertson



An empty police van was attacked

Royal College of Art students block Kensington Road

Photo by Kadhim Shubber



Kadhim Shubber

Around 200 students from the Royal College of Art (RCA) held an hour long protest as part of a national day of walkouts, sit-ins and marches against the government's planned cuts to higher education.

They began on the steps of the RCA building at 1pm but quickly moved to Kensington Road where they proceeded to block traffic by occupying the road. The students chanted "You say cutback, we say fightback" as motorists became more and more annoyed by the disruption. Motorcyclists forced their way past the students while some cars attempted to nudge the students out of the way. One driver used his car to force a way through the crowd, driving with a student on his bonnet for around 5 metres. A van driver got out of his car to argue with the demonstrators before shouting down by the crowd.

13 police officers arrived in 8 police cars and forced the students back onto

"13 police officers arrived and forced the students back onto the pavement"

the pavement.

Cordelia Cembrowicz, Vice President of the Royal College of Art Students' Union said "Cutting government funding along with increasing fees for art and design students will have a negative effect on not only our economy but on the very lifeblood of our culture. This nation needs artists, designers and musicians just as much as it needs mathematicians, engineers and scientists."

The protest died down shortly after 2pm, with one student commenting that she was cold and had work to get on with.

Jarvis Cocker was rumoured to be leading the protest but wasn't present on the day.

Photo by Kadhim Shubber



NEWS

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

In brief

“Major changes” to security staff after Metric launch violence

The otherwise trouble-free opening night of Metric was tainted by violence after a student was forcibly ejected by stewards and a member of security staff who the Union have said “will not work at the Union again”.

The trouble began as students began to re-enter the Union after a fire alarm at around midnight. The student allegedly attacked the door staff as he re-entered the building and was as a result removed to the back of the Union. According to the Union, the student committed “criminal assault” by biting a steward on the arm. At the time of writing Felix had not received confirmation of this from the police.

However the Union have also admitted that the student was removed from the building in an “over-zealous way” and that a member of security had taken an “old-fashioned attitude” to bar security and that his actions did not reflect the ethos of the Union to provide a safe place for students to enjoy themselves.

As a Felix photographer attempted to record the events, the same member of security seized his camera and threatened to smash it on the ground. The Union have described the security staff’s actions as “regrettable” and re-assured Felix that the Union is committed to protecting the freedom of press.

The Union have confirmed that major changes will be made to the security team and to “the way that we run security”, including better briefing of the staff on big nights.

The student involved didn’t wish to comment on the events. **Kadhim Shubber**

Corrections

In the article entitled “Rector joins London-Brighton Veteran Car Run”, published in Issue 1473 (12/11/10), the City and Guilds College Union was incorrectly referred to as the City and Guilds Constituent Union.

The article entitled “RAG Week raises over £2,000”, published in Issue 1474 (19/11/10) did not make clear that RAG raised £3269.12 during RAG Week.

In the article entitled “A dummy’s guide to Indian curries”, the text for Tikka Masala was erroneously repeated for Vindaloo.

The Word Wheel in Issue 1473 (12/11/10) and the Nonogram in Issue 1474 (19/11/10) were unsolvable. Felix apologises for this.

Positively Red Week

Medsin Imperial will be raising awareness about HIV/AIDS around campus as part of their “Positively Red Week”, 29th Nov – 3rd Dec. The week of charity events including an 80s night at Metric on Wednesday and a Dodgeball Tournament on Thursday 2nd December (email Alan Soltani, as3509@ic.ac.uk for information)

Controversial Justice

Felix investigates accusations and counter-accusations made at

...Continued from Front Page about the injustices in Darfur, or against Kurds and Christians across the Middle East but no, as usual with such events, it has to do only with the delegitimization of Israel, America and her allies” and alleged that Justice Week “is only to do with injustice and hate”.

Also quoted in the JP article were members of Student Rights. This organization claims on its website to be a “non-partisan group dedicated to equality, democracy, and freedom from extremism on university campuses”. However, an investigation by London Student earlier this year accused Student Rights of being a right-wing pressure group with a questionable student support base, allegations which they deny. JP quoted Matthew Walker of Student Rights as saying, “Justice Week appears to be dedicated to jihadist propaganda on taxpayer-funded university campuses”.

Campaigning from both these groups led to a similar event, which featured Jamal Harwood – a speaker at Justice Week – being cancelled at Queen Mary Student Union in December last year. QMSU were unable to comment on this.

ISoc president, Umer Hakeem, told Felix that his society was not contacted by The Jerusalem Post to give a response to the accusations made in the article. He explained, “Justice Week intends to highlight various injustices that resonate with our members and around the world and offers Islam as a potential solution to these”. ISoc is one of the biggest societies on campus and is heavily involved in ICU activities. It raised more money than any other society for Charity Week this year, totaling £29,414.50. Posters around campus advertising Justice Week bear the slogan: “Be the change you want to see in the world”, quoted from Mahatma Gandhi.

In response to the objections to Justice Week voiced in the article, Hakeem answered, “We encourage all to attend our events and respectfully challenge our speakers if they disagree with their views rather than attempting to eliminate one side of the debate by censoring speakers”. He added, “We don’t consider attempts to censor legitimate debate as conducive to achieving the aims of Justice Week”.

Felix contacted Jonny Paul, the author of the JP article, who admitted that he did not make any attempt to approach Imperial College or ISoc for a response to the article. He said he saw “no reason to contact them ... the article speaks for itself”, but refused to comment further.

Raheem Kassam, the Director of Student Rights, was asked to explain the comments made by his organization in

Photo by Miles Robertson



Asim Qureshi spoke at Imperial College this on Thursday

the JP. He said that he saw Justice Week as “anti-west, due to the nature of some of the events”. When confronted about the investigation by London Student, Kassam described it as “irresponsible reporting”. He pointed to a “personal grudge” between himself and the author, Hilary Aked, but refused to disclose specific details.

London Student offered Kassam a right of reply to the investigation but he notes that he “didn’t see the point” of pursuing this.

All external speakers invited by societies to talk on Imperial College campus are subject to a vetting process, which the guest speakers for Justice Week passed. Coordinating this process was Heather Jones, Sabbatical Officer for Clubs and Societies, who commented, “the article obviously raised some of our concerns but we have a duty to uphold Freedom of Speech on campus according to The Education Act, 1986”. The Jewish and Israeli Societies were consulted as part of this vetting process.

In response to the article published in the JP, the College called a crisis meeting on Monday to review the events and

speakers scheduled for Justice Week. Reportedly, this meeting included college security, a representative from ISoc, and senior college officials.

Security concerns led to cancellation of the first of the Justice Week events, due to have taken place on Monday. However, these were related to room booking capacity and were largely administrative according to Jones who described the affair as “unfortunate but actually quite tedious”.

Rory Fenton is Officer for Interfaith, which promotes good relations between the religious societies at Imperial, and said that the scheduled event and speakers for Justice Week were “not damaging to interfaith relations”.

A screening on Wednesday of the Michael Moore film “Capitalism: A Love Story” was followed by commentary from Jamal Harwood – an expert in Islamic finance. He said, “the article is a bit of a rant against the Imperial Islamic Society” and “all these people are doing is whipping up anti-Islamic sentiment”. He assures students that “the week isn’t at all anti-western” and has “nothing to do with jihad”. He also said that, “If he [Douglas Murray] was really concerned about social cohesion he wouldn’t be demonizing this small community”.

Harwood is a spokesperson for Hizb ut-Tahrir, an Islamic political organization that is currently subject to a “no

Jerusalem Post journalist admits he did not attempt to contact the Islamic Society for a response

INTERVIEW

Week on campus

about speakers invited on campus by Islamic Soc



Cageprisoners

This is a human rights campaign group which gives a voice to detainees in the war on terror.

Recently, they have taken on the case of Aafia Siddiqui who was convicted in September of attempting to kill her US interrogators. She was subsequently sentenced to 86 years in prison.

They obtained an exclusive in-

terview with Anwar al-Awlaki, the infamous Islamic preacher, after release without charge from US detention. Since his release, he is believed to have radicalized Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, former student and president of ISoc at UCL, who made a suicide bombing attempt in December last year.

Hizb ut-Tahrir

Hizb ut-Tahrir translates into English as "party of liberation". They are a radical political organisation which seeks to establish a 'Caliphate' – an Islamic state across the Middle East. It is opposed to western-style democracy as we know it.

They hold the view that 'jihad'

is a part of Islam but do not advocate violence, instead encouraging intellectual debate. However, their ideology is shared by groups which do support violence.

Tony Blair said he would ban the British branch of the party while still PM, but ultimately did not carry out action against them.

platform policy" by NUS. This does not include Imperial College, which is not currently a member of NUS. Chair of ICU Political Philosophical Society, Naida Dzigal, spoke on the subject of hosting NUS "no platform policy" speakers on Imperial College Campuses. "I am of the opinion that this should not be done generally, but only because the students who organize such events are usually of the same opinions as the controversial speaker or are on their way to becoming such [...] However, I also think that there should be an exception to this policy if the event is planned carefully and is conducted with regards to the complete student body's opinions and views". She added, "some speakers might have valuable opinions on other subjects that are not fascist or racist in any way".

Speaking on Thursday on behalf of Cageprisoners, a human rights organization that raises awareness of the plight of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, was Asim Qureshi.

He made news in 2006 after a rally outside the US Embassy in London when he declared, "It is incumbent upon all of us to support the jihad of our brothers and sisters in these countries when they are facing the oppression of the west".

London-based counter-extremism think tank, The Quilliam Foundation, contacted Felix out of concern for

Qureshi's platform on Imperial College campus. Their research stretches from radicalisation on university campuses to the BNP's demonisation of British Muslims. They provided Felix with transcripts of speeches made by Qureshi at Queen Mary Student Union (QMSU). In December 2006 at QMSU, while discussing suicide bombings in Palestine, he said, "when you're talking about things like martyrdom operations, then its not for us to judge anything because we don't live out in those places". Again at QMSU in January 2007, while discussing the actions of a group of female Chechen suicide bombers called the 'Black Widows', he said "we are not here to judge them. We do not live in their paradigm, we do not live their daily lives".

Speaking about Qureshi – Lucy James, a research fellow at Quilliam, says "he has clearly condoned acts of violence abroad in the past" and his presence on campus is "beyond a Freedom of Speech issue". Felix attempted to contact Qureshi but he was not available for a response. The Quilliam Foundation also voiced concerns as to whether the vetting process for external speakers at university campuses is currently tight enough.

Justice Week ends with talks by Professor Norman Finkelstein on the 2009 Gaza Invasion, in connection to his new

book "This Time We Went Too Far: Truth and Consequences of the Gaza Invasion". Next week's issue of Felix will include an interview with Professor Finkelstein by our political editor. Tickets for the event with Finkelstein sold out within 24 hours. However, a second talk later on the same night was scheduled to capacitate the extra demand and tickets have been made available to non-Imperial students. Finkelstein's UK tour has been accompanied by a Facebook group "No to hate! No to Norman Finkelstein!" This group plans to protest at all of the dates on his UK tour, including Imperial College, but is limited to a small number of individuals - at time of printing only 9 people have declared attendance. The talks take place tonight (Friday) from 6pm and will be held in the Clore Lecture Theatre in the Huxley Building. Tickets are £5 and can be bought from the ICU website; protesting at the event will be free.

A spokesperson from the college wrote to Felix about Justice Week. "Imperial College London campuses are places of intellectual debate, tolerance and openness among its diverse staff and student community". And "the College has concluded that the events taking place during Justice Week meet the requirements under its Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech".

Editorial: Page 20

Fairtrade fuss over status renewal

Sophia David

After gaining Fairtrade status in September 2007 but then failing to renew it in 2009, Imperial is rushing to ensure that it doesn't drop off the list of 130 Fairtrade universities and colleges. Desperate efforts are being made by the Fairtrade society, union sabbaticals and college in order to retain the status but they have been met with opposition due to the higher costs associated with Fairtrade products. Gemma Morris, head of catering operations has said that "although the renewal is overdue this is not an indication that Imperial has in any way lost its commitment to Fairtrade." So should students be forced to pay more for their food and clothing? And should the Union shop potentially run at a loss, or face a decline in sales for the Fairtrade cause? Felix investigates the importance of fair-trade status at Imperial and attitudes around college.

But firstly, what does Imperial need to do to renew its status? There are five goals which must be achieved to ensure Fairtrade status. Firstly, the Student Union and universities authorities must create a fairtrade policy which encapsulates the details of the other goals. Deputy President (Welfare) Charlotte Ivison told Felix that she "aims to present a Fairtrade policy to Council early next term which will specify our goals and commitments regarding Fairtrade".

Secondly, Fairtrade food and drinks should be made available for sale in all campus shops and used in all restaurants and bars, a goal largely being met already. For example, all tea and coffee sold on campus is 100% Fairtrade. Similarly, the third goal stating that Fairtrade food and drinks should be served at all meetings hosted by the university or student union is also already being met.

The fourth goal states that there should be a commitment to campaigning for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus. This is where Imperial's Fairtrade society comes in, holding student-related events throughout the year. The biggest event, Fairtrade Fortnight, will take place from 28 February to 13 March 2011, and aims to persuade people to replace their normal purchases with Fairtrade alternatives. However, the application for renewing the college's Fairtrade status requires proof of such events and it is likely that the forms cannot be submitted until Fairtrade Fortnight has taken place next year.

Lastly, a Fairtrade steering group must be established, made up of students, members of Commercial Services, catering staff and the union, another goal already achieved.

However, there is fuel for potential conflict at Union Council if the renewal is to require an increase in pricing of

union products. Scott Heath, RCSU President, argued that "students would rather the beer prices at the bar be reasonable than for us to have Fairtrade Status".

There has also been speculation that all the Union's clothing products must be sourced from Fairtrade cotton, a move that would significantly increase costs of Imperial branded clothing in the Union shop.

"If I have to vote between the outright use of Fairtrade cotton and a dramatic increase in clothing prices, or a loss of income, I will always vote against [the use of fairtrade cotton]", said Scott Heath. However, he added that "if it is shown that the raise in cost for clothing would be low then I would more than happily support and assist this new certification."

These views are mirrored by those of many students around college. One student commented that whilst he would be "very happy to pay an extra 20p or so for Fairtrade tea or coffee, a hike in clothing prices of several pounds would not be welcomed."

Some also believe that forcing students, already financially burdened, to pay extra for Fairtrade products is unfair. "It's not like we're earning £100,000, we have weekly food budgets", commented another student.

Felix has since found that although the university must show commitment to sourcing Fairtrade cotton where possible, it is not yet a full requirement. "There currently isn't wide enough availability", said Sarah Jewell, Campaign Manager of the Fairtrade Foundation.

She also added that the Fairtrade Foundation have launched a Fairtrade cotton campaign that will result in "competitively priced cotton that universities can purchase".

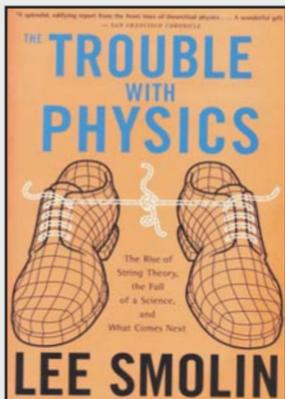
Unsurprisingly, Noor Hasnan, Chair of the ICU Fairtrade society would feel "hugely disappointed" if Imperial was to lose Fairtrade status. "Being a Fairtrade university is our acknowledgement that there are still unfair trading practices going on in the third world countries. If we lose it, people will see us in a completely different light, even though we do have all the Fairtrade products in store and related events throughout the term."

Another student commented that "people are willing to spend twice the price of a normal product for one with a fashionable brand, so why not pay a bit more for Fairtrade?"

With such conflicting views on Fairtrade products, students need choice, which is something that Deputy President Charlotte Ivison supports: "we don't want to force students but hopefully they'll make an informed choice about paying more for Fairtrade or not."

SCIENCE

And a few suggestions...



The Trouble with Physics

by Lee Smolin

Smolin, a brilliant theoretical physicist himself, attempts in this book to provide a concise and specific tour of modern physics and its complexities. Creating a link between the somewhat unfathomable different areas of physics, he explains how the discipline has progressed from Einstein through to quantum mechanics and the notorious string theory.

Smolin is sharp and provocative in his writing. He does not simply put forward ideas, but also questions them and their proponents. He also raises some interesting economic and political implications caused by physics research. This is the most refreshing attribute of the book; it is not simply an 'ode to physics' as so many popular science books are, but rather a critical analysis of the state of the science and the bold theories and claims that are made about it. Smolin is engaging and entertaining, leaving us with a greater insight into how the theoretical physicist thinks. **Katya-Yani Vyas**

Schrödinger's lolcat

Black hole cat



You won't believe it...

Climate change is causing some sheep to shrink. Since 1985 the Scottish Soay sheep's legs have got shorter and their body weight has decreased. The lonely sheep live on the island of Hirta, home to a diverse ecosystem of sheep and vegetation. Lead researcher, Tim Coulson from Imperial College, said that it is "too early to say if, in 100 years, we will have...pocket-sized sheep." Let's hope so.

Students with 'Parasight'

The science behind the iGem team's successful project

Victoria Bignet

MIT hosts an annual undergraduate Synthetic Biology competition called iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine), aiming for each university team to build biological systems and operate them in living cells. Imperial made an outstanding performance and landed fourth on the podium out of a total of some 129 participating universities.

The Imperial team built their project on biosensors. Sensors developed so far require hours or weeks of waiting before a detectable output is produced, jeopardizing the product's application on the field. Current designs also only respond to a small range of basic inputs and lack flexibility in input/output modulation.

For the detection target, the Imperial College team wanted something with a strong health impact. They envisioned a cheap, safe and fast sensor that could detect the presence of a range of human parasites in water, which would indicate to people in developing countries whether the water is safe to drink/touch – hence the project's name "Parasight"! The IC team focused on the schistosoma parasite, a neglected tropical disease (NTD) which affects 200 million people worldwide, second only to malaria in severity.

They engineered a system which allows for fast detection of a range of parasites, and may also be used as an environmental tool for mapping parasite spread. Synthetically modified *Bacillus subtilis*, a harmless gram positive soil bacterium, was used to give a clear colour read-

out upon detection of the waterborne parasites.

The team designed the project in three modules. Their detection module constitutes a brand new approach, exploiting parasite release of elastase to penetrate host skin. They synthesised a novel protein bound to *B. subtilis* cell surface, with a protruding signalling peptide attached via a protease cleavage site. When the parasite protease comes along, the signal peptide is released and activates the signalling module. To transduce the signal, the team used a quorum sensing system which they extracted from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and transplanted into *B. subtilis*. Activation of this classic two-component system induces gene-transcription and triggers the fast response module.

Cercaria (larval stage) is the most useful life-cycle stage of *Schistosoma* to target, as it would prevent the disease altogether. Cercariae are common in water, but their spatiotemporal appearance is unpredictable. With this detection method, locals or NGOs could easily check the water to see if it is infected.

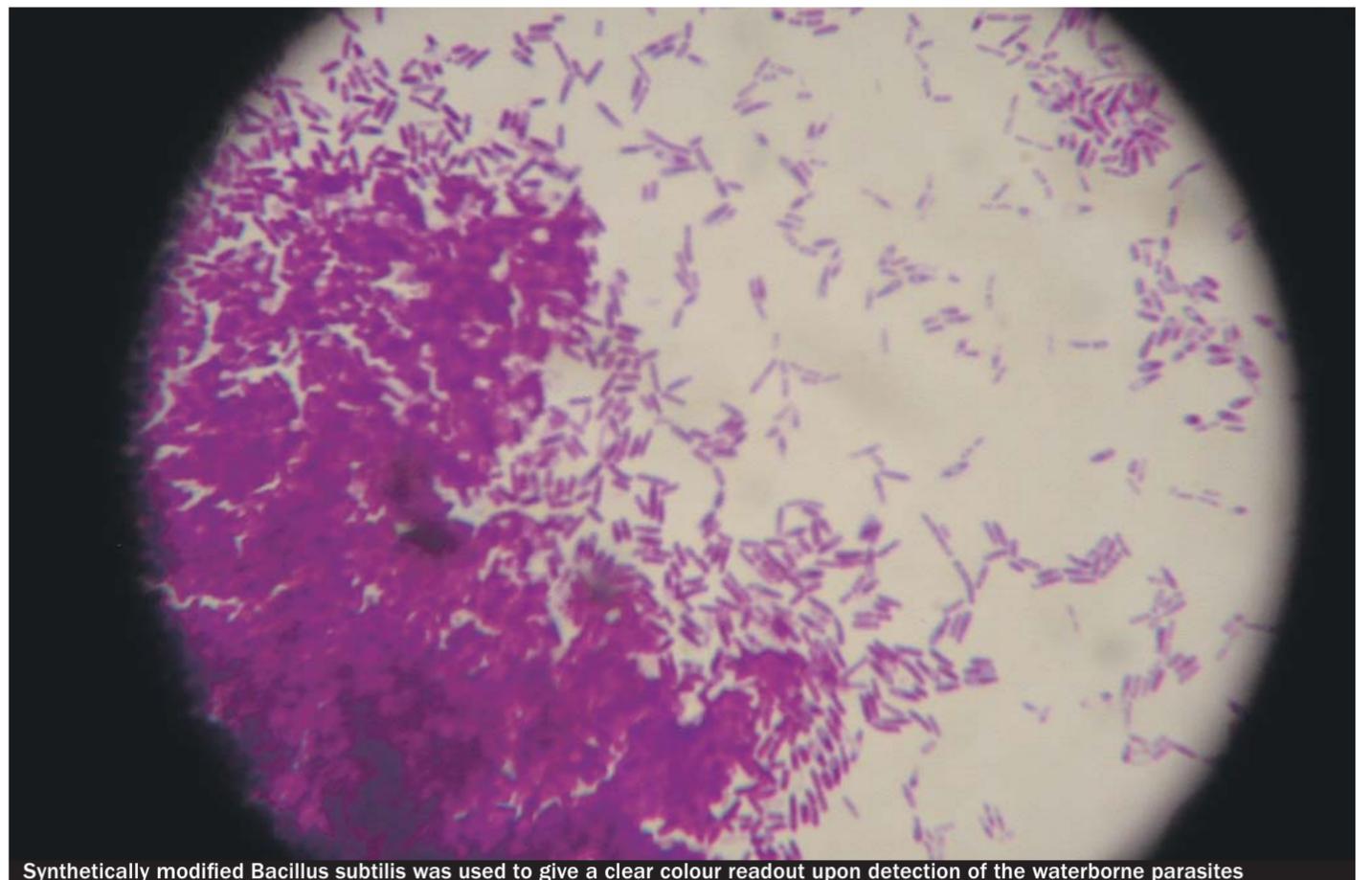
The project's design was based on the pre-infection release of elastase by cercariae, without which they would be unable to progress in their life-cycle. The cell-surface protein of *B. subtilis* has three components: an auto-inducing peptide (AIP), a linker peptide and a cell-wall binding protein (CWB). In order to activate signal transduction, the AIP must be cleaved, i.e. it cannot access its specific receptor if still attached to the surface protein. Cleavage by elastase releases the sequestered

intercellular quorum sensing signal. It is the linker which confers specificity to the surface protein; the elastase recognises a four amino-acid sequence (SWPL) included in the linker. The latter is anchored to the cell-wall by an isolated domain from the LytC protein, native to *B. subtilis*.

