

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1480

FELIX



28.01.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949



LIFE SCIENCES CUTS

The teaching review gets underway: **Page 5**



HAVE A HEART

The desperate need for donors in our health system: **Page 8**

PhD funding blunder in Aero

Department failed to tell students their bursary was being reduced

Sophia David

Eleven PhD students in the Department of Aeronautics have been left angered and confused after their monthly bursary payments were cut in December and January. No forewarning was given to the students; a blunder described as “unfortunate” by the Head of Department.

Nine of the affected students are supported by funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) which sets a national minimum stipend designed to cover their living costs. This amount for 2010-11 is £13,590 and increases in line with inflation each year; using the Treasury’s GDP deflator, a measure of general inflation. However, the EPSRC does not make payments directly to students. It gives a block grant to Imperial, approximately £6m, which is then distributed to departments who decide how much each student receives.

It is therefore the department that pays the students an amount which, in previous years in the Aeronautics Department, has coincided with the EPSRC minimum stipend plus an additional ‘London Living Allowance’ of £2000 to cover the costs of living in the city. However, when the students checked their bank accounts in December, they

noticed they had been paid a reduced bursary that month, which adds up to a total cut of £223 for the year.

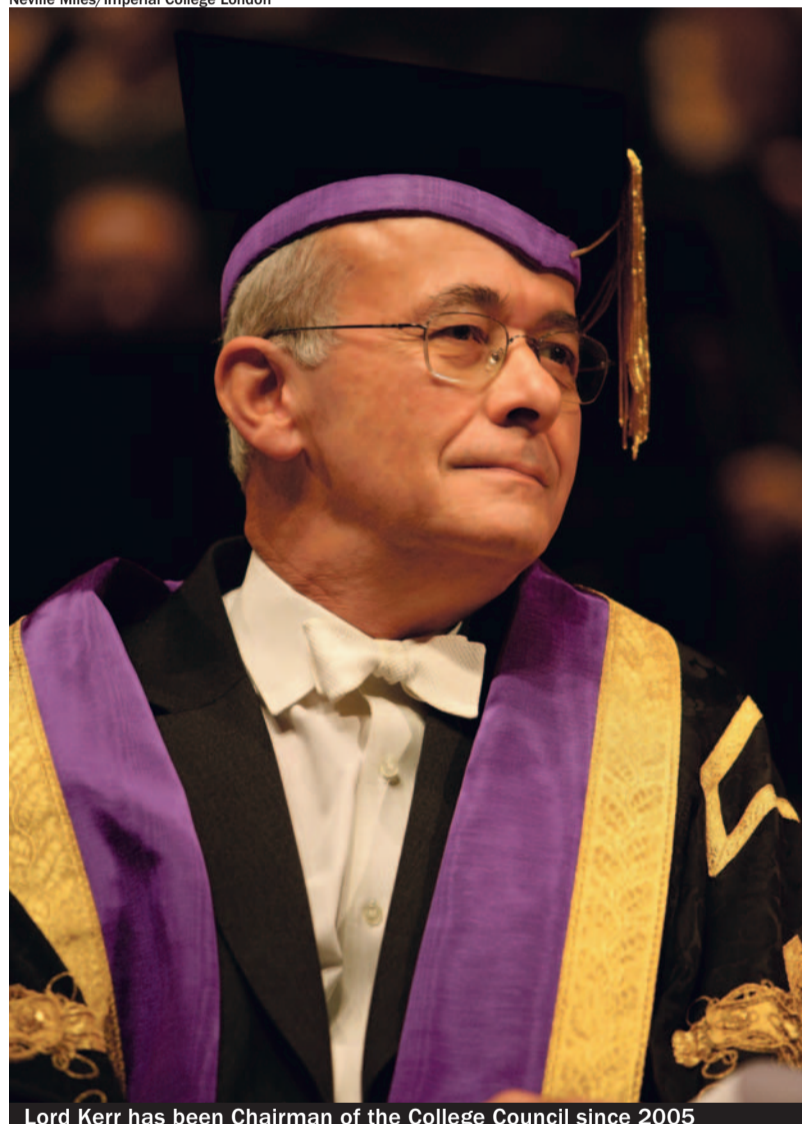
The Head of Department and Professor of Aerostructures, Professor Ferri M. H. Aliabadi said that the bursaries are set not according to the EPSRC’s rates, but by the College minimum rate for PhD students. He explained that, “by mistake, in October and November 2010, the payments were made at a higher rate than the College minimum recommendation. In December a correction was made to the EPSRC bursary payments, reducing them by an average of £18.50 per month, to re-align the student bursaries with the College minimum.”

The College minimum rate is determined by the College’s Management Board and is not directly linked to rates offered by research councils. The discrepancy of £223 for 2010/11 is because the College’s minimum rate increased by 0.5% while the EPSRC’s minimum increased by 2.5%.

Malcolm Aldridge, the Head of the Bursaries Payment Office, explained that the staff pay throughout the College had also increased by 0.5% and that when the decision was made, there were significant pressures on higher education institutions to restrain pay increases.

Professor Aliabadi apologised for the
...Continued on Page 6

Neville Miles/Imperial College London



Lord Kerr has been Chairman of the College Council since 2005

Lord Kerr steps down from Council

Search for replacement begins: **Page 3**

TECHNOLOGY



A handy guide to making a successful iPhone app: **Page 13**

ARTS



London’s Annual Mime Festival returns: **Page 21**

FASHION



Locally-sourced fashion and cake? Yes please!: **Page 35**

Graduate jobs on the rise

Poll by Association of Graduate Recruiters shows 8.9% increase in the number of graduate jobs in 2010. **Page 3**

Student Switch-off success

Students participating in the Student Switch-off scheme, a project to reduce energy use, make 2% reduction. **Page 4**

More obstacles for uni entry

Higher tuition fees, entry requirements and more applicants makes life tough for prospective students. **Page 4**

Changes to College hours

Remember when lectures began at 9:30? We take a look through the archive at the last College Day debate. **Page 6**

HIGHLIGHTS

On campus

East Meets West

The Indian Society present their yearly extravaganza of Eastern and Western song, dance and fashion at their biggest ever venue, the O2. Performances include Funkology, Bollywood, Hip Hop, Fashion Show, Ballet, Tap and Gaana. Tickets range from £12-£20 and can be purchased in the SAF or by emailing emwtheshow@ic.ac.uk.

IndigO2, The O2
30 January 18:30-22:00

The Age of Information

Emeritus Professor Igor Aleksander explains the role of 'information', how the brain processes it and asks if humanity can survive in the present age of information. Tickets are £3 for staff and students. Email Jill Cook – admin@friendsofimperial.org.uk – for more information and tickets.



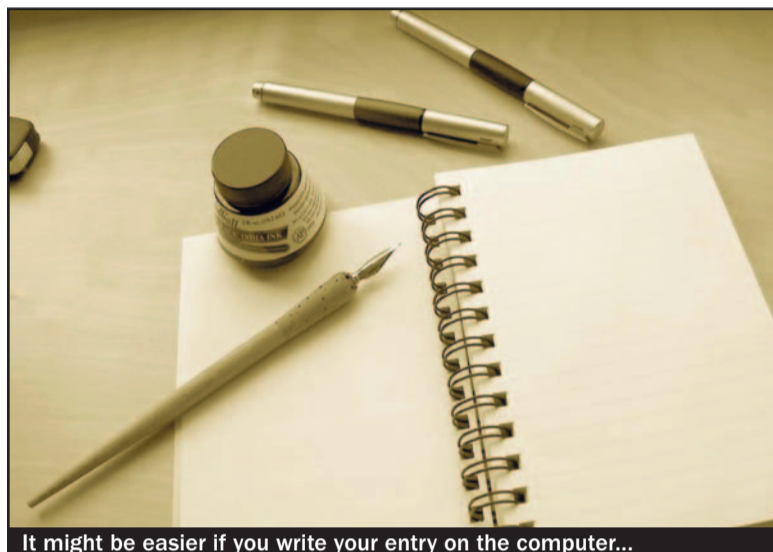
Sherfield Building, The Great Hall
08 February 19:00-20:00

A Low Carbon Economy

As part of the Energy Futures Lab lecture series, Dr Julian Allwood will be looking at how industry can realistically achieve carbon emission reductions. A former lecturer in mechanical engineering at Imperial, he now leads a research group in the Department of Engineering at Cambridge. The lecture is open to all but registration is required in advance. Contact Laura Budd – l.budd@imperial.ac.uk – for registration and further information.

Mech Eng Building, LT220
08 February 18:00-19:00

Writing Competition!



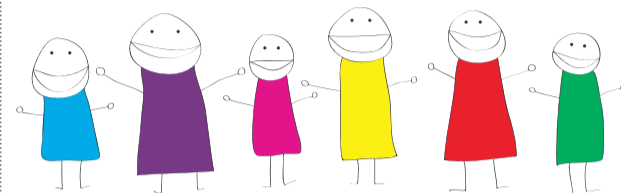
It might be easier if you write your entry on the computer...

Do you want to win up to £500? Ah, I knew that would get your attention. This year is the 100th anniversary of the Biochemical Society and to celebrate they are running an essay competition for under- and postgraduate students, regardless of degree; you do not need to be a member of the society to enter. Entrants must write up to 1,500 words on molecular bioscience topic of your choice. The piece should be aimed at the general public and must be an original piece of work not published elsewhere. 1st prize: £500, 2nd prize: £250 and 3rd prize: £100. Visit biochemistry.org/sciencecommunication for more information.

Editor

Union Notice

Sabbatical Elections!



Nominations open 15th February

It's coming up to that time of year again, when campus is flooded with flyers and eager candidates rot the teeth of Imperial students with their sweet election bribes. Yes, the Sabbatical and Trustee elections for Imperial College Union kick off on the 15th of February when nominations open. The positions up for grabs include Deputy Presidents for Finance & Services, Clubs & Societies, Welfare and Education as well as Felix Editor and finally, President. Do you have the dedication and enthusiasm required to serve Imperial students?

Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

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Lord Kerr resigns after six years as Imperial Council Chair

Search begins for replacement

Alex Karapetian

Lord Kerr, Chairman of the Imperial College Council for over six years, intends to step down in the Summer, a staff briefing indicated. The briefing included an announcement inviting members of the College to encourage people they know as suitable candidates to express interest.

John Olav Kerr, Baron Kerr of Kinlochard took up the post of Imperial's Chairman of Court and Council in January 2005. He was ambassador and UK permanent representative to the EU for five years and became Deputy Chairman and Senior Independent Director of Shell. Educated in Pembroke College, Oxford, Lord Kerr is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and had commented "to work for Imperial is a huge honour. They are, and will stay, second to none."

The role of Chairman of College's Council is of international standing and the person appointed will have many contacts in the higher reaches of government, industry or other influential bodies. They will be expected to lead the Council and work with the Rector closely in order to fulfill its responsibilities regarding the governance and direction of the College.

As the search for Chairman commences, speculation has arisen over who would be appropriate to succeed Lord Kerr. The resulting candidate will be invited for an informal and confidential discussion with the Search Committee, which is chaired by Lord Tugendhat, who is the Chairman of the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and is an external member of Council. The position is not paid.

The Council of Imperial College is defined by Royal Charter as the "governing and executive body of the College", responsible for finance, property, investments and general business, and for setting the general strategic direction of the institution. There are nineteen members of Council with a majority being lay members. The Council holds meetings at least three times during the academic year and are further tasked with important decisions and recommendations influencing the appointment of high profile positions in College, such as the Rector.

Members of the College are invited to encourage suitable candidates to email college.secretary@imperial.ac.uk expressing their interest by the 11th of February. As previously, the post hopes to attract senior and respected individuals with great competency in finance and politics.

Layton Thompson/Imperial College London



Being a Lord looks like so much fun

Profile: Lord Kerr

Baron Kerr of Kinlochard – more commonly known as Lord Kerr – was born in Grantown-on-Spey, Scotland in 1942. He was educated at Glasgow Academy and Pembroke College, Oxford, holding honorary degrees from the Universities of St Andrews, Aston and Glasgow. He joined the UK Diplomatic Service in 1966 which included postings at the British Embassy in Moscow, and at the High Commission in Pakistan.

Kerr was seconded to the Treasury from 1979 to 1984 and became Principal Private Secretary to two Chancellors of the Exchequer. He was Ambassador and UK Permanent Representative to the European Union from 1990 to 1995 and then became Ambassador to the US in Washington until 1997 before returning to London. He was awarded the Most Dis-

tinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, appointed CMG, KCMG and GCMG in 2001. He serves in the Law and Institutions sub committee of the EU Select Committee in the House of Lords and is the Chairman of the Centre for European Reform and Vice President of the European Policy Centre.

He also took the role of Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office and Head of the Diplomatic Service, after which he became a director of Shell Transport and Trading (now Royal Dutch Shell plc), chairing the group of Directors. He is now Deputy Chairman and Senior Independent Director. Lord Kerr is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and in 2004, he was created a life peer as Baron Kerr of Kinlochard. He later acquired the role of Chairman of the Court and Council of Imperial College from 2005.

Who might replace him?

As the search for a new Chairman begins, Felix decided to gaze into its crystal ball and rather unscientifically, speculate about Lord Kerr's successor. It is not entirely unreasonable to imagine that it would be a Lord or Sir – for example, every Rector of Imperial has been a Lord or a Sir, all except the first, Henry Bovey (poor Henry).

So that rules out Rihanna or Stephen Fry.

But the Chair can't be any old Sir or Lord. He or She must be "of international standing with excellent contacts and influence in the higher reaches of government, industry or other stakeholder bodies" – that definitely rules out Rihanna.

Lord Browne would be suitable, if he were so inclined. Having recently completed his review into university funding, perhaps he's acquired a taste for the higher education

sector. And as a former CEO of BP and a crossbench member of the House of Lords he certainly fits the requirements.

It is not entirely clear if Imperial would want such a high-profile figure, however. Of course, this is all mere speculation. We shall see in due course which member of the political elite is chosen. In our heart of hearts, we've still got our fingers crossed for Rihanna.



Peut-être?

Positive signs for graduates

Charles Betts

A poll by the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) of 222 recruiters in the UK reveals an 8.9% annual increase in graduate jobs, with a forecast of a further 3.8% increase for this year.

The survey indicates that salaries are likely to remain static. The average salary is predicted to stay at £25,000 for an unprecedented third year.

Carl Gilleard, chief executive of the AGR, stated: "What tended to happen in the past [recessions] is that employers put the brakes on, and only took their foot off a year or two later. Then they found they didn't have the talent in their

"The graduate market is overcoming the impact of the recession"

organisation to cope with growth. I think that was an important lesson that a lot of employers learned."

Gilleard added: "It is heartening to see that after so many months of misery for graduates, the job market is finally picking up. These results signal that the graduate market is overcoming the impact of the recession and anticipating further growth.

"However, the fact that salaries are predicted to remain the same for a third year and fewer employers are offering financial incentives for graduates, is also evidence that the demand for jobs still greatly outstrips supply, and recruiters continue to receive above and beyond the number of applications they require."

Universities Minister David Willetts said: "A degree remains a good investment in the long term and is one of the best pathways to achieving a good job and rewarding career."

Correction

In the article entitled "Feasibility of longer day called into question" (Issue 1479 – 21/01/11), it was suggested that Professor Julia Buckingham said, "staff and students would be expected to work longer hours". She actually said that they would not. Felix apologises for this typo. **Editor**

NEWS

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

Halls

Students Switch Off to Success



He's not just turning off a light, he's also making a bold statement on our reliance on Russian gas...

The Student Switch Off Scheme, a not-for-profit project aimed at reducing the amount of electricity used in student halls of residence, achieved great success at Imperial last term. Recently released data shows that the 11 participating halls have reduced their energy use in October and November by 2% compared to previous years. According to a press release by the scheme this is enough to make 631,716 cups of tea and has reduced carbon emissions by 11 tonnes. The 223 students involved, representing 12% of those living in halls, have already surpassed last year's efforts, which organisers believe reduced emissions of CO₂ by seven tonnes. Eastside has made the most progress, saving almost 0.60kWh of energy per student per day, making them the best placed to win the free end of year party which awarded to the hall which has made the biggest reductions.

The scheme is part of a national venture involving 37 universities, which include The London School of Economics and the University of Liverpool, and 14,000 students. Its sponsors include Carbon Leapfrog and the National Union of Students. It was created in 2007 by Dr Neil Jennings at the University of East Anglia, where it managed to reduce energy usage by 10% and has gone from strength to strength since then. Last academic year the project helped to save over £292,000 and 2,100 tonnes of CO₂.

As well as the end of year party, the Student Switch Off Scheme also runs photo competitions with energy saving themes, with winners receiving Ben and Jerry's products, LUSH goody bags or tickets to Metric. The title of the latest competition is "Wrap up Warm". Last term students were invited to screenings pro-environmental films "The Yes Men Fix the World" and "The Age of Stupid". The scheme's website (www.studentswitchoff.org/) also has a "how to save energy" page and students can discuss their green ideas on the individual university facebook pages.

This year's scheme looks set to be a huge success. Dr Jennings says that he believes that it is "making significant environmental and financial savings across the UK" and that the students involved are "playing a part in the fight against climate change".

Maciej Matuszewski

Increasing obstacles for prospective students

Aemun Reza

Recent figures published by UCAS in their Final End of Year Figures for 2010 has shown a decrease of 0.1% in accepted applicants in the UK compared to 2009, but this doesn't really come as a surprise after all the over-hyped news of university cuts and how 200,000 students had missed out on places last year.

UCAS statistics indicate that even though there is a 0.7% increase for undergraduates, there is a significant percentage drop for post-graduate applicants resulting in an overall decrease of applicants getting their places for universities.

Everyone knows how difficult getting a place at university has become in recent years. Not only are there spending cuts, A* grade-offers and higher tuition fees, but the number of applicants applying this year compared to last year has risen by 2.5%. So with more applicants and less places, the university admissions process will be setting their standards pretty high.

The Sutton Trust has conducted an investigation on the differences in background between students who are getting places at universities. They compared and reviewed the number of students coming from Independent schools and students from schools that provided them with 'Free School Meals' over the last three years.

The findings from the Sutton Report showed that Independent school pupils are 6 times as likely to attend a highly selective university as the majority of children in state schools. Basically, students from private schools have a better chance of getting into the universities such as Oxford and Cambridge.

ucstult.wordpress.com



A decent 'A-Level Results' photo. Girls? Check. Blonde? Check. Jumping? Ah, sadly no

Imperial College statistics showed that we were no different from Oxbridge with a massive 37.2% of students coming from Independent schools and only 2.9% of students that had 'Free School Meals'.

To combat this unfair gap between the princes and paupers of university applicants, the Sutton Trust suggested that universities should agree to targets that cover new measures for ensuring fair access into their universities (where these new measures were not given).

Additionally, the tuition fee rise means that students from poorer backgrounds are reconsidering whether they can afford to attend university, regardless of getting a place or not and

possibly despite the changes The Sutton Trust are proposing.

And to top it all off, university admissions will have an even stricter entry process than before as many universities have increased their offers to include the new A*s (with some courses at Cambridge going as far as 3 A*s).

To conclude, even though UCAS statistics don't show a significant difference between the number of accepted applicants between 2009 and 2010, it is likely that ever larger numbers of prospective students will fail to gain a place at university as failed applicants from previous years compete with new students for the same university spots.

Jewish and Muslim student 'ambassadors' to promote interfaith relations

Ian Wei

The introduction of 18 Muslim and Jewish students acting as "campus ambassadors" in 10 universities across the UK is hoped to promote more interfaith relationships between the two communities.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is possibly the most controversial of our time and is often the cause of tension between Muslims and Jews many hundreds of miles across the world; frequently restricting dialogue between members of the two groups.

The 26th January 2011 saw the launch of the "campus ambassador's programme". Run by the Coexistence Trust, a London-based charity set up in 2005 as a parliamentary network

to tackle Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, the programme aims to build a "network of trust and understanding between Muslim and Jewish students on UK campuses".

The problem, explains Yuval Jacob, Jewish campus ambassador and first year chemical engineering student at Imperial, is that the two communities do not actively mix. Yuval reasons that some Jewish and Muslim students "do not see the point in developing a friendship".

Shahnaz Ahsan, manager of the trust, says that she has found that "there are pockets of students who want to be working together and are quite excited when they see there is an external organisation supportive of what they are doing". Ahsan hopes the programme will "set a new tone of respectful debate on campus and avoid the

"The programme will 'set a new tone of respectful debate on campus'"

polarisation we have seen in recent years".

Yuval believes the campus ambassador programme could have a much greater impact than simply promoting interfaith relationships on university campuses. He argues that bringing together the "constant onlooking majority, which lets these conflicts reign since they are simply unsure, undecided, or too cowardly to resist and denounce it" is vital to a final resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Life Sciences teaching review

Details about the teaching review finally emerge but the review panel is criticised for not allowing enough time for staff and student questionnaire responses

Matthew Colvin

The long-awaited review of teaching in the Department of Life Sciences has finally been opened to staff and student input. The review panel, led by Professors Murray Selkirk and Andy Purvis, aims to submit its recommendations to the Science Studies Committee in late April, after an initial period of consultation in January and a follow-up period in March. However, opponents of the staff cuts in the Life Sciences Department have criticised the panel for not offering enough time for student submissions in the initial consultation and for a general lack of information about the on-goings of the review.

As previously reported by Felix, Head of the Life Sciences Department Professor Ian Owens confirmed at a public meeting last December that the teaching review would be held in January, with the aim of improving teaching, aided by additional student input. Up until now, however, there has been little information released about the review. Professor Owens failed to respond to an email enquiring about the review in early January whilst Union President Alex Kendall claimed that the department has left the Union out of the loop: "There has also been no attempt to include the Students' Union in this review so far."

Staff within the department have also felt left in the dark. One staff member, who wished to remain anonymous, told Felix that he "had absolutely no idea" how the review was proceeding.

Professors Selkirk and Purvis have sought to reassure both staff and students by providing Felix with an update of the situation. They confirmed that the panel had met twice already – "with considerable work being conducted by sub-groups in between" – and signalled that the next meeting of the panel would be in February after the responses to the questionnaire had been collated. In March a second consultation period will start, "during which we will be soliciting comments on our proposals." The Review Panel will then decide which of the suggestions it wants to incorporate. The final stage of the process is the Panel's report to the Science Studies Committee, which meets on May 17th. Professors Selkirk and Purvis told Felix that they "aim to submit [their] proposals four weeks before that date".

The review group is made up of two co-chairs, Professors Selkirk and Purvis, seven other members of staff heavily involved in teaching (three from the Biol-

Review timetable

The current questionnaire will close on the 31st of January. The panel has met twice already and will meet again in February after the responses to the questionnaire have been collated. In March a second consultation period will start, during which staff and students will be invited to offer comments on the panel's proposals. The comments will then be taken into consideration and possibly incorporated into the proposals. The final stage of the process is the Panel's report to the Science Studies Committee, which meets on May 17th. The proposals will be submitted to that committee 4 weeks before it meets.