Cercariae do not readily release elastase in the water. They need to detect human lipids in ambient temperatures of around 37°C. However, cercarial elastase is a crucial protease for successful infection, and is thus guaranteed to be released assuming these conditions.

While an elastase has cleaved a protein linker, the team designed a resulting downstream signalling pathway. The so-called 'ComCDE' system of genes in *S. pneumoniae* signals via a linear AIP and uses a two-component signal transduction system. The ComC gene-product is CSP1 (competence-stimulating peptide-1) which is the system's AIP. CSP-1 is exported out of the cell and is detected by the CWB – sensory histidine kinase ComD. The kinase then activates response regulator ComE. This transcription factor then binds to its specific target gene to induce transcription; the team synthetically set the Tobacco Etch Virus (TEV) protease gene as target by adding a ComE binding site upstream from it.

Previous trials have been based on transcription-translation of a specific reporter molecule (e.g. GFP) which is time-consuming and might need sophisticated equipment for detection. This system is not only revolutionarily fast but it involves the expression of a protease which



Synthetically modified *Bacillus subtilis* was used to give a clear colour readout upon detection of the waterborne parasites

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acts on a pre-existing pool of substrate, yielding an output signal several orders of magnitude faster.

Catechol (2,3)-dioxygenase (C23O) is the protein product of the XylE gene. It originates from *Pseudomonas putida* and is active as a homotetramer of C23O monomers. The enzyme naturally catalyses the conversion of a colourless substrate (catechol) into a bright yellow product (2-hydroxymuconic semialdehyde) within seconds of substrate addition.

Modifying the XylE gene by fusing it to the GFP gene, they obtained GFPs fused to the N-terminus of C23O monomers. By allosteric inhibition, GFP prevents the C23O monomers from tetramerising; they hence remain inactive in the cytoplasm.

The fusion gene construct reveals the

secret of the output module's inducibility: the GFP gene is fused to the XylE gene through a protein sequence recognised and cleaved by TEV protease. Thus, when TEV is present in the cell, the GFP is cleaved off from its C23O monomer and the free monomers can tetramerise.

TEV protease is a natural viral protease. In the system, ComE transcription factors bind to their native ComCDE promoter upstream from the TEV protease gene. Since ComE is activated only when CSP1 is cleaved, TEV protease is only transcribed and translated upon detection of the *Schistosoma* parasite.

The TEV gene has high cleavage site specificity and a relatively low molecular weight (242 amino-acids) resulting in a relatively quick synthesis of the gene-product. TEV protease would then act

upon a pre-existing pool of the inactive GFP-C23O substrate in the cell. Being relatively fast, it has a high turnover rate of substrate molecules. This is the first amplification step, making the response exponential over time instead of linear. The activated C23O is itself an enzyme with a high turnover rate, meaning that colourless catechol molecules would be converted to yellow coloured products very fast. This second amplification step makes the response hyper-exponential.

The IC team also ran a series of school workshops based on NTDs. "Bridging the gap between academics and capturing the wider public's attention can achieve so much", says the team. The iGEMers even developed a software toolkit that can be run autonomously and customised to the desired input. By changing the protease recognition site

on the linker of the surface protein, any protease could be detected.

The team now hopes their system will come to good practical use. The biochemical reaction in itself is "in the box"; the skills and protocol are there for having it rapidly synthesised and ready to go. Now it needs to be incorporated into a clever device for use on the terrain. The team have envisioned a test-tube like reservoir with the transgenic *B. subtilis* colony at the bottom and a lid with a stick attached. The user would unscrew the lid and dip the stick into the water to be tested. The stick contains a foamy coat containing skin lipids which attracts cercariae in the water if present. They will release elastases, thus causing a reaction! Yellow product or not yellow product..?

Space-time cloaking possibility

James Goldsack

Scientists at Imperial College have developed a metamaterial that allows the manipulation of the speed of light as it passes over an object, 'cloaking' the object's movement, according to a paper in the *Journal of Optics*.

Previously, a team led by Professor Sir John Pendry showed how an optical invisibility cloak was viable. Now, a team led by Professor Martin McCall has mathematically extended this idea to one that conceals events.

"Light normally slows down as it enters a material, but it is theoretically possible to manipulate the light rays so

"Light normally slows down as it enters a material, but it is possible to manipulate...so that some parts speed up"

that some parts speed up and others slow down," says Prof. McCall, from the Department of Physics.

The leading half of the light speeds up and arrives before an event, whilst the trailing half is made to lag behind and arrives too late. The result is that for a brief period the event is not illuminated and escapes detection.

Such a space-time cloak would open up a temporary corridor through which energy, information, and matter could be manipulated or transported undetected.

While this technology in practice is still science fiction, there are many serious applications for the new research. Co-author Dr Paul Kinsler developed a proof of concept design using customised optical fibres, which would enable researchers to use the event cloak in signal processing and computing.

One of the greatest difficulties faced by the team was how to speed up the transmitted data without violating the laws of relativity. The researchers devised a clever material whose properties varied in both space and time, allowing the cloak to be formed.

"We're sure that there are many other possibilities opened up by our introduction of the concept of the spacetime cloak," says Prof. McCall, "but as it's still theoretical at this stage we still need to work out the concrete details for our proposed applications."

New anti-psychotic drugs in pipeline

James Goldsack

Schizophrenia could be caused by abnormal levels of neurotransmitters dopamine and glutamate, according to new research carried out at Imperial College London.

Researchers found evidence that glutamate-releasing cells in the hippocampus influence the activity of dopamine-releasing cells, which in turn are linked with causing psychosis.

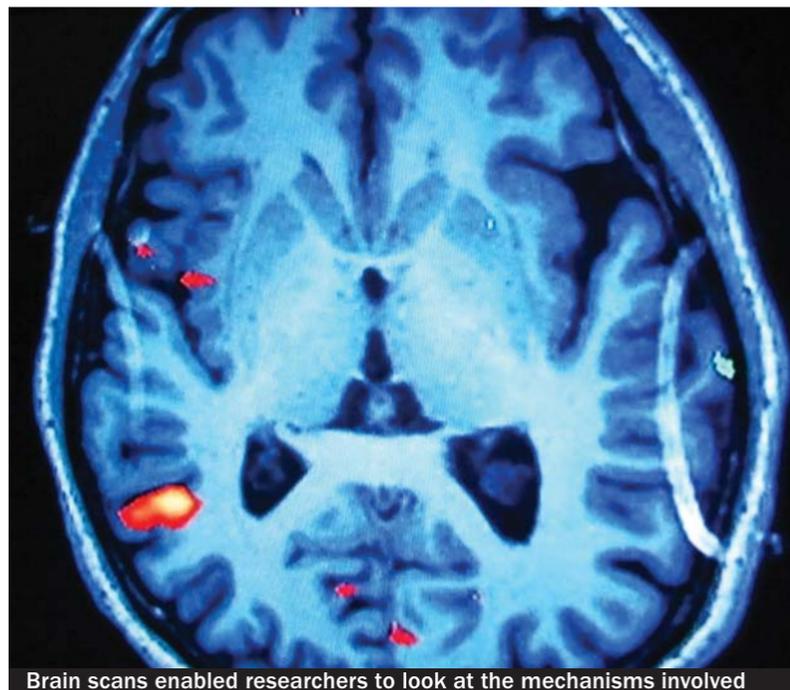
The Medical Research Council funded the research and the team scanned the brains of 16 people at-risk for psychosis and 12 healthy volunteers, to measure levels of dopamine and glutamate.

A correlation was found between the glutamate levels in the hippocampus and the dopamine levels in the brain.

This is strong evidence that there could be a link between glutamate and psychosis in many patients.

Current medication used to treat schizophrenia blocks the effects of dopamine in the brain and can have serious side effects. Some side effects are bad enough to stop the patient taking the medication.

This research suggests that drugs that interfere with glutamate signals in the brain may be able to prevent psychotic symptoms in schizophrenia sufferers, hopefully with less negative side effects.



Brain scans enabled researchers to look at the mechanisms involved



Washing your hands is also rumoured to work...

Light and death for hospital superbugs

Charlie Harvey

A new technology that uses light beams to kill bacteria could be used in hospitals to stop the spread of MRSA and other antibiotic resistant bugs, say scientists from the University of Strathclyde.

The technology, known as HINS light, uses visible light wavelengths to excite molecules within bacteria, producing highly reactive chemicals which are lethal to bacteria yet mild enough to be completely harmless to patients and staff.

Professor Scott MacGregor, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, said "HINS-light is a safe treatment that can be eas-

ily automated to provide continuous disinfection of wards and other areas of the clinical environment. The pervasive nature of light permits the treatment of air and all visible surfaces, regardless of accessibility."

The team are hopeful the new technology could become the foundation for a hospital-wide decontamination system, by using the HINS light alongside traditional hospital lighting.

Clinical trials at Glasgow Royal Infirmary have shown that the HINS light provided significantly greater reductions of bacterial pathogens in the hospital environment than could be achieved by cleaning and disinfection alone.

TECHNOLOGY

Free App of the Week

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Android - Urbanspoon for Android



The Urbanspoon Android app works the same as the iPhone app, but won't run on all Android phones. If it's a no go, head to urbanspoon.com/m instead.

Samsung Galaxy Tab: Finally a real iPad killer?

Kin-Hing Lo puts the Galaxy Tab through its paces

The Galaxy Tab is a 7-inch Android-based tablet device from Samsung. It's been dubbed the first serious competitor to the current king of the slates, Apple's iPad. But does the the Galaxy Tab really have what it takes to top wishlists this Christmas or will the iPad reign supreme? Read on to find out.

The Galaxy Tab has a clean design with the hallmarks of something that came out of Cupertino. The tablet features a 7-inch TFT touchscreen, which looks great: it's bright, gives clear and high-resolution imagery, and is responsive. The screen is multi-touch enabled so you can use gestures such as "pinch to zoom" for web browsing, newspaper reading and photo viewing. The device has a hardware volume rocker, expandable memory using a micro-SD card (up to 32GB), and a SIM card slot for 3G browsing and phone calls. A headphone socket is available for the bundled handsfree kit and a docking port at the bottom of the device allows you to connect it to your computer or a hardware keyboard.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs has publicly slated 7-inch tablets, such as the Galaxy Tab, saying that they're not big enough to give a good touchscreen tablet experience and that's why Apple went for a 9.7-inch screen for the iPad. As the surface area of the screen scales with the square of the diagonal length, the Galaxy Tab works out to be half the size of the iPad. With both products costing roughly the same, you might ask why anyone would buy the smaller device. I'd argue that a 7-inch tablet is better because it's more portable: it fits snugly into my jeans pocket. The device is also lighter (the Galaxy Tab is 380g compared to 730g for the iPad) so it's ideal for use on the go.

Samsung are marketing the Tab as a portable multimedia and entertainment device. It plays music in all the common formats and high definition video (up to 1080p), which looks pretty good on the large screen even though it's not HD itself. Applications are also bundled for reading e-books, magazines and newspapers such as the Financial Times. Google Maps looks great and the free turn-by-turn GPS navigation is a winner on this screen. The camera lets the Tab down though -- it's only 3 megapixels and takes pretty poor quality photos.

One of the interesting features of the Tab is that it's a fully-functioning mobile phone too! I must admit to getting some funny looks round campus when I actually used it as a phone... it could easily be something straight out of a Dom Joly sketch! But in reality it's more practical to use the Tab as a phone than you'd think. Calls play out over the speakerphone by default (which limits the privacy of your conversations) or through the bundled handsfree kit. Reception seemed pretty good as the de-



vice probably fits a bigger antenna – I was able to pick up signal in the basement of Blackett where my HTC Desire couldn't.

Performance-wise, the Tab was fairly smooth in operation and rarely lagged even with HD video or 3D games. The 4,000mAh battery gave me about two days of typical daily usage as an e-book reader, phone and the occasional game of Angry Birds during lectures. This compares fairly well against the typical 3-6 hours you get out of a laptop or a day with a smartphone.

Overall, the Samsung Galaxy Tab is a great device. It's halfway between a phone and a netbook – small enough to fit in your pocket and large enough to comfortably read magazines, books and watch videos. For these tasks the Tab gives a real first-rate experience. But it's not ideal for everything – if you want to write essays and lab reports on the go, you're better off with a netbook or Macbook Air. And if you're unlikely to take your tablet out of the house, the iPad's larger screen could still be a winner.

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PRESENTS



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BUSINESS

Business Editors: **Sina Ataherian**
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News Summary

Government to measure happiness



I'd measure her as 'somewhat' happy...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is to start measuring quality of life in the UK from next April.

The decision to follow in the footsteps of such economic powerhouses as Bhutan was announced on Tuesday by David Cameron, who gave no indication of how 'well-being' would be measured but stated that current indicators would be insufficient.

The ONS currently measures indicators such as economic growth, unemployment, crime and mortality.

David Cameron insisted that the next well-being index would not distract from these other functions, maintaining, "I am clear that our most urgent priority is to get the economy moving, create jobs and spread opportunity to everyone."

He justified the policy by claiming that "just as we can create the climate for business to thrive - by cutting taxes, slashing red tape and so on - so we can create a climate in this country that is more family-friendly and more conducive to the good life."

There are suggestions that the main purpose of the new statistics would be to divert attention from a still stagnant economy.

France has already started work on a similar policy, headed by former World Bank chief economist Joseph Stiglitz who is to come up with new ways of measuring economic growth to account for broader changes in 'social progress.'

British banks in discussions to cut bonuses

Four of Britain's biggest banks are discussing a plan to pay out smaller bonuses this year and to increase lending to small businesses.

According to insiders familiar with the negotiations, the Financial Services Authority is involved in the talks and a joint statement is expected before Christmas.

The banks that are involved are Barclays, HSBC, Royal Bank of Scotland and Standard Chartered. The deal is seen as coming amid pressure from the Government, which now owns large stakes in British banks, including controlling shares in the Royal Bank of Scotland.

It is also being seen as a potential forerunner to increased intervention in the sector, with the new Coalition already committed to enforcing the previous Labour Government's policy of forcing banks to reveal the names of any executives making over £1 million in bonuses.

Rifts reappear less than a fortnight after G-20 pact

Businesses and investors given new causes for concern



Ouch, brown shoes... bad move bro. Well o.k. I'll concede that the handkerchief in the breast pocket saves the ensemble slightly

Lingxi Huang

After meeting in Seoul two weeks ago, governments from the G-20 group of the world's 19 largest economies plus the EU agreed to halt competitive currency devaluation in hopes of allaying fears of an all-out currency war. The G-20 finance ministers vowed to address tensions in the currency markets.

The Seoul Summit was only the latest in a series of such meetings and aimed to provide a forum for heads of government from the member countries, central bankers, finance ministers and institutions such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) to discuss key issues like fighting poverty and building global financial safety nets. In addition to the G8 members, G20 also boasts an expanded membership list that includes emerging economies such as China and Russia. Against the backdrop of growing unease over the potential impact of a currency war, the leaders of the twenty member countries agreed to a broad goal of containing the rise of large current account deficits or surpluses.

The agreement seemed then to be a temporary truce and now, less than two weeks since the warm hand-shakes and smiles, several governments have resumed 'talking down' the price of their currencies, with a potential view towards further monetary easing. The "Seoul Action Plan" was reminiscent of many previous, toothless, international monetary agreements with its promise to "pursue the full range of policies conducive to reducing excessive imbalances." The pledge made during the Pittsburgh G-20 summit last year had a similar ring to it, and countries have yet to uphold it with concrete policies. Now in the aftermath of the financial crisis, politicians are even less likely

to muster the political will to implement policies to address trade imbalances for the fear of angering domestic exporters.

Furthermore, unlike supranational organizations like the World Bank, the G-20 has no real power to back its promises. While countries can agree on a vague sense of direction such as "correcting the trade imbalances", they cannot lay out specific policies to be implemented in order to achieve a measurable outcome. The US, for example, has proposed "indicative guidelines" for current account balances. This move immediately came under attack from ministers in countries such as Germany and China, which have large surpluses.

The costs of inaction are high: if countries across the board cheapen their currency at the same rate, no one will gain an advantage over others but everyone will face inflationary pressures that will threaten their economy. Devaluation will also have a net negative impact on the economy as importers suffer from higher prices of goods denominated in foreign currencies. The countries are now trapped in a classic 'Prisoners' Dilemma': while every country will gain if the promises are kept, the high payoff gained from unilateral devaluation will eventually cause a race to become the first country to resume lowering its currency value. This prompts other countries to react with similar measures, and everyone will be worse off as a result.

Moreover, emerging countries that stood by the market mechanisms rather than resorting to currency control will be hard pressed to stem the upward spiral of their currency. As the value of US Dollars weakened due to the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing measures, capital flowed elsewhere as investors looked for higher yields. The destinations of such capital

outflow are mainly the emerging economies, destabilising their economy by causing currencies to appreciate.

Unless the Federal Reserve eases the downward pressure on its currency, the pressure on other nations for debasement is unlikely to abate. Even though the US government claimed that it would never seek to weaken the US Dollars as a tool to gain competitive advantage, the effects of its monetary policy will be keenly felt elsewhere, especially since the Federal Reserve embarked on another round of money printing a few weeks ago.

On the other hand, the G-20 is not completely impotent when it comes to stopping the currency war. The meeting promotes a global network of key policy makers and their staff, which can contribute greatly to the coordination of macroeconomic policies, especially at times of great uncertainty. There is a growing consensus amongst the G-20 leaders that international economic cooperation is necessary given the growing interdependence of the countries. France, the next chair of the group, is optimistic that it will have growing clout as the main platform for international governmental co-ordination.

It remains to be seen how effective the G20 summit will be at tackling the issue of trade imbalances. By actively involving the emerging economies in multilateral dialogue, it may have the highest chance of establishing a global framework for monetary policies since Bretton Woods in 1944. However, international agreements of this kind on their own rarely mean much. Only when the G-20 makes real progress on cooling the current currency conflicts will it earn any credibility as a body capable of solving global economic problems.



**Ooo-er, I say. There's no need to
rush on **Friday morning****

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every Friday. Now get dressed you naughty boy!**



POLITICS

The world beyond College walls



Gambia

Gambia has severed all diplomatic and economic ties with Iran and expelled all Iranian diplomats and state representatives.

Gambian officials did not offer any explanation for the move, which Iran claims was taken under US pressure. The recent interception of Iranian arms bound for Gambia in violation of UN Security Council resolutions may have played a role in Gambia's decision. The decision to sever all ties with Iran could be costly for the West African nation as several Iranian funded projects, including a £1.3 billion agreement to supply Gambia with heavy and commercial vehicles, will now come to an end.



South Korea

South Korea says it will retaliate with missile strikes against the North if faced with "further provocations", after an exchange of fire in which two South Korean marines and civilians were killed. 15 South Korean soldiers and 3 civilians were also hurt in the incident when the North bombarded Yeonpyeong Island with artillery. The island lies near the disputed Northern Limit Line which serves as a de facto border between the two Koreas. South Korean President Lee called the incident an attack on South Korean territory and deployed military jets to Yeonpyeong Island. The North meanwhile disputes the incident claiming that it was in self defence after South Korea fired shells into its territory. North Korea is facing a looming succession to ailing leader Kim Jong Il and the recent aggression could be an attempt by his heir Kim Jong Un to burnish his credentials amongst the military hardliners.



Canada

British Columbia's Supreme Court has begun hearings on whether Canada's anti-polygamy law violates the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Constitution. The case will focus on a breakaway Mormon sect which has practised multiple marriages since the 1940s. Canada has so far declined to prosecute polygamists, fearing that the 19th century anti-polygamy law could be declared unconstitutional. 36 witnesses, including women in polygamous marriages, are expected to testify in court. British Columbian officials want to pursue polygamy cases, saying that it causes serious social harm and has no place in Canadian society. Supporters of polygamy, however, contend that it is their right to form the type of families they want as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

North Korea attacks – an act of desperation?

North Korea's unprovoked attack this Tuesday on a South Korean island, just 120km from Seoul, threatened to break the fragile peace with its southern neighbour. Resulting in the death of two soldiers and two civilians, the artillery assault was denounced by the UN as 'one of the

worst violations' of the armistice which ended the Korean War in 1953. But far from showing strength, many analysts are suggesting that the attacks signal the final thrashes of a dying beast. Rumours abound that North Korea's aging ruler, Kim Jong Il, is in poor health and many have questioned his choice of his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, who is perceived

as a weak choice to head the world's fourth largest standing army.

Writing for Felix before Tuesday's attacks, Lord David Alton (chair of the All Party Committee on North Korea) sheds some revealing light on the state of the isolated country, following his recent visit there, and suggests a path to peace.

Standing tall but crumbling inside: Lord David Alton of Liverpool

The North Korean State has been constructed on the ideology of Juche - total self reliance: "man is the master of everything and decides everything." Some people describe this as a religion without God.

In the heart of Pyongyang, on the banks of the city's Taedong River, opposite Kim Il Sung Square, stands the Juche Tower. Completed in 1982, to celebrate Kim Il Sung's 70th birthday, at 170 metres the Tower stands marginally taller than the Washington Monument, on which it appears to be modelled. To my eye, it appears more like the Tower of Babel – the construction of which is described in the Book of Genesis and revolves around man's determination to compete with God. Whilst making my third visit to North Korea, I was taken to see the Juche Tower.

Perhaps symbolising both the current condition of North Korea's economy, and its desperate need for more than self reliance, my embarrassed guide explained that we could not ascend, as debris was falling from within, onto the elevator. The situation, he explained, was very dangerous – it seemed an appropriately graphic metaphor.

No nation wants to be in thrall to others, especially one that experienced half a century of Japanese occupation, but isolation has not served North Korea well.

Beyond North Korea's sloganeering rhetoric and the proud braggadocio is a nation which senses change in the air.

The Soviet model is discredited; its powerful neighbour, China, is in the throes of a liberalising revolution; and North Korea knows that self reliance will not be enough.

Senior officials, including the Speaker of their Assembly, Choe Tae Bok, insisted to me that over the next two years the new priorities are "prosperity and dignity" with a "unified, denuclearised Korea" as their first objective. The West should listen carefully and respond appropriately. The alternative does not bear thinking about.



Pyongyang – crumbling from within?

2010 is the sixtieth anniversary of the Korean War – which claimed the lives of an estimated 3 million Korean people. Almost 38,000 American and British soldiers died, along with 183,000 Chinese.

The DMZ, at the 38th parallel which divides the country, bristles with weapons and, in a country where malnutrition is wide-spread, North Korea diverts its meagre resources into sustaining the world's fourth largest standing army of one million men. The situation is made even more dangerous by the addition of a nuclear capability.

Since the 1953 Armistice there have been intermittent spats and skirmishes – some, like the sinking of the South Korean vessel, Cheonan, in March this year, with loss of life; others, like the recent shots fired across the border represent bellicose sabre rattling.

For nearly sixty years there has been neither war nor peace – merely a shaky stop-gap armistice. The US has no diplomatic presence – although Britain opened an embassy a decade ago.

I was in the country in my capacity as Chairman of the British All-Party Parliamentary Committee on North Korea – founded following my first visit in 2003. Three years earlier Britain had created diplomatic relations and we have had an embassy in the country ever since. Our Ambassadors and parliamentarians have been pursuing a painstaking and patient strategy of constructive critical engagement.

This needs to be taken to its logical conclusion: a new Peace Conference, jointly convened by a neutral nation and by a combatant

– Switzerland and the UK, perhaps – and held in Beijing, could enable the North and South to formally end the War, and to conclude a Peace Treaty. This would transform the situation; and breathe new life into the six party talks on denuclearisation.

Throughout the Cold War, the West countered Soviet aggression with formidable defences.

Simultaneously, through the Helsinki Process, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, elevated discourse on human rights and fundamental freedoms. Through engagement, they encouraged economic and political reform. Today on the Korean peninsula we need "Helsinki, with a Korean face."

Writing in "Peace While Advancing Rights: The Untried Approach to North Korea" the American analyst, David Hawk, also advocates this approach.

Without over exaggerating the outcomes, or slipping into a self congratulatory naivety, over the past seven years I have doggedly raised questions of political and religious freedom and human rights with the North Koreans.

And I have witnessed some modest developments – the building of a Russian Orthodox church, the opening of a Protestant seminary, and significant English language teaching programmes in the universities and schools. But, in a year when there have been further reports of the execution of Christians in North Korea, we should not become complacent – and continue to work for the sort of change that brought the peaceful collapse of the the Berlin Wall.

Given that the United Nations say that 300,000 people still languish in North Korean camps, many because of religious convictions, I am particularly struck by the positive impact of faith-based initiatives and the determination of Christians to remain engaged.

The brand new Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST) established by the charismatic Dr. James Chin Kyung Kim, is a fine example.

And he is not alone: an American Catholic priest, Fr. Gerry Hammond, has now legally entered North Korea on 43 occasions, taking life saving medicines and equipment to combat tuberculosis; other projects aim to increase rice yields and harvests.

Men like Fr. Gerry and James Kim represent the way in which Korea can move on. As the debris falling from within the Juche Tower underlines, to ignore a crumbling structure is to create an even more dangerous situation.



Debating Israel and Palestine

Navid Nabijou

Last Tuesday IC Debating Society, Israeli Society and Palestinian Society collaborated, bringing together four prominent speakers to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict under the title: "The Debate for Peace".

In his closing remarks, Dan Judelson, former chair of Jews for Justice for Palestinians, echoed the feelings of many in the room by describing the event as "one of the most good-natured discussions I've ever had on the subject." While such debates often tend to regress into partisan heckling, Tuesday's event managed, for the most part, to develop a more ma-

ture dialogue. In addition to the speakers, the organisers are to thank for this who, anticipating the difficulties of such an event, took steps to ensure the format was as non-adversarial as possible.

Mr. Judelson was joined by Ran Gidor of the Israeli embassy in London, Ghada Karmi of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies and Joel Braunold of One-Voice, a movement working towards a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Unsurprisingly, the major issues such as settlements, security and refugees featured prominently. Mr. Braunold lamented that "at the moment all Palestinians can see is settlements expand-

ing." But Mr. Gidor countered these arguments, referring to past experience with disengagement in Gaza and stating: "No Israeli government which is democratically elected is going to voluntarily commit political suicide by evacuating the settlements without getting a peace treaty in return."

On the subject of occupation, Mr. Braunold said near the beginning of the debate: "Israel will not enjoy security as long as it is occupying the Palestinians. It cannot." Israeli security – an issue many of her citizens feel very strongly about – was raised on a number of occasions. Mr. Braunold maintained that occupation and security were "two sides

of the same coin." And in his closing remarks, Mr. Gidor stated plainly: "occupation is wrong."

The debate covered issues too numerous and too complex to cover adequately in this space. To name but a few: the power asymmetry between the two sides, the role of the United States in the peace process and the plausibility of a single-state solution. This is not, and nor should it be, a comprehensive report of the event; you just "had to be there."

At the start of the discussion, Mr. Judelson stressed the importance of people putting their individual narratives aside in order to make progress towards a workable compromise. However, as the

debate wore on, sectarian disputes over history, from both sides, started to take hold. Mr. Braunold interjected with a sincere "plea" to the audience: "There are people with different opinions in here, and you will never be able to agree on the history of things ... Stop point scoring. It won't help anyone."

This captures the essence of what made the debate so successful. There was a fair amount of "point scoring" from both sides; but there was also a good deal of real, honest, constructive dialogue; dialogue aimed at a lasting peace agreement, rather than a temporary feeling of moral superiority. No side "won", but everyone gained something.

A gimmick or new era of transparency?

Hassan Joudi assesses the coalition's new openness website

Earlier this month, David Cameron launched a new government "transparency" website as part of his Big Society plans for Britain.

Visitors to www.number10.gov.uk/transparency will be welcomed by three live items: "Business plans", "Who does what in Whitehall" and "Who ministers are meeting." The opening sentence boldly declares "We want to be the most open and transparent government in the world."

Ever since the MPs expenses scandal in 2009, "changing politics" or "cleaning up Westminster" have become oft-repeated phrases. The episode has been disastrous for Britain's confidence in its elected representatives. But could this "transparency" website initiative start to turn back the tide?

It can be argued Britain is an already extremely transparent nation, with websites like www.TheyWorkForYou.com that present what each and every MP says in parliamentary debates, their voting record and expenses claimed. It works by employing open source code to aggregate the content from Hansard,

the official record of debates in the Houses of Parliament.

In addition, www.Data.gov.uk is a government initiative launched in January 2010, designed to link data published by public bodies in one place, ranging from local police crime statistics to money spent by NHS Primary Care Trusts.

Away from the web, legislation like the Freedom of Information Act 2000 introduced by the previous Labour government (came into force in 2005) has arguably brought a whole new level of transparency to British politics. It allows members of the public and businesses to request access to information held by certain public authorities which is not freely available, and despite the numerous exemption clauses the act contains, has exposed many revealing facts that were formally state secrets. After all, the MPs expenses scandal began from a FOIA request by a journalist in February 2008.

So is this new government "transparency" website anything new? Perhaps the business plans are. The publishing of "business plans" for all government

departments represents the fulfilling of a Conservative Party manifesto promise.

This was broadly to "publish data so the public can hold government to account."

This was among many others Big Society ideas expounded by the Conservative Party in the run up to the May 2010 general election, including a Big Society Bank to provide finance to charities and NGOs, and a National Citizen Service for 16 year olds.

"We're shining a bright light of transparency on everything government does," was among David Cameron's carefully crafted sound bites in the website launch speech. The new standards for transparency the government has set itself are certainly greater than anything ever seen before in the UK. To select a few examples, from now on all central government spending above £25,000 is to be published, as are all tender documents for government contracts over £10,000 and the organograms (organisational charts) of each department in a common format. The Financial Times described the coalition as "creating a rod for its own back." Moreover, there are further transparency standards to be

introduced in January 2011, including the publication of all local government

The new standards are greater than anything ever seen before in the UK

spending above £500.

It is hoped that the mass of published data will spur enterprising NGOs, think-tanks, charities and companies to take hold of this data and use it, manipulate it and campaign for the change they want government to do. In theory, all these private institutions will be engaged in the public debate, whilst also pressuring for high standards of performance in public services.

Viewing Britain on the global stage, the country is apparently the 20th least corrupt nation. This is according to the 2010 CPI (Corruption Perceptions Index), a ranking of all 178 countries in the world produced every year by

Transparency International, a respected Berlin-based NGO that campaigns to reduce levels of public sector corruption.

On the About Us page of TheyWorkForYou, their stated aim is to help bridge the gap between we the people, and our MPs, in the belief that "there is little wrong with Parliament that a healthy mixture of transparency and public engagement won't fix." In a way, this new "transparency" website is perhaps trying to extend this principle from Parliament to government departments and the civil service too.

Just a few week's old, an optimistic view of this new "transparency" website would be to call it a revolution, a new era in British politics and bringing governance into the 21st century. Pessimists would usher it away as nothing new, just more data on top of the thousands of PDFs already published on government department websites, or a copy of Labour's Public Service Agreements under a different name. But still in its infancy, only time will tell how useful a resource www.number10.gov.uk/transparency will become.

Comment Editor: Anna Perman

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COMMENT

FELIX

Justice is a powerful word and it must not be misused

Justice is a powerful word. It can transcend borders to liberate the wrongly accused, to rescue the vulnerable and to topple governments. If used cynically, however, it can provide a veneer of respectability where it is not deserved.

One of the senior editors on this newspaper is an Iraqi Muslim; another is an Israeli Jew. We understand what it means to feel threatened on campus, and know how hurtful it can be to have people presume to speak in your name. Consequently, the purpose of this editorial is not to attack Imperial's Islamic Society, but rather to defend its Muslim students.

With Islamic societies around the country under increasing scrutiny from official quarters, Muslim students are right to feel vulnerable and targeted. The world is clearly suspicious and worried of what goes on behind the closed doors of British campuses, and so long as the enemy is seen to be at the gates, the temptation will be to pull up the drawbridge and man the battlements.

But further isolation is not the answer. National and religious societies have a responsibility towards their members to ensure that they represent all views in an open, positive atmosphere. Such societies are in the unique position of having a membership which could not be more different when it comes to age, choice of degree, background or political leaning. And yet when the society speaks, it speaks for everyone. The bonus of having large numbers of students who are reliant on you for help and pastoral care brings with it a responsibility to represent their views with sensitivity.

There has been little of this inclusive spirit visible on campus over the past five days. This week, coinciding as it did with National Interfaith Week, could have been an unparalleled opportunity for openness and dialogue. A chance to show critics that Islamic societies are decidedly not, as is frequently and unfairly claimed, sites of radicalisation and extremism.

Instead, Muslim students on campus were presented with a series of events dedicated to a decidedly one-sided view of justice in Islam. These consisted of talks on the exploitation of the third world, human rights violations in Gaza and Guantanamo, and the Islamic view of capitalism.

Are these the injustices that Muslims feel need combating? Not the genocide in the Sudan, or the murder of Kurds in Turkey? Not the victimising of Muslim women and homosexuals in Iran and Saudi Arabia or the limitations imposed on democracy in Syria and Egypt? These are issues that transcend political viewpoint or selective apathy: if you claim to associate yourself with the concept of Justice, these are questions you must answer.

Losing proportion

Today's strident, aggressive atheists want to fit under the umbrella of 'secular humanism' – but do they deserve to?



Gilead Amit

Towards the end of my second year at Imperial, I was approached by the chair of what was then the Atheist and Agnostic Society with a view to becoming his successor as official Union Antichrist. Owing to a number of other commitments that would have made Beelzebub blanch, I regretfully declined. Much to my chagrin, the society has since done likewise.

Now, older and wiser as the specialists suppose me to be, I look back on that decision with tremendous gratitude towards my former self. I hasten to add that this has nothing to do with the ludicrous suggestion that I have since found god, nor to the frankly terrifying suggestion that god has since found me.

My issue with any grouping of individuals based on a common atheism is that such a grouping entirely misses the point. Atheism is not a way of life. It is not a mindset. It is not a school of thought. Individuals for whom the refutation of a creator is an overriding preoccupation seem to me to be leading narrow and unimaginative lives. At any rate, certainly no broader or more imaginative than those who are preoccupied with proving the creator's existence.

Atheism, for all its importance in this 21st Century world of Dawkins, Hitchens and Ratzinger, is no more than a consequence of having a logically trained mind. Inevitable, but in no way noteworthy. To claim that a non-belief in god should somehow be the dust jacket illustration for post-Enlightenment humanism is to show a tragically warped view of what is contained in the blurb.

The rational thinker will not find sufficient evidence for the existence of a god – any god – in the world as we know it. This is hardly a unique conclusion, as they will also fail to find evidence for gnomes, ogres, unicorns, smurfs or any trace of humour in BBC 2's *Miranda*. The need to trumpet any one, logically unremarkable stop along this mental highway seems to me to undermine the

Illustration by Ben Kennedy



If you turn your back on those you disagree with, take care which way you end up facing...

sense behind taking the journey.

A credible justification for this preference arises from the comparative lack of extremism displayed by believers in smurfs or gnomes – although people who find Miranda Hart amusing are capable of any monstrosity. Nonetheless, it is true that the ubiquity of religious belief in America still precludes the election of an openly atheistic President, and accusations of blasphemy can still cause writers and cartoonists to run for cover.

None of that interests me for the moment. This piece is unlikely to reach the depths of the Bible Belt, and my charming though prolix style is unlikely to win me over any supporters in the Vatican. The only people that matter to me are you – the readers, and the only issue I feel comfortable addressing is the tenor of debate on campus.

And as far as I'm concerned, something somewhere has gone terribly wrong with the way self-styled 'secular humanists' deal with their religious confrères. Lean back in your chairs for a moment, and join me on a little thought experiment. Not to worry – won't take a minute. Which would you rather be: a lone atheist in a group of religious students, or a lone Christian, say, who has fallen in with Dawkinsians? Which would make you feel more comfortable? Where, to use a loathsome weasel word, would you feel that you were being *respected*?

Were I asking this question at the height of Torquemada's excesses in Spain, or in the presence of the sinister cronies of medievalist ayatollahs, I would perhaps expect a different answer. But among today's enthusiastic guard-

Atheism is not a way of life. It is not a mindset. It is not a school of thought. It is a consequence of a rational mind – inevitable, but not unique

ians of rationalism there is an unforgivable aggression towards those espousing the supernatural or the spiritual.

The sad truth is that we are not automata capable of making decisions based entirely on a sequence of logical decisions. We gloriously and subjectively prefer yellow to red, choose to listen to Verdi over Wagner, and irrationally love our partners more than the billions of alternatives the world has to offer. These are not decisions we can justify or explain – and so long as we are aware of this demon in the machinery there is no reason to suspect we are any the poorer for it.

Humanism at its most fundamental level embraces the individual over the organisation. Our right to be free of overarching religious dogmas or political affiliations, and our duty to respect each other in this one life we possess.

It saddens me that those who claim to be motivated by such sentiments are so blindly set on neglecting them when it gives them a chance to sneer at others. One does not become a bigger person by knocking down someone else's god – one becomes a bigger person by throttling one's own ego.

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

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

COMMENT

Geekiness goes beyond gaming



Angry Geek

“Here’s the thing; videogames are cool now.”

This week I played some videogames. You might think that this isn’t particularly announcement-worthy in an age of Farmville and Bejewelled. On the face of it, videogames are part of our culture now. But read a gaming fansite or web forum and you’d be forgiven for thinking we were in the middle of a cultural apartheid.

Does anyone actually care about videogames any more? I’m talking about the giggling disdain that used to be poured on people who play them. I’m not sure this actually exists any more, and weirdly, the gaming hardcore seem to be pinning for its return. Mike Channell wrote on the Official XBox Magazine Blog that “Games won’t get you the girl - yet” last week. The piece is a genuinely unbelievable anecdote about meeting a ‘reasonably cute’ girl (so kind, Mike) at a game launch party.

Bearing in mind that Miss Above Average Looks was attending a party designed to celebrate a videogame, Mike claims she was surprised and disgusted to learn what Mike did for a living. If she really was surprised, then that’s

some remarkable ignorance on her part. Maybe she thought the party was celebrating some new, very interactive film or something. Mike goes on to explain how horrible she was, and then remark that her kind is ‘dying out’, in a rather ominous sentence. Then it’s time for the rallying call. Over to Mike for this bit:

“We’re not there yet, though, and you and I are just leading the charge. No matter how cool it is that more people are gaming...there are still going to be people who think we’re worthless human belly button fluff. But you know what? They’re wrong and we’re right. Remember that.”

Please bear in mind that Mike reviews videogames in exchange for a monthly salary. He isn’t leading a guerilla resistance movement or fighting against social oppression. Instead of playing games in the evening, someone is willing to pay him to do it during the day, on the condition he writes about them a bit. That’s it. He closes with this killer shot: “Farewell angry lady, I hope one day you’re having as much fun as I am.”

ZING. Don’t hold out, Mike! Go for the jugular!

Here’s the thing; videogames are cool now. Almost everyone plays them, and very few people genuinely would be disgusted to meet someone who wrote about them for a living. Of course, that gave gamers an identity: The Underdog. Now that’s gone, it seems some of them - particularly journalists, for whom this role generated a lot of material - are realising that role hasn’t been replaced with something exciting or sexy. They’re now just ‘dude who plays videogames’.

So this week, readers, I played videogames. That’s it. Maybe you read a book. I respect your choice of entertainment and don’t wish to bring any judgement against you. However, if you see any Mike Channells out there this week, be sure to round them up and execute them on sight. The only thing making gaming unpopular these days are the overcompensating twunts who thought it would always be that way.

Are you, or is someone you know, Mike Channell? Do you know someone affected by Mike Channell? Feel free not to get in touch at angrygeek@googlemail.com

Three lambs on the shirt



Charles Betts

“England fans are as deluded as the Apprentice candidates”

Barack Obama has something in common with the England Football team. For good or bad, he made politics interesting again during the 2008 Presidential campaign. Yet since he has been in power, his approval ratings have started to drop as people realise with just how unreachable their levels of expectation were.

Meanwhile, at every World Cup or European Championship, and each time England hires a new manager the entire country cries “Football’s coming home!” the inevitable ensues, as England fall embarrassingly far of their ambitions. The fans are as deluded as the Apprentice candidates.

The final straw came last Wednesday when France beat a dismal three lions 2-1 on English turf, at Wembley.

This summer, France had the worst World Cup of all football powerhouses - after only qualifying thanks to the hand of Thierry Henry. They mustered only one point in the group stages, losing to lightweights Mexico and South Africa. The players went on strike (it is their national sport) boycotting a training session, and their best striker Nicolas Anelka was sent home like a naughty school boy.

That England only had a marginally

better World Cup is not the issue. It is their respective responses to a tournament as poor as the latest Justin Bieber single that are markedly different.

The French players apologised to the fans. Manager Raymond Domenech was swiftly ushered out, and in his place came Laurent Blanc. In his first game in charge, Blanc suspended every player from the World Cup squad as a collective punishment. Wednesday’s victory was another step towards the team’s gradual renewal.

England responded to a dismal sojourn in South Africa by keeping Fabio Capello in charge. Not because they had confidence in his abilities, but because he was too expensive to dismiss. On a £6 million/year salary, the Italian would cost the FA £10 million to sack. By comparison, the French Football Federation pays Blanc around £900,000/year. For the record, Barack Obama earns circa £250,000/year - who do you think represents the best value for money?

It is incredulous that the FA are foolish enough to think they can win a trophy by throwing money at an Italian who can barely speak English, has a strained relationship with the players, and has done little to rejuvenate a stale team since taking over from Steve McLaren. Capello’s club record aside, he has no internation-

al pedigree and has failed to instill any freshness into the squad.

Managers aside, football teams cannot win big trophies without the best goalkeepers. Or to paraphrase Jose Mourinho, you cannot make the best omelettes without the best eggs. Spain, the current World Champions, boast two of the world’s finest keepers - one who plays for Real Madrid, the other for Barcelona. England have a dearth of decent goalies, and the first-choice keepers for the top three Premier League teams are not English. The same applies with strikers. England can only boast Wayne Rooney, who failed to score at the World Cup. Crouch, Defoe, and C. Cole are not world class - they lack, forgive the expression, the X factor. They are perennial underachievers, the footballing equivalent of Tim Henman.

The team will remain unchanged right up until the end of Euro 2012. Whether this continuity will bring them closer together and improve performances, or just prolong the inevitable string of substandard results remains to be seen. One thing is for certain - in the short term, the fans will continue to boo, much to Wayne Rooney’s pathetic chagrin.

So much for the “The Audacity of Hope”, it is all rather more “The Delusion of Hope.”

Don’t be a James Blunt...

Anyone can claim to have saved the world. I stopped the toast from going that little bit too brown this morning. I don’t know it yet, but this could have saved the world.

James Blunt has claimed that he stopped World War III from happening. Single handedly, on his own, and with no other input. Somehow I doubt that the British high command would have delegated the whole decision of attacking Russian troops in the Balkans to a warbling and arrogant crooner. If they did, then this makes me feel for the quality of our beloved armed forces. If every captain in the army was going to get a little bit too cocksure on patrol and release something into the world comparable to fingernails being dragged down a blackboard, then I’m surprised there aren’t more deserters. ‘Beautiful’ being played at full pitch as I try to keep the peace is more likely to make me scream in anguish and turn the gun on myself rather than shoot any Russian troops. So maybe he has a very tentative point. As tentative a point as a hooker has a choice about positions. An input, but no real claim.

Imagine that Aqua come out and claim they made David Cameron the annoying prat, but nonetheless prime minister, that he is today. It’s not that absurd a claim compared to World War III kicking off to the sound of Back to Bedlam. Maybe the twee and trashy 90s Europop caused David to be the man he is today. Somehow I doubt it.