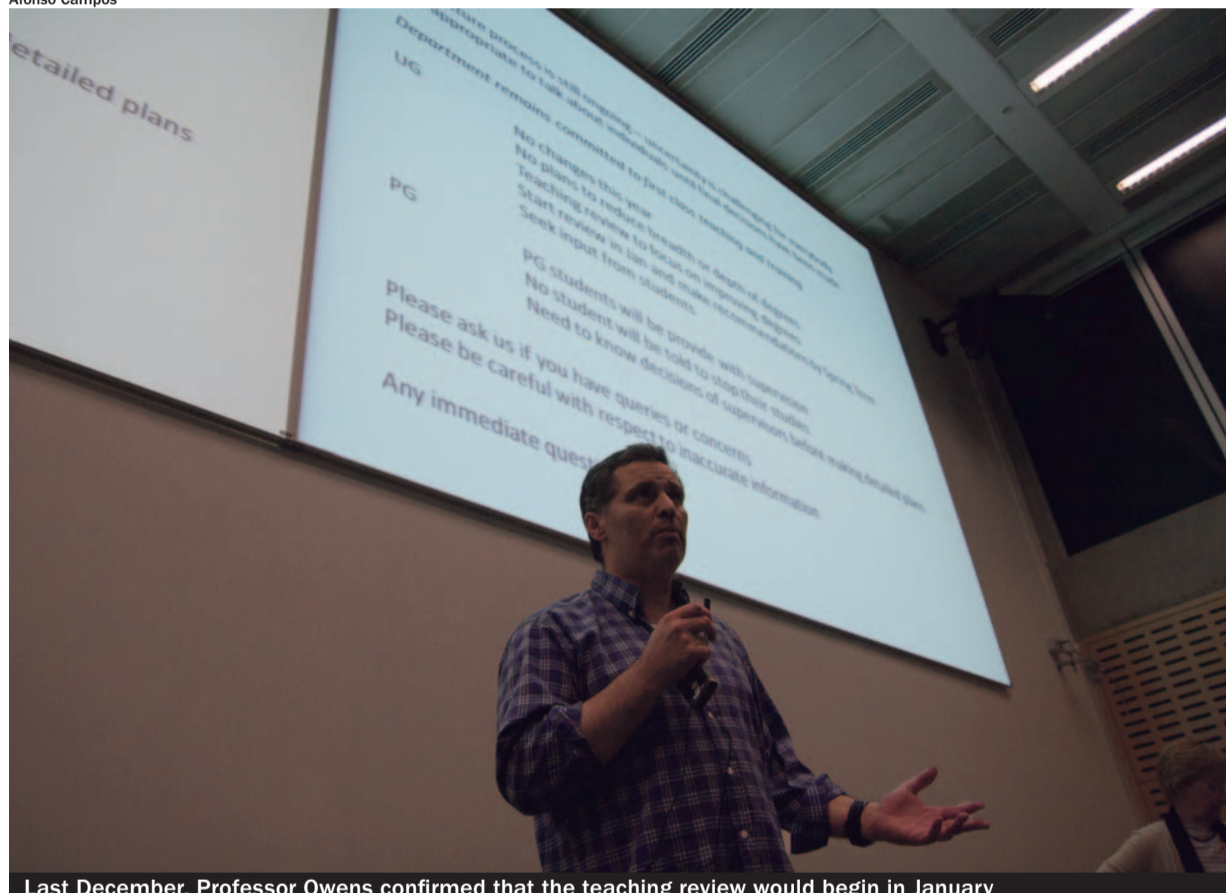
ogy degree and four from Biochemistry) and a representative from the undergraduate office.

In terms of the direction and aims of the review, Professors Selkirk and Purvis told Felix that it was too early to make specific comments but that there had been "very wide-ranging discussions" and that the questionnaire would give students an indication of what the panel are discussing. They also confirmed that the panel intended for "students arriving in October 2011 [to] be the first to see the changes throughout their degrees", but also said that they were primarily taking a long-term view.

The first sign that the review had started was on the weekend of the 22nd of January when a questionnaire was circulated to staff in the Life Sciences Department, which they were asked to complete by the 31st. The questionnaire covers a range of topics relating to degrees in the Life Sciences Department. The Union responded positively to the questionnaire saying that the "questions seem dedicated to finding out a wide range of aspects of the undergraduate degree." But one member of staff, aforementioned, was less impressed by the range of questions calling it "bland" and said that it only requested "vague opinions on what is OK."

The survey was made available on Wednesday on Blackboard for undergraduates in the department, asking them for their opinions on the format of lectures,

Afonso Campos



Last December, Professor Owens confirmed that the teaching review would begin in January

classes and tutorials and the attributes of the degree programme in general. Students have until the 31st to complete the survey. An introductory statement from Professors Purvis and Selkirk reads: "We particularly value your views now, so they can feed into the review process at an earlier stage."

Union President Alex Kendall, a key figure behind the opposition to the Life Sciences cuts, "encouraged all undergraduates who are able to fill it in", but also criticized the Review Panel for offering less than a week for students to provide their opinions and comments.

"Considering the work we did on trying to spread information about the restructure I am disappointed that [the Union] has not been included," said Kendall, "I am also critical of the lack of any reference to the restructure in the questions or in the responses from the Chairs."

Whether further developments in the review will improve the opinions of both students and staff towards a department which has seen some severely unwanted attention as of late will depend on the careful handling of a situation that is growing ever more delicate as time passes.

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

More student cuts for Imperial students at South Kensington's FRESH Hairdressers.

Men's cuts £22

Women's shampoo and cut and shake dry £28

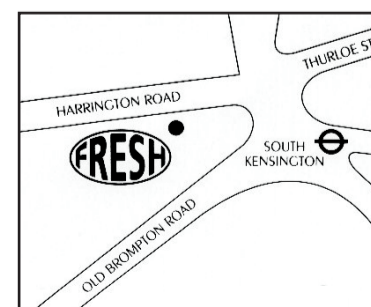
Women's shampoo, cut and blow-dry £38

All of our cuts are done by highly experienced stylists.

Tuesday to Fridays 9.30 to 4.30 (sorry no discounts on Saturdays).

We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station
To book an appointment, call

0207 823 8968. Ask for a student discount and bring your Imperial ID.
Cash only.



NEWS

We'll pay higher rate says Aero Department

...Continued from Front Page
reduction in payments and said that he had not been aware of the discrepancy between the EPSRC minimum and the College minimum. He confirmed that the affected students would have their funding returned to the EPSRC minimum plus the London living allowance. However the situation for two of the students who are on Airbus-funded grants is not yet clear.

Alex Kendall, President of Imperial College Union, has said that he does "not think it is right that any department can cut salary half way through the financial year," and has asked the Pro-Rector (Education and Academic Services) Professor Julia Buckingham to look into the issue.

The lack of communication has also been heavily criticised by the students affected. Oliver Rhodes, a PhD representative in the Department of Aeronautics, said, "if a meeting had been arranged and the students been properly informed I doubt there would have been an issue."

Professor Aliabadi explained that failure to notify students was due to "staff workloads, accentuated by staff absences through sickness". He described the lack of communication as an unfortunate oversight and added that, "in no way have we ever attempted to pay students at anything other than the fair and proper rate."

EPSRC PhD Funding

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funds research and training in engineering and physical sciences across the UK – investing in excess of £850 million per year. Imperial College London receives approximately £6m per year from the EPSRC, which it distributes to various departments. Each department allocates its funds as it sees fit but the EPSRC sets a minimum stipend that PhD students on their grants must receive, which for 2010/11 is £13,590. It increases this year on year with inflation, as determined by the Treasury GDP deflators; a measure of general inflation. For example, for 2010/11 it increased by 2.25%.

A similar situation arose regarding the payment of postgraduate students in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) last term. Students were confused over whether their funding included payment for their four hours of required teaching activities per week. The department was forced to introduce a new measure to reduce the cur-

rent bursary and have students explicitly earn their lost money. After this latest run of events in the Aeronautics Department, Alex Kendall highlights that such problems "may be more widespread." He continued "The department has a lot of explaining to do to its students and the Union is looking into whether this is happening in other departments."

Universities have the flexibility to fund their students' PhDs from a variety of sources but at least 50% of the minimum stipend must come from the funds of a single Council. Imperial has its own recommended minimum stipend, which is approved by the Management Board. For 2010/11 it is £15,367. It is not directly linked to any one measure of inflation. According to the EPSRC, their rate is set to increase at 1.5% for 2011/12 and then 2.5% for 2012/13. The College have said that while they would not want to anticipate their future minimum rate, it was possible that the two amounts would reach parity in coming years.

NOTICE


Musictech @ Ministry of Sound: Tuesday 1st February
£5
For tickets contact Adam on 07891 390923 [or email musictech@imperial.ac.uk] [facebook.com/musictech](https://www.facebook.com/musictech)

"Imperial's finest DJs take to the decks in the superclub for a night of awesome fun and exclusive music. Check out our room 'The Loft' open from 11 on the night."

Mechanical Engineering research groups: A football knockout competition is being organised. If you interested contact Rob Long - r.long@ic.ac.uk

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

From the Archive



College Day: Referendum Result

Students rejected the proposed change to the College Day in yesterday's referendum. Out of the 517 who voted, in the Student's Union poll on Monday and Tuesday this week, 457 said that they were against changes and only 59 agreed with the proposal. There was one spoil paper.

It has been proposed by a Working Party, chaired by Professor Alan Swanson, that the College Day be extended from 9.00am to 6.00pm. This is to cope with timetable problems, particularly in the final years.

Various questions have arisen from the proposal, particularly those of increased cost to the College. A longer day would lead to increased overheads, such as power consumption and staff wages. There is no financial advisor on the Working Party, and no-one is prepared to confirm where the extra finance will emerge from.

The possibility of staff such as cleaners and security having to arrive in College earlier has also been considered. Mr Reeves, Chief Security Officer, seemed confident of the staff's ability to cover a longer day Security provide cover for all 24 hours and messengers already work 9.00am to 6.00pm, covering 7.00am to 9.00am on overtime. Departments are opened at 7.00am regardless, as are the car parks and so would be affected by an earlier start. However, his deputy, Mr Briley, thought that the day 'would affect working arrangements' and that it was 'a matter we're keeping clear of at present.'

The Party hope to be able to alter cleaning schedules so that the cleaners will not have to arrive any earlier. This will avoid the possibility of them having to travel before the first tutes, or disturbing early starters. The Rector, Sir Eric Ash, and Mr Angus Fraser, College Director, were both unavailable for comment.

If the proposals are implemented by the College, then the clubs and societies of the Student's Union will have problems with running meetings. Many students will not be able to attend meetings if their department is running along an opposing timetable to that of the clubs.

Small Ads

• Help! Lost: two lab book, calculator and Felix penknife – please ring Felix on 3515 and ask for Toby Jones.
• ICSS Christmas Party: 7.30pm 7th

Linstead Hall Christmas Bash
Man, Felix used to be way better, damn I miss the 90s...

Changes to College hours

Deepka Rana

Few will remember the glorious days when a working day at Imperial College was limited between the times of 9.30am and 5.30pm. However proposals to axe this 'slackers' paradise were brought forward in the early nineties, causing great agitation amongst students and staff alike. Sound familiar?

A trip to the Felix archives reveals that the first whispers of the possibility of extended hours came in early November of 1990, with the 'Working Party on College Days', a committee set up to look into the matter, announced that Imperial lacked teaching space and timetable clashes were becoming the norm, hinting that lengthening the working day was the only viable solution. Almost instantly the cries of outrage were heard, and published, with critics pointing out that societies and humanities (the things that make the science overkill at Imperial bearable) would suffer the most and could even crumble altogether under these new plans.

The next encounter between bureaucrats and students occurred at the the Union General Meeting (UGM), which enjoyed its largest student turnout thanks to the threat of a longer working day, one of the items on the agenda. Straight off the bat, the Working Party committee was keen to emphasise how it represented the interests of students as well as staff and management. However, as I'm sure everyone will be pleased to hear, they were made to look ridiculous when the Royal College of Science handed over a survey they conducted, where an overwhelming 646 replies stated that they believed college days should remain the same.

There were many practical ways of maximising the time already available at Imperial, as pointed out by an editorial shortly after the UGM took place, pointing out that if departments cut down on

current wasted hours, there would be no need for timetable changes. The fact that in many courses, material covered by different options and lectures tended to overlap, caused an unthinkable number of hours unavailable for productive activity. Another suggestion was to make use of the expertise of the Humanities Department, which had more experience in time-management, rather than punishing them by reducing the hours available for students to pursue the options they offered. Déjà vu doesn't seem to cover it anymore.

The arguments were put to the test again in early December of 1990, when the Students' Union held a referendum on the proposals. It won't come as much of a surprise to learn that the result came out as 457 to 59 against the increased time and it seemed that this major indication from the student body would finally lay the issue to rest. This was the general consensus amongst students with many a strong worded letter being written to Felix, enjoying the apparent victory over the Working Party, who had "been ominously silent for quite a while now. It's tempting to think that maybe the resounding 'f**k off' given to them in the referendum held before chrimbo hols has halted them in their tracks".

It brings about quite a sense of sadness to see lines such as "It shows that if we can rise above the rabid apathy... we can change things. It might also show College that they can't do what the hell they like without considering what we think about it" as we can see from looking at our timetables in 2011, that College has indeed done whatever it pleases. This makes the proposals for extended hours currently being examined seem scarily possible as we have reason to question, yet again, how much attention senior management at Imperial pay to the voices of students and staff alike.



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For tickets and further info contact 'Int.night@imperial.ac.uk'
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Much more than just a newspaper

19.02

'19.02' is Felix's first ever music night, held in Metric on Saturday the 19th of February. It will showcase talent from across the spectrum of Imperial's music community including acts from MusicTech and Jazz n' Rock. Entry is a trifling £3 – affordable for even the most cost-conscious students out there. Check out the interview with headliners *The Vetoes* on page 25 for more information. It's going to be the biggest night of the year, well we would say that...

felixonline.co.uk

Almost all of the stories that you read in the paper are also available online from 7am every Friday morning. You can share stories with your friends and, most importantly, comment – anonymously, if you must – on articles that have particularly riled or appeased you.

Facebook

Type facebook.com/FelixImperial into your browser and you will stumble upon the delightful world of whatever links the Felix Editor has decided to post that day. These include links to interesting articles from that week, the songs that we're listening to in the Felix Office and other random junk from the internet – varying from articles about higher education to videos of people falling over. It's a great way to keep up with Felix.

Twitter

It's time to lose your aversion to Twitter, follow @feliximperial and listen in to the banal thoughts of the Felix Editor; which usually centre around the ridiculousness of getting 30 hours of sleep a week and how nobody comes to the Felix JCR stall on Monday, speaking of which...

Monday's JCR Stall

Every Monday, Felix holds a stall in the JCR from 12-12:30. It's your chance to accost the Felix Editor and politely (or rudely) tell him what we're getting wrong, or right hopefully. Come say hi!

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Passion to Perform



FEATURE

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imagine. Something in your machinery has stopped working. Somewhere in your body, a vital organ, your kidneys, eyes, your heart, has malfunctioned. Your doctor says that the damage is irreversible and that you need a replacement.

For nearly 8,000 people in the UK currently waiting for an organ transplant, this is a reality. Their life is on hold until one becomes available. Fortunately, 96% of us would be willing to give our organs to those patients after our deaths. Yet only 27% of Britains are on the register to donate and a shortage of organs is the biggest problem facing NHS Blood and Transplant services (NHSBT). This week Felix spoke to Dr. Lorna Williamson, Medical and Research Director of NHSBT, who highlighted the true consequence of such a shortfall; that “3 people a day will die before an organ becomes available”.

At present the UK has an opt-in system, where you have to sign up to donate organs after your death. So why are there so few people doing so?

For many of us, it is unpleasant to think about and easy to be put off. But by thinking about it now we could save lives later. Dr. Williamson explained that for the families of deceased organ donors, the knowledge that lives have been saved can continue to be a great source of comfort for a number of years.

Some people worry about being on the register; for example some imagine that doctors might give up on them earlier so that their body parts can be used. There is no need to be concerned about this. “No one knows whether a patient is on the register until the point at which it is clear that other treatment would not be beneficial to that patient. And in fact death has to be certified by two doctors who have nothing to do with the transplant team.”

What is important to remember is that anyone could suddenly find themselves requiring a transplant: two major causes of kidney failure are hypertension and diabetes, both common diseases in the UK. Chronic liver disease, a common cause for liver transplantation, claims 13,000 lives a year in the UK and can be caused by excessive alcohol consumption; something of a national occupation.

If you suddenly found yourself in need of a new organ, the first job for NHSBT would be to find a match. Dr. Williamson explained that familial donations are preferable to deceased transplantation, “partly because the whole thing has been planned, so you can have the donor and the recipient in the same hospital, and can go straight from one to the other. And also because if it is a relative, they will be a particularly good match.”

In the case of kidney failure, patients waiting to find a match can be sustained via dialysis. However, the average waiting time is well over 1000 days and with other conditions there may be no other option besides transplantation. Dr. Williamson highlighted that “for some patients with acute liver failure, for exam-

The UK's organ shortage kills 3 people every day...

Katy Bettany and Anna Perman on why you should donate

Tom Welch



ple, they really only have days or weeks in which to have the possibility of an organ transplant, and it may even be too late for them”.

For the recipient of a donation, the procedure is not without its side effects and transplanted organs do have an expiry date which may require the patient to re-register for another subsequent transplant.

The system has been set in place to run as smoothly as possible. But with 8,000 people currently requiring organs, and only 3,000 operations a year, getting more people to sign up for the register is vital for saving more lives.

Experts look to Spain as a country which has been successful in this. There, being an organ donor is seen as the norm. Experts think a change in culture is needed here.

That is part of the reason an opt-out system, where everyone is on the register unless they state otherwise, was rejected by a government task force in 2008. According to writer and committee member Vivienne Parry, “presumed consent would not increase the number of donors and might do the opposite.” She felt it was all down to trust. Assuming people were willing to give organs without really asking them might alienate people further from the system. For many people who have donated organs, an opt-out system would fundamentally change the relationship between donor and recipient. It would become taking rather than giving.

Most people sign up to the organ donor register when they get their first driving license. As of this year, that process will be changed. “Rather than just skipping over the question, you have to

either register or put a positive tick in the box that says ‘no’, so it’s as easy to sign up as to put it off,” says Dr Williamson.

There are also problems getting the right mix of ethnicities and age groups to meet patients’ needs. People from ethnic minority groups are underrepresented on the register, yet are highly likely to need an organ due to high rates of diabetes and hypertension. Finding matches for children of mixed-race couples could

also be difficult, as fewer people on the register will match their genetic profile.

This is why a lot of research has gone into finding transplant methods which don’t require a blood and tissue match. Last year a patient was given a donor trachea that had been stripped to its collagen base and covered in the patient’s own stem cells. The body recognised the organ as belonging to the recipient, so immune-suppressants were not required to prevent rejection. There is even re-

search on building an organ from scratch using a patient’s stem cells. However, these measures are a long way off, and in the short term, NHSBT is focussed on raising awareness and improving the way they look after the patients who need transplants now.

So what can you do? When finding ways to put off writing that lab report, go to the NHSBT website and sign up to be an organ donor. Your procrastination could save lives.

Ben was given a second chance by his sister's donation

Ben is a postgraduate student at Imperial College. In December 2007 he was commuting from Brighton to work in London. One particular day he had a headache on the way to the station. After 15 minutes on the train, he decided to go home, thinking he just had a nasty bug. It was not until days later, when he eventually went into hospital, that a doctor told him that he had kidney failure. “That was something I’d never really given any thought to beforehand”, he says. “I had had a bit of nausea in the past few weeks, but hadn’t thought any more of it.” Doctors didn’t know why Ben’s kidneys had failed, and he still doesn’t know to this day. But he needed a transplant as soon as possible.

Ben went on dialysis immediately. “I had to be hooked up to a machine three times a week. It has an

enormous impact on your life. There are all sorts of things you can’t eat. Everything becomes about that. All those things you took for granted, you can’t do, and your whole life is being put on hold.”

His family immediately started looking for a donor. Ben’s sister, Simone, was a match, meeting all the requirements for organ donation. For her, it was a no-brainer. “It seemed clear from early on that he needed a transplant. It was not a hard decision to make. He needed something, so I gave it to him.”

Before the transplant could occur, the two had to go to a councillor, to ensure that there was no coercion involved. Simone says that as she went in for the operation, doctors offered to tell her family there was a medical reason not to go ahead, if she wanted to change her mind.

In August 2008, after 7 months

of dialysis, the transplant went ahead. For Ben the chance to get back to living his life was an incredible gift from his sister. “There is no chance of me ever forgetting what she has given me. You cannot underestimate what an amazing thing organ donors give to the people on the transplant list.”

The operation has left a lasting impact on both of them. Simone’s immune system has been weakened and she is prone to infection. “I can still go out and stuff, but it does have an impact.” But she has no regrets about the decision that she made.

It is almost certain that Ben will need another transplant in the future. “I try not to think about it, but at least this time I will be more prepared.” For now, he is determined to live the life that his sister has given back to him.

FEBRUARY

Scratch Perverts

Aled Haydn Jones

Inspector Dubplate

The Scarlets

Redlightstone

Sias

Guy Hyper



4 February 2011

20:00 - 02:00 / Online £5.00 / on the door £7.50

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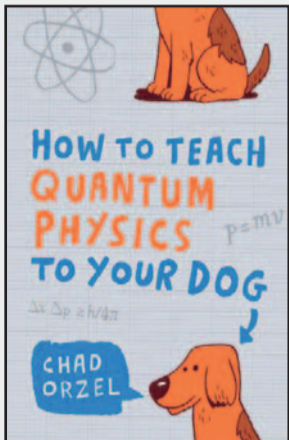
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SCIENCE

Science Editors: **Katya-yani Vyas**
Kelly Oakes, Charlie Harvey
 science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

And a few suggestions...



How to Teach Quantum Physics to Your Dog by Chad Orzel

I received this book as a Christmas present, probably as a humorous allusion to my ineptitude at physics. The premise is very simple: Emmy the dog is adopted by Orzel, a physics Professor, and subsequently becomes enraptured with his work and how it applies to everyday dog issues. Orzel is happy to explain, creating a witty dialogue between the two.

Using Emmy's tendency to chase squirrels and her attempts to tunnel into the neighbour's garden, Orzel takes the reader through the fundamentals of quantum mechanics, from Heisenberg's uncertainty principle to quantum tunnelling, quarks and gluons. I expected a simplistic overview of the subject but the book is surprisingly comprehensive, using the relationship between dog and owner to breathe some life into what can sometimes be a dry subject. Orzel writes succinctly and with a genuine passion for the physics which is reflected in Emmy's enthusiasm, providing a highly readable and novel way of approaching quantum physics.

Katya-yani Vyas

You won't believe it...



When it comes to their bad driving, elderly people may have been given an excuse thanks to research published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*. They tend to focus on what's going on in the background and are less likely to notice moving objects closer to them. The brain region responsible for suppressing irrelevant visual information, the middle temporal visual area, loses function over time. So the next time you get run over by lovely Betty here, just remember: it's not her fault.

Contagious canine cancer

Chloe Mclvor

Researchers working on a contagious cancer found in dogs have discovered that the cancerous cells adopt an unusual method of genetic repair.

The results of this study, published in *Science* last week, suggest that this particular cancer combats genetic decay by "stealing" genes from its canine host.

Canine Transmissible Venereal Tumour (CTVT) is considered an unusual disease as we predominantly think of cancer as strictly non-infectious. Thankfully, transmissible cancers are not found in humans and diseases such as CTVT differ from other cancers in several ways.

Most cancers occur as a result of genetic changes that make a normal cell develop into a cancerous one. With transmissible forms, the cancerous cell comes from another dog and shares its genome with the first animal in which the disease developed.

Dr Clare Rebbeck, a former PhD student at Imperial College, was originally investigating the genetic variation between CTVT samples and their geographic location. She noticed that the genetic differences found in the DNA of the mitochondria – commonly referred to as the "power-houses" of the cell – were much greater than those found in the nuclear DNA.

Until now, scientists believed that mitochondria were only transferred via inheritance



You should see this guy on the half pipe.... Surprisingly, he's not that good

through the maternal line. This research is the first evidence of mitochondrial transfer between genetically distinct cells outside of the laboratory.

It is thought that CTVT has developed this strategy of recruiting host mitochondria to combat the degradation that tends to occur in cancer's own mitochondria.

Leader of the study, Professor Austin Burt of the Department of Life Sciences at Imperial, is hopeful that the finding will help improve our understanding of the development of cancer in general.

"Our study has revealed that this type of cancer works in a really unexpected way," he says,

"it raises some really important questions about the progression of other cancers, such as how they repair their own DNA."

The origin of CTVT is thought to be linked to the domestication of the dog, as it can be traced back to approximately 10,000 years ago.

Since then the disease has been transmitted sexually among dog populations and at some point it developed this ability to take up host mitochondria to replace the cancer's own damaged ones.

Not only does this research mark a significant development in our understanding of mitochondria, it also likely to prove useful to future cancer research.

Slime moulds its own little landscape

Melissa Lever

The humble amoeba is more intelligent than you would think. A new study published in *Nature* by evolutionary biologists at Rice University has found that the social amoeba *Dictyostellum discoideum* exhibit a primitive form of agriculture.

A genetic trait in one third of the "Dicty" amoeba species – also affectionately known as "slime mould" – causes them to engage in dispersal and prudent harvesting of the crop. While this form of farming may not be as advanced as that of fungus growing ants and beetles who cultivate their crops, for example, the discovery is surprising given that amoeba are mere single-celled organisms.

The *Dictyostellum* species are labelled as social since, when prey becomes scarce, tens of thousands of amoeba will aggregate into a migratory slug. If being an amoeba wasn't already unappealing, taking part in this aggregation process is potentially sacrificial, since 20% of the cells forming the slug will die to form a sterile stalk. The stalk aids the dispersal of the surviving cells which form spores within a spherical structure called the sorus.

It was previously thought amoeba would gorge themselves on their prey, bacteria, before forming their fruiting bodies, but the study shows that approximately a third will stop

feeding early and incorporate the bacteria into the fruiting bodies.

The lead author Debora Brock explains: "We think they're able to do this because they're social".

Solitary amoeba, by comparison, do not form the fruiting bodies that enable the amoeba to travel.

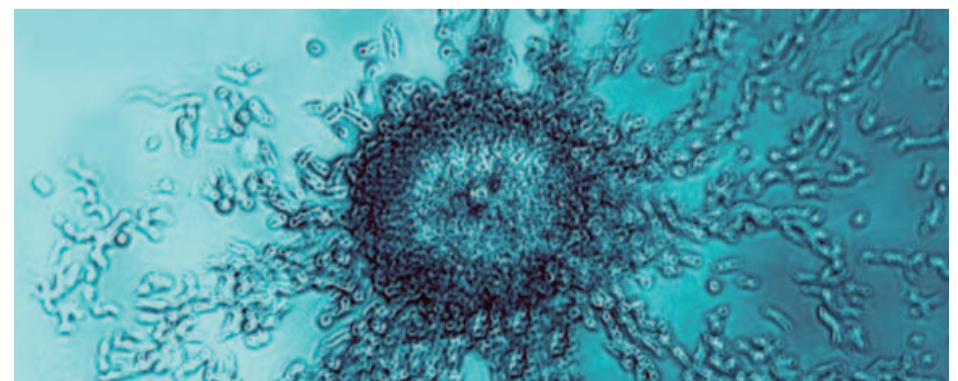
The ability to farm is not always beneficial. The study shows that rewards of farming are context dependent. As expected, the farming amoeba had a clear upper-hand against non-farming amoeba when transferred to bacteria-free plates. This advantage disappeared when farming spores were transferred to a site abun-

dant in edible bacteria.

The non-farming amoeba were in fact able to produce more spores in this environment compared to the farmers. The explanation was attributed to the habits of the farmers, who consume less bacteria in order to preserve some for dispersal.

A further disadvantage to the farmers is that they are forced to make smaller fruiting bodies, and cannot travel as far.

"To think of a single-celled amoeba performing something that you could consider farming, I think, is surprising," Ms Brock said. "choices like that are generally costly, so there has to be a pretty large benefit for it to persist in nature."



The social amoeba, *Dictyostellum discoideum*, harvests bacteria when times are hard

SCIENCE

Superfast genome sequencing on a chip

Kelly Oakes

The first step on a path that could lead to the sequencing of an entire genome in minutes has been developed by chemists at Imperial College London. A paper describing the prototype technology was published last month in the journal *Nano Letters*.

This innovation also means sequencing will become much cheaper, making it available to everyone.

It was ten years from the start of the Human Genome Project to the publication of the first draft of an entire human genome.

While things have moved on considerably since then, we're still not at the stage where anyone can unlock the secrets of their DNA for a reasonable price. As it stands, the process can take weeks or months of continuous work to sequence all the DNA of an individual.

Current methods require several steps, including the breakdown and replication of the DNA, which is done by robots. The effort and time required means that

the cost is prohibitively high.

The new technology in development at Imperial would streamline sequencing into a single procedure.

DNA is made up of around 3 billion base pairs attached to a sugar and phosphate backbone, arranged in a double helix. A base pair consists of two molecules bonded together — either adenine with thymine, or guanine with cytosine. DNA sequencing determines the order of these base pairs.

The new technology pushes a strand of DNA through a 50 nanometre wide pore in a silicone chip at high speed. When it leaves the pore, an electrical current passes through the DNA. From the resulting signal a computer determines which base pair has just passed through the nanopore. The speed at which it can do this means that, in theory, an entire genome could be sequenced within minutes.

Genome sequencing for all would have many benefits. It could mean custom drugs based on a person's own DNA and would give individuals ac-

cess to information about their susceptibilities to diseases such as Alzheimer's. Fast genome sequencing would also benefit police who want a quick yet reliable way to profile DNA found at crime scenes.

The technology will require more work before it's ready to sequence its first genome but Dr Joshua Edel, a co-author of the paper, is optimistic: "It should be significantly faster and more reliable, and would be easy to scale up to create a device with the capacity to read up to 10 million bases per second, versus the typical 10 bases per second you get with the present day single molecule real-time techniques."

Dr Tim Albrecht, another author on the study, said that the next step was to create something that can determine between individual bases as opposed to just base pairs. He was cautious about the work ahead, saying: "I think we know the way forward, but it is a challenging project and we have to make many more incremental steps before our vision can be realised."



DNA is not actually made of beads

Sci-Fi Column

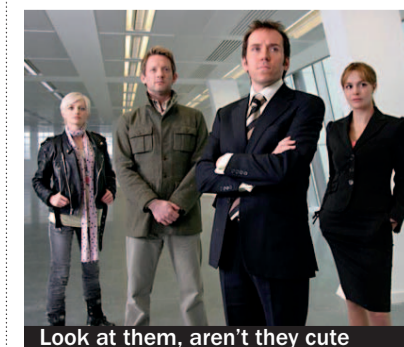
Maciej Matuszewski

Those of you who complained about me focusing so much on the plot holes in my *Moon* review should stop reading now because this is much of the same. I'm sorry, but I just couldn't pass up the opportunity to review a show as monumentally stupid as *Primeval*.

The series focuses on a secret government team tasked with investigating mysterious 'anomalies', basically big glowing disco balls which act as gateways to different time periods, and protecting the public from the dangerous creatures which often come through them. I could understand this secrecy at the beginning of the show when the government had only just found out about the situation and wanting to stop the public from panicking but not after three and half seasons when they've developed methods of both detecting and closing the anomalies. Indeed we have seen many civilians brutally killed just because they were not aware of the danger posed by the creatures. This makes even less sense as in the latest series where, mirroring real life, the Tories have part privatised the top secret operation, giving control of the its scientific arm to Philip Burton, played by Star Trek's Alexander Siddig, and his company.

The team itself is hilariously incompetent, in the latest series managing to get trapped in a creature infested school by a pair of teenagers. This is not helped by most of the missions being done by just the four of main cast members, one of whom, Connor, is a palaeontology student. A recent episode involved him accepting Doctor Bashir's, sorry, I mean Philip's, offer to study the anomalies themselves. I haven't seen all of the episodes so perhaps somebody could explain to me why, if Connor is so interested in advanced physics, he didn't choose to study it.

Fans of the show might accuse me of nitpicking. This might be true but even if you ignore all of these factors the show is still average at best, with a horribly confused storyline and mediocre special effects. At least if you concentrate on the plot holes it becomes so bad it's good, rather than just being boring.



Look at them, aren't they cute

When the skies became green

International effort to make air travel greener begins at Imperial

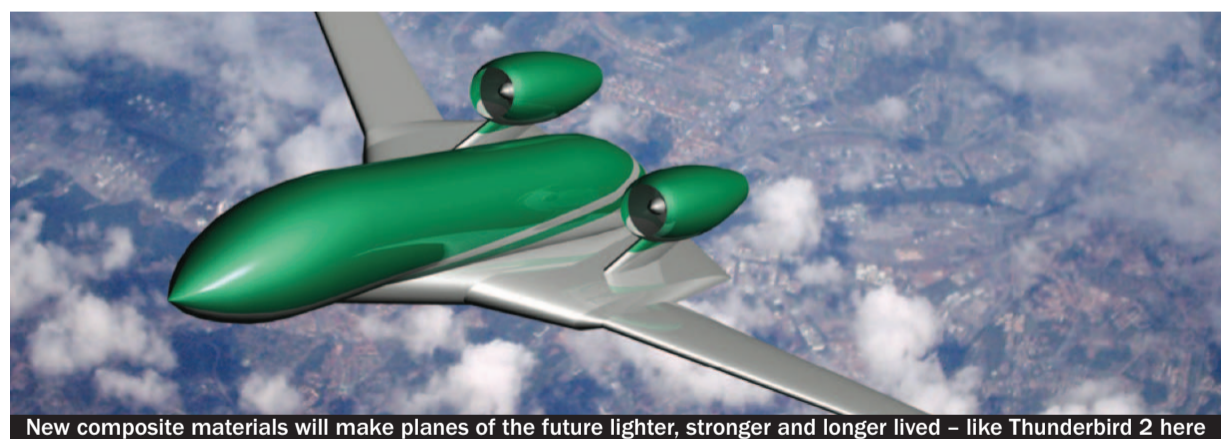
Victoria Bignet

The Green Aviation Forum organised a one day international symposium at Imperial College on the 6th January 2011, in an attempt to link together many of the green aviation research activities ongoing at the College.

The Forum aimed to address the multiple environmental challenges faced by the aviation sector. An integrated approach is being adopted to develop aircraft technologies focussing on fuel efficiency and low-emission across the whole sector, improve airport planning — with supporting transport infrastructure — as well as air traffic management. The key word is collaboration, integrating manufacturers, climate scientists, regulators, airline operators, airport authorities and the government.

Three percent of global warming is currently caused by aviation and air travel is expected to increase by 5% per year over the next 20 years. The aviation industry in Europe has agreed to a set of targets that would reduce fuel and carbon dioxide emissions by 50% per passenger kilometre, nitrous oxide emissions by 80% and noise pollution by 50%.

The Green Aviation Forum will provide a useful link between Imperial researchers and the aviation industry. Im-



New composite materials will make planes of the future lighter, stronger and longer lived — like Thunderbird 2 here

perial is aiming to give birth to a new generation of ultra light commercial aircrafts that can fly faster over longer distances, producing lower emissions and less noise.

As an aircraft comes in to land, spoilers are deployed on the wing to help reduce the lift and increase the drag. This, however, generates low frequency noise that can travel great distances which is a major problem for the aviation industry. Professor Vassilicos and his team from the Department of Aeronautics have developed a new spoiler employing fractal patterns that reduce the low frequency noise, without affecting the lift and drag. An aircraft burns more fuel mainly

due to the aerodynamic force known as drag. Professor Jonathan Morrisson and colleagues from the Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology are developing a new electro-active plastic for covering aircraft fuselages and wings, which reduces drag by pulsing low-level electrical currents through it. The pulses distort the plastic and therefore the air flowing over the plane, reducing the impact of drag.

Eco-friendly plane designs are currently being developed by Dr Varnavas Serghides from the Department of Aeronautics. He believes that reducing the number of aircraft components could

bring dramatic increases in fuel efficiency. Dr Varnavas is also working on designing a wider fuselage to fit in more passengers. This would reduce the levels of emissions, while maintaining similar profit levels.

Imperial researchers are also developing new types of composite material that can render aircraft structures even stronger and more long-lived. One type of material, known as a hierarchical composite, comprises carbon fibres, resin and carbon nanotubes.

As well as being stronger, this type of material can withstand lightning strikes by dissipating the electrical energy before the aircraft system is damaged.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Editors: **Samuel Gibbs**
Feroz Salam

technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

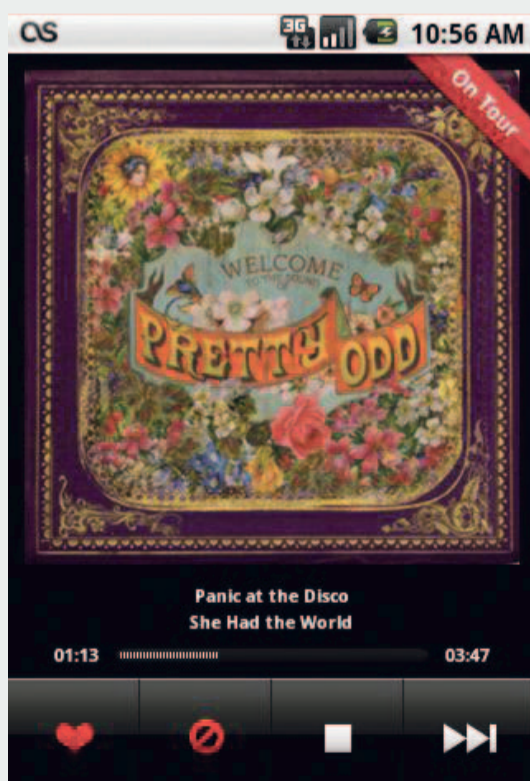
Free App of the Week

iOS - Last.fm



Last.fm brings personalised radio to your pocket pal courtesy of an iPhone app. Streaming radio has never been easier.

Android - Last.fm



The Android version of the Last.fm app lacks the polish of its iOS cousin, but thankfully all the goods are there. And it'll even let you scrobble music on the go.

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's super-HTML5!

Louis Constant

HTML5, the HTML standard's newest major revision, was finally given a visual identity last week with the introduction of a shiny new logo. The logo's bright and blocky visage, along with the shield-like shape, has almost martial connotations. It represents a considerable evolution of the existing HTML standard, which is determined to transform the web as we know it. According to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the logo "stands [as] strong and true, resilient and universal as the markup you write. It shines as bright and as bold as the forward-thinking, dedicated web developers you are. It's the standard's standard, a pennant for progress. And it certainly doesn't use tables for layout."

HTML5 is intended to replace its predecessor HTML 4.01 as the dominant markup standard used to create the Internet's billions of pages. The need for a major revision of the HTML standard was borne by the ever-changing nature of the web and the content it delivers. In particular, the requirement of proprietary plug-ins and APIs used to display rich media content, such as video and audio. Indeed, one of HTML5's most widely discussed new features has been the inclusion of the <video> tag, designed to standardise the way in which webpages handle video without the need for

plug-ins of any sort. However, disagreements surrounding this feature have given rise to much debate and delay, hindering attempts to make the tag the new standard for displaying online video.

In particular, tech heavyweights Nokia and Apple have in the past publicly expressed concern about the specification's recommendation of support for the Ogg video format. Following this, the recommendation was removed, and thus those web browsers that choose to support the HTML5 video tag, are free to support it using whichever underlying video formats they wish. This, it is argued, defeats what was the main motivation of the <video> tag in the first place – to help introduce a common, free, and open baseline format supported by all browsers, eliminating many of the unnecessary codecs currently required to view online video.

More recently, while video utilising the HTML5 video tag (primarily using the H.264 video format) has slowly begun to replace the widely used Flash for video content, some of the web's biggest providers of online video remain cautious. YouTube for instance, cites the aforementioned lack of a standard video format, and lack of DRM, as two issues preventing the HTML5 video tag from meeting the requirements of its site. Popular US streaming video site Hulu similarly states the tag's lack

of content protection, as well as its inability to provide advertisers with viewership data, as two of its reasons for not having yet rolled out support for the new standard.

Will the new logo spell an end to the conflict, providing an ensign for corporations and web developers alike to rally around, unite under, and resolve their differences? Probably not, but at least it's pretty.

HTML5



"It's the standard's standard, a pennant for progress. And it certainly doesn't use tables for layout."

Ez laptop protection for those in LE Rush

Samuel Gibbs

If you've ever carried a MacBook Pro out and about with you, you'll know that a laptop bag is essential. Considering you're carrying around the best part of £1000 at least, when it comes to a bag you're going to want something well built and with decent padding, God-forbid you drop the thing. Be.ez thinks it has the answer with the LE rush, a range of Apple laptop bags that combine lightweight materials with silicon padding.

Available in three colours, the LE rush features a main central compartment for your laptop, with a padded band along the bottom and up the edges of the bag, which provides impact protection to the edges of the laptop. There are also two slip pockets and a Velcro closeable

document wallet in the main compartment for ancillary stuff.

The front of the bag features a Velcro-sealable, expandable pocket for things like a power adapter. Inside that there's also a slim line zippered pocket with two slip pockets for smaller items. On the back of the bag there are also three slim line slip pockets, useful for bits of paper you need quick access to.

Overall the LE rush features light but hardwearing materials, a solid construction and decent protection for your beloved laptop. Complete with a nylon shoulder strap and bespoke sizes for the 13 and 15-inch MacBook Pros, as well as a smaller 'netbook' bag, the LE rush line deserves to be in your sights if you're looking for a slim but sturdy bag. Yours for around £30 from all good retailers.



TECHNOLOGY

Make your own iPhone app

Jacob Lea-Wilson steps you through designing a successful app

Chances are you've read about the 14 year old that recently designed a mobile application for the iPhone, which proved to be incredibly popular. So popular in fact it knocked your friend and mine, 'Angry Birds', off the top spot to earn the American teenager the position of number 1 free app in the UK. Upon your reading of this news you may well have thought to yourself 'well I could do that, I've had hundreds of ideas for apps'. Everyone seems to like saying this, but very few actually put their wallet where their iPhone is and invest some time in their idea. Why not follow our How-To guide to become the next 'Paper Toss' success story.

Once you've got a concrete idea then there are two routes you can go down. To make an app with simple functionality you can design it online with a company who will launch it for you and take a share in the profits, or you can design and launch it yourself. For the former there are plenty of companies that will help you do this, find the top ten at: http://rww.to/felix_app.

Brainstorming

Your catchy name and single idea for an app is not enough. You need a well thought out plan for what the app will do, and you can start this by firing out ideas about what it could do. Think of all the features available to you on the iPhone and think of a use for them all. You need to ask yourself whether the app will fulfil a function, make people laugh, solve a problem and/or just be ridiculously interactive? Will people pay



for the app or will it generate revenue through advertising?

Market Research

You might think you're the first person to come up with the idea to slice fruit in the air with ninja swords, but someone may have already beaten you to the chase. Get out there and download all apps that are in the same area as yours. Evaluate and improve on each of them noting down their strongest and weakest features, making sure you learn to copy what works and remove what doesn't. Have you considered your market audience? Ask people you think would be interested in it for their ideas and see if they'd pay for it.

Sketching

Now the real work starts: your first task should be to write out a content-map. That is to say a mind map of each page that will feature in your app and how they connect to each other. Now sketch out each page with notes to remind yourself what you want each button to do. There's a handy website to help you with this step called MockMe, which aids in producing good looking sketches to get you moving: http://bit.ly/app_sketch.

"Just because you've designed an app to take people on a Monopoly Board Pub Crawl of London, complete with augmented reality directions, doesn't mean that anyone will download it."

Graphics

This is the stage that your app starts to come to life – take your drawings and make them real. Using a professional package like Flash or Photoshop turn your drawings into real graphics. You

can usually find a collection of iPhone images to help you with this step should you need it. If you don't fancy yourself as a designer then you can pay for one. It will make your app look ten times better if it's professionally done. Get in touch with your fellow students, ask around for someone who's designed websites or phone apps before. Or start searching on the Internet, as there are hundreds of designers in the UK who can help you.

Programming

For this one you're probably going to need to find yourself your own Mark Zuckerberg to work for you (make sure you know what he's doing with your idea though). You can find someone to program your designs on the Apple Developers Forum. Unless of course you fancy learning Objective C? If you already know some C++ then jump right in and start by downloading iOS SDK and Xcode from the Apple iOS developers website. This program helps you to create content while being able to view the graphics on an iPhone emulator. Don't forget that programming is half coding and half testing. Your app must be solid and cannot have any bugs in it at all when it's ready to launch.

Launching

Now with your finished app in hand you need to do a few things before you can get it on the Apple App Store. Firstly you need to join the Apple iPhone Developers Program (which costs £59). This will also allow you access to their



Look dull? Wait till you try making one yourself

fantastic website full of help for improving your app and learning the programming language better. There are some technical details to take care of before the final launch:

- Creating the app certificates
- Defining the app ID's
- Compiling the app
- Uploading to iTunes Connect

Promoting

You're not done yet. Just because you've designed an app to take people on a Monopoly Board Pub Crawl of London, complete with augmented reality directions, doesn't mean that anyone will download it. You need to promote and advertise your app. Start an email campaign to anyone you think might mention your app in the paper, on a website, or on TV and radio. Start your own social media advertising campaign by setting up a website for the app and promoting it through the usual channels of Twitter and Facebook. Get your friends to start talking about it and downloading it.

In order to become really successful you need to reach what's called the Tipping Point. This is the ultimate achievement of any app whereby word of mouth, fashion, and advertising, meet in one massive sales spike.

Great Success!

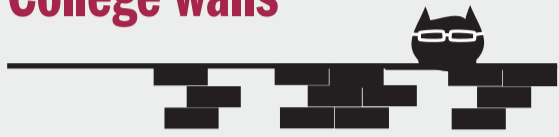
Congratulations, you've made your own iPhone application and you can now afford to give up your job as a Biochemist!



Sketch out your app thoroughly before you start programming

POLITICS

The world beyond College walls



Palestine

Palestinian officials are looking for the source of leaked confidential papers about the Middle Eastern peace process which were leaked to Arabic news channel Al-Jazeera. Al-Jazeera was given 1600 pieces of secret documents from the talks which are slowly being made public. Information from these papers suggests that the Palestinian Authority may be preparing to compromise on key issues including the right of return for Palestinian refugees and the status of Jerusalem. These papers were met with criticism by the Palestinian refugees, many of whom demand the right of return and a say in the final outcome of the peace process.

Russia

Russia's President has said that Israeli style security is needed in the nation's airport following a suicide bombing at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport on Monday. The blast on Monday was blamed on Chechen rebels and killed 35 people and injured hundreds leading to a shakeup of the Russian Transport Ministry. Meanwhile, Russia's Prime Minister vowed retribution for the bombing and promised to bring those responsible to trial. Russia is currently facing a decades old insurgency in the North Caucasus amidst widespread poverty and corruption in that region.



Sudan

President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan has pledged to support South Sudan in his first address since the referendum held two weeks ago. Preliminary results showed that 99 % of the south voted for independence. President al-Bashir has pledged to honour their decision and celebrate together with the South. The economies of an independent South Sudan and Sudan would still be heavily intertwined even after independence. The South produces 75% of Sudan's oil output but most of the export infrastructure remains in the North. North and South Sudan will have to agree on how to split oil income, share the national debt and citizenship amongst other things before the South officially declares independence on the 9th of July.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

Tunisia's revolution: the first of many?