It reminds me of ridiculous claims in the acceptance speeches of arseholes that masquerade as actors. There’s never enough use and execution of the word understated. If the world of celebrity was a little bit more David Mitchell than Bez from the Happy Mondays, the world would be free of people like me face-palming at every corner. Not only is the image of repetitive face-palming comical, it’s also resolutely annoying to the person concerned.

So James, if we are to believe a man who once sung to a puppet because he lost his triangle and missed its hypotenuse, obviously a code name for ‘a hell of a lot of dope’, and that you did in fact save the world, then thank you. Thank you so much James. **Rob Cleaver**



Dodgeball





If you can dodge a wrench... you can dodge a ball

ICU photosoc

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

Comment Editor: Anna Perman

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

All this Royal Wedding tosh has got me reminiscing...

Very fleetingly, at the age of nine I had a special interest in marrying Prince Harry. I chose Harry over William believing us to be better suited if we were closer in age (6 years rather than 8). I then proceeded to foster sincere hopes of such a relationship in the future. My ideas of the wedding were Barbie-like, i.e. there would be a carriage drawn by four white horses. (At that time I didn't see Barbie for the tart she is; check out how easy she is when she encounters Ken in Toy Story 3, that ho bag.)

However my fantasies were short-lived; I had some intense Spice Girls dance routine practise to do. Ok that's not strictly true. I never got to do the dance routines. they would never let "the Lesbian Monster" have a go. Honest to god, I did have this nickname at primary school; it's a long story so let's just say we frequently played Kiss-chase in the playground with the boys and I must have got confused or something.

Sad ugly loner memories aside, Prince William got engaged to Kate Middleton. So WHAT? Wouldn't you rather read about my fascinating life? Not that I gave you much choice – see above. But with my rampant egoism duly noted, I shall instead educate you in spouse selection. Much more relevant than the Royal Wedding. I hope you deem me qualified to do so despite my somewhat homosexual experiences.

Love makes people do silly things, like err... oh crap, can't give an example from my loveless personal life... Hold on, lemme think.

So some poor Medic geezer falls head over heels for a hot Civenger (yes, that's right, interfaculty relations - doomed before the off but hey, how's a fresher to know). Three minutes after texting her, he's yearning for a reply. When he hears nothing after another minute he thinks his phone must have been on silent (ignoring the fact that his silent mode actually involves vibration). After checking his sound mode for the third time, he envisions what she might be doing that has prevented her perfectly formed fingers from typing a text back.

And when, inevitably, his love is unrequited (an apparently painful experience that induces uncharacteristic song-writing tendencies) he keeps calling her but with claims of friendship. She accepts in order to avoid being thought a bitch, fully knowing his less than innocent intentions. Thus she rips his heart to pieces indefinitely.

So, my marriage-material criteria: 1. They are in love with you. 2. You are not in love with them. Look out for the ones that say they'd "do anything" for you, those are the keepers. That way, for the duration of your marriage (a period which ideally takes up the majority of your life), you can keep a clear head whilst your partner is in the giddy and crucially, malleable haze of love.

By Alexandra Nowbar

The F-word. Not that one



Rhys Davies

"I once tried curry from a can – to this day, I have no evidence it wasn't dog food"

Before you begin to read, please excuse the crumbs.

I love to snack while I write. I'm not picky; from the humble chocolate digestive, perfectly married with a nice cup of tea; to a sandwich in the small hours, filled with whatever in the fridge doesn't move when I touch it; to an entire roast chicken with all the trimmings, not forgetting the gravy.

But the point is that I love to cook. Every new recipe that doesn't result in a trip to A&E is a success for me, another notch in my wooden spoon.

However, I have been burned, and not just literally. For example, the difference between a korma and an apocalyptic fire-storm when adding jalapeño peppers to a curry can be as small as a factor of ten. Accidents like this are why most of my lower intestine is currently stored in a glass jar in Charing Cross Hospital. But these aren't failures – they are lessons by which to improve my artistry.

I have come to learn that, in order to make a good meal, food must satisfy three principles.

Firstly, the food must taste good. This can mean solving lengthy equations to find the correct balance of different spices or it can be as simple as choosing strawberry jam over Marmite when looking for something to spread on toast. (I don't want to start any arguments over this so I'll say it plainly. Marmite lovers, you are against nature. Seek pro-

fessional help immediately...please?)

Secondly, and perhaps most importantly effort must go into the food. As a rule, I am totally against ready-meals, after one particularly bad experience. I once tried curry from a can – to this day, I have no conclusive evidence that it wasn't dog food.

Thirdly, sugar, fat, calories; these all improve a meal ten-fold. As a medical student I really shouldn't be advising that you inject cream into your omelettes with a syringe so use half cream instead. Again, this is obvious – how appetising is a salad? Cottage cheese? Muesli? Are you salivating yet? No, I didn't think so. Now think about a plate full of bacon and egg, with beans, fried tomatoes and fried bread. Would you like a towel? I can comfortably say without hyperbole that a full English breakfast cooked by my house-mate will raise the dead. It works wonders on a Monday morning hangover.

With these three tenets behind you, you cannot go far wrong in the kitchen. However, the most important lesson I've learnt is that the best meals are those you make yourself. This is something that applies not just in the kitchen, but in all rooms of the house and beyond. Whatever life throws at you, don't choose the gentle path and don't choose the difficult path. Make your own path and see where it goes!

Also, make sure to wash up as you go.

Letters

To the students of Imperial College London,

I sincerely regret to hereby resign from the post of ICU Disabilities Officer.

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Nicola Hopkins and I was elected as Imperial's first Union Disabilities Officer. I am also completing my final year of an MSci in Physics and have mobility issues of my own.

I am sure that those of you who have met me will attest to the fact that I was eager to fulfil this role to the best of my abilities. Unfortunately, this role has expanded to the point where it is not possible to undertake as a voluntary part time role.

Before the new term began, I raised the issue of the lack of disabled access to the new Union venues and that the disabled lift in the Union Building is faulty and therefore unusable for disabled students. Neither issue has been resolved to date (8 weeks later) and I feel that the lack of urgency over these matters is disappointing, especially given that Imperial's Disability Equality Scheme states that all "refurbishments have considered accessibility as a major priority".

I am sure that the Union will eventually deem that the expense at this juncture will be worth it to allow all members of the student body to actively participate in university life and sincerely hope that the appropriate adaptations will be made in due course.

At the Student Union, we should be leading the way in accessibility for students, not lag-

ging behind the rest of the university.

I cannot, with clear conscience, undertake a role without giving it my absolute best and due to my very heavy academic workload and own health problems, I regret that I can no longer continue in this position.

Nicola Hopkins

Dear Sir

As I come from a certain country in southern Europe, I am already vexed enough by our leader, who appears often on every medium in Italy.

I was taken aback when I saw him eyeing me from Felix; my disconcert grew when I saw that the article condoned his practices.

Berlusconi's values are antiquated, and it shows: other than the "better to be like girls" remark, he also said "no" to a "multicultural Italy" and suggested that unemployed women marry rich to escape poverty.

This reflects in his policies as well as giving a certain image of Italy abroad. Italy consistently ranks poorly whenever women in politics are considered, as well as being behind in gay rights.

It is not an either/or choice whether to attack his "values" or his policies. The main television news programs, the only way, for most

Italians, to acquire news, barely mention his escapades. The pensioners, the religious, the entrepreneurs, the housewives who vote for him often do not get to know of his crimes. Who will tell the public that the man who supports the Christian family sees 17 year olds and prostitutes, that he is associated with the mafia and drug rings? It's certainly not going to be his media.

While Italy isn't at the level of Greece and others, it's not doing well. Italy's inherent economic strength allows it to remain afloat, but this cannot last indefinitely. Italy's the last of the pack when it comes to the great European economies, and losing terrain. Berlusconi is doing little to nothing to stop this.

Even if the left is lethargic, there is a line between being useless and being harmful for the country, and Berlusconi crosses it.

I think that if Italian politicians had had a bit more bravery, Berlusconi would have never been allowed to get where he is today. They bargained with him and tolerated his nefarious presence.

They trusted the people to realise that he's corrupt and dangerous, but obviously this did not happen.

The argument that Italy would suffer without him doesn't stand.

Berlusconi is a dreadful politician and a dreadful person, and everyone should know this.

Pietro Aronica

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

ARTS

If you read nothing else this week...

Chris Self, Broadsheet Editor, chooses fiction dealing with anarchism and libertarianism

Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

Communism is dead. The final failure of the Soviet Union, the movement of our labour party away from its socialist roots and the lack of the necessary social tension for a revolution have rendered its dreams unattainable and removed this ultimate outsider and enemy from western political discussion.

The great issue of today is instead, once again, the debate over the extent and power of government. This has an enormous precedence: it is an old, long, complicated back and forth with endless swapping of names and ideas and an absolutely dis-



entangleable web of connections between the subsets of each camp. But essentially it comes down to the fight between Classical Liberalism: something a little akin to light Anarchism where the rights and freedoms of the individual are key and government must be strictly limited and decentralised; versus Federalism which is the opposite: social fairness, international security and economic progression ensured by the presence of a strong central authority.

Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* is infamous for its association with the American new right and the politics of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. It is also often held up as a bible of the modern variant of Liberalism: Libertarianism. But wait, Margaret Thatcher was the "bad guy" right? She wanted to nationalise the NHS and I heard she drank the blood of northern children to keep her going. But you said it was like Anarchism and that's cool isn't it?

Atlas Shrugged is a passionate extolment of the rights of the individual and for that a fascinating read. It disassembles what we in a country with as central a welfare state as the UK has would generally consider the cruel heartless views of the money hungry and builds them up as instead a burning human desire to be free. In doing so, it changes your perspective and opens you up to the on-going political discussion.

As a story it is fiction, a grand Old-Testament style drama envisioning the end of the world. Set in a subtly altered 1950's America as New York rots from the inside out and a mysterious force is 'stealing' the key figures of science and industry. Ayn Rand writes extremely powerfully and to read it really is a very enjoyable story.

The conflict between security and freedom is completely central to personal, moral and political philosophy. And for that reason, despite its biblical length (nearly 1300 pages), I would highly recommend this.

We want to know what to read next. Tell us in 300-400 words and send it to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial Talent, Class

For possibly the first time, all three of our drama societies are... by Imperial students. We meet the playwrights to talk about th

Do you all want to start by telling us a bit about what your plays are like?

Gilead: Let's see, mine is a musical revue in the traditional sense of a revue, lots of catchy tunes with different words put to them, largely based on all the anecdotes I've picked up over my three years here. It sends up all the trends and attitudes and habits that you know and love around you, and it's all sung by a wonderful cast and accompanied by a fantastic *fourteen* piece band.

Shamini: There are lots of very well-known songs in yours actually, people will definitely know the songs

Gilead: Yes, you'll walk out whistling them and hating me for choosing them.

Shamini: But really funny new lyrics...

Gilead: Am I paying you for this endorsement? I feel like I should be!

Shamini: Mine's a shakespearean, pantomime, melodramatic, murder mystery, horror, *non-musical*. It has lots of blood and horrible deaths, but it also has knitting... It's irreverent and a lot of fun, there are fewer Imperial references, to be honest mine's got a lot more geeky references. A lot of science fiction and fantasy pop culture references, which is still something I think appeals to a lot of students - I hope it's not just me! It's really good fun and very funny. You get quite immersed in what's happening, it's not the kind of play where the actors stand about on stage quoting things, you really feel like you're actually there.

Pranav: And mine's rather different, it looks at the creation of the first atomic bomb, but looking at it from the side of the scientists involved, especially focussing on Einstein, Oppenheimer and Szilard; exploring their motivations and consequently how they felt when they heard of the use of the bomb. So it's quite a dark play, it's very dramatic... It sheds a new light on the scientists if you've never thought about what that felt like before.

Shamini: Yeah, we tend to lose sight of the fact that science occurs in a social context, that scientists are real humans. Also in this particular case that science can actually have such a huge impact on the world and on people's lives.

What made you want to start writing to begin with?

Shamini: It was definitely over a year ago when I started writing down some of the ideas with a plan to write something. I suppose when you're around drama a lot, and involved in lots of artistic things, you get these bits of inspiration and you think, "wouldn't it be great if I

Photo by Kadhim Shubber



Gilead Amit - Imperial Collage, 13th Dec. Shamini Bundell - The Dark Side, 8th Dec. Pranav Ma

could kind of cram all these things together and create something to direct myself."

Gilead: The reason I wanted to do it, and the big challenge for me, is that I'm not musically talented in any way but I have a tremendous amount of admiration for people who are. So I wanted to try and immerse myself in that sort of environment with people who know music and knew what they're talking about, and not to be so scared of it.

Shamini: But before you started this project you'd been rewriting the lyrics of songs hadn't you? You knew all about it...

Gilead: Yes, that's true; sad and alone in my room... Shamini's kind enough to conjure up the image of a misspent youth rewriting lyrics to songs, which is actually largely true to life. I knew I wanted to do this and about a year ago it occurred to me to actually see if this could fly. So I started writing a couple of songs, and then over the course of the year, I built a plot around it and suddenly it's all become real.

Pranav: My inspiration actually all came from having a discussion with a friend about people who've changed the world in whatever

way, and the regulars came up; Mahatma Gandhi, Hitler, Martin Luther King, and then my friend mentioned Albert Einstein. Obviously, I agreed about the importance of $E = mc^2$ but he said he'd actually been referring to the atomic bomb. I've always had ideas about writing in my head, and they've always come in and gone out again, but this idea sort of stuck, so I thought I'd better do something about it. This is the first thing I've tried to write, but I just tried writing it down and kept going and going and it really seemed to come together.

Shamini: Mine was eventually kick-started when I'd written the first act and it had taken me ages because I really wanted it to work. But having written it, I suddenly realised that the dramatic society were having their meeting in which they invite you to come and propose a play that week. I realised that I only had a first act so I sat down for a day and scribbled out a really rather brief and very bad second act...

Gilead: Oh no, it wasn't bad...

Shamini: I've rewritten it since; it's good now! But obviously the first draft was about five seconds of "and then the play ends and everything gets tied up and that's the end". I proposed it

S of '10

staging shows written
their productions



Pranav Mahajan - The Destroyer of Worlds, today & tomorrow

Improve your digital photos with Photosoc: The Rule Of Thirds

Jonathan Kim

Perhaps the most well known principle of photographic composition is the "Rule of Thirds". It is one of the most basic tools that can be used to create balanced and visually appealing shots. However, before we get into it I must warn you that rules are meant to be broken and ignoring this one does not mean that your pictures will necessarily be unbalanced or uninteresting. In fact, the opposite can often be true!

What is the Rule of Thirds?

Put very simply, the basic principle is to break an image down into thirds both horizontally and vertically so that you have 9 parts (as seen in the picture to the right). Now keeping this grid in mind, the "rule of thirds" gives you four lines - two horizontal and two vertical - that can be used to help you compose your shot. Try positioning the points of interest in your picture either along one of the lines or at the intersections.

Quick tip: some digital cameras can overlay the rule of thirds grid on top of the viewfinder to make this a lot easier, so have a browse around in the menu to see if you can find it.

The theory is that by placing the points of interest in accordance with the "rule of thirds", your picture will look more visually balanced and it will be easier for the viewer to focus on the object of interest. Studies have shown that

when viewing an image, people's eyes usually go to one of the intersection points more naturally than to the centre of the photograph; so by using the 'rule of thirds' your picture will work with the viewer rather than against them.

Applying the "rule of thirds" to your photography comes naturally to some photographers but it can take a little practice for it to become second nature. Once again, remember that breaking the rule can result in some striking shots too, so once you have learnt it experiment with purposely breaking it to see what you discover.

Finally, keep the "rule of thirds" in mind as you subsequently edit your photos. Photo editing tools today have good features for cropping and reframing images so that they fit better with the rule. Experiment with some of your

"Remember that breaking the rule, once you've learnt it, can result in some striking shots too"

old pictures to see what impact it has.

If you would like to learn more about composition, or anything else to do with photography, then get involved with the Photographic Society.

You can find out more at our website: union.ic.ac.uk/photosoc or you can email us at photosoc@imperial.ac.uk

Photo by Jonathan Kim



Read this article online at felixonline.co.uk

and they said "yeah, sounds ok..." and then I sat down and really improved it over the summer.

Pranav: I don't think you ever have the finished article though, it only took me a couple of months to finish the first draft but since then it's been redrafted and redrafted and fine-tuned, and even today, two days before the production, we're still making changes.

Shamini: Yeah, my cast is getting really annoyed with that!

Gilead: I tried very hard to separate the hats, to be a writer and then a director; I realised that I couldn't judge myself, I had to imagine that this is the script I'd been handed by someone else, and isn't he an idiot for rhyming answers with finances? But let's work with it and make it work, it hasn't been easy, the first few rehearsals I had real difficulty.

Pranav: Directing's been a lot of fun. I think I was expecting the hard times, the organising, having to rehearse every day, but I've got such a great team with me and I think you need that, as a director. Your production team, your lighting, your sound, your costumes and of course

your cast, but it's fun for everybody just to see this idea and words on a page just come to life. It's really good.

Shamini: The most difficult thing is that when you've written it you have a really distinct view about how it should go, and I'm a bit of a control freak anyway. But the most rewarding thing is when I've written this page, and the actors just sort of get it; they know what it means. We did a scene for the first time, and I almost wasn't sure if we'd rehearsed it already because that was exactly how it was in my head, and it's the most amazing thing because they've literally brought the characters to life and I didn't even have to tell them.

Pranav: I actually think that's the most enjoyable part, when you sit there and someone has interpreted what you've written in a completely different way, but *better*.

Shamini: That's always really good, you just think "Oh my god! yes! Why didn't I think of that?" It's about other people bringing their creativity, and it's all of you working towards it together, that's so nice.

Gilead: I found the most stressful thing was

having a personal stake in the writing, I don't know if it's the same for you but I'm a hugely sensitive person to criticism. Not because I disregard it, but because I consider any criticism to be absolutely justified, and it sends me cowering into a corner thinking, "Why am I in this room with such knowledgeable people?!"

Pranav: That for me is the most exciting thing, that my name is written on this and any criticism is going to come back to me, but I'm just laying myself out there and saying, this is what I can do, what do you reckon?

For me the hardest thing was casting because I had to turn down so many great actors who I couldn't cast. That's the hardest thing so far, I've still got three days... I hope people will come because it's important with all three productions to remember that these are Imperial students acting, they've got their studies and everything else going on but they've also worked extremely hard to put on these shows; rehearsing day-in day-out and learning lines in their spare time. It's important for them to see their colleagues, their peers and their friends, anybody, coming and supporting them because it's pointless just performing to an empty room.

Gilead: Hear hear.

Will you be continuing to write?

Pranav: Absolutely, I've got all sorts of ideas bumping about that I'd like to get down.

Gilead: Well, I'm graduating this year, so I've had a lot of fun out of this, mainly because I may not be able to do it again. Revues tend to be the stuff of boarding schools, prisons and military outfits rather than just general workplace humour. So I've enjoyed this while I can, I've loved working with talented people and there's nothing more rewarding than being taken seriously by people you set out to collaborate with.

The Destroyer of Worlds by Pranav Mahajan for ICSM Drama is on today and tomorrow.

The Dark Side by Shamini Bundell runs from 8th - 11th December.

Imperial Collage for Musical Theatre Society by Gilead Amit runs 12th - 13th December

If you'd like to direct a play next term for Dramsoc, play proposals are on the 3rd December. Email acting@dramsoc.org for more details. Auditions will also take place for several shows in the last week of term.

Pranav's show is on tonight and tomorrow (26th, 27th Nov)

MUSIC

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

Album of The Week



Kanye West
*My Beautiful Dark
Twisted Fantasy*
Roc-a-Fella/Def
Jam
2010

I'll admit it, I didn't think Kanye's comeback album was going to be this good. Not because he's zany as shit, but mainly because anyone who follows West in the slightest knows a lot of these tracks were already released as part of his weekly "Good Friday" series of online releases. And that's without counting those showcased in his epicly insane 30 minute promo movie "Runaway". But the songs are given new life here, ensuring that it is worth listening to the album in its entirety. Multiple times. It is a madman's masterpiece, candidly exposing his humongous ego, as well as his immense vulnerability and humanity all at once. Few hip-hop albums manage to achieve a pop sound with big sing-along choruses whilst remaining gritty and twisted. All his friends are onboard too, but nothing comes off as gimmicky: it all feels like an awesome celebration of Kanye's strange world, his demented genius and his inner child. One of the strongest albums of the year. - **Greg Power**

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

1. Radiohead
2. The Beatles
3. Daft Punk
4. Florence + the Machine
5. LCD SS
6. The Killers
7. Sufjan Stevens
8. Muse
9. Rolling Stones
10. Gorillaz

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

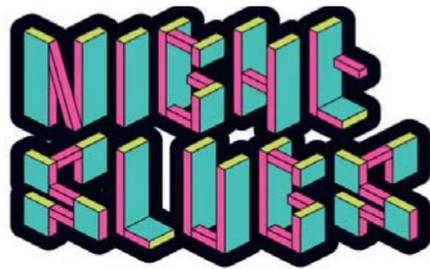
Make sure not to miss

Gonjasufi

The Rhythm Factory, Whitechapel
Thursday 9th December
7:30pm

The scariest yoga teacher you'll ever meet, Sumach Ecks also doubles as a vocalist in **FlyLo's** Brainfeeder crew, boasting a thunderous and versatile voice; he switches effortlessly between rapping, crooning and screaming. From stoner-rock to hip-hop beats to jazzy electro, his songs are all freeflowing and united by their originality and excentricity. These will be played in all their full glory by **Gonjasufi's** full backing band, for the first time in the UK. It will be a thrilling show performed by one of the most interesting singers out there today, and he might drop a few new tunes and a couple of freaky surprises. And if we get really lucky, he might offer us a free yoga workout. Come on, value for money or what??! - **Greg Power**

TECHNO NONSENSE



Pt. 3: This week **Simon Hunter** takes on the electro & techno gods of Turbo Records



As you've probably gathered by now I enjoy contrast. Traversing the musical spectrum from disco **Permanent Vacation** style, to **Night Slugs'** grimmest bass music in the space of a fortnight has set my stall out nicely I think. This week I introduce to you: Turbo Recordings.