Majid Al-Khalil

On the 17th December 2010 Mohamed Bouazizi went to the office of his regional governor, drenched himself in petrol and set himself alight. He succumbed to his horrific injuries and died some days later. As a twenty six year old high school graduate he was relatively well educated yet despaired at the lack of opportunities for more-than-menial work. Local government officials made his life a misery, repeatedly harassing him and subjecting him to public humiliations. A street vendor for many years, the final straw came when they began confiscating his wares after demanding a license which they knew not to exist. Described by his family as a quiet and softly spoken man, his death was the result of a psychological breakdown brought on by years of submissively accepting injustice at the hands of a governmental system so corrupt and extensive that it interfered with the daily lives of many of its citizens who, beleaguered by poverty, were just trying to make ends meet.

His seething anger at his situation was shared by many others and manifested itself in a month of rioting and violence which has erupted across Tunisia. The wrath of so many common people has brought the autocratic govern-

ment to its knees and sent "President" Ben Ali fleeing for his life; only the second man to rule the country since 1956.

The question on the minds of many, no doubt including the other puppet presidents, kings and emirs who rule the Arab world is whether or not this unrest will spread. Mass protest is uncommon in the Middle East and is in general illegal or restricted. State run security agencies mercilessly punish those involved and repression is swift and brutal. For many Arabs, especially those living with some financial security in less harsh regimes, the stakes in the struggle for democracy are far too high. However, as the economic crisis bites, millions of Arabs are struggling with soaring food and fuel prices that make our VAT increase seem rather paltry. As mentioned in Time earlier this week, economic despair strips citizens of their fear. An example many will be watching is that of Jordan. One of the safer and more stable Arab countries, it has been relatively free of unrest in recent decades. But with unemployment reaching a staggering 30% (double the official figure) it is more difficult than ever to predict what lies in store and thousands have been protesting at the rising food prices and unemployment.

All this presents an unsavoury dilemma for

policy makers in the rest of the world. It is not just a question of the oil reserves which we are all so evidently dependent on. The simple fact is that although many of our western leaders call for democratic reform in the Middle East, these are generally hollow cries. The results of true democracy could be tough to swallow. A despotic king who can be persuaded to share his oil in exchange for financial gains is often a safer bet than a radical Islamist regime which would benefit no one. The result is that countries such as Dubai form the acceptable face of Arab autocracy. The way in which their lavish, opulent and stupid construction projects and their endless shopping malls, greed and gluttony are rebranded as some sort of new Arab sophistication is a remarkable feat of marketing and spin. Less often do we hear of the living conditions of the South Asians who construct these palaces of shit, or the massive abuses of power within.

In truth, these recent events are unlikely to herald a 1989 moment for the Arab world, the vested interests are too deep and the economic factors which are inflaming the situation will not last forever. But no system is perfect, and it may be the case that a few Arab leaders will be a little less relaxed as they continue to sip from their poisoned chalices.

Obama's State of the Union address

Wednesday 25th saw Obama give his second State of the Union address – his first since his party's 'shellacking' at the hands of the Republicans in November's mid term elections. The speech was short on policy but included concessions to the Republicans. His speech included:

- The rocketing advance of China and India, and the need to confront this as the US did when faced with the technological advance of the USSR – the need to find this generation's

"sputnik moment".

- The promise of increased spending in scientific research; especially in clean energy.
- A 5 year spending freeze to save \$400 billion.
- Lower corporate tax and simpler regulations.
- Tougher sanctions on Iran and reiterated support for South Korea.
- Support for the ousting of Tunisia's president and 'the democratic aspirations of all people'.



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BUSINESS

A look into the Bank of England's monetary policy

Shiang Jin Chin argues that the central bank's critics on the right are wrong to advocate fiscal tightening in the midst of a weak economy and high unemployment

The Bank of England (BoE) has kept rates at record lows of half a per cent for almost two years. Its 'quantitative easing' has purchased assets totaling £200 billion in the last eighteen months. Interest in this extremely loose monetary policy sparked recently when the latest UK Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures showed an annualised rise of 3.7% in December – above the already high previously forecast of 3.4%. A loose monetary policy may have two severe side effects. Firstly, it risks overheating the economy, creating bubbles in the stock market and property markets that force the economy into downturn upon bursting. Secondly, it broadens the monetary base; a cause of high inflation.

Inflation in price levels in any particular currency may be mainly caused by two factors. The external factor consists of rises in world commodity prices and changes in exchange rates of a country. The internal factor consists of increased demand in nominal terms; an expansion in the monetary base or a rise in taxation. The recent inflation of the Sterling may be attributed largely to a spike in commodity prices (The Economist commodity-price index in Sterling terms shows a rise of 41.3%) and the VAT increase of earlier this year. The extent to which the looseness of the Bank of England policy has also contributed to the current, dangerously high levels of inflation has attracted significant media and political interest lately.

UK GDP growth for 2010 is expected to be 1.6%, further hit by the severe weather in December which saw the worst retail sales figures recorded in recent years. The unemployment rate still stands high at 7.9%, the average pay rise last year is reported to be 2.1%, and there is a pay freeze across the public sector. These figures show, firstly, that the fundamental economy is still so weak that we need a loose monetary policy; and secondly, that the demand for goods is still weak. The latter means that inflation is unlikely pushed up by internal demands. A further look at the *broad money figure* shows that the total amount of money available in the market had decreased from £2,228 billion to £2,176 billion in 2010. All of this means that this inflation was hardly caused by



Ahhh, so this is how they make chocolate coins



The fundamental economy is still so weak that we need a loose monetary policy; inflation is unlikely to be pushed up by internal demands

the broadening of the money base. Does this mean then, that the broad money base is contracting when the Bank of England keeps a loose monetary policy?

Yes – and the answer for that contradictory outcome is simple. The official bank rate is the interest rate that the Bank of England charges banks for secured overnight lending. Quantitative easing measures increase the buying of government bonds and financial assets from commercial banks, both leading to increased capacity of the commercials to lend. The decision to increase lending activities, however, still lies between the demand of the market and the willingness of the banks. The latest trend in lending published by the Bank of England showed that for the three months between September and November 2010, despite a £2.2 billion increase in the amount of lending

to individuals (most of which goes to purchasing houses and has little effect on CPI), the business lending has decreased by £5.3 billion.

Given that the fundamental economy is still weak and the latest inflation is not caused by loose monetary policy, the only reason for the Bank of England to tighten policy is when bubbles are created in property and stock markets. Perhaps the only place where we saw the significant effect of the Bank of England's actions was in the reversal of House Price Index and FTSE 100 downward trends. The average house price, which saw its lows around £148,000 in February 2009 has climbed up to £162,763 recently. But there is no bubble here. The FTSE 100 index, which represents 81 per cent of the UK stock market, had recorded its low of 3493 in March 2009 but trekked back

up to 5896 points this month. A bubble might be forming in stock market, but tightening the monetary policy now will do more harm than good.

Seven months ago, when giving a speech in Liverpool regarding the rise of the CPI, Paul Fisher, a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the BoE was quoted saying that, "given the expected degree of spare capacity in the economy [...] and that the temporary factors should wear off, the most likely outcome is that inflation falls back to below target over the next couple of years. On that basis it was sensible not to try and offset the recent rise in inflation by tightening policy." His statement remains true today, and if the Bank of England worries about creating bubbles in markets, it always has other measures to deal with the problems without altering its monetary policy.

COMMENT

FELIX

In Praise Of... Imperial's Clubs & Societies

The majority of students at this university, one would hope, have a good idea of why they are studying their particular subject and why they are at Imperial. To cut straight to the point, it is commonly a combination of the reputation and quality of an Imperial degree, the concentration of world-class and cutting-edge research and of course, that rejection letter from Oxford or Cambridge. We jest, we jest. Put more simply, it is usually either because we want a high paying job, in finance or industry, or because we wish to embark on an academic career.

But, while those things are what give our time at Imperial drive and purpose – one would hardly pull all-nighters every few months without expecting some significant reward at the end – it is the social experience that gives us joy and happiness. We do not accept that the social life at Imperial is uniquely deficient. Quite the opposite, there's a great vibrant social experience to be had at this university and much of it is powered by our wonderful Clubs & Societies.

And what a range and quality of Clubs & Societies we are blessed with. Without naming any individually – for fear of causing offense by omission – the student organisations excel themselves each and every week. From the sporting achievements of our athletes to events that professionals couldn't hope to surpass, our students consistently show their worth and their passion for the world beyond their studies.

But why is this important? Aside from the substantial amount of money that we raise for charities, the extra-curricular activities make Imperial, to be blunt, a bearable place to study. The large workload and difficult subject matter can, at times, feel like an unbearable burden. It is extremely important that we are able to escape our subjects for a while and explore other disciplines. Which, for the record, is not something that students at other universities are able to do to the extent that we are – our Clubs & Societies are amongst the most successful, numerous and varied in the UK.

When we have completed our degrees, whether we have embarked on careers in the City, entered into research or some other path, we shall surely acknowledge that the Imperial academic brand has carried us forward with some advantage. But when we look back on our time here, we suspect that it will be those extra-curricular achievements of which we are most proud. That's why we raise our glasses, so to speak, to those creative, energetic and enthusiastic students who make our time at Imperial truly memorable and above all, fun. Thank you all.

Wish I was there...

Going to a Spanish university for a year makes you realise just how fortunate we are to be at Imperial



Indy Leclercq

January is generally not the best month in anyone's year. What passed for enjoyable, seasonal weather in December has become dreary, cold and depressing in the new year. For all Imperialites, the first month of the year is stressful, sleep-scarce and just generally bollocks.

While reading this on campus, there are two ways you could have reacted to the previous paragraph: by nodding your head in agreement more and more vigorously, as you remember how bloody cold it was this morning (and your unfinished lab report); or by telling me to fuck off if you know me. Chances are it'll have been the former. So, why do all my friends hate me?

Time to confess something: I'm not in London, but in Spain, thanks to some lovely people at the EU (and a Renaissance humanist). I'm spending my year on the Spanish Mediterranean coast, in Valencia. Two semesters that involve learning some physics (no, really), some Spanish, and how to "communicate" with the twenty-six other nationalities of the European Union. It's not exactly Imperial. There are far too many beaches, for a start. Not to mention the 20°C "winter" temperatures.

What right do I have to be moping about January, then? None, whatsoever. But if you've got this paper in your hands then neither do you.

One of the first things that a Spanish person on my course said to me was "what are you doing in Spain, if you're at Imperial?" I gave her the usual babble about the weather, the language, the culture and the people (thus understating the relative importance of the weather) – but it got me thinking. Over the next few weeks, as I discovered life under the siesta regime, it was impossible to stop drawing comparisons between London and Valencia. Culture shock probably isn't strong enough a word to describe it, but to compare the advantages and disadvantages of life in the UK and in Spain would take an entire book, and

Saskia Daniel/Imperial College London



No, seriously, January in Spain is awful. It's just so sunny and warm. Absolute hell, trust me.

I'm going to let that be somebody else's problem. For the skeptics who think that there's no way that Spain could be worse than the UK, I can give you reasons ranging from the 20% unemployment rate to the seemingly arbitrary opening hours of shops.

However, there is one side of things where the balance is tipped in London's favour – the university itself. Don't get me wrong, Valencia has a really good university with excellent lecturers, a decent library, sports facilities and the like...yet it is simply incomparable to Imperial. The two don't fit on the same scale. It's like comparing the Heathrow Holiday Inn to the Ritz.

"World-class" is a term that gets bandied about by College PR people quite a lot; while it may be a bit over-used, it is unquestionably legitimate. Very few other institutions in the world can claim to have facilities on a par with us. We are spoilt; having free use of a gym and a pool in the centre of London, societies for everything you could possibly think of, an incredibly active student union... the list goes on (not forgetting the inimitable felix). The whole science campus here has about as many cluster computers as the physics department at Imperial and its library covers about one floor of South Ken's.

Forget widescreens in booths in a café; think CRT monitors and missing mice. But that's just the material side

One of the first things that a Spanish person on my course said to me was "what are you doing in Spain, if you're at Imperial?"

of things. Everything back home is so much more structured: for example, you know what you have to hand in, to who, and when. In Spain these are considered variables rather than constants, which ends up being a lot more stressful in the end. Not everything can be done mañana.

I'm loving Spain, though, and I'm loving my year abroad. One thing it's taught me so far is this: Don't take Imperial for granted. Of course, I know that you expected a lot when you chose Imperial. I know that you pay more than Spanish students. I know that I'm talking about two very different cultures.

But next time you're complaining about how full of geeks this place is, or how small the gym is, or how cold it is in January, go find an Erasmus student and ask him to compare their university to yours. You'll see how lucky you are.

Oh, and buy a thicker coat. You live in London, for god's sake, not Valencia.

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

COMMENT

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

Gove's in charge? Seriously?



Angry Geek

“Gove's lack of professionalism was remarkable.”

I try not to listen to BBC Radio if I can help it, because I want old age to hold some surprises and given that I already eat mint imperials all day and complain about ‘the youth’ I’m feeling that it’s not holding much back.

Last week a friend linked me to a radio segment that involved Michael Gove, current education secretary and former Elmer Fudd impersonator, going toe-to-toe with a listener calling in to a Radio 5 discussion on education. Being the classy sort of guy that he apparently is, Gove cut the man off, misinterpreted most of his remarks, and stalled more than a <car brand> in a <weather type>.

The conversation was about the usual petty stuff like the education of a nation’s children, but Gove’s lack of professionalism was remarkable. The man’s running a section of our government. His desk probably has tiny red buttons on it that cause things to explode when pressed.

The button he’s been mashing lately is the one about education reform. The soundbite Gove attempted to manufacture was that he wanted more ‘facts’ in

education; the flaw being that not only does this sound massively idiotic, but once you get past the “I guess that’s better than teaching stuff we made up on the commute in to work, Mr. Gove” stage of comprehension, you realise what he actually means: learning by rote.

Gove’s noticed that children from other countries are outperforming British children and has decided that the answer to this is to emulate their education system entirely. Although apparently he may be taking it slightly too far, as in December he wrote that “like Chairman Mao, we’ve embarked on a Long March to reform our education system”. I’m assuming he won’t be actually murdering teachers in the street like Mao did.

I don’t think anyone would disagree with Gove’s appraisal of the current situation. Our children are, on the whole, not performing as well as the best in other countries. There are a lot of factors affecting this, but before we go off investigating them and trying to emulate the education policies of infamous communist revolutionaries it might be wise to ask whether we want to have their education systems.

India’s engineering industry is taking off in a big way. Everything from software to civil via aeronautics - you name it, they’ve got a university producing students as good as Imperial’s or better. Two, three, four years ago this was big news, and people were talking about the rise of their university system like it was the future. That’s calmed down a bit lately, however, as more and more of their graduates reach the workplace and people notice an unusual trend - a lot of them don’t really want to be there.

I’m not an education theorist, but I do know that the reason the teachers’ unions want relaxed curriculums is because it allows creativity on the part of teachers, and exploration on the part of students. Both of these things allow for children to find their place in the world and do a job they really want to.

Anyway, hopefully that answers all those dozens of emails I get asking for my opinion on education reform in the post-Labour United Kingdom. Next week on Angry University: could the Israel-Palestine conflict have been resolved by stealing everyone’s maps and refusing to give them back?

You’ve chosen to be here, so quit whining

“I have so much work! I hate Imperial!” Heard this before? Mmm... I thought so - there is a lot of this Imperial hate around. The same university that everyone has chosen to attend also appears to be the root of all of their misfortunes and unhappiness.

This viewpoint is flawed and unhealthy in a number of ways. The most obvious comment to make is that university is not in any way compulsory, and being in one of the world’s best is a fantastic opportunity. I don’t see how anyone could accept a place at a university in which they don’t want to be. I mean the choice was always yours.

Imperial is not something to hate, because in essence it is not a thing; it is an institution within which people can further their knowledge of science, engineering and medicine. I may be being a bit pompous here, but the point is that there is nothing to hate. I don’t really see Imperial as a big monster trying to force anyone to join or to do anything actually. If you don’t want to work you can choose not too. The place should not be demonised, as it is the people themselves that make it what it is.

Fundamentally it must not be the centre of the student’s universe. We live in London after all. Don’t you think a lot of people would find themselves quite content studying in one of the world’s ten best universities whilst living in central London?

This brings me to my final point, a place to study at Imperial College is worth a lot. I’m not talking about money, even though it IS very expensive. For every student here there is probably at least one other that has been left to find somewhere else to study. So if you don’t want to be here, let someone who does take your place.

No one likes working as such but that doesn’t excuse hating, or pretending to hate, a place where we’ve all chosen to be.

William Seez

Learning lessons from the past



Naida Dzigal

“I remember going back a year after the war ended and seeing bullet and grenade holes in every building.”

The audience were in complete silence for 64 minutes. Everyone was hanging onto every single word that Lilly Ebert, a Holocaust survivor, spoke. Her story is another one of the countless testimonies we have all been listening to since the survivors vouched to share their stories again and again so that we could prevent something so tragic, so monstrous, so inhumane from ever happening again. Have we learned our lesson though?

What one might see in Mrs Ebert is a woman who shall not be silenced - we admire her bravery and courage to speak through her tears about the horrors of Auschwitz and concentration camps alike. She stands as living proof of what Europe and the rest of the world allowed happen in the 1940s. One might argue that there was nothing that could have been done, that Hitler could not have been stopped. I disagree, and wish to share with you why.

War has been a constant theme in my life. I was born in Sarajevo in 1989 and when the war started in 1992, I was fortunate enough to escape with my mother and two siblings to Split in Croatia and then to New York. My father stayed and fought in the war and was wounded three times. I remember going back a

year after the war ended and seeing bullet and grenade holes in every building in my home town, I remember the story of my first cousin being shot on the battlefield, my best friend’s recollection of her elder brother and aunt being hit by a grenade, children being warned not to enter abandoned homes or to go into mine fields (this is still a major problem in Bosnia today). Now that I think of it, my grandfather was sent off to a concentration camp in the Balkans - Jasenovac - during WWII. I never met him. You get the idea.

Now, that paragraph was not written to ask for pity, but rather for your empathy and compassion for today’s victims. I’d like to evoke your understanding and recognition of what had happened and what is happening now. I cannot even begin to imagine the horrors that Lilly Ebert went through, but I realize that we have not quite learned our lesson.

Lilly Ebert left the packed lecture theatre with the following:

“It was an upside-down world where good was bad and bad was good - what do I mean by this? Killing someone was accepted and helping someone was punished. When you came out of this world [Auschwitz], you had no money, no education, no anything, and you had to begin a new life. Not a lot of books were

written about that. Not that many people stayed normal. That is my story...it makes no difference what religion you are, what colour your skin happens to be, because tolerance is important...You should know what has happened, what can happen and you need to look out so that it never happens again.”

Some of you might remember the Bosnian Genocide in July 1995. One of the reasons that it wasn’t worse was because the world had learned part of the lesson from the Holocaust, however morbid that might sound. Unfortunately, this lesson didn’t help the Srebrenica victims. “Da se ne zaboravi (May it [the genocide] never be forgotten)” - the message of the Srebrenica survivors echoes in my mind. Rwanda, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Tibet, Czeczenia, Armenia (please do forgive me if I have unintentionally left out some)... All those names speak for themselves.

Still, I cannot help but see the irony in Mrs Ebert’s recount - “I hope we stick to that promise,” she said. What has happened in the past 66 years? It is extremely important that each and every one of us know these stories, repeat them and pledge to ourselves to never allow for them to be forgotten. How many more times does history have to repeat itself?

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COMMENT

Take the National Student Survey, it will help improve your course

Ever felt that your Department doesn't listen to your views? Want to thank them for all the hard work they have done or quite the opposite? The National Student Survey (NSS) is a platform for you to voice your positive and negative opinions!

If you are a final year undergrad, you probably have already heard that the survey began on the 10 January. When I was asked to complete it last year, I had no idea what I was filling out and I guess most of you feel the same way. It's easy to complete and only takes a few minutes, but does it really live up to the hype? Yes.

The NSS isn't like other surveys. Over the past years, you've been asked to complete numerous surveys (and are probably sick of all the acronyms by now!). Whether SOLE, TOLE or ROLE, these all provide quality feedback on specific issues which are going well (or not so well) in Departments. The NSS is different. It allows both College and the Union to measure themselves against other UK institutions. Questions range from learning provisions to Union activities. You get to let College know how you really felt about your 3 or 4 years here. Oh, and did I mention it's anonymous?

The Union and your student reps encourage positive changes using this survey's results as (metaphorical) ammunition. Equipped with views gathered from a large majority of students, it is hard for Departments to ignore major issues. It is important, however, to have a high participation rate, otherwise results aren't representative.

The NSS has changed things in the past and you've been reaping the benefits. Last year the NSS showed that students weren't happy with their coursework feedback. Resulting from that, we introduced a 2 week turnaround deadline and have clamped down on Departments which have been lax with feedback. I hope you have noticed the difference! In the past, NSS results have also played a key role in opening our beloved library resources 24hrs. Although the resulting action taken from the NSS will not directly impact your uni experience, your feedback will allow prospective students to know what they are getting into by applying to Imperial. The results also have an impact on Imperial's standing in the League tables.

As with all surveys we run, we are providing some great incentive prizes to those who complete it. We are giving away 6x £20 Union Shop vouchers as well as 4x free Ents tickets to this year's massive Summer Ball at the end of the year. All winners will also receive free lifetime membership to the Union! So make sure to complete the NSS under www.thestudentsurvey.com

Very soon the people running the survey will begin targeting those of you who have not completed it via post, email and even telephone so get on it before they begin annoying you! **Alex Dahinten**

Whether you spend your life tweeting or check your Facebook page once a month, social networking is here to stay. The question is....



IS SOCIAL NETWORKING RUINING OUR LIVES?



Ben Good

December 23, 2006 at 20:41, "Ben has joined Facebook". It was a simple page, no friends, no photos and a fake birth date to get around the age restrictions. If you had told me then that this, and other social networking sites, would be the cornerstone of social interaction for our generation I probably wouldn't have believed you. But, whilst this development may be surprising I believe that it has been positive.

There have been many examples of where social networking has brought happiness to lives and in some cases saved them! Phillip Pain, whilst on a year out in Mexico, fell from the 7th floor of a hotel. However, the hospital did not have enough O negative blood for the life-saving operation he needed, so his friends in the UK made Facebook groups calling for people to help out. After 24 hours thousands of people had joined to spread the word. Then amazingly, people started turning up at the hospital to offer their blood.

Whilst social networking may not have such a drastic effect on the lives of most of us, its impact is undeniable. LinkedIn is great for business, MySpace/last.fm for music, twitter for journalism with Facebook a 'jack-of-all-trades' patriarchal figure. Each of these enhances how we interact each other in different ways; there are bands I wouldn't have heard, news stories I wouldn't have found and events I wouldn't have attended if social media did not exist.

Whilst like anything there are those who take social networking too far, it is a fantastic tool if used correctly. It can connect you to anyone anywhere in the world, reunite lost friends and help to maintain long distance friendships that might otherwise disintegrate.

The true global potential of the medium is perfectly demonstrated by the recent story of Ashley Kerekes (aka @theashes), a 20 something American twitter user. She woke up one day to find that a large number of people had sent her messages on twitter regarding the Ashes tour. Having no idea about cricket she responded, initially with annoyance but this then developed into full conversations. Soon she had thousands of followers and through the power of social networking was flown out to Australia to watch the Ashes for real.

The social media revolution has without a doubt changed the way we interact with each other and the wider world. It has provided a new easy way to communicate and for those who want it, a channel through which your voice has the potential to be heard by millions.