Unlike new boys on the scene **Night Slugs**, Turbo Recordings has been releasing music for over a decade now. The label, founded in 1998, is run by two brothers from Montreal; **Tiga** and **Thomas Sontag**, and is widely considered one of the most influential labels in electronic music. **Tiga** is most commonly known for his 2001 cover of Corey Hart's 'Sunglasses at Night' and his strange sense of humour, while Thomas (a.k.a. Thomas Von Party) scouts out the best new talent to bring to the label and makes bizarre YouTube videos (see the video to 'Peanuts Club' by **Noob & Brodinski**). This combination of eccentricity and impeccable music taste has helped bring the likes of **Chromeo**, **Boys Noize** and the Soviet Empire's devil child, **Proxy**, to dance floors the world over.

Turbo Recordings' greatest success however has been in melding the flash-in-the-pan hysteria for electro in 2006 with the long-established but often under-appreciated genre of techno. The result is a breed of dark, acid-tinged techno, championed by the biggest names in the scene. This is not to say that Turbo Recordings has become a one-trick pony. The exact opposite is true in fact. Sure the likes of the **Dahlbäck Brothers**, **Jori Hulkkonen** and new boy **Gesaffelstein** form a backbone familiarity to the (now nearing 100) Turbo releases but output from **Proxy**, **Boy 8-Bit** and remix packages covering the likes of **Fever Ray** and **Chromeo** mean that you never know what Turbo have got

lined up next.

Many of you will probably be aware of **Proxy** and his destroyer-of-worlds outlook to making music but if not check out '8000', a song that somehow came to be my soundtrack to boating through the Amazon during the summer. For a textbook example of how sampling should be done refer to **Kolombo's** 'Sniff', the sample used is pretty self-explanatory but brings the track to an almost orgasmic climax.

I'll admit that this style of music isn't for everyone but at 5am on a Sunday morning in subterranean London, there's nothing I'd rather hear.



Tiga tearin' it up on the decks

The Dillinger Escape Plan are goddamn terrifying.. and terrific

Dillinger Escape Plan
Electric Ballroom
5th November 2010
★★★★★

Greg Power

Dillinger have been one of my favorite bands ever since I first heard "Calculating Infinity". I distinctly recall a spasm-inducing epiphany. Since then they've changed a fair amount: guitar virtuoso Ben Weinman is the only remaining original member of the band and their music, though firmly rooted in math-metal and avant-garde metal, has known some pretty wacky stylistic mutations.

10 years on, I remain an avid listener of their albums, which have been consistently gripping and thrilling in a world of Metal gone bland. I remained skeptical however as to their ability to maintain their dense, technically-intensive sound in a live context, whilst maintaining their reputation for physical debauchery and complete disregard for their health and safety.

This was all I could think about until Rolo Tomassi kindly reminded me that you definite-

ly can tear shit up on stage and sound bloody sweet. These guys are becoming a model for how progressive hardcore should be done. And Eva Spence still makes me shiver all over. But really it was just a matter of buying time.

The lights go out, a burst of electronic noise announces a trend for the night: a lot of jumping, a lot of moshing and wild stage dives/belly beatings. The second the band entered the entire room burst into a fit of rage and utter bliss. Opening with "Farewell, Mona Lisa", the intensely violent and cathartic first track from this year's masterpiece Option Paralysis, they spent the entire show hitting all the right buttons and giving everyone there freaky fan-gasms. New fan favorites "Black Bubblegum" and "Milk Lizard" got all the sweaty metal-heads crooning along like a room of horny Tom Joneses, and they dropped just the right amount of old classics, including pitch-perfect renditions of "43% Burnt" and "Sugar Coated Sour".

Their technical prowess is unquestionable, and even past their 30s they deliver their material with an energy that would leave most

performers breathless. Greg Puciato possesses an incredible vocal range comparable to Mike Patton's and his comedic interaction with the crowd ("Don't make me come down there and beat you myself!") kept everyone smiling and kicking the shit out of the dude to the left. All in all it was a brilliant performance, made only more intense by the brilliant combination of strobe lights and bulbs hanging from the stage. Without a doubt, Dillinger is a barrel of fun for the whole family. Giant circle pit included.



DEP's Greg Puciato reaching for a fan... so he can strangle the poor fucker

MUSIC

A sublime evening with Gil Scott-Heron

Gil Scott-Heron gets the blues with Tytus Murphy, on a gloomy Sunday in The Brixton Academy

Gil Scott-Heron has entered the musical consciousness of 2010 with the release of his comeback LP *'I'm new here'*. He entered mine as a young boy of 10 years when my parents played his records on that beloved turntable that span at 33rpm.

Later on I would discover that not many artists can match the bohemian existence, intrigue and poignancy of Gil's life: a torch-bearer in the spoken word movement; a prominent student activist in the American civil rights movement; late night jazz romps with the infamous amnesia express, and; wordsmith behind the iconic 'the revolution will not be televised', a list whilst impressive still only offers a mere smattering of the trials and tribulations of Gil Scott-Heron.

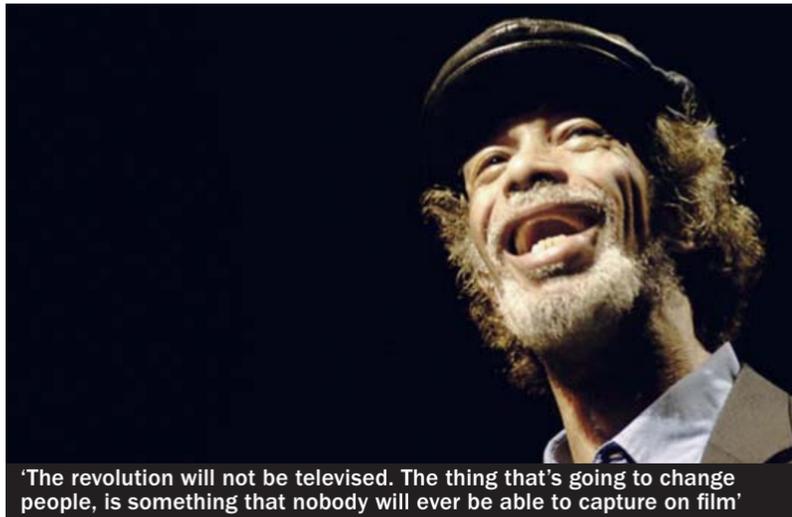
We now turn 11 years on from my fledgling musical recollections to Brixton Academy on a sombre, misty and cold evening in South West London, an evening that encompasses not just a gig but a reincarnation of sorts. *'I'm new here'* is somewhat complicated by the protagonist's personal history, 16 years since the last pensive and dark LP entitled *'Spirits'*, a period in which Gil went AWOL, reappeared and disappeared once again before being imprisoned for drug possession. For followers of Gil, these 16 years remained a colourful time if not a prolific period of creativity, with countless cancelled live outings and no-shows; Gil always seems to keep everyone on their toes.

This evening, thankfully Gil is pres-

ent and correct, arriving to a stage laid bare with minimal arrangements and a rapturous welcome from an eclectic demographic of eagerly-awaiting participants; greeting the crowd affectionately with light-hearted and hilarious musings, remarking warmly that he was 'no stick in the mud' aiming to look 'intellectually involved' in the spoken word, but simply that the crowd had collective responsibility to enjoy ourselves, as he was sure to do.

As in voice, Gil Scott-Heron is striking in appearance: a wise head sits commandingly on a lanky frame, a gentle smile that exposes battered and decayed teeth, brown pants pulled high, pale yellow and broad padded jacket draping low and a grey scruffy fisherman's hat enclosing the tips of an illustrious silver-tinged beard. Despite his frame and now entering his 62nd year, Gil moves nimbly around the stage, alternating between keyboard and circular strolls of the stage, feeding of the hypnotic jazz enthused percussion, sax and harmonica of his slick and tight backing band.

Gil begins his set by remarking wryly that for those in the crowd who thought he could not play the piano, 'you were right', much to the amusement of the enthusiastic and attentive crowd. He then talks poetically about the battle of the seasons before subtly morphing into the melancholy *'Winter in America'*. Only the bluesy lament of *'I'll take care of you'* features from *'I'm new here'*, a track in keeping with the atmosphere of the evening, where Gil ranged from screaming with anguish, as during



'Work for Peace' where he cried through his throaty baritone 'I don't want hurt nobody' to peacefully conveying 'Your daddy loves you' in a gentle reverb.

Seemingly transfixed during the saxophonist's regular elegant interjections, Gil slowly rocked back on his keyboard stool; head, beard and fisherman's hat swaying in the smoke. He is a blues purist, obsessed with Coltrane et al. and his evident appreciation of his band's contributions reveals a youthful love of music that still burns brightly. Gil's voice is coarse in moments, grainy and harsh, a far cry from the lush, soulful and distinctive voice of the 70s but it does not cause you to wince or flinch; instead this broken voice adds depth and pain to the cry of 'to turn your sick soul inside out, so that the world can watch you die'

making for an emotionally intense experience.

The evening is not solely about the longing, hurt and loss embodied in the blues but instead a musical journey traversing jazz, African rhythms and soul with Gil contrasting the rawness of his singing to jovial commentaries in between songs, making for an absorbing and enjoyable gig. Culminating in arguably his *magnus opus 'the bottle'*, which breaks this evening for a 10 minute congo drum solo of epic proportions, Gil rounds off a career-spanning set to a dedicated crowd who sincerely hope that it will not be another 16 years before we see Gil Scott-Heron in the flesh again, for Mr Scott-Heron did promise to bring better weather with him next time.

Aaaah to shoegaze...

-Wait, what?!
-Yes. Well, to be detached and introspective in unaggressive, dream-state pensiveness.
-Oh...What?



Slowdive
Alison

Moose
Suzanne

Cocteau Twins
Heaven or Las Vegas

Lush
Spooky

Blonde Redhead
Elephant Woman

Beach House
Walk in the Park

Deerhunter
Helicopter

Pale Saints
In Ribbons

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

Tinie Tempah

Disc-Overly
Parlophone
★★★★☆



This debut album, from the depths of the South London ghetto (okay, middle-class Plumstead in Greenwich) starts well, but trails off far too rapidly into a succession of family-friendly pop-songs with just enough 'thug life' references to keep the rebellious 15-year-old target demographic interested. The first couple of tracks are pretty prom-

ising – dark, bassy numbers that you could play in a club without any immediate shame. After that, though, the "let me tell you about my designer things" stereotypes begin, and the desperation to seem 'street' becomes palpable. In the end, there's a genuine talent in there and the guy can rap, but toeing the fine line between mainstream Capital Radio respectability without degenerating into a kind of bass-driven audio beige was always going to be difficult, and this doesn't manage it. It sounds exactly like what it is – hip-hop lite, or maybe pop-hop. The kids will love it,

but you and I are probably too old for this shit.

Duncan Casey

Dirty Heads

Lay Me Down
Executive Music Group
★★★★☆



This California four-piece hail from a beach town in Southern California, and sound exactly like you'd expect them to. The single's a laid-back, reggae-

tinged acoustic stoner rock number, designed for sprawling in the sand and chilling out to – Hell, it even features the obligatory bongo drums. Of course, this means your take on it on a dank, grey November evening in the pissing rain, is going to proceed roughly in line with the vividness of your imagination. It's a pleasant enough track – if you like your **Jack Johnson** or maybe even your **Smash Mouth** there's plenty here to like, but none of them are going to be losing sleep over the competition.

Duncan Casey

Local Natives

Who Knows Who Cares (S)
Infectious Records
★★★★☆

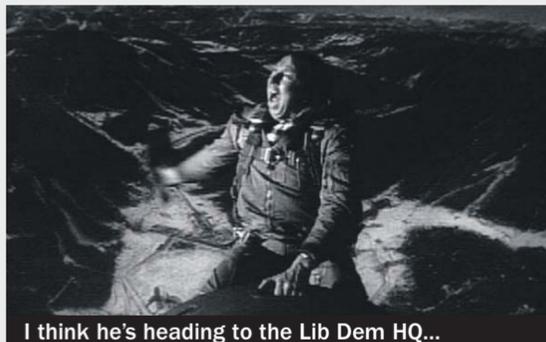


Sounding like **Fleet Foxes**, **Grizzly Bear** and **Arcade Fire** in a blender, their sound is extremely of the moment. Vocal harmonies and string arrangements pushed to the foreground, results in occasional fantastic moments, but it never really hits its stride. It's pleasant enough, but feels ultimately forgettable.
Christopher Dean

FILM

Classic Cinema

Dr Strangelove: Or How I Learnt to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb



I think he's heading to the Lib Dem HQ...

Surprisingly pertinent given that errant shells are flying over the world's highest concentration of military hardware on the border of Korea, Dr Strangelove is Stanley Kubrick's 1964 dark comedy about what happens when the wrong people get their hands on The Bomb.

Peter Sellers initially takes on two, equally stressed-out characters. Firstly, as the second-in-command to an Air Squadron leader who has gone insane and deployed his B-52 bomber fleet to launch a nuclear attack on the Russian mainland; and secondly as the President of the United States, who is summoned to his command room to impotently watch while his country accidentally declares war from beneath him. In the final act, he takes on a third character as the eponymous Dr Strangelove: the eccentric scientific adviser to the government.

The decent into chaos and madness of the men in charge of the country and military as they realise that their best-laid plans have collapsed around them mirrors the madness and chaos inherent in the logic of the nuclear deterrent. The film was originally written as a completely serious drama, before the scriptwriters realised that the sheer ridiculousness of the situation best suited comedy.

Meanwhile, on one of the bomber command B-52s sent erroneously to attack Russia, the crew get on with their job. Led by the Slim Pickens, playing the Texan pilot, their grim determination to get the job done while fearing about what it could all mean adds the most human element to the story. However, it still allows for plenty of comedy, notably the much referenced moment when Pickens rodeo rides the bomb down to the ground.

During the final scene in the war room, when Dr Strangelove is giving his talk to the assembled Generals and Civil servants, no matter how many takes were filmed (and with Kubrick, this was a notoriously large amount) there wasn't a single one without a member of the cast laughing. When watching the one that made it into the final cut, keep an eye open for the Russian ambassador failing to suppress a huge grin at Sellers' amazing turn as the crazy German.

Hilarious but serious, Dr Strangelove brilliantly captures the stupidity of it all.

EVENTS

iCU Cinema - *Inglourious Basterds*
£3/£4 for members/non-members
Tue 30th Nov. 6:30pm.
Union Concert Hall

So is it any good after all?

The new Harry Potter film proves controversial

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1

Director David Yates
Screenwriter Steve Kloves, JK Rowling (novel)
Cast Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Ralph Fiennes

God help me it's bad...

John Park

You know the drill: every *Harry Potter* sequel is "darker" than its predecessors. Now that we're at the penultimate chapter, things must be getting very gloomy. Dumbledore is dead, Lord Voldemort's (Ralph Fiennes) power is growing, and the Ministry of Magic has been compromised by those controlled by Voldemort and his merry band of wizards and witches. With nowhere and no one to turn to, the ambitious trio must rely on each other and work together to fight evil.

But don't let the rather simple summary fool you from just how complicated some of the crucial sub-plots can be. There are so many names, places, prophecies and spells that unless you've brushed up on your knowledge of the *Harry Potter* universe, chances are you will struggle to understand absolutely everything. *Harry Potter* films have always been criticised for stripping down its original material and keeping the

Too much time is spent meandering through the muddled plot

plot too simple. Perhaps the split was to include as much depth as possible. Sounds like a great idea, but too much time is spent meandering, plodding through the muddled plot. Without the split, the 150-minute running time would have worked as a fast-paced, efficient road movie but Yates seems to have saved the best scenes for the very last.

The film jumps from place to place and seems to lose its focus. There is an attempt to create conflict between the three of them, mostly involving Ron's jealousy towards Harry and Hermione's close friendship, but since these three have been bound so tight in the previous films the melodramatic fight between Harry and Ron does little to convince the audience of anything drastic happening.

Radcliffe, Grint and Watson have been in these roles for a long time but even they cannot handle this kind of rapid development. By contrast, the vast amount of talent at Yates' disposal in his costars seems to go to waste. Starring in at least one *Harry Potter* film seems to be a rite of passage for any British acting legend



Stop complaining about student debt, I turn into a fucking werewolf

and once again we get far-too-brief glimpses of outstanding actors making the most of their five-minute screen times.

A convoluted plot and unimpressive leading actors aside, there is much fun to be had in the longest set-up of the franchise. The CGI is impeccable and a couple of scenes will surely blow you away. Shame the rest of the film doesn't quite live up to that standard but the millions that will inevitably sit through this one should get their pay off by next July, when the real final part is expected to arrive.

Outstanding...

Lucia Podhorska

Before I start, I feel I should admit that I am a die-hard Harry Potter fan, but I will do my best to leave out the unpunctuated, hysterical gushing love. Those who have not read the books – shame on you!

I have by now read a few reactions to the movie and a lot of people seem to be hung up on the fact that there's so much time spent focusing on the trio's travels as they search for the Horcruxes. As anyone who's read the book knows, this takes up a good chunk of the story so it makes sense to translate that to the screen. There is still something going on the whole time, as they make new discoveries, and it's nice seeing the core three together for greater lengths of time. We are also treated to some truly beautiful shots of the British landscape. The way the camera captures the scenes of the vast countryside with no one but Harry, Ron and Hermione in sight really drives home their isolation. Taken away from everything that is familiar, they are forced to rely on each other to pull through. It also poses a challenge to the three young actors as for the first time they are

Emma Watson's acting has improved immensely and her portrayal of helplessness is very convincing

forced to hold the movie together pretty much on their own.

Emma Watson, it must be said, is the glue keeping this section of the film together. Her acting has improved immensely since the first film and her portrayal of helplessness and betrayal is very convincing. Rupert Grint also finally gets the chance to show us a different side to him as he is no longer simply the comic relief. By contrast, Daniel Radcliffe is still, at many points, quite wooden, and though we see glimpses of real emotion, some of the book's more emotional scenes came across somewhat underwhelming on screen.

It's difficult not to compare this film to *Half-Blood Prince*, as they were both directed by Yates and yet are so different. Maybe it's the fact that because of the split, he has more time to focus on the little things, but he truly did an amazing job with this film. The book-to-film adaptation was the best so far, even using a lot of dialogue word-for-word from the book. There were only a couple of glaring errors, which can for the most part be forgiven. Alexander Desplat joins the crew as the composer, while Steve Kloves returns as the screenwriter for the penultimate time. Together, they have produced the best *Harry Potter* film so far and leave this fan anxiously waiting for July 15th, when the final movie will be released.

Quentin Tarantino: style over substance?

Navid Nabijou profiles the controversial director and his latest work, *Inglourious Basterds*



Over the past two decades, few directors have managed to excite such acclaim – and controversy – as Quentin Tarantino. His work has sharply polarised critics, spawning a plethora of varied interpretations and deconstructions. Each new release is followed by a blaze of feverish publicity, and through all of this, Tarantino and his films remain something of an enigma.

His debut, the playful and gritty *Reservoir Dogs*, was in a certain sense a modest affair. Produced on a tiny budget and screened in only a handful of cinemas, the film went mostly unnoticed at first. It does, however, set the precedent for all of Tarantino's later work: nonlinear narratives, razor-sharp dialogue, profuse profanity and a healthy dose of violence. It's a heist film without a heist scene, a bleak tale of greed, loyalty and madness.

Tarantino's strongest asset is undoubtedly his treatment of dialogue. While many directors regard dialogue simply as an inconvenient necessity, Tarantino recognises and defends the importance of conversation for the sake of conversation. A considerable, and often unappreciated, layer of characterisation is weaved into utterly mundane discussions about hamburgers and television. The writing – at times incredibly realistic, at times borderline fantastical – is consistently incisive, witty and, above all, entertaining. And nowhere else is this talent exhibited better than in the film many consider to be Tarantino's finest: *Pulp Fiction*.

Pulp Fiction, released in 1994, is a dizzying ride through the underworld of Los Angeles. The audience is pulled back and forth through space and time, as the stories of the many colourful characters unfold in fragments. Hugely influential, it has been described as “the most quotable movie of all time” – and it's not hard to see why. The writing is simply sublime, oozing with depth and sparkle.

A thorough watching of a Tarantino film will make at least one thing apparent: this man loves movies – a lot. In his youth he worked in a video rental store, giving him the freedom to watch and discuss film for hours on end. The scope and depth of his expertise is formidable; he has probably seen more movies than anyone else alive. This ingrained passion for, and connection with the world of cinema pervades the films he creates. Tarantino, far from repudiating the influence of other filmmakers, relishes in



Expressing his great vision or going in for a grope? Tarantino has always been controversial...

“Even with all the feverish publicity, Tarantino, and his films, remain an enigma”

it: his films are packed full of little nods to movie history. This can, however, go too far and he has often been criticised for being derivative; his films have been dismissed by some as pastiches of the past instead of genuinely original works.

Another, related criticism is that his films favour style over substance. This is true to an extent; there certainly are deeper, more profound films out there, but, all in all, there is a good deal of substance present, even if we might find it difficult to recognise. Take the “Superman monologue”, a metaphorical mus-

ing on the human condition that builds to the climax of Tarantino's fourth movie, *Kill Bill*. Which conveniently brings us back to the issue of style.

Kill Bill tells the story of The Bride, a former assassin who embarks on an epic journey of revenge. Though containing all the standard Tarantino hallmarks, the film's most distinguishing feature is its high aesthetics: it is a visual stunner from start to finish. Everything, be it a hospital ward, a Yakuza boss or a severed arm, drips with vibrancy and energy. Let's be honest: when there's this much style, who cares about substance?

Perhaps this argument might be answered by Tarantino's next film: *Death-proof* was released in 2007 to a lukewarm response and slinks in as one of his lowest grossing movies. But despite the disappointment of his fifth film, there was a definite air of excitement in the run up to his sixth. This project was particularly special to him; he had been talking about it for years. So it was to an eager, hopeful audience that, in August

2009, *Inglourious Basterds* was finally released, more than a decade after it was first conceived. Set in Nazi-occupied France, *Inglourious Basterds*, in keeping with tradition, consists of a number of interweaving storylines. Prettier than *Pulp Fiction*, subtler than *Kill Bill*, it draws together all the best features of his cumulative body of work, resulting in one of his finest films to date.

One thread follows the Basterds, an American guerrilla force dropped behind enemy lines and charged with “doing one thing, and one thing only: killing Nazis.” Running parallel to this we have the striking Shosana Dreyfus, a French Jew living undetected and operating a cinema in Paris. Finally, the consummate SS Colonel Hans Landa, whose performance earned the actor an Academy Award. A charismatic, shrewd, deeply unsettling fascination, Landa (described by Tarantino as “one the greatest character I will ever write”) turns everything he touches into gold.