"It can connect you to anyone anywhere in the world."

How many times have you been introduced to someone of whom you were already aware, perhaps the collateral of a recent facebook browse or, if you're one of the pathetic many (like me), a target of a facebook stalk? Or at least made decisions based on relationship statuses as seen on facebook?

Singles, haven't you checked out the guest list for a friend's party and decided not to go because there weren't any fit single ladies attending? (There were a few in the "Maybe attending" and your wingman said let's risk it for a biscuit but computer games won out in the end.)

Non-singles, have you been jealous when you looked at every single tagged photo of your girlfriend from before you got together? And nearly died when you looked through that album from a trip she took with her ex-boyfriend?

None of this applies to me, of course, but you lot should be ashamed of yourselves! The way Facebook (more so than any other social networking site) has changed the way people interact is a disappointment. It completely takes the mystery out of life, let alone making it a lot more difficult to get away with lies. There was a time you could have got away with bailing on a mate's birthday party, organising with other friends to go clubbing and just maybe suggesting to go to the same club where the girl you fancy just so happens to be going. But not anymore! Thanks to the inevitable day-after-the-night-before album, your actions WILL be recorded and you WILL be found out.

Social networks do have innumerable benefits of which I have definitely taken advantage, but I can't help feeling let down. I'm a big fan of tradition, admittedly because I read too much Jane Austen, but romance is dead and I blame social networking, as it fosters a society which is too busy for real-time contact with people. And how many times have you had coffee with someone who checks twitter on their smartphone every five minutes? While it helps people juggle their busy lives and is a bit of fun in easy reach, there is no substitute for real interaction. So please, I urge you to join me in mocking those who "check-in" everywhere they go.

Much as I'd like to resist social networking e.g. by boycotting or some such gesture, it's a lot of effort to follow through on my 'principles' only to become even more of a pleb. Safe to say, resistance is futile. Hey Trekkies, Seven of Nine is really hot isn't she? If I only I could "network" with her, then maybe I'd stop complaining. Live long and prosper.



Alex Nowbar

"Romance is dead and I blame social networking."

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION AFRICAN CARIBBEAN SOCIETY PRESENTS

AFROGALA

Beautiful

WARBLES


SHOWCASING AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN TALENT & CULTURE

DATE: 5TH FEB 2011
TIME: FOOD SERVED 6.00PM
SHOW STARTS 7.00PM

VENUE: GREAT HALL, SHERFIELD BUILDING
IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON SW7 2AZ
NEAREST TUBE STATION: SOUTH KENSINGTON

TICKETS: £25 FOR PREMIUM SEATS
£15 FOR NON MEMBERS
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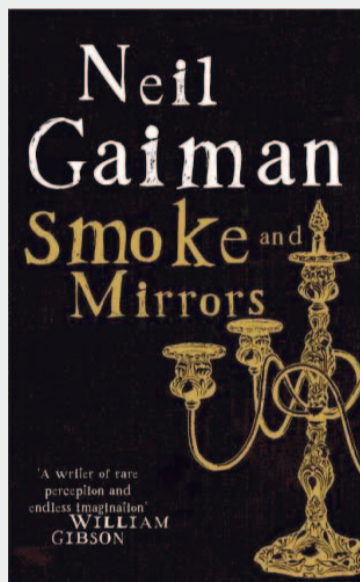
ARTS

Arts Editor: **Rox Middleton**

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

If you read nothing else this week...

Zainab Ali puts the case for this collection of poems and short stories by a darkly original author



Smoke and Mirrors

by Neil Gaiman

When asked to write a book review for Felix, I found it incredibly difficult to choose what to write about. My favourite books are classics, but since coming here I've had little time to read anything but articles and I'm sure that most other people feel the same. As Imperial students, few of us have time to read a full length novel, which is why I've decided against recommending one. *Smoke and Mirrors* is a collection of short stories and poems that possess a subtle elegance that is often lacking in longer books. Neil Gaiman's stories are often dark and disturbing with a hint of the occult. It's hard to imagine that the same author writes children's fantasy or has co-written with Terry Pratchett.

The stories in *Smoke and Mirrors* are reprints from anthologies, so are incredibly varied. Most are a mix of fantasy, horror and the occult, drawn together in Gaiman's entrancing style of writing, but some, like *The Goldfish Pool*, are more real and vivid. Whether it's a disturbing version of *Snow White* or *We Can get them for You Wholesale*, a sinister story about assassins who offer discounts for large orders, the book is bound to have something in it for everyone. My personal favourite is *The White Road*, a chilling poem about Mr Fox and the murders he committed.

In *Smoke and Mirrors*, Gaiman gives a glimpse of another world that is not so different from our own, where the surreal is treated as ordinary. It can be read in those few moments a student has to spare. Whether you'll want to read them again is for you to discover, but I urge you to give them a try at least once. You may find that you like horror after all.

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

Less Than Kind, more than ordinary

A brand new old-fashioned play, full of 1940's atmosphere

Will Prince

Everybody, it seems, loves Terrence Rattigan at the moment – or Terry, as the people who sat next to me during the Jermyn Street Theatre's production of *Less Than Kind*, insisted on calling him. Last summer, *After The Dance* at the National Theatre paved the way for Terry's centenary year in 2011 and the Old Vic is bringing their rendition of *Cause Célèbre* to the stage in March – be sure to watch this page for details. And whilst the latter two sought to add clout by drafting in big names, the Jermyn Street Theatre (JST) has taken a different approach entirely. Rather than trawl ES Magazine for glossy faces, it seems they've been venturing into the archives.

This is *Less Than Kind*'s maiden performance. Despite being written during the war years, Rattigan's own lack of self-belief and the capricious world of show business meant it was worked and reworked and then finally left for dead – only one copy remained, saved in a license office. And JST must be commended for their efforts. Whilst they might not have uncovered a gem, they've certainly found a keeper.

The story centres on Olivia, an attractive yet simple-minded widow, as she tries to reconcile her forthright, left-wing son and her wealthy paramour, a cabinet minister briefed in tank production. The scene opens on an apparently blissful familial scene, but gradually we see the seams in the patchwork quilt of life appearing. Sir John Fletcher, the lover, and Michael, the



Sara Crowe and her internal struggle

son, tug the fabric to breaking point, until the woman is forced to decide between son and lover.

A struggle ensues between the men, with ploys aplenty, in a scenario that at times has echoes of *Hamlet*. Despite this, the setting is distinctly British and inescapably 1940's – it's all hard times, dried egg omelettes, evenings at

the pictures and knowing your place.

This may all seem very plain vanilla, but Rattigan injects into his pieces a distilled essence of normality – turns of phrase, idioms and idiosyncracies – that makes all the proceedings very real. The notions of stiff upper lip and female sacrifice are delicately touched upon. "I love how you turn everything into a joke, I wish I could do that," says the bouncy and blunt Michael to his mother with a smile, as one sees ever more clearly the painful necessity of her own smile in the face of grim situations.

Adrian Brown's production is a very solid piece of theatre, well staged and neatly cast. Whilst at first the piece lacked vigor, any first act qualms were well allayed by the final curtain. Sara Crowe pitches the character of Olivia well, and makes the comic lines her own. Michael Simkins brings his role as Sir John Fletcher a gravitas and authority that contrasts perfectly with the boyish cockiness of David Osmond as Michael.

Less Than Kind, in truth, has all the ingredients to be a run of the mill piece of theatre, but strangely, I must confess, I really enjoyed it. Surveying the crowd, waiting for the lights to dim and seeing that your presence probably brings the audience age down a decade never bodes well. But by the end, I found myself in its fabric, being tugged to and fro by the characters' conflicts, and cheered throughout by Rattigan's polished one-liners and endearing characters. Good, traditional theatre.

Jermyn Street Theatre until 12th Feb.

London Art Fair

The huge art sale is still a good show

Jack Jelfs

Jaw-dropping prices, gallery owners hovering like buzzards around the fat-of-wallet and pretentious conversations carrying through the air: "This is Christophe's latest work, he's currently juxtaposing renaissance frescos with imagery from *Countdown*." A landscape entitled "Profane Impossibility of Diametric Neurosis" (it's not pretentious because it's, like, obviously ironically pretentious, you know?) and a gallery called Pratt Contemporary... It can all mean only one thing – the London Art Fair (LAF) has rolled into town for another year, bringing with it all that is both bad and good in UK art.

The bad? See above. It's hard not to feel a tinge of cynicism when viewing the commercial art-world in all its pustulent glory. Maybe it's the idealist – and former art student, fact-fans – in me, but somehow the sight of an object dragged kicking and screaming from the deepest depths of an individual's tortured soul, or painted surfaces of delicate and shimmer-

ing beauty, or scribbled sketches that somehow capture the very 'now-ness' of the moment in all its simplicity and complexity – all these sit slightly uneasily with the sight of some bloke with a dodgy cravat trying to flog it to you for fifty grand. Ah well, everyone needs to make a living I suppose.

And the good? Well – the art itself, happily enough. Not all of it, obviously – some of it was rubbish, RUBBISH I tell you – but a lot of it was very good indeed. The LAF is a basically a trade fair – much like you get in any other industry, such as plumbing for example – only instead of ball-valves, stop-cocks and brass nipples, all the stalls sell... paintings. I heartily recommend a visit to next year's event – although a minor Lottery win may be required if you want to leave with anything more substantial than the Fair Guide.

I should also add that it's bloody massive, so my five highlights are just there to the right. (For a fun interactive reading experience, why not try Googling them to have a look?)

Highlights

Grayson Perry – "*The Walthamstow Tapestry*". Turner Prize-winning ceramicist turns his hand to another traditional medium and fills it with his trademark snippets of modern life (and lots of actual trademarks, funnily enough).

Marcus Rees Roberts – "*Catalunya*" series. My highlight of the fair – claustrophobic interiors, primitive figures, Spanish darkness. A cheery combination of brooding menace and anguished psychosis.

Colin Self. Various small drawings from the 1970's onwards. Witty, sarcastic and weird.

Alice Attie. Delicate typographical structures, like spider webs made of numbers.

Joel Clifford / Anka Dabrowska. Two young-ish artists, both represented by Jealous Gallery. Both good.



All the fun of the fair, well, mainly just the clowns, but they are quite fun

Let's talk about mime

London's annual International mime festival lands once again, showcasing physical theatre from all over the world. We tried just a couple to get a taste of what's been going on

Flesh and Blood & Fish and Fowl (The Barbican)

Herpreet Bhamra

The Office with a taxidermied twist is an excellent description of this apocalyptic physical comedy from American duo Geoff Sobelle and Charlotte Ford. Emerging from an oversized bin and the office toilet, Gerry and Rhoda appear ready for a day at their workplace which is eerily devoid of any signs of other human life. Settling into their respective routines, Rhoda obliviously indulges in her impulsive snacking habit whilst Gerry begins compulsively rearranging his post it note collection and obsessively stalks a particularly obnoxious fly. However the monotony of office routine is slowly shattered by the intrusion of some rather unwelcome furry friends. A ferret scuttles furtively across the floor, a badger settles in between the folders, plants burst out of filing cabinets and a deer or two appear casually from the behind the doors. Unable to cope with the

exotic events of the day, predictably, the two workers give into their wild side and mayhem ensues leading to the final ex-

"Taxidermied animals creep into view"

plosive climax involving the collapsing of walls and an ingenious bear attack all set to the sinister synthesized chords of Debussy's Claire de Lune.

There are some hilarious pantomime elements to this play. Taxidermied animals slowly creep into view causing you to want to scream "It's behind you" to the oblivious characters on stage, and their unpredictable reactions to the strange events never fail to disappoint. Both Sobelle and Ford possess that rare comedic talent of pushing a joke to its absolute limit without letting it wear thin, as well as a formidable mastery of the dramatic pause, employing ex-

cellent comedic timing. The physical characterization of the neurotic, irritable characters perfectly captures the social awkwardness exploited so effectively by Ricky Gervais et al. but this physical portrayal gave it a refreshing and much darker twist. The appearance of the taxidermied animals is well choreographed, often leaving you clueless as to which office appliance they had materialized from this time, although from time to time the flash of a hand quickly diving back behind the door that the pheasant had appeared from ruined the magic of the moment.

The ecological message of the play was clear; in these concrete fortresses we've built, we've removed ourselves so far from the natural world, that the two worlds cannot co-exist and this will be to our own detriment. In the end the natural order shall be restored. However, Sobelle and Ford manage to wonderfully entwine this with message with an absurd and hilarious physical comedy parodying the pressures of modern life.

La Porta (Southbank)

Cecily Goodwin

Clowning as a visual theatre is one less commonly seen on the London stage. And Compagnia 2+1's performance of their show La Porta was definitely in keeping with what most people think of as traditional clowning, complete with brass, juggling, acrobatics, funny hairstyles and falling over.

Compagnia 2 + 1 are comprised of Swiss clowning duo Bernard Stockli and Andreas Manz and clown and acrobat Kai Leclerc. They hail from a very traditional clowning background, touring with famous circus companies such as Circus Knie, Circus Monti and Barnum and Bailey. Leclerc is presented as the multilingual, opera-singing, more serious 1. Whereas Stockli and Manz are the hopeless, but very endearing, 2.

The performance centres around a red door in the centre of the stage, La Porta, which facilitates an array of tricks and scenarios, as the performers come and go through the door and fight over its possession. The continued struggle over ownership of the door, however, was tenuously linked to some other as-

pects of the show and when the clowns repeatedly fought over it, it became a little tiresome. On the other hand, I particularly liked the use of the door as a portal to a skiing holiday, where a clown shivered under flurries of little paper pieces, exaggeratedly blown at them by the two others, then, as the little drifts of paper lay about the stage and were later kicked up again, the clowns gave a classic shiver of remembrance. At one point the door came into its own as a character when it accidentally got caught in one of the clowns' brawls and 'died' (wouldn't open), and needed music in order to get it to open again.

Many of the tricks performed by the

"The door came into its own as a character when it accidentally... 'died'"

clowns were well executed and technically impressive. A Houdini-style escape from a box tied with ropes was excellent and some fantastic acrobatics

were performed around a lamp. One of my favourite tricks was when Leclerc can-canned across the stage singing an aria whilst tearing up a copy of the evening standard and then opening it out into a copy of Le Figaro. Although, in between these 'wow-factor' tricks the sequences of slapstick or competitive door-possession wore a little thin.

That said, the interaction between the clowns themselves was very well portrayed and the characterisation was excellent, making them very likeable. Each clown had characteristic facial expressions, actions and movements that were very charming, as evidenced by repeated 'awws' from the crowd. This was something of an achievement as all three spent a large proportion of the show striving to inflict pain on the others.

Despite the fact that sometimes the focus on the door seemed a little strained and that I personally don't find people being slapped in the face particularly funny, the show was entertaining, the characters of the clowns were endearing and the execution of the tricks impressive and unpretentious. The perfect show for anyone with a penchant for slapstick, and of course, the under 10s.



Rhoda (Charlotte Ford) being chased in her office by stuffed wildlife





Tell us your bedroom woes...

Take the (anonymous)
Felix Sex Survey:
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The centrefold
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MUSIC

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



James Blake
James Blake
Hemlock Recordings
2011
★★★★☆

Widely touted as one of the acts to watch this year, **James Blake** finally releases his debut full length on the 7th of February. In contrast to previous EPs, such as the infectious CMYK, the record is predominantly vocal lead. It is also far more downbeat, and chilled out – more suited to bedrooms than dancefloors. The first single from the album, a rendition of Feist's 'Limit To Your Love', is arguably the worst track on the album, unable to capture the elegance of the original and the sparse arrangement in this version feels rather flat and dull. The rest of the album however is significantly better, despite the surprising shift in focus from his previous work (it's fair to say this reviewer can hear more Anthony Hegarty and Bon Iver than say Mount Kimbie or Burial here) this is still a good solid album that is easy to enjoy. **Christopher Walmsley**

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

1. Daft Punk
2. Kanye West
3. The xx
4. Radiohead
5. Muse
6. Gorillaz
7. The Killers
8. Sleigh Bells
9. Bon Iver
10. LCD Soundsystem

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

Make sure not to miss

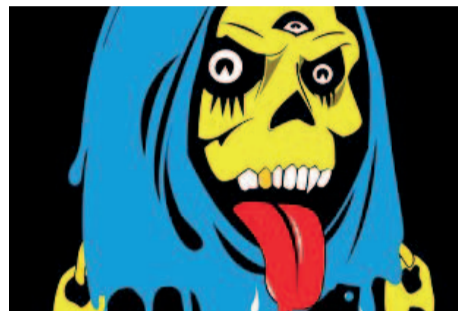
Deaf School + Eighteen Nightmares at the Lux

Relentless Garage, Islington
Tonight! @ 19.00

Hailing from Liverpool, **Deaf School** are set to rock the Relentless Garage in Islington tonight with their energetic, upbeat songs that really create atmosphere as well as sound. It was this atmosphere that launched them out of Liverpool in the 1970s with such buzz and inspiration, and brings them crashing into north London.

Eighteen Nightmares at the Lux are a London-based foursome that play the sound of surfer rhythms and tight progressions over fuzzing rockabilly. The music suits the image of a surfing skeleton. It's classic rock with fuzz, 60's garage without a leash, a blend of the dark side to all things good, with that burlesque charm, a surfing nightmare. And for that reason, we love it. **Luke Turner**

TECHNO NONSENSE



Pt. 4: This week **Simon Hunter** reports on the trailblazing label that is platforming some of London's most exciting underground music



The underground dance music scene in the UK is the healthiest it has been for a number of years. London is, as ever, a melting pot for musicians from a myriad of backgrounds who push the boundaries of what becomes many peoples' 4am soundtrack. It is in testament to this that I devote a second label review to a London-based label: **Ramp Recordings**. Set up in 2004 by Tom Kerridge in order to give his life a direction, **Ramp Recordings** has released music from the likes of **Flying Lotus**, **Zomby** and **Maxmillion Dunbar**.

Kerridge professes to simply release music that interests him and over the past few years it seems that the world has aligned with his ideas as opposed to him changing his ethos in order to cash in on the flavour of the month. From American instrumental hip-hop to UK Funky and then **Zomby**, **Ramp Recordings** essentially sums up the current mood in UK dance music today. In 2007 the label helped bring **Zomby's** lucid synth dreamscapes to the attention of the world, quickly turning him into extremely hot property. Even **Lady Gaga** used some of his music in one of the transitions on her recent 'Monster Ball' tour.

Although **Ramp** dictates a lot of what is going on in the UK music scene right now, a lot of the output has origins from across the Atlantic. **P.U.D.G.E**, **Maxmillion Dunbar** and **FaltyDL** all originate from across the pond and have contributed to some of the best releases on the label to date. **P.U.D.G.E** makes distracted instrumental hip-hop; his recent album 'Idiot Box' weaves erratic beats with smooth synth lines over a strange vocal sample that continues throughout the whole record creating the effect of a radio that can't settle on a single station. In contrast, **Maxmillion Dunbar's** most recent effort 'Cool Water' mixes smooth electronica with hip-hop

beats and tinges of disco. **FaltyDL** treads a more familiar path with his most recent EP 'Hip Love', displaying elements of UK Funky and Garage through a beat that whilst continually tripping over itself, refuses to go down.

Ramp Recordings is an excellent showcase of where the UK scene is at at the moment, and to get a taste of it try these favourites. **Doc Daneeka's** 'Hold On' warms up UK Funky with soul samples and a faint vinyl crackle, and **JamieXX's** remix of 'Hip Love' by **FaltyDL** does away with the complicated drum rhythms of the original and replaces them with a bouncy bass line.

Simon Hunter will be playing a DJ set at 19.02.



Techno-bot wants to BLOW YOUR MIND!

Kill 'em All at Fabric with the legendary Erol Alkan

Last Friday saw the promoters Kill 'em All hijack the club's hallowed halls and the music policy was strictly four to floor, ranging the whole spectrum from disco and electro to pounding techno. **Filthy Dukes** set the tone of the night, a rendition of **Green Velvet's** classic 'It's Time for the Percolator' indicated that it was going to be a long one indeed. At midnight, the electro-rock outfit **Django Django** took to the stage in room 1. Their soaring guitars accompanied with glitchy synths and resonating bass sounded perfect as the club began to fill up.

By the time **Erol Alkan** was handed control of the decks the room had swelled to an eager mass of convulsing and grinding bodies. After a month touring the festivals in Australia the London legend looked perfectly at home mixing classics with contemporary tunes. It had been a while since I had seen **Erol** do a full club set and I was not disappointed; nineties rave was harmoniously mashed with New Order and Caribou, the rises and drops perfectly anticipated and the denouement being a re-edited version of his **Boys Noize** collaboration 'Avalanche'.

Dutchman **Paul Chambers** presented the



Erol Alkan bums you with his sex-noise

novel idea of a live set incorporating synthesizers and drum machines however the succession of discordant synth waves followed by drum rolls and bass soon became repetitive.

Fortunately, over in room 2, rising stars **Hey Today!** kept the crowd moving and the energy levels soaring, not a single soul in the club could prevent their bodies from dancing as bass heavy fidget house and furious electro instructed their legs to move. This resurgence of rave-inspired dance music is becoming huge in Europe and the German duo gave us a taste of what we might be missing. While tired faces became more common and the dancefloor emptied, Londoner **Stopmakingme** kept the stragglers entertained with a well crafted techno set until the early morning.

Fabric is still not showing its age. The sound is meticulously controlled, with crystal clear treble and deep bellowing bass, never once hurting your ears. The recently updated lasers were fantastic making one random raver I met declare they had triggered an 'acid flashback' (although his heavily diluted pupils told a different story). The laid-back feel of the club and 'everyone is equal' vibe made for a very pleasant atmosphere. It's no wonder people choose to return to Fabric again and again. **Ed Knock**

MUSIC

Balls out rock at 19.02

Greg Power spoke to alt-rockers **The Vetoos**, headliners of the first Felix Music Night who promise to bring the balls back to rock



It's tough being a guitar band in 2011. Only three guitar-based tunes were featured in the UK's top 100 best-selling songs of 2010. It gets even more depressing when you realise that half of the top 40 songs featured were by **David Guetta**, **Black Eyed Peas** or **Rihanna**.

I still believe there is hope yet for rock. Even more so when I meet unsigned bands who remain optimistic about the future of independent rock. **The Vetoos** are that sort of band. After moving from Reading to London for their studies, **The Vetoos** developed their unique take on rock. Despite being pigeon-holed as indie-rock early on by critics, a much better description of their style can be found on their SoundCloud page as the intriguing "Post Indie Tech Punk".

We spoke about the deploring state of rock, bands they dig and what they'll bring on February 19th, when they headline Felix's Music Night, **19.02**.

What kind of music did you guys set out to make?

Tobias (guitar, vocals): Initially we were just two guitarists writing music, which turned out as guitar rock. And gradually we've been fighting against everything

that guitar rock means.

Andy (bass, vocals): Nowadays we're working at writing for other people to listen to our music rather than just us. You know, that's Lead Guitarist Syndrome, you get obsessed with what you're doing. But we've been so conscious for the past year about writing for other people, so we're gradually shaping our own sound now.

James (drums): I think as a band at the moment what we're aiming to do is just make good music, but make it quite interesting and a bit different, because I just think everything out there is so boring right now.

Tobias: People look at us and tell us "Wrong time to be a guitar band, huh?". What that's turned into for most people is some kind of super-duper styled guys, grinding through chords and singing songs about girls, and how much girls hurt some times. And it's just fundamentally uninspiring. But there's always been something about guitar music that has excited people. Whether it was Nirvana in 1994, or Radiohead in 1997...

Andy: It's just something that people are always going to be able to relate to. The guitar's a very human instrument. But there's such a breadth of sounds you can make with a guitar. There's never really going to be a limit to what you can do as a guitar band. There's always new sounds you can create.

James: I think I'm kind of fed up with rock at the moment because it's just so not rock. When you're a rock drummer, you get on stage and you get topless and you smash the drums as hard as you can. So many bands now are boring. They're



Vetoos: making rock kinky again

not even doing anything musically interesting, and they look bored on stage.

What are some of your influences?

Tobias: It's weird how our influences work, because I can tell you some of my favourite bands, Andy'll tell you his, James'll tell you his and they'll be so different but we can have points at which the reasons why we like them are the same.

One band that me and Andy really like is **Radiohead**, because every song is unique and exciting in its own way. But then I like kind of hardcore punk stuff, from the schizoid stuff of **Blood Brothers**, to the nuts-out weird vocals of **Future of the Left**. And the balls that you get from that kind of rock. Mixed in with some of the intricacies, and the openness, and the textures of some of the indie bands. **Wild Beasts** have a really great open kind of feel to them... but with the balls. I think the balls are what people are missing. Just the cojones man. Cojones!

Andy: I guess we try and bring the fun element of bands that are gonna make you move, like **Foals**. On the punk scene you have **Johnny Foreigner**, they're just so much fun. We're trying to combine that fun with really intricate

guitar arrangements.

Tobias: We've shifted our focus from "I like playing that. I'll play my good part." to saying just "How does this make me feel?". And that's what music's about. Making people feel something. Whether it's about making people feel scared, happy and elated or making them just want to boogie their arse off. That's what we want to do. It's liberating in a way because you're not worried particularly about what you're playing, you're just in the moment, enjoying it. I think we're working out if you can't make something good with four chords, and one time signature and rhythmic feel, then you're not going to make something good that has a million of them. We've learnt to restrain ourselves, and just try to make good music that's there for itself and for people to listen to.

What will you guys bring to 19.02?

Tobias: We can bring a shitload of energy. We'll just be nuts, and make people want to jump up and down.

Andy: We are the kind of people that you could take home to meet your grandmother. But when we get up on stage, we kind of change. So, you know, I'm looking forward to it.

James: Sex, drugs, rock n' roll!

Tobias: Except without the sex and the drugs...

The Vetoos are having a launch party for their new EP *Ritalin / Ritalout* on February 7th at **The Social** (£5).

Hear and see more of **The Vetoos** along with the extended video interview at www.beholdthemachine.com.

Ramp Recordings playlist

A Rustling
Shortstuff

Bare Feet
Maxmillion Dunbar

Bubble Bobble
Zomby

Hip Love
Falty DL

Keep It Moving (inst.)
Flying Lotus & De-claime

Let Me Trick You
Tokimonsta

One Foot Ahead Of Another
Zomby

Ritalin Love
Nochexxx

Sno Mega
Maxmillion Dunbar

Timekeeper
Clouds

See Ya
Shortstuff

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

Regina Spektor

Live In London
Sire Records
★★★★☆



A live recording of her Hammersmith Apollo concert a year earlier, this album showcases Regina Spektor's truly unique voice. From Russian folk to tongue-in-cheek country, she lets her music speak for her. Her creativity also jumps out of the music, the song 'Silly Eye-Color Generalization' sang acapella and ad-lib. You could be for-

given whilst listening to this album for actually forgetting there's an audience in the album – only their applause at the end of songs punctuating the string quartet and drummer who accompany Regina. Whilst unconventional, Regina Spektor has built up a dedicated fan-base, and this album goes some way to showing why, with fan favourites such as Fidelity, Eet, and Samson interspersed with her trademark quaintness.

Gareth Rosser

Lykke Li

I Follow Rivers
LL Recordings
★★★★☆



This, the second single to be released of the forthcoming album 'Wounded Rhymes' unfortunately does not appear to show a positive progression in direction for the Swedish singer. A largely generic forgettable lower mediocre track, and lacks all of the charm a delicacy that made her first album 'Youth Novels' such a pleasing listen. Instead

a rather drab melody, both vocally and percussively, is implemented for the verse which leads to a rather plodding chorus. It's a shame because one felt she had the potential to get better with successive albums, but this indicates is that the reverse has happened. **Christopher Walmsley**

B.o.B

I'll Be In The Sky
Grand Hustle
★★★☆☆



'I'll Be In The Sky' is the fourth single to be released from B.o.B's album 'The Adventures Of Bobby Ray' and seems to attempt to fill the large hole left by OutKast. The beat bounces along nicely enough, with B.o.B attempting to channel the spirit of Andre 3000, but the song lacks a great chorus to tether it and ends up falling flat. The real disappointment is that this release comes after the great mixtape track 'Beast Mode', which has him displaying his excellent rapping skills to full effect. Disappointing.
Jamie Fraser

FILM

Classic Cinema

Jurassic Park



Nowadays, people will go to surprising lengths to clean your windshield...

Considering its release in 1993, it may be a little premature to call *Jurassic Park* a classic film, but after almost twenty years of being referenced and spoofed countless times in hundreds of other films and television shows, I'm going to call it. From Spaced's take on Muldoon's "clever girl..." line to the iconic water-ripple shots reproduced innumerable times, this film has become deeply ingrained in cinematic history.

Starring Sam Neill, Laura Dern and Jeff Goldblum as the only people to ever make paleontologists and mathematicians look badass, this film stormed box offices to become the most financially successful film of its time. And it's easy to see why. Even after so many years that have seen huge leaps in CGI technology, *Jurassic Park* remains timeless, with shots that are still as visually impressive now as they were at its release. As a testament to Spielberg's refusal to cut corners, the painstakingly constructed animatronic dinosaurs used for close-ups have not aged at all.

It is typical Spielberg in every aspect, with a rousing John Williams score and a character arc that sees the gruff Dr. Alan Grant (Neill) learning to open his heart and take responsibility for the kids left in his care – thereby satisfying Spielberg's incessant daddy issues. In between the sweeping shots of Costa Rica and the highly convincing Scientific Facts that allow the recreation of dinosaurs to be possible, *Jurassic Park* is a triumph of action and suspense. There are few scenes more utterly nail-biting than the 'Velociraptors In The Kitchen' scene, which builds to one of the finest, most impressive finales in Spielberg's career, and rounds off a spectacular cinematic milestone of a film. **Jade Hoffman**

EVENTS

iCU Cinema - *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One*
£3/£4 for members/non-members
Tue 1st Feb, Thu 3rd Feb. 6:30pm.
Union Concert Hall

Disney gets its hair in a twist

Tangled

Director Nathan Greno, Byron Howard
Screenwriter Dan Fogelman (Based on *Rapunzel* by Brothers Grimm)
Cast Mandy Moore, Zachary Levi, Donna Murphy

John Park

Costing Disney a whopping \$260 million in production budget alone, it comes as no surprise that the studio has announced they will no longer make animated films based on fairytales after the release of their latest, *Tangled*. It's time for the original ideas of Pixar to thrive and Disney knows it. The most recent Disney non-Pixar efforts haven't exactly turned huge profits and, as the bar is continuously raised, the cost of animation isn't getting any cheaper.

Good news, then, that the film they're releasing as their fairytale send-off is actually of a very high standard, mixing a well-known children's story with some gripping action, adventure and song-and-dance numbers we have all come to adore. There are the usual Disney ingredients – a young princess in trouble, a wisecracking, handsome princely man, a wicked woman who starts off the story by creating a mess of a situation, cheery tunes, and funny supporting characters. It's really no different from many Disney classics, but *Tangled* recycles this well worn-out set of plot devices and still makes the whole film surprisingly watchable.

First things first: the \$260 million is money well spent. *Tangled* looks stunning and the artwork cannot be faulted here. It may be one of the best looking of all Disney animated films. Unlike Disney's previous works, *Tangled* is not a purely hand-drawn animation, but a computer-animation integration that truly shows the modern appeal.

The plot follows the classic fairytale character, Rapunzel (Mandy Moore) whose hair is a central theme of the story and is beautifully animated, flowing across the screen in most scenes. When Mother Gothel (Donna Murphy) discovers that the newborn baby princess Rapunzel's hair has a special power of healing that includes maintaining youth, Gothel kidnaps the poor princess, locks her away in a tower and raises the baby as her own. The power of her hair only remains when it's not cut – so it's important to grow her beautiful long golden hair. Eighteen years later, a local bandit, Flynn (Zachary Levi), fleeing from some palace guards, runs into a forest, and stumbles upon Rapunzel's place of imprisonment. At first, they get off to a bad start – mainly when she attacks him and holds him prisoner. But, when it transpires that she is dying to venture out into the world, she strikes up a deal with



A novel way of bungee jumping I must say

Flynn. If he helps her, she will let him go.

The relationship is superbly voiced by the two leading actors: Levi as the narcissistic but often clueless thief and Moore as the lovable, naïve and cute little princess. They make a great team and there is plenty of humour between them to keep things fresh. Some jokes are more childish and immature than others, but there are more than enough enjoyable developments to keep the older members of the audience hooked. Mother Gothel, one of Disney's very few non-magical villains, relies brilliantly on her master manipulation skills and passive-aggressive words to mess with everyone's heads. Murphy has the perfect voice for the role: her sly intelligence and uncanny ability to work every single situation to her own advantage makes her one slick villain.

Films like *The Lion King*, *Aladdin*, and *Beauty and the Beast* have

come up with so many epic, catchy tunes that it would be simply unrealistic to expect the same sort of breakthrough musical standard, but *Tangled* does come up with its fair share of likable songs, though they're nothing on the enduring classics of early Disney.

There is a lot of hectic action in the middle sequence – a lot of which is made head-spinning by the eye-popping special effects. The 3D is once again not something groundbreaking and doesn't add a whole lot to the film's content. It's more distracting than anything else – Rapunzel's hair flows swimmingly no matter what and her big eyes sparkle even without the added extra dimension.

Despite the directors' attempts to be creative, the final moments are a tad daft, and the cheesiness surrounding its finale can be unbearable. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense either, and relies on the argument of "love conquers all" as its final motto. Though it's an easy way out, a neat conclusion with a happy message, something the kids will no doubt be pleased with but most viewers will be left wanting a little more. Perhaps we should all remember that this is a Disney film, and therefore, should ultimately be kid-friendly but *Tangled* is still another demonstration that Disney doesn't quite get the difference between "sub-standard film" and "children's film".



The actor who plays the hero off-screen instead of on – Ian Somerhalder

Saphira Gurski

When you think of American film, gossip mags overflowing with Hollywood hunks immediately pop to mind. The UK has a thriving indie and dramatic scene, however we thought it was high time to flag some rising Hollywood stars (and their films/shows) who deserve to be on your radar. Who are we kidding? This liberal newspaper needs more than naturist-inspired weekly centerfolds to sate a college-level appetite for eye-candy. It's relatively easy to find mouthwateringly sexy Hollywood actors, however when considering what ancillary characteristics might intrigue our science, tech and business-oriented student body, Ian Somerhalder easily tops the list. Your blank stare, squeals of "Boone" (Lost), or drool pooling on your well-worn copy of Entertainment Weekly's Sexiest Beast issue slots you into either the uninitiated or swooning fan category.

Somerhalder's current fan-fave sexy beast Damon Salvatore (of hit US show *The Vampire Diaries*) won. Hey, you must be doing something right if you've managed to take the New York Post PopWrap's Best of 2010 Television No. 1 rank, as judged by a full-blooded male TV critic! Not *Twilight* nor overly teen girl-oriented, if you can bury your fear of the undead for an hour, "TVD" and the deliciously conflicted, psychopathically unstable and eternally sarcastic "knight in tarnished armor" Damon Salvatore is not to be missed. However, it's not only Somerhalder's compelling and often eerie performance, suggestive of future box office potential à la Johnny Depp, which convinced us to do a profile. If you're in the mood to dive into the indie and smaller budget drama flicks Somerhalder's acted in, you're in for a treasure-trove full of sexy and hi-

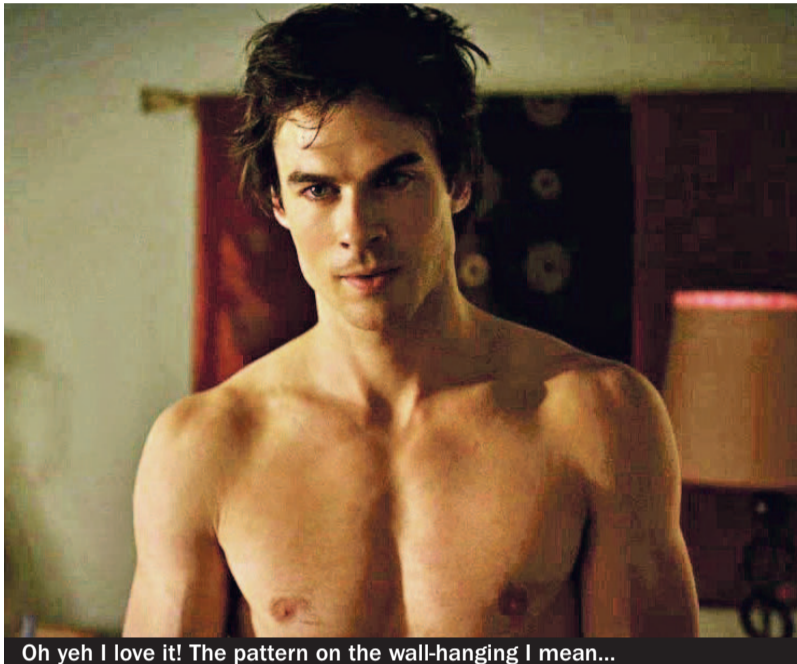
larious moments. Our favorites are *The Rules of Attraction*, *Life As A House* and *Wake*.

The Rules of Attraction is a delightfully dark and twisted satire of university life. Amongst an ensemble of drug-addled, sexually promiscuous misfits, Somerhalder plays a disaffected, cynical bisexual student dealing with the harsh realities of a straight crush. Highlights include the most sexy and hilarious method of an undressed male selecting an outfit in digital existence. Best watched with your girl/boyfriend; this edgy, extremely liberal flick just can't stop flaunting everything from straight sex, to male-on-male action, to a house full of naked ladies.

Life As A House is a surprisingly quirky, humorous, sad and profound tale about a terminally ill architect searching for the existential meaning of his life by constructing his dream home alongside his drug-addicted son (Star Wars' Hayden Christensen). Somerhalder's roaring entrance in a red Porsche catalyzes the story's abrupt departure from emo-fest to hilariously dark as his cocky pimp/drug dealer character rips through the veil of the film's seemingly idyllic neighborhood via activities like an on-going tryst with the local cougar.

Wake is an indie romcom with drama/gothic/thriller overtones that led the Cinequest Film Festival's opening night. Somerhalder plays the widow-with-a-secret of a mysteriously deceased woman and the new love interest of a dark, quirky girl who attends strangers' funerals to entertain herself. Hilarious romantic and murder investigation hijinks ensue.

Somerhalder's performance doesn't rely on his trademark sultry stare. He



Oh yeh I love it! The pattern on the wall-hanging I mean...

has a peculiar quirk, adding character through facial micro expressions and eyebrows with a life of their own. Perhaps this is why he's won over critics and was nominated for Best Drama Actor in the People's Choice Awards. Or maybe it's because he's one of a only handful of actors who can pull off the "sympathetic murder," ripping characters' hearts out. By hand. (Recall: Emmy nods to *Dexter*). Most actors play hero on screen, however Somerhalder favours the antagonist. Chances are, it's because he has a hero complex in real life.

He recently started the Ian Somerhalder Foundation (ISF) to foster youth-led awareness initiatives within the realms of animal welfare, environmental issues and clean energy as well as to "fund applications and sources for green energy." He's personally involved in a green power entrepreneurial venture (Go Green

Mobile Power). He became quite a large presence within social and mainstream US media this past year due to his vocal statements and awareness-raising during the BP Gulf Oil Spill. Inspiring and collaborating with an increasingly large set of fan-initiated awareness and fundraising groups, he's also spoken on a panel at the Washington Energy Summit and, as a spokesperson for the Alliance for Global Conservation, will be going on a mission to Central America to assess environmental issues which he'll present to Congress in autumn 2011. For more information, volunteering, or to find out how the IS Foundation may be able to assist projects in Imperial's myriad of student energy, environmental and entrepreneurial clubs or research programmes, check out www.isfoundation.com (Twitter: @IS_Foundation, Facebook: Ian Somerhalder Foundation).

"Gutsy" Black Swan should get Best Picture

Ed Knock

It's all too easy to say that this year's Oscars is going to be exciting but I do believe that the 51st Academy Awards are going to be a bit special. Whereas previous years have been dominated by a few strong contenders (*There Will Be Blood* and *No Country For Old Men* 2007) or a weak field (2006) or just ridiculous hysteria for one film (*Slumdog Millionaire*, 2009), this season's Oscars have few clear favourites.

The Best Picture category is definitely an open race with the possibility of ten films (enlarged last year) taking home the prized statuette. See-Saw Films will be hoping that their 'British charm' will help them edge out main competition *The Social Network* who claimed victory at the Golden Globes. In reality *127 hours* and *True Grit*, although nominated, will be out of the running due to their director's previous successes last decade. I predict *The Fighter* will triumph on the night, everyone knows Hollywood loves a good boxing film

(the travesty being when *Rocky* beat *Taxi Driver* to the 1976 best picture award) and it's a classic American story of a working class man overcoming his demons to become a champion. Personally I would love it if *Black Swan* won Best Picture, it's simply an incredibly gutsy piece of filmmaking both terrifying and sexy at the same time and Darren Aronofsky is due some recognition from the Academy.

Colin Firth is clear favourite for best actor and I'm sure he will take home the precious award in February. James

Franco could upset Firth's chances and his performance in *127 hours* could potentially woo voters. Jeff Bridges nomination is deserved but an actor has never one a Oscar two years in a row. Natalie Portman's brilliant portrayal of a mentally unstable ballerina may well be the only statuette that *Black Swan* takes home however Annette Bening is a dark horse and she will be a safer option for many voting in the Academy. Best Director? It always accompanies the best film but here's hoping Aronofsky will be lucky on the night.

Oscars

Best Picture

127 Hours
Black Swan
The Fighter
Inception
The Kids Are Alright
The King's Speech
Winter's Bone
True Grit
The Social Network
Toy Story 3

Best Director

Darren Aronofsky – *Black Swan*
David O Russell – *The Fighter*
Tom Hooper – *The King's Speech*
David Fincher – *The Social Network*
Joel Coen and Ethan Coen – *True Grit*

Best Actor

Colin Firth – *The King's Speech*
Jesse Eisenberg – *The Social Network*
James Franco – *127 Hours*
Javier Bardem – *Biutiful*
Jeff Bridges – *True Grit*

Best Actress

Annette Bening – *The Kids Are All Right*
Nicole Kidman – *Rabbit Hole*
Jennifer Lawrence – *Winter's Bone*
Natalie Portman – *Black Swan*
Michelle Williams – *Blue Valentine*

Best Supporting Actor

Christian Bale – *The Fighter*
John Hawkes – *Winter's Bone*
Jeremy Renner – *The Town*
Mark Ruffalo – *The Kid's Are All Right*
Geoffrey Rush – *The King's Speech*

Best Supporting Actress

Amy Adams – *The Fighter*
Helena Bonham Carter – *The King's Speech*
Melissa Leo – *The Fighter*
Hailee Steinfeld – *True Grit*
Jacki Weaver – *Animal Kingdom*

Television Editor: **Matt Allinson**

TELEVISION

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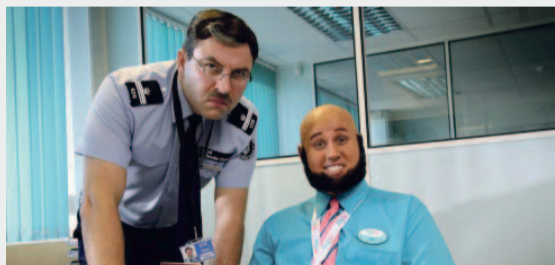
What We Watched...

This week's TV treated us to two chilling new episodes of the brilliantly gory **Silent Witness**, which starts with womanising Harry taking a trip to Budapest to perform a second post mortem on a Romanian prostitute who suspiciously turned up looking cadaverous in the River Danube. I have always considered it slightly odd that the pathologists seem to single-handedly conduct an entire murder investigation, but I suppose there wouldn't be much drama if they stuck to their usual mandate of messing around with the victims' insides.

The first of these two episodes actually turned out to be the exception to this rule as the team got caught up with the Hungarian Mafia (Police?), but as usual, it was packed with loads of cliff-hanging drama and a little [big] bit of tragedy... Your mourning will last for days if you are a long-term fan – the suspense kills! Definitely one to watch if you missed it.

At the cutting edge of shit TV this week was Channel 4's all new series **The Joy of Teen Sex** – a horrifying expose of some of Britain's best ugly people. A great bullfrog of a woman proffered tips to improve the taste of a man's mayonnaise and a sex doctor tries to convince a sixteen year old muntbag that contraception is a good idea because of how much of a village bike she is. Later, in what the mother describes as her 'proudest moment yet', she eventually gets the implant. I hope it fucking hurts. Slag.

The fifth episode of Lucas and Walliams' **Come Fly With Me** conformed to expectations by being almost exactly identical to the previous 4. In typical 'Little Britain' style the rather tenuous characters evolve last week's sketch ever so slightly by altering a few words. Funny? Yes, in a way, but it seems to be mostly catering for the playground audience and their eternal desire for something repetitive to annoy their poor teachers with. I'm not sure I'd bother to



catch the whole series, maybe the odd episode here and there.

Similarly, **Hustle** is one of those programmes that I always intend to watch, but there's always something better to do. Having to write something about it meant I probably should make an effort to the tune of one or two episodes – I have to say I was a little disappointed. Entertaining though it was, it was reminiscent of a low-budget version of 'Spooks' that stretched credibility like Anne Widdecombe stretches underwear (...and skin). That being said; it was very watchable and did make me spend around 40 minutes brushing my teeth because I didn't want to miss a second. Thinking back, that must be what the pause button is for.

The redeeming factor is undoubtedly the excellent casting of the main characters, who are so comfortable in their roles that it could almost pass as a documentary if it weren't for the over-the-top areseholeishness of the usual 'baddies'. This, considering the genre, is no mean feat, but I still think it'd be brilliant if one of them shouted BANTER when the mark realises they've been conned. **James Simpson**

10 O'Clock Live premier: Confused

Vicky Jeyaprakash

In the last month Channel 4's marketing department has done well in bombarding us all with anchorman-esque billboards and amusing adverts for 10 O'Clock Live, their new topical comedy show. I suspect, however, that the hype and anticipation created is where their downfall will lie. All of us were far too young to have seen the first show of say 'Have I Got News For You' or Paxman doing his first interview but I have vague memories of 'Mock the Week' having a fairly mediocre start. These shows however were allowed to develop and grow with an increasing fan base as they found their feet but I have an inkling that this show, which does have the bare bones of great television, won't be allowed that space to breathe and regroup. I can see why Channel 4 has gone with this approach though. The success of their alternative election coverage has prompted 10 O'Clock Live. Pissing everyone off by ending the Daily Show from airing every day and touting 10 O'Clock live as an alternative was a mistake. Talk about setting the bar



far, far too high.

In theory TOCL could have been comic gold with Jimmy Carr, David Mitchell and Charlie Brooker being some of the funniest men in business. Oh and of course Lauren Laverne.

Taking on Lauren Laverne just seems nonsensical. I suspect the thinking was something like.... "don't we need a woman? Oh and make her look smoking". Really people, really?