Inglourious Basterds is a return to

what Tarantino does best, and he packs his latest film full of fast-paced dialogue. The atmosphere is electric; as the banter perpetually accelerates and intensifies, at a few points the suspense grows almost unbearable. His writing has certainly never been better. Stylistically, the film builds on the formula of *Kill Bill*, exploiting with finesse a number of contrasting styles, which blend seamlessly and make the film thoroughly enjoyable, if difficult to classify. In all, *Inglourious Basterds* is a treat; great to look at, listen to, and generally be entertained by.

Quentin Tarantino is, in spite of his detractors, a remarkable filmmaker. His flair for sharp dialogue and stylistic excellence make each and every one of his movies a joy to watch. *Inglourious Basterds* is living proof that, now approaching fifty, Tarantino is still at the top of his game.

Inglourious Basterds is showing at the iCU Cinema at 6.30pm on Tuesday 30th November.

GAMES

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Web Games

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

Doeo

raikendo.com/games/doeo



Hovering your mouse over as many coloured blocks as you can against the clock may sound like a boring idea on paper, but when you put it together with a big dollop of Japanese craziness things suddenly start to work out.

A 'doeo' is a little pink or green block embellished with a cute animal face and you've got just under a minute to catch them as they ride by on trains and explode from volcanoes. It's never really possible to know where they're going to appear next and keeping up with them as they pop in and out leads to a frantic forty seconds of mouse mayhem. Play it on hard to get the full adrenaline-pumping effect!

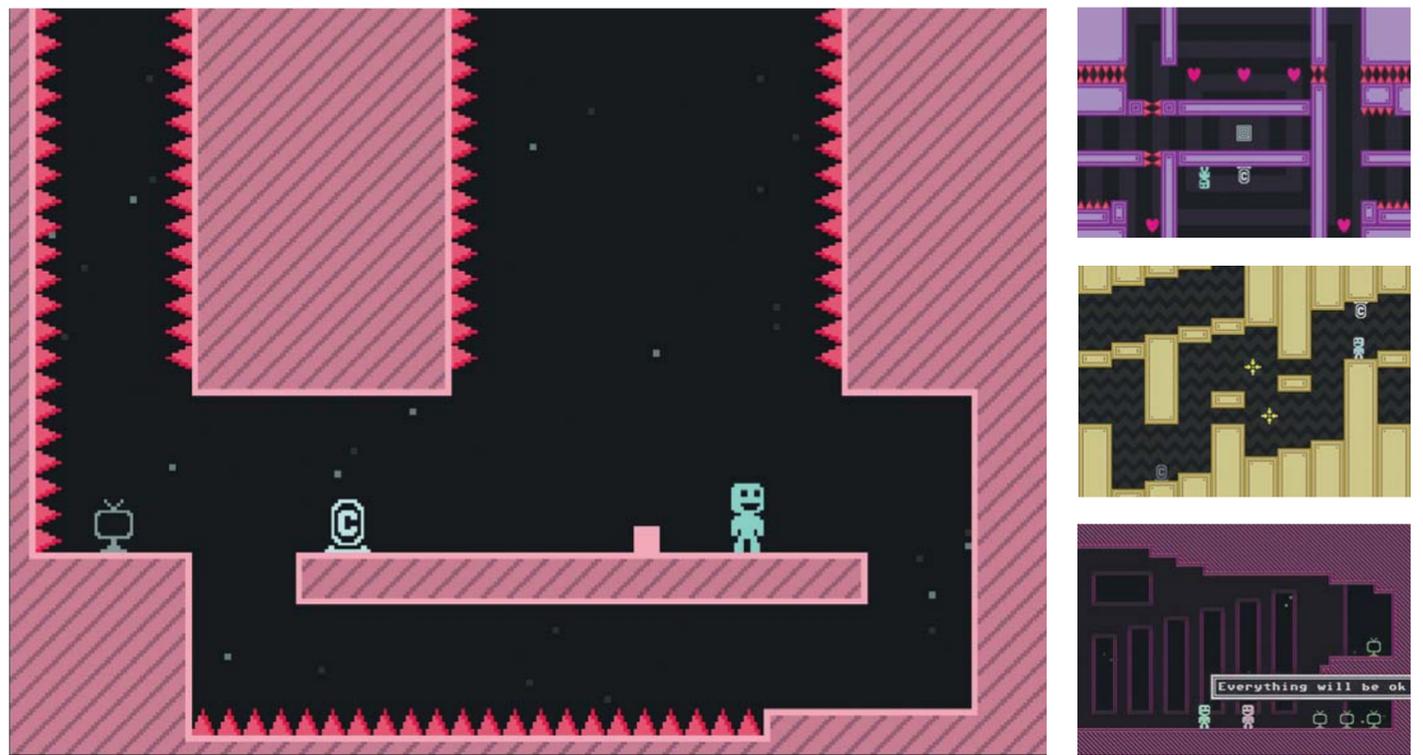
Alice Is Dead Episode 3

tinyurl.com/pandasbigadventure



This point-and-click adventure provides a plunges Lewis Carroll's *Alice In Wonderland* into a sordid world of crime, violence and shady science. You play as The White Rabbit – now an assassin who after an attempt on his life has lost his memory. Graphics are gorgeous and bring the world to life, and voice acting is particularly good for a web game.

VVVVVV Victorious!



Omar Hafeez-Bore

Am I the most successful person ever? Winston Churchill described success as "going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm". Well, I did that.

I did not give up dousing the flames of *Fire Leo*. I cried and cried until I could laugh in the face of *Ninja Gaiden's* final boss. I can play Ikaruga's black and white switches like piano keys and can cruise through *F-Zero* like it was built on Scaletrix. If there was a noble prize for tenacity and unwavering spirit in gaming, I'd have gold-plated Birmingham (may it forever stand tall) by now with the gold from all my melted medals. And they're small medals.

But one short, ten-second segment in a little game called VVVVVV proved almost too much. I just kept. On. Dying.

In theory, it was optional; getting the trinket just raised another number in the menu. In practice, it was irresistible. The tight gameplay and charming aesthetic had me hooked, glued to my screen like pixels were squares of crack. If the average gamer brain can contort its synaptic pathways until the 'Pause - Menu Scroll - Retry' mantra is as automatic as a nerve reflex, what chance did I stand ignoring a challenge in which respawns were instantaneous, where reincarnation is a word that takes longer to say than it actually does to-

Wail. And I'm back. Ready to jump into action over the-

Wail. And I'm back. Again.

How embarrassing! I couldn't call these repeated wails just random blips, whatever they sounded like in digital form. The level named 'Veni, Vidi, Vici' had me dying continuously. I tried to blame my little monochrome man and some suicidal attraction he had to the spikes lining the walls but his one-frame grimace of death and his 8-bit wail for life were just too

sincere. I tried memorising the exact timing required for my finger presses, counting out loud my finger aerobics. I even tried changing the graphics settings from 'Basic' to 'Basic And Blurry'! I think it's running... a little smoother!

But a one frame animation of death can only get so smooth, and it certainly didn't get any less familiar.

Wail. By now it was just part of the soundtrack. Thirty minutes of retrying is pitance, but divided by a 10-second stretch of level it becomes something else altogether. My only glimmer of hope was that I was gradually increasing my survival distance through Veni, Vidi, Vici's spiked vertical ascent. Bit by bit.

"My fingers were now mere fleshy automatons, locked in an endless dance of digital death."

Not like '8-bit' retro cool, you understand. Or like, 'just a little bit of cake please today' and getting that fat juicy slice of black forest your obese stomach was really pining for. No, these were bits of gaming dignity, hard earned through death and determination. Even my laptop had hushed its baseline of alerts and annoyances, an act of respect for this pixel-purgatory. Soon, my eyes glazed over and my finger muscles started to act of their own accord. They were now mere fleshy automatons, locked in an endless dance of digital death.

Wail. Spike by spike, I was learning that damn wall. Work needed to be done, food needed to be eaten, bowels needed emptying, but my fingers carried on in autopilot, the keys click-clacking away like I was typing.

Wail ... *Wail*

This is ridiculous! Nearly an hour on this one bit? This was too retarded. The programmer must be retarded. Did he scrape his teeth clean in the morning with razor blades too? Maybe he uses Tabasco instead of milk on his cereal for a similar dance with danger. I bet he walks bare foot to work in the crazed hope that some phone booth has been smashed in, spilling shards of glass that he can dodge like some pervert of pain. Hell, I bet he even cuts his boxer-shorts out of sandpaper and then jogs in the cold! In fact, he probably unplugs all the plugs in the house at night so that he might step on one on the way to the loo, the freak. I wouldn't be surprised if he only goes out with girls with tongue studs, in the hope of suffering some personal oral damage. Whatever he does, he is clearly an absolute, total-

Ping! Huh?

I had done it? But, I wasn't even concentrating! YES! I cheered to an audience of no one and shouted things that should never be repeated in genteel company. I was made of win.

My mind had been too consumed by anger and got in the way of gameplay instinct! I had been consumed by anger, cursing the sick masochism of Mr Terry Cavanagh (programmer and producer).

In that instant, I was King of Kong, Master of Mario and Titan of Tombrader. I was Lord of Lylat and His Highness of Hyrule. I was Victor of VVVVVV.

Alas, such a triumph cannot be adequately described in this medium of words, divorced from the narcotic pull of audio loops and pixel-perfect-precision. This is but an ode to fantastic games and near-fantastical challenges.

VVVVVV, I salute thee. I am whole again.

VVVVVV is available now and can be downloaded for £3.99 from Steam.

GAMES

It's raining games! Cloud gaming hits TVs

OnLive extends service to your front room with the launch of the new MicroConsole

Laurence Pope

Hear me now, peasants, with your antiquated computers, bowls of gruel and embarrassing outdated fashion sense! No longer are you quite so inferior to the glorious PC gaming master races with their diamond studded octo-core processors, water cooled graphics cards and jewel-encrusted laser mice, for today hear of OnLive!

What was that I heard you cry? What is OnLive? As a most learned and informed gentleman let me guide you along the path to nirvana. OnLive is a form of cloud computing, where game processing and synchronization occurs on remote servers, controlled from a video feed (up to 1080p) delivered to your laughably bad PC or Mac (at least OS X 10.5.8) via the miracle that is the Internet. So long as your computer has a good internet connection (we are talking at least 5 Mbit/s) and can display video you can play a fine albeit small-ish selection of games such as *Assassin's Creed II*, *Borderlands* and the ever amazing *LEGO Batman* in eye-popping high quality, even if your chuggingly slow machine couldn't handle them locally.

And before you start drooling all over my expensive Italian loafers, no, the games aren't free; you are required to purchase a PlayPass to run them, which will give you either unlimited, 5-day or 3-day access to your game of choice. Most of the games do have a demo mode available, so if you're really worried about parting with what little hard-earned cash you have you can play the full game for a while before committing.

Now, down to the release of the OnLive MicroConsole (OLMC), those of you without mountainous stacks of cash can connect to games and play them on your HDTVs (though how you got your grubby hands on an HDTV is beyond even my great understanding). If you don't have an HDTV, just find something with HDMI connectivity and you will be set to experience the gaming equivalent of Columbia's finest. Provided you have the broadband line to stream the information, of course – the larger the screen, the fastest your broadband needs to be to get a smooth experience.

The physical console is about the size of an iPhone, and light enough to carry around if you don't happen to have an army of slaves (sorry,

servants) to do physical work for you. An adaptor light informs you when your game is being processed, and there's no need to waste time upgrading as all information is automatically sorted for you. It also has Wi-Fi connectivity, which makes it even more portable.

Perhaps you are trying to feebly contemplate how you control your game with the OnLive MicroConsole? You are? Then let me fill you in – you can thank me later. The OLMC comes with a wireless controller (usable only for the MicroConsole, mind) and rechargeable batteries, so that you don't have to spend more money on fresh batteries and can instead splash out on crusts of dry bread. If you're not so keen

“Those of you without mountainous stacks of cash can connect to games and play them on your HDTVs”

on the rather small controller you can hook up a mouse and keyboard via USB/ Bluetooth to game with.

A bonus feature that you may like is the ability to record any moment of your game with the record button on the controller, which you can show off to your friends and look very smug about. That is, if you have any friends. Or the ability to pull off any amazing gaming moments.

So do I recommend this magical little box to you? If you have a good broadband connection and a computer that struggles to run Pong, I'd tell you to sell a kidney and invest in a MicroConsole as that the package isn't that costly and doesn't require constant updating. Plus, with over a hundred new games supposedly in the pipeline your fickle attention will be kept well and truly captivated. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go and purchase another solid gold Rolls Royce.



No the games aren't free; you have to purchase a 'Playpass' to run them

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

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Women's shampoo, cut and blow-dry £36

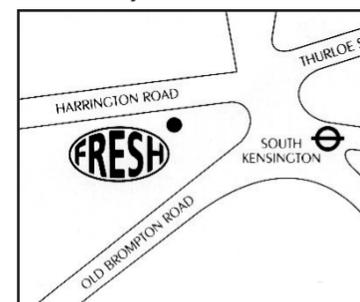
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EVENTS

**Light Opera Society
Disney's Beauty & the Beast
6-10th December
Curtain Up: 19:30
John McIntosh Arts Centre,
London Oratory School
Tickets + Queries:
mch06@ic.ac.uk**



Not many games are available, but Lego Batman is. WIN

Food Editor: Dana Li

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FOOD

Your review

Dana says:

EPICMEALTIME



Step aside GBK, the big daddy is here... Photo by SWNS

A change from the norm. Restaurants put aside, a Youtube recommendation is due. Anyone who read the Metro on Wednesday will recognize this guy and his awesome burger. The Canadian trio that pioneered **Epic Meal Time**, Harley Morenstein, Alex Perault and Sterling Toth regularly churn out their sky scraping calorific inventions, each week attempting to break their own record of a 5,800 calorie meatloaf. What? Yes, beef patties, hotdogs, bacon and cheese make up the horror that contains 747g fat. Myocardial infarction, yes please. Canadians are an odd breed, indeed. No offence. Where else would you find a 5343 calorie sandwich that contains nine slices of bacon, three hotdogs, chips covered with cheese and gravy, a french baguette, twelve eggs and heck loads of maple syrup? That is one mouthful to say... let alone eat. You'll definitely not find it down your regular Maccy D's although stick ten Big Macs down your throat and you've almost matched the record with 576 calories per Big Mac. Saying this, it makes great viewing over dinner and rids you of the guilt you had after eating that 125g Galaxy bar. <http://www.youtube.com/user/EpicMealTime>
Dana Li

Classic beef burgers

1kg minced beef (preferably not lean)
1small onion, finely chopped
4tbsp fine bread crumbs
1egg, lightly beaten
1red chilli, finely chopped
1tsp salt
1tsp mustard powder or mustard
1/2 tsp black pepper
2 cloves garlic, crushed

Place the beef in a large bowl and add the remaining ingredients. Mix it all together by hand until just combined. (Overworking it will make the burger tough.)

Wet your hands then shape the mixture into burgers by flattening the mixture in your hand about 2cm or 1 inch thick and smoothing the edges.

Pre-heat the frying pan to a medium heat. Cook the burgers on a non-stick frying pan with a splash of oil. Cook the burgers for about 5 minutes on each side, turning them once only.

Don't be a couch potato: rationing on a student loan

Alex Thompson offers rationing recipes for hungry times

Photo by mivox/flickr



I'm pretty sure potato cakes is the way he wanted to go... RIP Mister Potato Head (Photo by mivox @flickr)

The classical image of the poverty-stricken student living off baked beans, with pride and clothing similarly frayed, may not apply to most of us here at Imperial, but still we must appear so to our debt-a-phobic parents. In this section I'm planning to introduce all of you to some war inspired recipes that are perfect for mornings where a trip to the shops is impossible without substantial amounts of analgesia.

Having been in this position last week, with nothing more than potatoes and dark sunglasses in my possession, I turned to Ireland for salvation and was rescued by a delicious Potato Cake recipe.

Since then, in far more able condition, I have played with a few embellishments; the versatility of this humble staple being music to my mouth. So here is the main recipe and a few alterations which worked, but feel free to experi-

ment, as there's not much that can go wrong with these.

Traditional Potato Cakes

- 200 g plain flour
- 200 g warm mashed potato
- 75 g butter
- a big pinch of salt
- two glugs of milk
- a few slices of bacon (optional)

Boil the potatoes in slightly salted water (remember Thermo - this speeds things up) for 20-25 minutes or until the skins start to crack and the potatoes become soft. Mash 'em, skins on.

Sift the flour with the salt into a mixing bowl. Add the butter and rub through until completely mixed. Whack in the mashed potato, add salt, then knead thoroughly before adding milk a glug at a time until it forms a soft sticky dough.

Spread some flour onto a chopping board and pull your dough into 4-5 patties, form a ball then press down each side into the flour.

Heat some oil (leftover bacon oil is best!); fry on medium heat until brown on both sides. Serve with oodles o' butter, bacon and tomato ketchup!

Herbed up Potato Cakes

Extra Ingredients:

- 5 small shiitake mushrooms
- a heaped teaspoon crushed ginger
- a clove or two of garlic chopped and crushed

Simply add these ingredients into the mashed potato for more flavoursome potato cakes!

Salmon Potato Cakes

- 170 g plain flour
- 350 g warm mashed potato
- 350 g cooked salmon (tinned for ease)
- 75g butter
- a big pinch of salt
- juice of 1/2 lemon
- a teaspoon of crushed ginger
- a teaspoon of dill tops
- a tablespoon of fresh parsley
- a beaten egg
- breadcrumbs

Add the salmon and herbs to the mashed potato. Once the patties are formed, cover in flour, dip in egg and into breadcrumbs. Pop in a (200°C) preheated oven, turn occasionally, wait to brown and Bob's your uncle: Salmon Potato Cakes!

“The classical image of the poverty-stricken student living off baked beans with pride and-clothing similarly frayed”

Mr Wing: The perfect treatment for Chinatown blues?

Jamie Williams visits his local Chinese gem in Earl's Court in hope of an alternative to the West End

The 12th November, 4:48 pm: e-mail received asking me to review Mr Wing, a Chinese restaurant in Earl's Court.

4:49 pm: Apprehension begins. Past experiences of Chinese restaurants have never been favorable for me, but that is a different story in itself. Of course, I could have given it to somebody else, but a quick look on Mr Wing's website reassured me that this could finally be the place to dampen my fears.

As I arrived I realized the Internet portrayal was spot-on: a modern, fresh and unique experience awaited me. Famous for its food, foliage and jazz, Mr Wing offers a non-conventional feel to a popular Chinese cuisine. My excitement levels grew as I walked down the staircase, past a flowing waterfall, to be seated in the sophisticated, chic, modern, ground-floor basement; a fish tank wall on one side of me, a tropical tree on the other. Wow. The first restaurant I've been to where I couldn't care less how long they take to deliver my food, I had the 'fat fish' chasing Nemo and Dori around to keep me occupied.

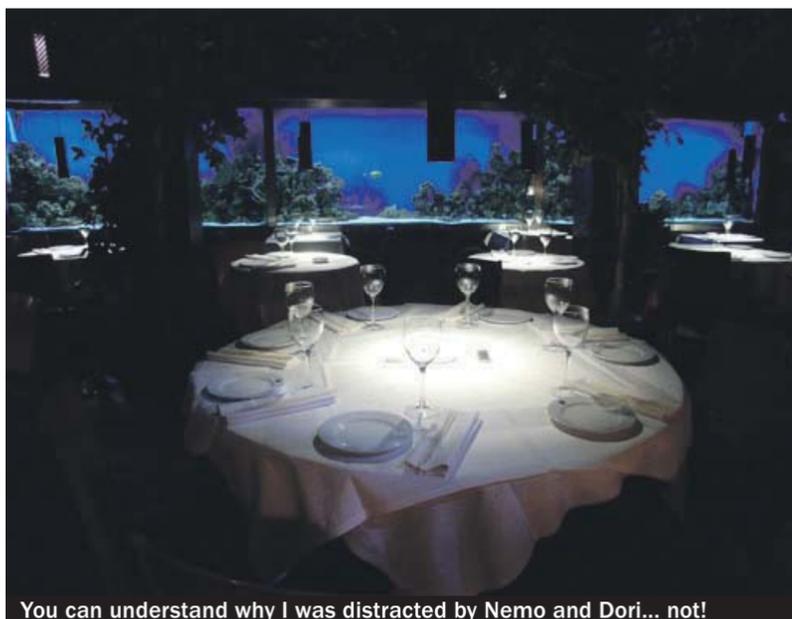
But then you stop. Stop and realise how relaxing the atmosphere is, with a warm piano touch from the jazz pianist, with a hint of waterfall in the background and low lighting directed at your table. It was truly mesmerizing.

With a menu full of traditional Chinese dishes, this restaurant is not for those who struggle with decision-making. Their unique dishes are based on recipes from culinary capitals and regions across China, such as noodles from Beijing to hot spicy dishes from the southwest. After finally deciding, the horror on my face began at the realization I was about to receive a deep-end discovery of how to use chopsticks. Luckily, my steaming food, overpower-

"Unique dishes are based on recipes from culinary capitals across China"

ing both the jazz band and the waterfall, was enough to drag my attention away from Nemo and Dori, to realise that thankfully knives and forks were provided. Phew.

The Honeyed Barbeque Pork Ribs (£7.50) provide succulent meat, which literally falls off of the bone, leaving a lovely smoked barbeque after-taste. Accompanied with Thai prawn crackers (normal crackers with a uniquely spicy kick for £3.50) and Mixed Vegetable



You can understand why I was distracted by Nemo and Dori... not!

Lettuce Rolls (a warm mix of vegetables wrapped in a cold lettuce leaf, the Chinese answer to Fajitas for £9.50), this left my taste buds impatient for more.

Luckily, the main courses did not disappoint. As cruel as it felt eating fish next to a tropical fish tank, the Steamed Seabass Fillet with Ginger and Spring Onion (£17) added a sweet, textured feel to the tongue, complemented with the fresh Spring Onion and Egg Fried Rice (£4.50). The jazz-muting, sizzling,

Cantonese Fillet Steak with Spring Onion and Ginger (£14.00) provided an understated tender meat mix with the overpowering ginger and undertone of onion. It was mouth-watering. Enough said.