Ironically one of the major failures of the show is the fact there are too many people involved and with the content being divided almost evenly between them the show loses any momentum it has. It's such a shame because it feels that just as you start to engage it cuts to a break or the next segment. As the boys begin to settle into a dynamic and the wit sparkles we're off on some moronic Hollywood report about Sudan and the potential that's just around the corner is lost.

Mitchell was easily the superstar of the group being the most erudite and genuinely funny. His first interview on the subject of bankers made me question his ability as an interviewer but retrospectively I'm not sure many people beyond Dimpleby could handle a dialogue with three professional politicians whose knowledge of the topic far outweighs your own. He handled David Willetts wonderfully and his rant was pitch perfect. Jimmy Carr looked like live television made him want to cry and the first five minutes were so Jimmy heavy it was ob-

vious it took him a while to relax and deliver his one liners without looking like he was reading from a prompter. Both Carr and Brooker had trouble with camera and line cues which made the show look incredibly amateurish, which wasn't helped by the sudden switching of camera angles for seemingly no reason at all. Brooker, beyond his pre-recorded Palin segment, shined when mocking Tunisia but felt oddly absent during the panel chats. Which leaves just Ms. Lauren Laverne who is wholly miscast and I fear will come out the other end of this looking like an idiot.

Finally if you are going to conduct a political talk show, some prior knowledge is a must. Not knowing who the cabinet ministers are is embarrassing. I enjoyed the smirking Richard Sharp of Goldman Sachs who smugly listened to Mitchell fumble through the banking crisis and this I fear seems to be the major failing of this confuzzled little show. Comedians are not stupid people but to keep up beyond witty one liners when debating with leaders in their respective fields, some homework is required which I think the cast are skiving off so far. The second half of the show did pick up with Jimmy looking far more comfortable and so I have great hope with a little restructuring and a deep breath every so often this show can develop on the potential it has to be great satirical comedy that is informative and topical. Especially if they stop airing it against Question Time and News Night. C4 Thursday, 10pm and 40D

On The Box This Week



University Challenge is back!!!

The best shows on television for the next 7 days

Friday Fast And Loose

Improvised Sketch shows shuffle off Radio 4 and onto primetime TV. BBC2, 10pm

Saturday The Tudors

British TV is fixated with costume dramas, but this is actually alright. BBC2, 9.45pm

Sunday Wall Street

Classic Movie, now with added, missable Shia Labeouf sequel. Sky 1, 9pm

Monday University Challenge

An evening spent smugly beating your flatmate with your intellectual prowess. BBC2, 8pm

Tuesday Big Fat Gypsy Weddings

Channel 4's newest "thinly-veiled-laugh-at-people-umentary" doesn't disappoint. C4, 9pm

Wednesday Carpool

Channel Clarkson delights with this beautifully laid back interview format. Dave, 8.30pm

Thursday The Ultra Zionists

Expect about as much editorial neutrality as a Sarah Palin youtube video. BBC2, 9pm

If you missed it... How TV Ruined your life

Charlie Brooker is rich through whining and he is boning Connie Huq. Bastard. on iPlayer until Sunday

TELEVISION

New HBO channel on Sky

The most respected network in the US launches this week in the UK as Sky Atlantic. To celebrate, over the next couple of issues we will take a look at some of HBO's greats. This week, **Matt Allinson** and **Lucia Podhorska** review their favourites

The Wire

When a series is chosen by Barack Obama as his favourite TV show, you know it's going to be cool. Stand up comedian David O'Doherty made the joke that he knows people who love *The Wire* so much they can't even describe it in words. "So what do you think of *The Wire*?" He asks, "blaaeerrrrghhh!" the afflicted *Wire* fan replies. Unfortunately I frequently fall into this category, so writing a coherent review is proving quite difficult for me. The story follows a team of Baltimore police officers, over the course of 5 years, who specialise in surveillance operations on organised criminal groups. As can be expected with an HBO series, the baddies and goodies are very indistinct from each other: you know their life stories and their complex backgrounds and the show itself doesn't force a judgement on anyone. So much time and effort is

It is not as an ensemble piece that *The Wire* excels... rather it is through the creation of completely three dimensional characters

spent on developing the rich palette of motives, desires and flaws in the main cast: be they police chiefs, officers on the street, drug dealers or corrupt union officials; that the plots can simply unfold in front of you without any clunky explaining scenes. Acting talent is so abundant in this show that it makes most other programs, and even many films, look weak and feeble by comparison. Each individual series stand proud as a brilliant self contained achievement of script writing and vision, starting with a simple premise for a case to be built and following through the police and criminals running along

side-by-side trying to outsmart the other as well as bringing in the complex legal and political interplay involved. The levels of complexity build as the show matures, in my opinion reaching its absolute peak in the dying episodes of series 3. Although it requires watching the preceding 30+ hours as a warm up, I would call the penultimate episode of series 3 as *The one hour of television drama that everyone should watch*. HBO are slightly overly sex obsessed when it comes to their productions (see: *True Blood*) but the gratuitous amounts of sex scenes in *The Wire* are needed to help with the characters interactions with each other. However it is not as an ensemble piece that *The Wire* excels, although it does so anyway; rather it is through the creation of stand out, completely three dimensional characters who feel for all intents and purposes people you actually know in real life. Bubbles, McNulty and the terrifying Omar are to name but three, but the whole cast is a collection of perfectly matched acting skill and razor sharp scripting. The final series lost its way, although the bittersweet final montage went most of the way to redeem it for its sins; and other than the slightly frustratingly slow pace at the beginning of the first two series, I have nothing else to fault this show on. Hell, even its theme tune makes my hair stand on end. Along with *The Sopranos*, *The Wire* cements HBO's status as the King of incredible adult drama. **Matt Allinson**



Whistling is now cool again



Ah man, I can't wait till this is over so I can go to www.felixonline.co.uk/sex and fill out the survey

True Blood

Based on the popular Southern Vampire Mysteries series of novels by author Charlaine Harris, *True Blood* was first introduced to viewers in 2008 by Alan Ball, creator of *Six Feet Under* and Academy Award winning writer of *American Beauty*, writes **Lucia Podhorska**.

In a world where vampires have come out of the coffin and are living openly alongside humans, the main character Sookie Stackhouse is a waitress at Merlotte's in the small town of Bon Temps, Louisiana. Played by Anna Paquin (Academy Award winning actress from *The Piano*), Sookie is 25 years old and a telepath – she can hear what other people around her are thinking. This might seem like a gift, but when you have a boss – Sam – who is in love with you and a brother – Jason – who won't stop thinking about sex, it's more of a curse. But all this changes when Merlotte's gets its first vampire customer in the form of Bill Compton. Bill is tall, dark and handsome and Sookie can't hear his thoughts. Naturally, the two are drawn to each other and a romance blossoms. However, all is not well as their small town appears to have a serial killer on the loose, targeting women who associate with vampires. Throw in some

shapeshifters, werewolves and gorgeous vampire sheriff Eric Northman and Sookie's life will never be the same again...

On the surface this may sound like just another *Twilight* or *Vampire Diaries*, but thankfully none of the characters are in high school anymore. While there is plenty of romantic drama, *True Blood* would not be an HBO show without blood, gore and sex galore. By making vampires a part of society and lobbying

This may sound like just another *Twilight*... but thankfully none of the characters are in high school anymore

for equal rights, the books and show are also able to cleverly use these creatures as a metaphor for other demographics that have been discriminated against. But what is also wonderfully refreshing, is that the vampires are all three-dimensional characters and are not easily placed in the good or evil category. As a viewer, I think this is really important,

because it always keeps me guessing. I love finding out what has happened in the past to make the characters the way they are and with some vampires over 2000 years old, you can count on some interesting history. All of the characters are engaging and the casting has been wonderful throughout, notably Nelsan Ellis as Lafayette, who takes the theory of 'if you've got it, flaunt it' to a whole other level. Evan Rachel Woods, probably best known for her movie *Thirteen*, is also a joy to watch as the Queen and I'm interested to see what happens with her character in season 4.

I find the show, which has received numerous awards including an Emmy and Golden Globe, to be completely addictive, causing me to watch all three seasons in three days and making me order the books as well. I am now half way through re-watching season one after only one week and am still hooked. And if that's not the best compliment, I don't know what is...

Next week we'll be reviewing *Six Feet Under* and *The Sopranos*. If you're interested in writing about a TV series, either new or classic, or reviewing everything you've watched during the week, then don't hesitate to email us at tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

GAMES

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/>.

Armor Mayhem

armorgames.com/play/10215



In this 2D futuristic shoot-'em-up, you play an armoured soldier fighting for a trans-planetary corporation on a planet consumed by humanity's energy crisis. It's a fight to the death for control of mysterious crystals (which don't feature in the gameplay) and you and your AI team-mates must compete in deathmatch, capture-the-flag and king-of-the-hill style games against other corporations.

The game delivers very solid action that does its forefathers *Quake* and *Unreal Tournament* proud. The AI is actually very competent and do a good job of keep the game challenging. Although the selection of weapons is small, they're well balanced and complement each other in damage and accuracy. There's also a admirable variety of maps who's stylish visuals round off the game into a great little experience.

Meat Boy

newgrounds.com/portal/view/463241



Just read that article to the right and fancy getting yourself a slice of that bloody red action? Why not try the original Flash game that started the craze? It's not as well-polished as it's big brother but still packs all the crazy-hard levels that you could ever need.



@FelixGames on Twitter

Stop having a boring Twitter, stop having a boring life. You'll love my tweets!

Is it as delicious as they say?

Laurence Pope asks if *Super Meat Boy* deserves the hype

Three things are required to complete a game like *Super Meat Boy* successfully: The first is a sturdy keyboard or controller, the second is a level of patience few devout Zen Buddhists can ever hope to attain and the third is more free time than your average Arts or Media Studies student. Whilst I'm rich enough to afford the first and lazy enough to possess the third, I sadly fall short on requirement two, and boy does it show when I play.

Before I delve deeper, a short history lesson for the unfamiliar. *SMB* originated as a Flash game on popular portal Newgrounds.com sometime in 2008 and was such an orgasmic success that it was developed by the aptly named Team Meat into a fully-fledged game, released on Xbox Live Arcade and Windows near the end of 2010; there's a Mac version coming soon, supposedly. Anyone who follows reviews will know that the game did bloody ruddy well, generating a truckload of hype and literally making reviewers cream their pants (ok not 'literally'). But why? Well I don't know. Go research it yourself you lazy bums.

Ok, ok, that's not very professional of me. Let's try again... Before I attempt to answer that question for you eager little beavers, let me tell you why this game is amazingly fun whilst simultaneously being amazingly rage-inducing. It's hard. Let's not sugar-coat this, it's balls to the wall hard. Team Meat realised that some gamers want a challenge, and so those bastards gave us one. Saws will rip you apart, lava pits will melt you and you'll fall to your meaty death more times than you can say bugging cow nipples

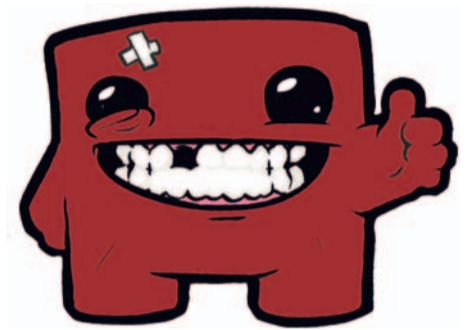
(or maybe that's just me). This only heightens the feeling of success when you finally manage to navigate Meat Boy across the beautiful but incredibly deadly 2D environment to reach his love, Bandage Girl. Honestly, it's rare to find a game that leaves you feeling like such a true platforming pro.

This challenge, along with the nostalgia-inducing 16-bit console feel and suburban musical score puts *SMB* a cut above the rest. The 'light world' alone will keep you occupied for ages – don't even get me started on the 'dark', much harder world. The hype *SMB* generated

“Let's not sugar-coat this, Super Meat Boy is balls to the wall hard.”

before its release is another question entirely.

The fact that *SMB* stemmed from a Flash game certainly helped, it already had a platform from which to launch its meaty self – to date, the Flash version has received over 8 million views, which, I'll say now, isn't half bad. Hype was also generated due to the fact that it was supposed to arrive on the PC, Mac, Xbox and the Wii, making it the first Indie game to be released on multiple consoles. Unfortunately, the poor ol' Wii just couldn't hack it and that incarnation of *Super Meat Boy* had to be scrapped due to filesize limitations. In all fairness, it was probably for the best; the Wii



remote isn't exactly touted for its accuracy and *SMB* requires accuracy in the same way that I required sanity and counselling after my first hour of play.

Sneak peeks of the game during development touted the game's retro feel and NES-style graphics, to the delight of many eager players. I was amongst them, although I'll admit it now I wasn't quite swept up by the hype this game conjured up. Then again, I try to avoid getting sucked into to any of that stuff, since in many cases the overly-hyped game flops like a moist fish and you're left feeling rather unsatisfied, like coming home from Imperial and finding some bastard's drunk the last of the milk.

Super Meat Boy didn't leave me with that feeling. It's fresh, fiendishly difficult and quite possibly the most enjoyable way to give yourself hypertension. And let's be brutally honest here, who hasn't dreamed of playing a game where you command a lump of sentient meat to rescue a girl made of bandages from a top hat wearing foetus in a robot suit?



This SHOULD be totally awesome... and yet somehow I just feel a bit grossed out.

New Age of Empires Online to take series in fresh direction

It's been a long time since real-time strategy fans have been treated to a new game in the ever-popular *Age of Empires* series, but in early 2010 it was announced a new title would finally be arriving. New developers Robot Entertainment have revealed details about how *Age of Empires Online* will be departing from the traditions of previous games in the series.

While the classic real-time strategy elements will remain in some form, *AOEO* brings a new twist to the table with persistent online gameplay. Even when players aren't in the game, their cities and civilization will continue to work and grow. Friends will be able to 'visit' and purchase items in a similar style to social games like *FarmVille*.

The title will be free to play with no one-off price or monthly subscription, instead employing a premium service that will give players access to exclusive items and allow them to gather more resources. Despite this, Robot Entertainment have given their assurance that the game will remain balanced.

GAMES



Too much of Lara Croft's bum

Omar Hafeez-Bore wasn't *trying* to get a better view... honest!

Now I don't usually start off by focusing on Lara Croft's buttocks (who does?), but I've seen an awful lot of them lately and feel the need to confess why: I changed the controls I used in *Tomb Raider Anniversary*. And now I'm worried, because somehow I changed everything else too.

Hear me out: I did not change controls to stare at Lara's behind due to being some sort of pervert. That is just a coincidence. All I did was shift the Jump command on to the right-mouse button so I could streamline my tomb raiding. That's it.

Normally of course I'd use a gamepad. I'd have my thumb primed, curled like a scorpion-tail over the x-button so I could jab – and jump – at the slightest provocation, occasionally giving the

right-stick a quick nudge to shift the camera into position; like say, a film director punching his cheap Hungarian cameraman. The focus was on controlling Lara's acrobatics, with the camera as my unruly lens on the action. A good camera is revered in gaming, as can be seen by the reams of praise reviewers give to capable game cameras, as if 'Looking The Right Way' was some state of the art graphical effect.

But now I was being all trendy, playing games on my laptop using a mouse, my left hand punching out a million anagrams of the WASD keys. Unwittingly, in using this set up I had changed the way the whole game felt to play. I was suddenly able to both steer the camera and jump... at the same time! Freed from the alternating rhythm of camera changes/climbing forced by pad play, I was climbing and catapulting through

tombs with the smooth grace of some, curiously busty, underground Spiderman.

Effectively I was controlling Lara like Marcus Fenix or Max Payne, forever running forward, gracefully steering my way around the environments with the mouse-camera and never seeing anything other than Lara's improbably proportioned backside.

But was it better? Sure my fluidity increased ten-fold and those tombs were probably grateful to be raided at record speed and have done with it, but something felt a bit off. I was used to feeling like I actually moved Lara around the environments, like my gamepad buttons were hooked up by strings to a digital marionette on some pixel-powered stage. Now instead my avatar was locked in some eterna-run in the centre of the screen while I practically rotated

the whole world around her with the mouse. Egypt still looked like Egypt and that T-Rex still filled the screen, but the small sliver of change had slid into my psyche and had turned Tomb Raider into some kind of Tomb Runner.

Don't get me wrong, it was still fun, perhaps even more fun than usual. But in changing the control scheme I had stumbled upon something deeper: the delicate link between control, camera and immersion, the role these play in the depiction of our avatar's physical presence in an environment and also just how obsessive I could be when my hard-wired expectations of a game are violated.

Did I mention I originally preferred playing it at 640x480 too?

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Food Editor: Dana Li

FOOD

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Gastronomical News

Dana says:



"The 2011 Michelin Guide landed last week (19th Jan), celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Kitchen W8, off High Street Kensington, and Gordon Ramsey's Pétrus in Belgravia were newly awarded a star. A Soho favourite, Polpo, which serves Italian tapas in a Venetian-like backdrop, received a *bib gourmand*, an accolade that recognizes good food at moderate prices.

Receiving a Michelin star is what certain chefs aspire to, counting their stars almost like how we count our PhDs; one if we're extremely lucky but most of us - none at all. But for many diners looking for a good meal, the Michelin guide means little or nothing. If anything, the guide allows chefs the right to arrogance whilst the restaurants jack up the prices.

The reality is that today's diner does not require an annual guide to direct them to a good meal. Polpo, and its sister restaurant Polpetto, have enjoyed success even before Michelin cottoned on. Refusing to take dinner reservations, the success largely relied on word of mouth from friends, family and the online food blogging community.

Once considered a 'food bible' (albeit this was self-described), the Michelin man and his guide just doesn't seem so vital anymore."

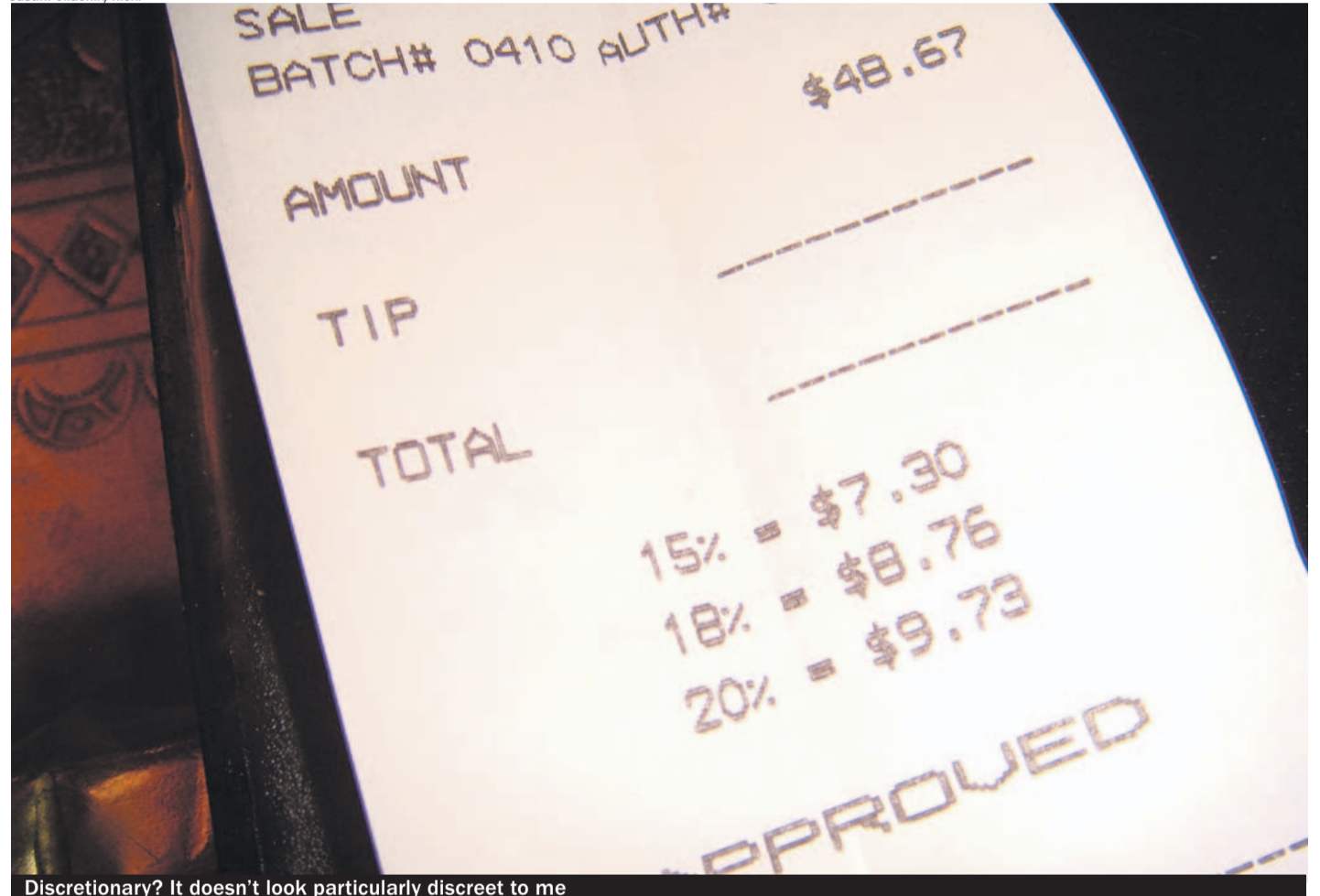
Look for this voucher every week to enjoy kickass waffles at Wafflemeister for the next month and a half - you know you want to...



The hazards of eating out

The art of being screwed over by restaurants today

JustinPollachik/flickr



Discretionary? It doesn't look particularly discreet to me

Charles Betts

The SCR food, with its leather-tough beef, dry chicken, and liquefied peas – is there anything more depressing? Well, yes – genocide, estate agents, malaria, sexual rape, facebook rape, yawn rape, and Robert Peston. The SCR is, after all, just a university canteen in a country mocked globally for its poor gastronomy – *Great British Menu* being as much of an oxymoron as *Corporate Culture*. An overhaul of the lugubrious menu would nonetheless not go amiss – I did contact Jamie Oliver, but he was elsewhere engaged. At a minimum, I trust Felix will not have to apologise again for daring to point out that the SCR food lacks a certain finesse (they have yet to find that delicate balance between burnt or soggy food).

But whilst the SCR is at a push tolerable, is it fair to also let the best restaurants in our capital city get away with murder? The top London eateries seem to be becoming increasingly unpleasant and inconsiderate, in the same way that having pliers gripped to one's testicles isn't very nice.

If I want to go out for an enjoyable meal with friends, and take the precaution of booking a few days in advance, I do not want to be told that I can have a table for four at 8pm but that I have to be done eating by 10pm for the next sitting of diners. Where's the sense of occasion? I hate deadlines when they're for coursework, let alone recreational purposes. The thing is

that once you have to time a meal, it no longer feels like a treat – just an inconvenience to the restaurant.

What is most depressing about these fixed seating times is that you come to the realization that your life is pretty insignificant. The restaurant is effectively telling you they don't give a damn, but they would quite like your cash and if you could leave promptly that would be very jolly indeed.

But not only can I not choose how long I stay; I also have to be forcefully generous for the privilege by coughing up a minimal 12.5% "discretionary" surcharge. It is discretionary if the service charge is not mentioned on the menu but appears on the bill – sounds like a bit of ruse to me. I have to bear with phone companies, the council, and British Gas ripping me off, but I didn't expect this sort of behaviour from a restaurant. Soon I'll be feeling quite unhappy as they gorge my eyes out for loose change, and I'll be wishing I had gone to McDonalds.