After a short break of listening to the old-meets-modern jazz pianist, who plays the likes of Lady Gaga and Taio Cruz on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and desperately trying to associate the Acappella with the song name

(Beware: it can get competitive to see who's the quickest!), dessert definitely felt natural. With a collection of Haagen-Daaz ice creams or sorbets, fresh fruit and hot toffee apple or banana slices (£4.50); the dessert menu is short, but plenty to be excited about. Not being able to decide which dessert to choose, the perfect solution is to get them all, right? Now that was an interesting conversation with the waiter. The hot toffee banana slices were definitely not what I was expecting, think sweet and sour chicken balls crossed with banana, but I am sure somebody out there likes them! But what is sure, you cannot go wrong with Haagen-Daaz. Personal favourites were the Cookies & Cream and Belgian Chocolate scoops. That, mixed with the refreshing lemon sorbet, provided the perfect end to a fantastic evening.

Mr Wing can appeal to anybody, with a range of prices and dishes and I definitely recommend it. What I will say is that the prices may not be suitable for a standard night out for every student's pocket. But it is certainly something you can book once-in-a-while for a fancy celebratory meal and you will not be disappointed. P.S. Remember, fish are friends, not food!

Mr Wing 242 Old Brompton Road London SW5 0DE. Nearest tube: Earls Court

It's just love and peas at Hummus Bros Company

Photo by Chinhua Yap



Chinhua Yap

The Hummus Bros spoke, and we listened. They said, rather politely, "Think outside the sandwich" and we did just that; every bite was a savoury delight. Oh yes, the offerings from Hummus Bros were healthy and accommodating as well. Faithful readers of Felix would have learnt from a previous issue that Hummus is an Arabian dip made from garbanzo beans (or chickpeas) blended with lemon juice and tahini (sesame butter). It is commonly served alongside pita bread as an appetizer. Hummus Bros plated the chickpeas puree as a base on which various condiments were piled upon. Toppings ranged from chunky beef (for the carnivorous) to chickpeas or blended fava beans (for the traditional) to guacamole (for the pretentious). Radiant sprinkles of paprika and parsley provided the spicy and earthy flavour that made the humble hummus that much more vivid, and the dollop of tahini deepened the flavours with a distinct nuttiness. If desired, a

bit of garlic-infused lemon juice (in a convenient squirt bottle) can be added to add a slight tartness that complemented the intensity of the toppings. The tasteful ensemble was served with a fluffy (and warm, thank goodness) pita bread. Hummus Bros epitomizes honest freshness, with hummus made daily, the quality far exceeds store bought variants.

Hummus Bros rewards students with a 50% discount on sides and drinks with every hummus dish. The Greek salad came with crisp vegetable cubes topped generously with briny Feta cheese, a brilliant companion to the hummus. Wash everything down with the gently warming spiced apple juice on a cold day or a refreshing mint and ginger lemonade for a warmer one. For those looking for a little candied ending to their

I think Hummus Bros' T-shirts say it best, "Give peas a chance"

meal, go for the Malabi — a petite milk pudding served with an unapologetic and gloriously honeyed syrup.

Also impressive was the customisability offered, a mix of toppings can be chosen instead of just one and the pita bread can be swapped for carrot sticks or tortilla chips. Vegetarian-friendly options were aplenty and the serving staff would offer suggestions and customizations, if required.

Honestly, I was surprised at how delicious the hummus was, simple and clean tasting with no gimmicks. The hummus was fresh and smooth, toppings were full-bodied and attendance was most delightful. If you have been downing one plate too many fish and chips and your arteries scream for your good behaviour, pay Hummus Bros a visit. It is not creative to quote excessively, but I think Hummus Bros' T-shirts say it best, "Give peas a chance."

Hummus Bros 88 Wardour Street W1F 0TH. Take-away and delivery available. Nearest tube: Oxford Circus.

HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Twitter



SexyOsama69

knock knock



Barack_attack_133thaxor

Who's there? lol



SexyOsama69

North Korea



Barack_attack_133thaxor

North Korea who?



SexyOsama69

... just North Korea



Barack_attack_133thaxor

dats a shit knock-knock joke



SexyOsama69

WTF is a knock-knock joke?



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

Which ones r the bad guys? north koreans or south koreans?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

There's a SOUTH KOREA? Oh shit, better re-write my statement for the press



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

Who's there? Oh ffs. too late

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

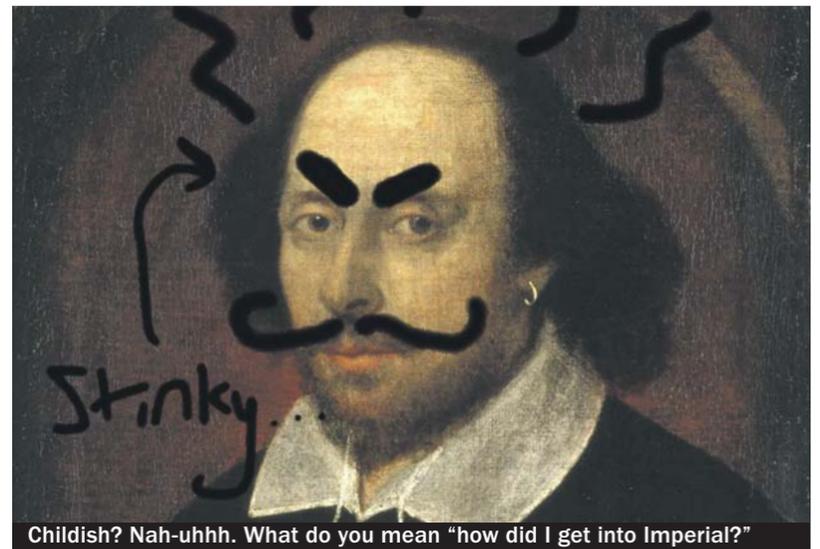
Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk
(stop sending pictures of naked guys...)

May I C**Tinue?

If Shakespeare was allowed to swear, then why not Hangman? Actually, don't answer that...

When people tell me that I'm not allowed to use the 'C word', the 'C bomb' or the 'C beebie', I feel indignant. Not just because they've threatened my freedom of speech, but because they can't even say the word 'cunt'. Now I'm not saying that the vulgarity should just be thrown around willy cuntin' nilly, but it should at least be recognised and valued for its unrivalled power to shock. Some of you may have already turned the page by now with a grimace of protest, but in my eyes you're not principled or high-minded, you're simply weak. If you so vehemently object to an offensive word because it offends, then you might as well object to your own lungs when they manage to successfully supply your blood with oxygen! The word is just doing its job.

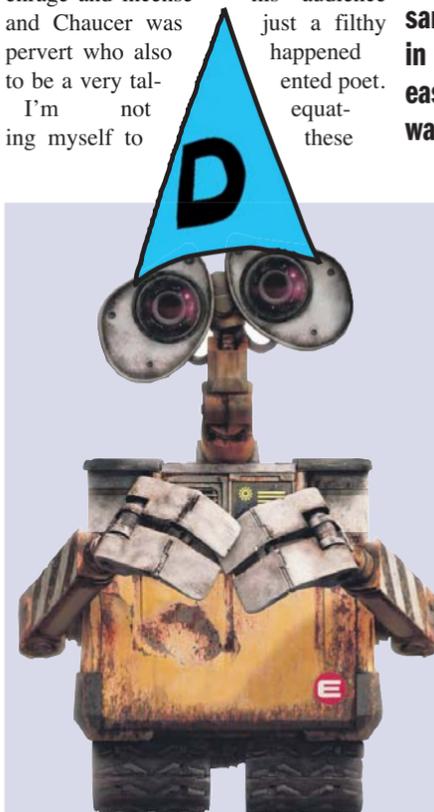
Obscenities, profanities and vulgarities have been used in written language for centuries. Shakespeare was a notorious potty mouth and much of his work was censored for the sake of them youngsters. Even Chaucer supposedly used an early form of the word 'cunt' in 'The Miller's Tale'. The question is why such historic writers felt the need to use foul language. The simple answer is to push buttons. Shakespeare wanted to enrage and incense his audience and Chaucer was just a filthy pervert who also happened to be a very talented poet. I'm not equating myself to these



literary masters, but I also like to push buttons. I will never use a 'nasty word' unless I deem it absolutely necessary. The word 'cunt' has nearly exactly the same meaning as 'twat', 'fanny' and 'vulva', but calling someone a vulva doesn't seem to pack the same punch. No, despite the words meaning the same thing, the word 'cunt' sounds offensive just because, well, it sounds offensive. The psychology behind our emotional responses to vulgarities is surprisingly complicated and there are countless papers written on the subject. I don't have the page space to go into detail, but just take a moment to ask yourself why you find the word 'cunt' so utterly deplorable. If someone called you a vulva, would you have the same response?

Swearing is a vital linguistic element in both spoken and written word, but more importantly humour. If you haven't worked it out by now, I have very strong opinions on the subject matter and this is the first time I've really been that serious about something in Felix. If I want to use the word 'cunt', it's because I want to offend said 'cunt'. If I wanted to call said 'cunt' a 'twat', a 'douche', or an 'asshole', I would have used 'twat', 'douche' or 'asshole'. If readers want to complain about the use of the word 'cunt' then let them complain. Or just star out the 'u'. And the 'n' as well if you want. Starring out letters is like giving Imperial students a puzzle and they love puzzles! In fact it's like playing hangman.

Oi, oi! I'm talking to you, there's nothing to see here. This is some bullshit sans serif text in bold. You easily distracted wanker!!!



Dunc-E

The wOrld Expla1ned by Dunc-E, the clumsily-programmed and seriously misinformed robot

This week Dunc-E explains...

THE WELFARE STATE

The welfare state is for like peOple whO are like well pOOr and shit Or are havin a baby but they are nOt shOuld have a baby because they are stupid and will probably do kill the baby from drOppin it On the flOOr. The welfare state alsO gives mOney to peOple who are cannOt walk Or can nOt dO gO tOilet but yOu can nOt say anything bad abOut them because that is racist and blasphemOus. SO we are Ok with giving the mOney tO intO the disableds but nOt the lazy pOOr peOple. if yOu dO nOt have a jOb then yOu can always be a prOstitute Or sell drugs Or traffick wOmen sO there is nO excuse fOr being nOt having a jOb because there are mOre jObS than there are peOple. The Welfare State is paid fOr by the queen

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



“Rare Camel-Chameleon discovered in India”

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Oh Harry Soljak, what would your mother say? Actually she'd probably be really turned on, she loves this kind of stuff. I mean the first time I was a bit reluctant but hey, I'm an easy-going guy...

Horoscopes

Aries

After spending last week on Facebook, you have now become one of those annoying prats that excessively uses smileys in your text messages :p :p. Anyone who needs to convey emotion and sentiment via the use of teenage punctuation systems is not worth my time of day XD

Gemini

You meet the girl of your dreams. You want to say hi, but being a timid geek you go home and long for the day when fate lets your paths cross again. IT WON'T. Life is not a rehearsal; either tell her or console yourself by wanking with your least favoured hand.

Leo

You have nothing better to do this week other than write comments on the Felix website about your disdain for the quality of the articles. Ironic, seeing as your comments are even shitter - you spastic, fuckbag, monstrous nightmare of a cunt. Have an opinion? Keep it to yourself.

Libra

This week you are the Pope. You realise condoms might actually prevent the spread of HIV. Well done, you dumb fuck. Once again, you are lightyears behind everyone else. It was only in 1992 that you acknowledged the earth rotates around the sun *slow clapping*

Sagittarius

Your queer friend wants to test your gayness level. You protect yourself with the help of Margaret Thatcher, declaring “This penis is not for turning!” But your friend, inspired by Peter Mandelson, brings new meaning to the phrase “The Prince of Darkness.”

Aquarius

You get trapped in your bathroom, with no phone or window. It is 20 days before anyone notices you are missing. You are rescued by a gallant fireman. You thank him by saying “You shouldn't have been so fucking busy with those Chileans.”

Taurus

You wake on Tuesday to find you are Harry Potter. OMG! Now's your chance to fuck Hermione. You shit all over each other, and go at like rabbits until the sun rises on your love pool of semen, faeces, and vaginal juices only to realise you're not Harry and you just did your sister.

Cancer

You believe the middle classes are discouraged from breeding because it is jolly expensive. But for those on benefits, there is every incentive. Well, that's not a very sensible policy. You tell everyone your views. You spend the rest of the week apologising.

Virgo

You are a man. You manage to gain access to the Ann Summers party at Reynolds Bar on Saturday Night. In your excitement, you get your cock out and whack it in chicks' faces 'cos you think that's what they dig. WHABAM!! In fact, they don't. You get arrested.

Scorpio

This week you participate in the tug of war between ChemSoc and CivSoc. You add a novel twist, tying willies together if you're a bloke, nipples if you're a gal. A mistake as much pain ensues - although one lecturer excitedly screams “spank me baby!”

Capricorn

This week, you are the perennial underachiever. You only make it to Deputy Felix editor (2 yrs running). You are the Nick Clegg of Felix. You can shout your orders, but this astrologist only reports to the big boss. You are no enforcer. Dream on.

Pisces

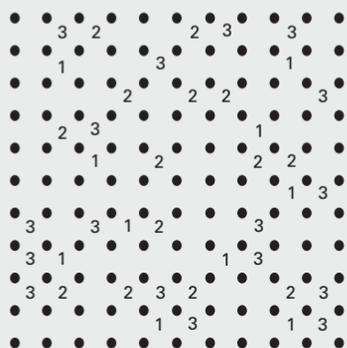
As the stars align in the northern hemisphere, you realise that there are no truths, only perspectives. Unless you are Nick Griffin or George Galloway, in which case you are definitely 100% a massive dickfuck.

Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
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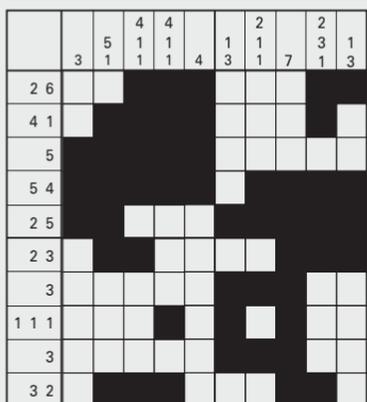
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

Slitherlink



Nonogram



Crossword



Cryptic solutions - Across 1 DISCREDIT 5 DWEEB 9 OSMOSIS 10 NUCLEAR 11 STAIR 12 NICARAGUA 14 ICY 15 IN A NUT SHELL 17 NIGHT VISION 19 SOS 20 ARCHANGEL 22 SYRUP 24 STOICAL 26 WAR HERO 27. ASSET 28. PORTFOLIO Down 1 DROSS 2 SUMMARY 3 RESTRAINT 4 DISENGAGING 5 TON 6 DECOR 7 EPERGNE 8 BARNACLES 13 CAULIFLOWER 14 IONIAN SEA 16 SANS SERIF 18 GECKOES 19 SURREAL 21 ASCOT 23 PROMO 25 LIP

Going Underground

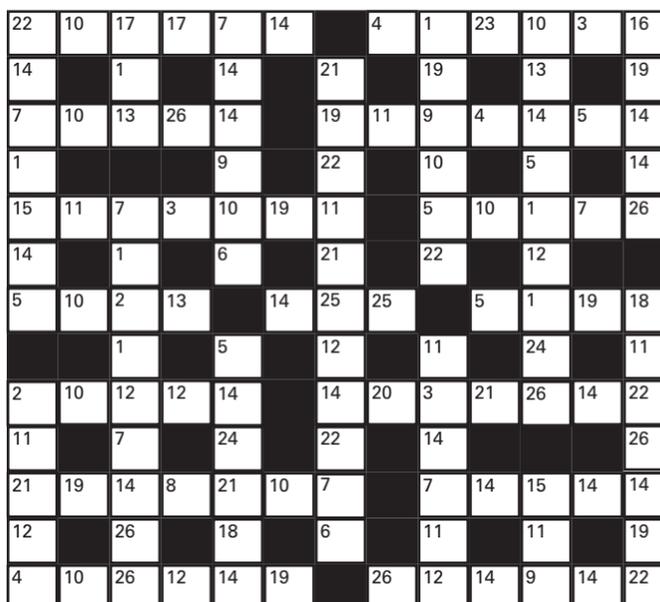
W	E	S	T	S	I	L	V	E	R	T	O	W	N
23	5	19	20	19	9	12	22	5	18	20	15	23	14

Crossword

Theme: Codes

"Hooray!" I hear you cry. "I recognise this puzzle. It's that one where you don't have any clues and the grid is as blank as my face"

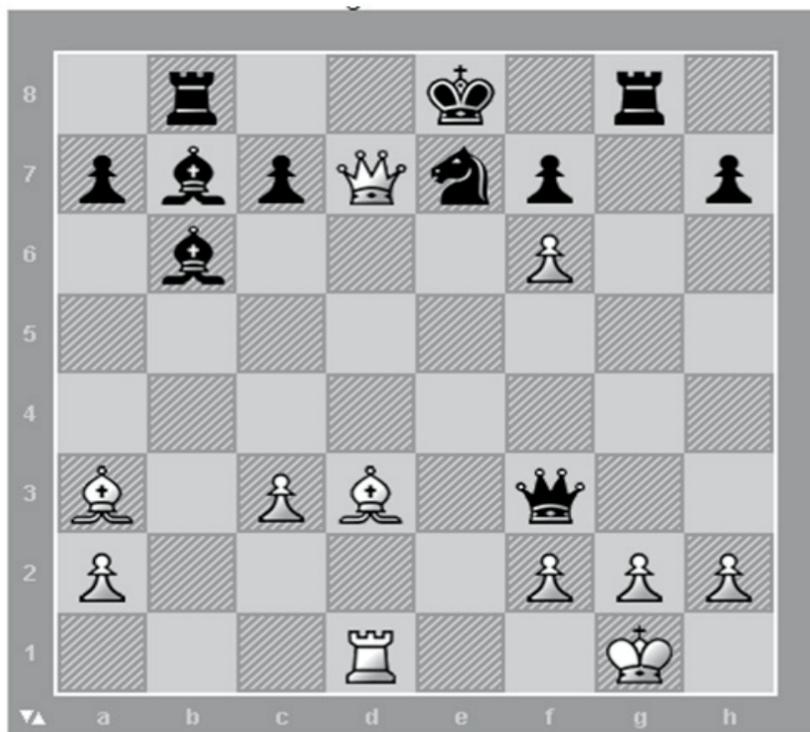
Yes, the codeword has arrived in Felix. Each number uniquely corresponds to each letter of the alphabet. So, if you think Q is represented by 1, write a Q in each box with a 1 in it. Do it for all 26 letters based on the frequency and position of each number. All entries make real words (no nasty phrases). The grid below is for you to keep track of which letters you've already used. I've given you some letters to start as well. See, it's all rather pleasant, really.



- A N
- B O
- C P
- D Q
- E R
- F S
- G T
- H U
- I V
- J W
- K X
- L Y
- M Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	O	10	11	W	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		

Chess - White mate in 3 (black to move first)

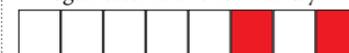


Pictogram

The historical origin of this holiday is disputed.



A vegan alternative for Turkey.



Three birds (turkey, duck, chicken) nested inside each other and cooked together



An edible substance or mixture, often a starch, used to fill a cavity in another food.



A symbol of food and abundance dating back to the 5th century BC.



The red letters spell...



SPORT

Sports Editor: **Jovan Nedic**
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Forgotten Sports

Handball



This week, Felix Sport takes a look at one of Imperial's sporting newborns. **Carina Carter** is no stranger to using her hands

What is Handball?

Team Handball is a very popular sport in continental Europe and has been an Olympic sport for years. The modern handball sport started in the latter half of the nineteenth century, although the origin of the game can be traced back to the ancient period, when Greeks played a similar game.

In Handball, two teams of 7 players each (6 field players and a goalkeeper) pass and dribble a ball to ultimately throw it into the goal of the other team. It is a fast game with almost a goal scored every minute of a game.

Crisp, fluent and creative ball movement is paramount in setting up scoring opportunities in Handball, since no players are allowed inside the six-meter arc outlining the goal area. The offensive team works the ball quickly around the perimeter and tries to set up a shot, which can reach a speed of over 100km/h. That makes the Handball the 2nd fastest indoor sport and arguably the most exciting one to watch and play.

This might all sound a bit hectic and confusing, but it is easy to pick up and helps to develop many of the basic athletics skills needed in other sports.

Imperial Handball

Can't kick, won't kick? Sign up for Handball

Carina Carter

Formed in 2007, handball or the 'Imperial Eagles' as they like to be known, is one of the latest sporting additions at Imperial. Despite being hugely popular with our neighbours on the continent, handball is still relatively new in the UK so you can be excused if you've haven't got a clue what the sport is about. The sport's popularity in the UK is growing though, with more universities forming teams. Team GB are also entering a handball team in 2012 for the very first time.

Handball must be one of the few sports played at Imperial not to be part of BUCS, showing how new the sport really is, and so their fixtures are organised by the British Handball Association. As well as friendlies they play four league fixtures a term, where they compete against other universities and also non-university teams. The club has a men's team (obviously, it is Imperial...) but also have a joint ladies' team, last year with Oxford and now with UCL, so that the girls can compete too. Several members also play for a local team (the 'Ruislip Eagles'), allowing them to play more.

"There were six Imperial players that went on to win the EHA (England Handball Association) cup, which qualified us to play on a European level" says the club's secretary Stefan Bauer; "As you can see, we cater for beginners and give strong players the chance to play at a very competitive level too".

Whilst the club do not go on tour as such like other sports teams, they are lucky to compete in various tournaments in the year and so have several weekends away. They travel to France every year to take part in the 'Challenge Centrale Lyon'

This involves around 8000 uni students descending on Lyon to compete in a variety of sports and is apparently a lot of fun. They also compete in the UK University Championships and were awarded the 'fair play award' last year. The club is currently trying to set up a South England tournament as a way for uni teams around London to get more games.

Handball is still a fairly small club with around 30 members, which means that the social side is good because everyone knows each other.

Always intrigued to find out about clubs drinking traditions, I was told the Imperial Eagles tiple of choice is 'vodka cornichon', which is vodka with a pickle water mixer (I think I'll stick to the more traditional mixers personally). The club had a good intake of freshers with many of them having never played before.

If you fancy giving it a try, the club trains at ethos on a Wednesday night 8-10pm. Membership is £25 for the year and taster sessions are free.



The Imperial Eagles in action

Rugby: back on track

...Continued from back page

the final ten minutes behind, the team eventually emerged 26-22 victors thanks to a late try from Ed Labinski who is making a habit of scoring 'game winning tries'.

The victory got Imperial's season back on track and provided a first win for stand in skipper Charlie Esberger.

There is only one game remaining this term against Saint Bart's and the team are determined to put in a big and impressive performance before Christmas which they hope they can carry through into the new year culminating in a league title as well as the ever elusive Varsity victory.

The Second XV put on a spirited display but were knocked out of the BUCS cup by UCL 1st XV, losing 21-19. The team will no doubt feel hard done by after what appeared to be a legitimate try was not awarded in the dying minutes, furthermore fly half Rob Dowden had the opportunity to win the game with a penalty kick in the last play of the game however, his kick went agonisingly wide of the left post.

The team put on a spirited performance throughout the match with the forwards providing a useful platform for the backs to work

off. In the lital last few minutes of the match, with Imperial knowing that they were chasing the victory, the forwards continually provided thrust, battering UCL backwards. The outcome however, eluded Imperial but they can take heart from the fact that they competed well against and probably should have beaten a team which inflicted a heavy defeat on them in the opening game of the season.

The team will take this experience and use it to their advantage as they look to end this term on the back of a decent run of results, hoping that they can turn around a run of narrow losses in the new year.

The fourth team succumbed to a crushing 60-3 against a supposed Imperial Medicals third XV, a team which contained a number of players who seemed to resemble players who played in the Varsity match earlier in the season. The fourth team put on a spirited performance against a team who were clearly of a better standard.

The team will look forward to their next encounter with the medics and will be confident of achieving a result against their rivals before their eagerly anticipated Varsity matchup in March.

SPORT

Rowers cut their teeth on the Cam

Imperial College Boat Club take hungover newbies rowing on a cold morning

Tom Carpenter

What better way to start a weekend than waking up to a glorious hangover at half past six on a cold winter's morning. Early starts are what rowing is all about apparently, but it was still a huge shock to many of ICBC's novices.

After some light dozing and a good few bananas, London was left behind and they were soon being thrown off the coach in an obscure housing estate in north Cambridge. The Cam, a mere stream compared with the might of the Thames tideway, gave confidence to the competitors at least for a good result.

With all parts of the boat successfully remembered and reassembled this was it, time to get on the water and meander to the start line. A cox down, the Men's B boat drafted in the help of a prepubescent Westminster school boy, with little to no coxing experience.

Paddling up to the start it was discovered that 2500m wasn't as far as it sounded and some of the competition was definitely beatable. With all three crews safely at the start line, Alex 'Crabz' Quigley produced a powerful speech, full of Cambridge bitterness to rally the team for the race. Crew t-shirts adorned, the race was on.

The Men's Student Novice Boat A was away, powering through the first hundred metres, feeling good. Suddenly, the IC Novice Boat B could be seen careering diagonally across an almost straight section of river towards the only

tree on the course. Shouts from bowman Reuben 'Cameron' Hill to "BACK IT DOWN" were too late to evade the inevitable. Colliding with the only tree sticking out of the bank, their race was over after only ten strokes. Our school boy friend would soon be receiving numerous death threats.

Back in the race Men's A steamed through the first 1000m with great skill and power. Valuable time was unfortunately lost in the second 1000m due to strokeman Tommy 'pedo-rapist-trainers' Hirst sliding straight off his runners owing to a previously mentioned issue with his seat.

Finishing fast and making up ground on the team in front Men's Novice boat A came in a satisfying third position (15 seconds off first) destroying all our London competition and leaving Cambridge gawping at the rowing talent they had rejected. Without seat issues, could first have been theirs?

Meanwhile the Woman's Novice Boat were giving a master class in competitive rowing, streaking past the boat in front in the final 1000m and pulling lengths ahead to obliterate the competition and post the fastest time in class, by a large margin.

Anyone would think they were trying to make a point: Imperial College does accept girls? No wait, Imperial Woman's Novices are a force to be reckoned with.

Men's Boat B gingerly made its way down the course where eventually the pressure on the vulnerable cox became



They just needed to push away and they would be in business!

too great, abandoning the crippled boat for some poor excuse of needing to race in his own crew. Will 'Captain Sideburns' Blyth took control of the situation to avoid the boat disrupting the next race, Tom 'lycra' Carpenter stepped in for his coxing debut and with the help of strokeman Hugh 'facial' O'Connell the boat was successfully coxed the rest of the way down the course and to safety. At least the finish line was reached in the end.

The Novice A boats set out again rechristened Men's Boat C and Woman's Boat B. Crashing boats again proved to be the problem of the day with a boat catching the bank and jack knifing across the river right in front of the Men. Thankfully with a more experienced cox, potential disaster was avoided. Xavier 'pension' Lorrain and Tom 'blue shirt' McArdle et al put in a sterling effort in the final 500m to finish their second race of the day in style ahead of a queue of other boats.

The woman once again showed what imperial can do with a fifth place finish from the second boat beating both Kings College boats and many Cambridge colleges.

After a few dozen more bananas, and the longest discussion about lemonade and pimm's in history, ICBC headed home to celebrate their success in centurion drinking style.

Apparently the opening of metric was pretty good too. What better way to end a weekend than waking up to a glorious hangover.

Imperial fencers foil Oxford efforts

Charlotte Levin

IC Fencing Women's first team visited Oxford last weekend as a first part of BUCS Premier League South Division. It was a weekend well spent, fencing against Oxford, Cambridge, King's College and Queen Mary and eventually returning with excellent results.

First up on piste was the foil team, consisting of Alice Mitchell, Hanna Bryars and Outi Supponen. They literally danced their way through the four first matches, emphasising how strong the team is and also building a comfortable margin for the other weapons. Past lunch time, weapons were switched and Clare Harding replaced Alice for sabre. Having good confidence from earlier years and the successful morning, the ladies continued standing strong and barely even gave the other teams a chance

to show what they had. Queen Mary did put up a tougher fight, but Imperial had their mind set on victory and rounded off nicely.

Counting the score at the end of the day was a pure pleasure. It turned out that the team had done so well that three out of four matches already were won, and very was required to win the last one: 8 hits in total, in a match of first to 45. The night was spent without worrying, complimenting everyone for the good performance and putting up goals for the next day. It was after all a competition, and what would it be without a challenge to strive for? The aim was set as high as possible: leave Oxford undefeated. It had never been done before, and sometime had to be the first one.

Arriving to the venue on Sunday morning, Emily Bottle, Charlotte Levin

and Alice warmed up to fence epee while the rest of the team got ready to support. Cambridge was the most demanding opponent, having been so over the past years and hence building up a mental challenge as well. It was an even match throughout, the teams taking turn of being in the lead and sometimes seriously threatening the goal that had been set. Emily fenced the last part of the match, and she got the rest of the team standing on their toes before winning with a single hit, 45-44. The last match was fenced against Queen Mary, a match that required more tactic consideration. Nevertheless, thanks to very good team work, good estimations of individual performances and of course great supporting, Charlotte was able to finish the match at 45-40. It was a confident, proud and happy team returning to London.

Imperial overcome rivals

....Continued from back page
Imperial's reliable and diverse attacking plays, which include cleverly named schemes like "Wurst" or "Dagmar", and the fact that the opponent goalkeeper had only played handball twice in his life helped to quickly turn the game around. The aggressive 5-1 defense interrupted UCL's attacks, forcing numerous turnovers, whereas on the other end of the court precise and fast passing set up the wing players to score easy goals on several occasions. Midway through the first half it became obvious that our opponent was lacking in coordination and variability, which mean that Imperial established a well-deserved 4-goal advantage in the final minutes before the interval.

With the comfortable advantage, and fully aware of their opponent's weaknesses, Imperial players stepped up

their game right away and increased their lead constantly throughout the second 30 minutes. UCL became increasingly and visibly frustrated, which was indicated by many German and French swearwords being used on the court, and culminated in attempts to decapitate and mutilate the Eagles goalkeeper (who had an excellent 2nd half) from the penalty spot and the wing positions. Severely unimpressed by their opponent's vulgar display of disappointment, the Imperial Eagles continued to exploit the turnovers and soared to a justified ten goal advantage at the end of the game.

It was a perfect and very encouraging start to the season, which was elaborately celebrated in Metric, but no reason to be complacent if the talented team wants to bring some silverware to London over the course of the season.

SPORT

Felix Sports League



sponsored by

 ERNST & YOUNG
 Quality In Everything We Do

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

ICU Snooker discover fresher Champion

Sam Dennis

Last week saw ICU Snooker's first internal tournament of the year, the Freshers' Tournament. After many of Imperial's first team graduated last year, eyes were on the freshers to impress and work their way in to the team to help defend our BUCS gold medal later in the year.

Entrants to this year's tournament ranged from absolute beginners through to a national champion.

Finalist Jonathan Morrow had the most eventful route to the final, beating Jonathan Hoong 2-1 in the quarterfinal from 1-0 down, and more impressively coming from 2-1 behind to secure his place in the final, beating Bobo Kijac 3-2.

Meeting Jonathan in the final was one of Romania's finest, Bogdan Cozmaciuc. Bogdan had reached the final winning all his matches in straight frames and registering the two highest breaks of the tournament.

So the final was set, the unbeaten Bogdan Cozmaciuc versus the come-back king Jonathan Morrow. As expected, Bogdan took an early lead in the best of seven match, claiming the first three frames. The scene was set for another amazing come-back from Jonathan Morrow, but could he actually come back to claim Freshers' tournament 2010 victory and be the subject of one of the finest underdog stories of all time?

No!

Bogdan left his mark as Imperial's best newbie, claiming the final 4-0 and keeping his unbeaten record.

Coached by his father, who gained coach-



The intense stare that every (fresher) Champion has is not lacking here

ing qualifications from the prestigious Terry Griffiths' Snooker Academy, Bogdan has also competed in European and World Championships, and played professionals Mark King and the legendary Jimmy White.

Next in Bogdan's sights is the Internal League, where the entire club competes in a league and knockout format to find the club's number one. Surely a prize he is longing to

put next to his already earned title of 'National Champion of Romania' in the under-19 and mens categories.

Sign up for the Internal League is now open to all ICU Snooker members. For all those who feel beating the likes of Bogdan and reigning champion Sam Dennis is a steep challenge, there are two tiers to allow players of any standard a long and prosperous tournament experience.

Sports personality draws near

David Wilson

On the 19th of December the BBC will host the 57th annual Sports Personality of Year awards at the LG Arena in Birmingham. Many people may think that this has been a relatively lean year as far as British sport is concerned, there hasn't been too much to shout about especially as the 'golden generation' of English football failed so miserably at the World Cup. There have, however, been a number of sporting achievements of note.

Graeme McDowell won the US Open this year and in doing so became the first European to win that major in 40 years. Not only that, but McDowell played in the final singles match of the Ryder Cup and sunk the final putt which ensured that the cup rightfully returned to Europe. Such exploits mean that McDowell will be favourite for the award this year.

Not to be outdone by his compatriot, Lee Westwood is the current world number one, a pretty big achievement when you consider than the previous incumbent of that title was a cer-

tain Mr Tiger Woods who had stood at the summit of world golf for 281 weeks before Westwood knocked him off of his perch.

February seems like a long time ago, but during that month Amy Williams won gold at the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, throwing herself down an open topped tunnel made of ice on a slab of metal. Williams won a gold medal in the skeleton event, the first Briton to win an individual gold at the winter Olympics for 30 years. The low profile of winter sports means that Williams is likely to be an outsider for the title this and any other year.

Mark Cavendish won five stages of the Tour de France this year and save for a relatively poor start to the tour he would have won the coveted green sprint jersey. Cavendish is a volatile person who tends to stay away from the media as he feels he is often misrepresented. A strong fourth place finish in last year's Sports Personality competition means that he could well be in contention for the title this year.

Jessica Ennis didn't compete in too many

competitions this season but still managed to add the European title to her growing medal haul as well as captaining the British side at the Aviva International meet in Glasgow. The poster girl of the 2012 Olympics competed in only a limited amount of competitions this season in order to focus on upcoming London Olympics.

Tom Daley overcame Delhi belly to win two Commonwealth gold medals. To put this in perspective, Daley is 16 years old and he beat the 2008 Olympic champion in order to win the individual Commonwealth title. Daley has youth on his side and will likely win many more medals over the coming years.

David Haye would surely have been in with a shout of the title if he had fought anyone other than Fr-Audley 'A-Farce' Harrison earlier this month. Unifying the heavyweight division is Haye's aim in the coming year and perhaps with it the Sports Personality title.

Last year produced a shock winner in the form of Ryan Giggs, so this year John Terry could win Sports Personality with Fabio Capello collecting the coach award.

SPORT

Immortals secure their maiden victory

George Barnes

Imperial Immortals 12

Royal Holloway Bears 0

After last week's thrilling opening game the Imperial Immortals knew that their first win wasn't far off and they duly delivered the first victory in team history with a convincing win over the Royal Holloway Bears. It was a marked contrast to last season's meeting when the Bears left Imperial with a 28-0 win and shows how far the Immortals have come in a short space of time.

Imperial had impressive away support thanks to their cheerleading squad making the journey to Egham and after an immaculately observed minutes silence in honour of Remembrance Sunday, the Immortals won the toss and decided to kick-off. This opening kick-off set the tone for the game as the Bears returner fumbled the ball and Immortals viper Dexter Valencia recovered, giving the Immortals offence good field position inside the Bears half. A false start and an early sack conceded stopped the offence capitalising, but the defence stepped up and forced the Bears to a three-and-out.

Having shaken off the earlier drive, the offence set to the task in hand and an excellent drive led to a go-ahead score for running-back Tino Millar. Rookie half-back Alistair Boyce set the drive in motion with an impressive 55 yard run and a 20 yard reception by tight end Michael Peacock put the Immortals in the Bears half of the field. Solid blocking by the offensive line, led by rookie centre

Jackson Xing, gave Millar the room to rush for a 24 yard touchdown, his third of the season. The ensuing 2-point conversion failed giving the Immortals a 6-0 lead.

Not to be outdone the defence delivered a takeaway on the Bears next drive as linebacker Artur Jarzabek forced a fumble for defensive lineman Quirin Grossman to recover. The offence once more took to the field but solid runs by Millar and quarterback Rob Wolstenholme were wiped out by a false start and a holding penalty, forcing the Immortals to punt. In a hurry to get the ball back, the defence took advantage of a fumbled hand-off by the Bears offence and viper Charles Kennedy pounced to recover for Imperial.

With good field position, the Immortals handed the ball off to fullback Alex Karvelas and the veteran carried the ball 2 yards across the goalline for a career first touchdown. The 2-point conversion failed and the Immortals now had a 12-0 lead.

The second half saw the Immortals take control of the game as both their offensive and defensive lines began to dominate the tiring Bears linemen, thanks in no small part to Quirin Grossman and Zubin Jehangir. Jehangir burst through the Holloway offensive line to sack the quarterback and force a fumble which was narrowly recovered by the Bears and Grossman dominated the line so thoroughly that Holloway went so far as to change their starting centre. Jackson Xing, who impressed in his debut against Surrey, led the offensive line brilliantly with able support from Marcus Shepherd, Frederico "Massa" Sanches and Peter Lipka. Lipka dis-

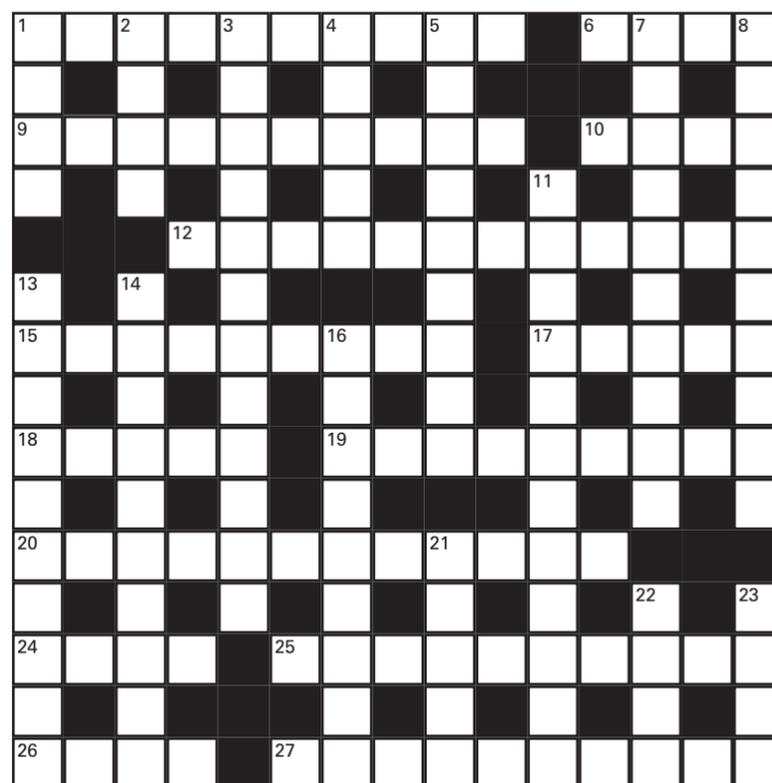
tinguished himself in particular when Wolstenholme was intercepted and the offensive lineman rushed half the length of the field to make a touchdown-saving tackle.

The offence moved the ball well, with Karvelas denied a second touchdown when his run was called back for a holding penalty and despite further good running from Alistair Boyce and a 12 yard reception by wide receiver Charles Edwards the Immortals were unable to add to their score. The defence continued to make plays and were unlucky not to score themselves when Artur Jarzabek intercepted a pass on the half-way line and ran the ball back to the 1. Safety Arjav Trivedi also opened his interception account with his first pick of the season and Dexter Valencia added a sack late in the game.

A stirring first win for the team sees them move to a 1-1 record. In truth the Immortals could have and perhaps should have won by more than a 12 point margin, but with the defence recording it's first shut-out in club history, the team is on the up.

The Immortals carried on from their maiden victory, trained hard and recorded their second victory within a week overcoming the London South Bank Spartans 20-14 in overtime after the fulltime score ended 14-14. This allowed the Immortals to move onto a 2-1 record putting them in a good position. Further London derbies against Brunel and Kings College are on the schedule for December and the Immortals will know that if they can cut out mistakes they stand a very good chance of maintaining their winning record into the new year.

Cryptic Crossword 1,471



Across

- 1. Bear needing huge amount of stuffing? (10)
- 6. Transport from Paddington, perhaps (4)
- 9. As my mentor's incapable, it's a wise investment (5,5)
- 10. Devonshire river race (4)
- 12. Vicar redeems queer soldiers (5,7)
- 15. Cross line and hope to move foreign lover (9)
- 17. Refuse to tease (5)
- 18. Mathematician's equal jeers oddly (5)
- 19. A swift one off the wrist from literary type? (3-6)
- 20. Hammered last nail into artwork (12)
- 24. Catch Spike (4)
- 25. We hear Constitution State's moving installation (7,3)
- 26. Work on old rowing machine (4)
- 27. Red chamber in Socialist Hall (4,6)

Down

- 1. Finished most of Italian meal (4)
- 2. Dull poet turns up (4)
- 3. Priest learns new way to sow seed (12)
- 4. Feel good with hemp (5)
- 5. Kinky pet lovers spent too long in bed (9)
- 7. Unusual bead, a relic that can be rooted out (10)
- 8. He isolated nitrogen and he turned it into oxygen (10)
- 11. This guy's a bum doctor! (12)
- 13. Suffer Wilde's mistakes (10)
- 14. Removing make-up? Shameless! (10)
- 16. I'm tortured with vile pus and rash (9)
- 21. Stealing businessman's newspaper (5)
- 22. A scholar and a soldier - wise men? (4)
- 23. Chemical unit imprisoned by Great Omar (4)

Want to know how you did last week? Go to the Puzzles section >>

I, SCIENCE
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Eagles soar to stunning first victory

Stefan Bauer

The Imperial College Handball Club got their season underway with a convincing victory over local rivals UCL last Saturday.

Both teams have met previously and although the Eagles were victorious in every one of these encounters, be it on the court or in the pub, there was no room for complacency this time around, since the intelligence gathered on the opponents revealed that their team improved substantially from last year.

After the England Handball Association made some ridiculous decisions with regards to the restructuring of the Development League South, which left both teams involved in this game in a group with the 2nd teams of the British Champions and another well established first division squad, this game was likely to be the most evenly matched and interesting of the season and a good indicator as to how well Imperial was doing in comparison to other Universities.

Both teams met for an unpleasantly early throw-off in Leyton, which bears one of the most poorly insulated sports halls in the UK in its picturesque centre. Despite the fact that the facility received the prestigious "Waltham Forest New Building of the Year Award" in 2004, it guarantees for questionable conditions for an indoor sport during the winter and autumn periods.

As the game started, UCL broke the deadlock with their first attack and managed to establish a slim 2-goal advantage early in the game. However, ...Continued on Page 41



Immortals beat Bears and Spartans

Page 43

Rugby: Third win for 1st XV

David Wilson

Rugby Union

Imperial 26 - Portsmouth 22

The Imperial College 1st XV got their season back on track yesterday seeing off a determined Portsmouth side at Harlington. The team knew that a win was imperative following their disappointing loss

against Reading last week. It is imperative that Imperial remain unbeaten throughout the remainder of the season if they are to gain promotion over their closest rivals, last weeks victors, Reading.

The game started poorly for Imperial who went a try behind within the first five minutes however, the team showed good spirit and determination, going into half time ahead thanks to two tries from Ben Adubi who is proving to be great addition to

the midfield with his powerful and hard running. The team were encouraged by the words of coach Richard Birkett and injured captain Caolan Cotter and went out into the second half determined to put a decent performance and an impressive score on the visitors.

The team showed a good level of togetherness throughout the second half and despite going into ...Continued on Page 40

TECHNOLOGY



The Galaxy Tab takes on the iPad: Page 14

COMMENT



English footballers: abject failures? Page 21

FILM



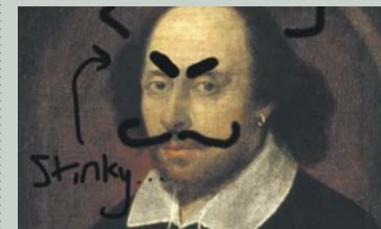
Potter-mania erupts as penultimate film is released: Page 30

FOOD



Chick peas never tasted so good: Page 35

HANGMAN



What? Why the f**k can't I swear in Felix? Page 36