When I look at the prices on a menu, I feel they should tell me how much I will be paying at the end of the meal. By financially tapping themselves on the back in this way, the restaurant is effectively removing the need for good service to obtain a decent tip. They could choke a chicken over my plate, and I bet the 12.5% would still be there cum the bill. Even the SCR hasn't gone that far (although that tartare sauce...). And they love that little trick of hav-

"Soon I'll be feeling quite unhappy as they gorge my eyes out for loose change, and I'll be wishing I had gone to McDonalds"

ing an automatic step in the PIN machine that asks the patron for a tip amount to be added, above the 12.5%. The sheer nerve of it all – do I get a discretionary happy ending if I tip more? No – I just get shafted.

And when looking at the bill, one item always stands out. A litre of water costs about £100! Something that falls from the sky with some regularity in London, and is cursed at by most commuters most of the time – yet in a restaurant, we're asked to fork out good dough for this. It's a goddam scandal. You know you're getting screwed, and the waiters smile while they screw you and you inexplicably smile back.

But you know what? I'll keep getting screwed. I don't really do prolonged acts of protest, so I will just have to settle with narrowing my eyes, tutting and getting on with my life. See you at Le Caprice sometime soon.

Homemade sushi

Source, prepare and make your own sushi, made easy by **Dana Li**



It all looks a bit Ikea, clean sleek lines and DIY instructions

Japanese food is widely associated with expensive prices and not a lot of food. However that doesn't always have to be the case. All you need to do is equip yourself with a tube map and a willingness to travel.

The best part of making your own sushi is that you can add any fish, seafood, meat or vegetables - it's completely up to you. There are classic sushi combinations such as the Californian roll, salmon skin roll and soft shell crab roll; however nobody's stopping you from experimenting. You only need to make your way down to Billingsgate at the crack of dawn to see that there is more to fish and seafood than Sainsbury's 'Fresh Fish' counter - the word "fresh" being the overstatement of the year, as highlighted by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's recent campaign on 'Big Fish Fight'. So if you fancy yellowtail tuna, razor clam or some fatty tuna, alter the following recipe as required, because I'm sticking to the basic Californian roll.

Get yourself equipped with:

- A rolling mat (Makisu) *
- Nori seaweed sheets *
- 3 cups sushi rice *
- 3 ¼ cups water
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar *
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp salt
- Several crabsticks (defrosted)
- A semi-ripe avocado
- A cucumber
- Wasabi *
- Soy Sauce
- A sharp knife

* These products are available in Sainsbury's or Tesco, but you can also find them at Japanese grocery shops such as Japan Centre (14-16 Regent Street, SW1Y 4PH. Nearest tube station: Piccadilly Circus). Some of these items are optional i.e. nori seaweed and a rolling mat is not needed when making nigiri (sushi rice topped with a slice of fish)

First, you need to prepare the sushi rice. Rice is generally prepared with a 1:1 ratio with one part rice to one part water. As soon as the rice begins to boil, lower the heat and let it simmer for 20 minutes. Remove the rice from the heat. Prepare the rice vinegar mixture by mixing the rice vinegar, sugar and salt together on low heat. This is added whilst the rice is cooling. Gently add the mixture to the rice while stirring with a wooden spoon to evenly distribute the mix. Fan the rice mixture to cool and remove the moisture of the rice, giving it a shiny look. Now that the rice is ready, the main ingredients can be prepared.

Split the crab sticks by pulling them lengthways into long strips approximately half the original size. Halve the avocado with a large knife, twisting it around the stone to separate. Remove the stone and cut the avocado into 1cm x 1cm long strips. Cut the cucumber into 1cm x 1cm long strips also.

Now take a sheet of nori seaweed and place it on the rolling mat. Spread about a cup of rice on the sheet of nori, leaving one inch of space on the other end (see the top right photo). The rice does not need to be packed tightly, and should be less than ¼ inch thick, so don't worry if you can see the blackness of the sea-

weed through the rice. Less is more.

Place the avocado slices on top of the rice near the edge that does not have uncovered nori (see photo), ensuring that the length of the rice is covered. Add the crabstick and cucumber strips likewise.

Now here we go with the rolling. Slowly fold the mat over, tucking the end of the nori to start a roll. Keep lifting up the mat as you go to compress the sushi roll. Lessen the pressure slightly to straighten out the roll, if needed. Then continue rolling with medium pressure until it is complete

Remove the sushi roll from mat and immediately cut into 6 or 8 even pieces. Important tip: keep the knife very moist to prevent sticking, remoistening before each cut. Cut in one swift downward movement. Don't shear the sushi by cutting to and fro, as this will lead to an awkward shape. Turn the pieces on end and arrange on platter.

Tip: Some sushi bars make an "inside out" California roll. The rice is spread all over the nori (there is no uncovered edge as above). The nori is turned over onto cling film so it is rice side down. The ingredients are placed on one edge and the roll is rolled as before. After rolling, the roll is rolled in toasted sesame seeds prior to cutting. Optionally, flying fish roe can be used in place of the sesame seeds (it actually tastes better, but I can only find it at Japan Centre and is a bit pricey).

If that all sounds a bit too much and you'd rather be served than worked, here are some recommended places around London for sushi for all types of budgets.

Where to source your sushi:

BUDGET (<£10)

Delicatessen Yoshino

A takeaway sushi deli with a vast range at budget prices. Brilliant for sushi cravings without breaking the bank. 59 Shaftesbury Avenue London W1D 6LF.

MID-RANGE (£15-25)

Kulu Kulu Sushi

39 Thurloe Place SW7 2HB.

Sushi Atari-Ya

Replacing a Heston favourite, Sushi Hiro, they supply the fish for most Japanese restaurants in London so the quality here is outstanding. 1 Station Parade, Ealing, W5 3LD.

PRICEY (£30+)

Yashin Sushi

This recently opened restaurant is just behind High Street Kensington. 1a Argyll Road, London W8 7DB

100 ways to eat eggs! Actually just 3...

by **George McIntyre**

Apparently eggs are the ultimate fast food. Some of you may already know this. In fact I know one guy who eats scrambled eggs nearly everyday. Good effort, Steve!

Anyway, the fact is they are high in protein, low in fat and carbohydrates and therefore very good for you! Here are three simple recipes that will get even the worst cooks of you making eggs like a pro.

Poached egg

The simplest of the eggs in my opinion, all you need here is a fresh egg, some vinegar and a little bit of hot water.

Boil some water and pour about 3-4cm into a pan and heat until just boiled.

Make sure to add a good glug of vinegar - this is very, very important!

Now add your eggs and turn the heat right down.

Cook to your preference. If you like it runny, it will take about 2-3 minutes and the top of the egg should have a pinkish tinge. Enjoy!

Scrambled egg

Probably the quickest of the lot, all you need here is a decent non-stick (ish) pan, a couple of good eggs, some butter and some salt and pepper.

Melt a blob of butter into a hot pan. Whisk 2-3 eggs in a bowl and add a decent sprinkle of salt and pepper.

Pour the egg into pan. The pan should be hot enough so that the egg cooks straight away so make sure you scramble it! The cooking process should take less than two minutes.

Alpine egg

You might not have heard of these beauties but a good alpine egg can be amazing. What you need here is an egg, some butter, some grated cheese and a ramekin. If you don't have this, just a normal coffee cup will do.

Butter the ramekin or cup and put half the cheese on the bottom.

Crack the egg on top of the cheese then carefully sprinkle the rest of the cheese so the egg is totally covered. Add a fair amount of salt and pepper.

You can add chives, spring onion or finely chopped onion for extra flavour.

Have your oven on gas 5 or 190°C and whack in the ramekin for about 10 minutes max. If you're using the coffee cup put it in the microwave instead for about 2-3 minutes.

I suggest using the cup in the microwave method purely for speed.

Out of all the recipes I strongly recommend this one. This is my personal favourite, its quick, easy and if you add a bit of salad (yeah, right) or have it with some bread it can be a decent meal.

So there you have it. Four ways to use those eggs in your flatmate's fridge.

Enjoy.

TRAVEL

Travel Editor: **Dylan Lowe**
Chris Richardson

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My South American debut

Priya Garg begins her meandering journey in Rio de Janeiro, learning the importance of soccer and discovering how to embrace Latin passion

We emerged from twenty-three hours of flying like wild animals, bleary eyed and not used to natural light. As the sun of Rio de Janeiro washed over us, we stumbled out of the airport dragging our bags behind us.

Almost immediately we were presented with a display of what is termed 'Latin passion'. A smartly dressed businessman and his wife were arguing in the arrivals terminal. He turned to the woman and gesticulated pulling his hair out: rather than responding with fear, she gestured back, shouting and screaming. Suddenly, he yanked the kicking baby from her arms and stormed towards the exit. Dramatically, she sunk to her knees, and then just as quickly as he had disappeared, he was back, pulling her up, and taking her with him. She kissed him on the cheek, and they both left. Nobody else seemed perturbed by the noise and theatrics involved. In fact, we were the only people to stand watching, mouths agape – welcome to Rio.

After surviving a rather bumpy bus ride to Cobacopana, dodging small vehicles and jumping red lights as horns blared, we walked six blocks up to our hostel, dumped our backpacks and began to explore the beach. It was packed

“Politicians sped by singing to catchy drum-beats... I'd like to see David Cameron do that!”

with svelte, tanned volleyball players, energetic footballers and elderly fishermen. Youths confidently strode down acres of white sand in itsy-bitsy-teenyweeny day-glo string bikinis, despite the growing cloud cover. Sugarloaf Mountain loomed over in the distance as aggressive waves splashed and roared against the shore. The sound of samba and loud Portuguese conversation fluttered in the breeze.

That evening we went to a local football match. A derby had been organised between Flamengo and Botefugo, two famous rival clubs. The streets were overflowing with loudmouthed supporters, chanting, drinking beer and dancing into the road as buses veered to avoid them. Rio's local parliamentary elec-



Sugarloaf Mountain. It definitely resembles a sugarloaf and not a turd

tions were being held the next day and politicians' cars sped by with megaphones attached, singing out the voting numbers to catchy drum-beats. "I'd like to see David Cameron do that!" a fellow gringo joked.

As we nervously entered the stadium to spectate on the Botefugo supporter's side, the atmosphere was electric. Around us, giant black flags sporting players' faces were being frantically waved around. We sat down to await the starting whistle, while our neighbours were standing on their seats, shouting what we later learnt was 'up yours Flamengo'. Locals were handing out balloons and toilet rolls: as the drumming hit its crescendo, the rolls were thrown downward to produce a fantastic array of falling white streamers. Music and cheering surrounded us. Everything was extremely animated, so much so that we hardly even noticed the match had begun.

Amidst the kettle drums, horns, maracas and singing of the first half, the tourists remained the only people still sat on their seats, nervously clutching at the programmes in Portuguese and clapping only every so often when the match intensified. An old man amongst the supporters suddenly became enraged. He turned to us, gestured towards his heart and screamed an endless rant that ended

'NE APPASSIONATO!' – he simply could not understand why we had no passion! Why were we sat rather than

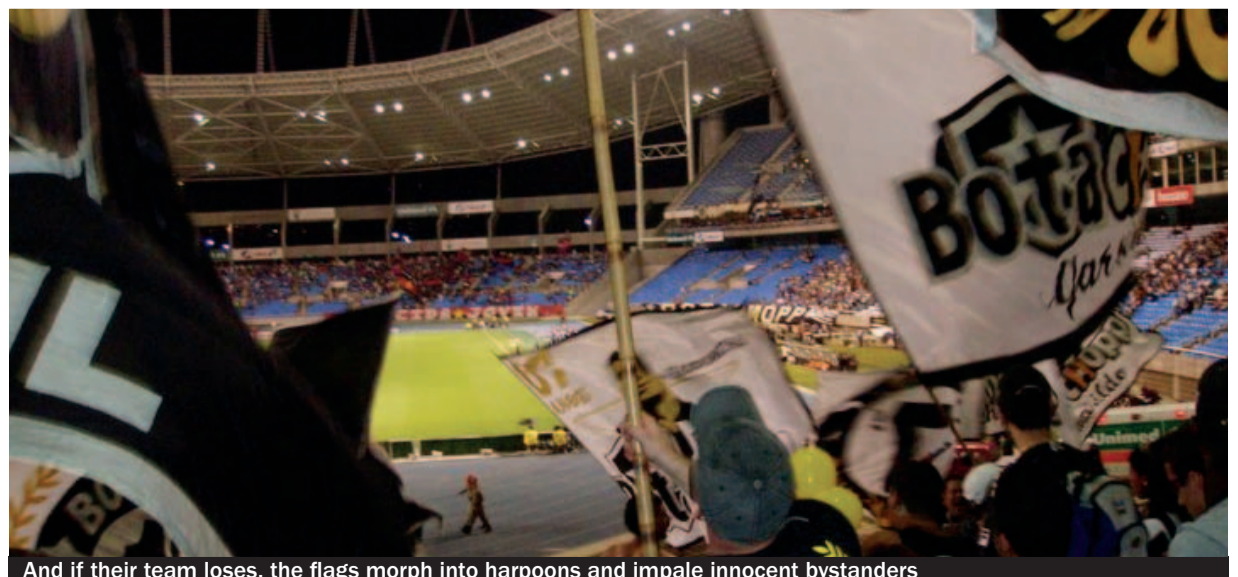
“Life in Rio is a celebration”

standing? Why were we not raising our arms to the sky when a ball was kicked off? Why were we not bounding to our

feet when it looked like Botefugo might score?

Brazilians are very emotive people, especially when sport is involved. If you cry, you should be wracked with sadness, with tears streaming down your cheeks and your face buried in your hands. If you are joyous, then you should leap up, hug the nearest person and celebrate. The worst thing you can do is sit in your seat and engage in the game by yourself.

Lesson one from Brazil was certainly learnt: live life with 'Latin passion'. Brazilians are not worried about how they appear to others, and display emotion in every movement that they make. To do otherwise is to not live within the moment. You are not really feeling unless you show it. Life in Rio is a celebration: whether in sadness or in happiness, it must be savoured and enjoyed. Humbled, we rose to our feet, and cheered with our hands to the stars.



And if their team loses, the flags morph into harpoons and impale innocent bystanders

Fashion Editor: **Saskia Verhagen**

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FASHION

Boutique du jour: One, Two, Three...

A new concept store in Shoreditch is causing a sensation: 123 offers patrons the very best of British – that means locally-sourced fashion, accessories, homeware and cake!

Tucked away in Shoreditch, lives one of London's most exciting concept stores. 123. Offering beautifully crafted, locally sourced British clothing and accessories, as well as homeware and other trinkets, the main ethos of 123 is anti-mass production: British and vintage sourcing and recycling. Micaela Phillippo, representative for 123, tells us more:

What was the philosophy behind 123?

Our philosophy is simple. We want to create 100% sustainable clothing that is fashionable, stylish and hand-made. We want to keep the whole manufacturing process local and so, do not outsource any labour nor materials. In store we will be stocking a range of products, home-wares and art that have all been made by locally based brands and artists. We want 123 to be a store where you can rest assured, knowing that everything stocked has been manufactured in, if not London, certainly the UK.

What has the reaction been to it?

The reaction has been overwhelming. In the weeks after opening, we were featured on Dazed Digital, iD online and Vogue. More recently we were voted Time Out's best new shop 2011! It seems that people are really positive about making changes in the fashion industry and exposing the lack of necessity for mass production and exploitation of cheap labour found outside of the UK.

What are your policies for vetting labels you stock?

We initially aspired to be a concept store, stocking entirely eco brands, products made in a sustainable and ecologically sensitive manner. However, as the store evolved, and we began carefully curating a stock of products from art to gifts, home-wares and jewellery, we wanted to emphasise the subtext of the 123 philosophy; 'Made in London'. We feel that as much as the use of sustainable material in manufacturing is important, so is keeping the whole process local. All labels stocked at 123 will be London based and made within the UK.

Which ethical brands do you stock and why?

At the moment, the main brand we stock is 'NHS'. The designer, Dr. Noki, is famed for creating one-off couture garments through a process of deconstruction and rearticulation. At 123, we exclusively stock his diffusion line, which takes your conventional T shirt, collared shirt or sweater, and carefully takes it apart, piecing it back together with embellishments and screen prints.

All of the fabrics used by Dr Noki are sourced from our own warehouse of recycled fabrics and manufacturing occurs around the



The Grade II Listed building used to be an old cockney gangster hangout, apparently



Leather swing skirt, £120

“People are really positive about making changes in the fashion industry and exposing the lack of necessity for mass production”

corner from the 123 store.

We also stock the D.R. Harris 'Naturals' range, beauty products constituted entirely of natural ingredients and made in England. Also, Jonathan Ward artisan candles, made in London, 100% organic and contained in a recyclable glass, and Miller Harris perfumes, all made in London with natural ingredients.

What sort of wholesale price points are you looking for from brands you stock?

We have learned, through our 123 range, that hand-made, high quality garments end up with a higher than average production cost. We try to keep our price points affordable as we do not believe in alienating our customer, denying them the opportunity to own a sustainable garment. We look to sell brands with an

opening retail price point of £50 and closing at £400.

Who is your target audience?

At the moment, the 123 label is exclusively womenswear, however, we stock premium vintage for Men and the Noki label also caters for your more creatively attired man. We are opening the scope for products we stock so the store can be a destination for tourists looking to buy something especially made in London or your average person looking for an affordable but luxury gift. We are also targeting fashion conscious individuals who want to wear something different, a timeless item which wouldn't be disposed of at the end of the season. Our audience is diverse but we are mostly targeting the intelligent consumer.

Do you feel like your location is key to your identity?

Our location is intrinsic to our brand identity. The parent company of 123, LMB, has its roots in East London where the textile recycling factory used to be. The Grade II listed building we occupy on Bethnal Green Road

has its own history which gives it landmark status in the area. It was once a front for an illegal gun trading racket and after the owners were sentenced to jail, the building fell into disrepair. When we bought the building, it needed complete renovation, and this way we have effectively recycled the space which would have otherwise been demolished.

Do you have any further plans to expand?

Yes, at the moment we are working on our tea room which is in the basement of our store. We will be serving tea and coffee and locally baked cakes and breads, freshly made sandwiches and selling food and drink products sourced from around London. We will be using this space to stock a selection of books, tea sets, antique furniture and 123 label homewares.

Also, we are currently building the 'scout hut', which is the large warehouse space behind our shop. We want to help local designers by providing an outlet to retail their products.

123, 123 Bethnal Green Road, Shoreditch E2 7DG. Interview by Saskia Verhagen.

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Twitter



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

ahhh shit, think my phone might have been hacked



SexyOsama69

yeah, by me lol



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

Nah, I'm being serious. Getting blackmail threats



SexyOsama69

Yeah, from me lol



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

oh lol



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

You heard about Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen?



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

No. What's going on?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Dunno



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

uprisings and protests. Demonstrators calling for political reforms



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Oh :(Thought it was a bomb or something

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk. Get permission. Don't be cruel.

DIE FACEBOOK DIE!!!

Well actually, Facebook isn't the problem, it's just the douchebags who use it

Chow Yun Fat

(Ed - Who the fuck?)

I've been a bonafide member of The Facebook for three years now. It's a great tool for keeping in touch with old friends and grooming young children. However, of late, something very bad has started happening every time I log in.

A continuous stream of suffocatingly dull information seems to be flowing, from the peripheries of my life in to my news feed, as if it were some virtual septic tank with an infinite capacity for inane bollocks.

Having consulted others it seems that this is a ubiquitous phenomenon, but if you aren't familiar with it here are a few cases in point from some people who used to be my friends:

"Sally: Going to finally go do some washing, lol :P."

"Simon: O2 put me on hold!"

"Kyle: Turns out my phone was under the sofa cushion. LOL! So glad to have it back."

"Hannah: Just bit my tongue and it hurts sooooo much :(."

"Timmy: The train I'm on is so slow!!!!!"

Sally, Simon, Kyle, Hannah and Timmy all have one thing in common: the audacity to presume anyone gives a shit. And there are literally hundreds of thousands more like them out there.

Let's take a minute to consider a real-life analogy. Recall a social event you recently attended, possibly a dinner party. The main course has just been served; it looks delicious. Sharp wit is abounding around one end of the table and at the other a deeply profound yet entirely unpretentious conversation is being had.

Then suddenly from one corner of the room someone you knew you were never quite sure about pipes up, possibly even referring to themselves in third person, "Andrew thinks the weather's so nice today :)." Confused, you look over at Andrew but before you can say anything someone else has butted in, "Sarah h8s spiders! LOL," says Sarah sat to your left. Gradually more and more people start saying uninteresting things, "My dog just woofed and it sounded so funny :P," "Just finished tidying my room, so happy!" "Couldn't sleep last night :(."

The room begins to crescendo and before you know it the whole party has exploded in to an orgy of stock phrases and mundane statements.

Having studied this process extensively it's become clear to me that drabness is being disseminated via a handful of primary forms. Brief descriptions of a few are given below:

The Moaner: This can range from something entirely trivial, "Potatoes for dinner, I hate potatoes!" to something really deep like, "I thought I saw the light but its slowly disappearing now...*sigh*." Both are equally dull. A female moaner is often responded to by either friends



The Zuckerface can live, but only if defeats the Winklevi in a bare-knuckle fight!

"Facebook is being overwhelmed by an army of bores bent on contaminating everyone else's lives"

leading equally uneventful lives, "Is everything okay hun?" or creepy balding older men, "Gimme a call if you want to talk to someone."

The Shameless Gloater: Strictly speaking not that dull but worth a mention anyway. These types are usually involved in one of the creative industries and feel obliged to give a running commentary of absolutely everything that happens to them. A lot of stuff tends to happen to them because they're pretty cool but they're completely un-cool for telling everyone about it. News like "Backstage at Jay-Z" is often met with a string of "likes", every single one of them a lie, but then there isn't a "bitter and jealous because I'm at home crying and wanking" button.

The New Year Special: At New Year's facebook took a real beating. In fact it's a miracle that it didn't just break. A cringe was waiting to be had everywhere you looked, "2011, gonna make it really happen this year!" "Yes 2011! You couldn't have come at a better time!" "Happy 2011 guys, can't wait to share all the great times we're gonna have :P."

Ultimately they all said the same thing, "I'm

gonna write a status about 'making it' in 2011, and then do nothing about it...that'll make people think I'm a success! 2011 MY YEAR GUYZ WATCH OUT IM'A BE DOING IT!!!"

The Meal Photo Mobile Phone Upload (MPMPU): Pretty simple concept here: cook a nice meal; let everyone on facebook know about it by uploading a photo of it. Unfortunately this is usually done with a shit quality camera phone making it look like someone's just gone and vomited on a plate. Responses generally involve a chorus of moronic "Oooo, looks yummy, why wasn't I invited to dinner?!" or something to that effect.

If social interaction has been degraded to images of food flying across screens followed by banal expressions of approval it's probably time to throw the towel in; go live in isolated cubicles and break off communication with one another all together. These guys are usually shameless gloaters as well (see above).

Facebook used to be the kind of thing you could use to find out what films people were in to; find out what your friends' favourite quotes were and collect top notch wank-bank deposits from people you know with out them knowing. Now, all of that is being overwhelmed by an army of bores bent on contaminating everyone else's lives with the day-to-day humdrum of their own. There's really only one solution; a witty friend of mine put it succinctly just the other day, "Toby feels this particular mode of self expression should be made unobtainable to the insipid masses frequenting my news feed... you're hungry... really... you're bored... cool... you're dying... good."

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

Heroin addicts find new method of shooting up



DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



This might look like two girls who have had too much to drink and have passed out on the floor. However, this is in fact a photo of two girls who have had too much to drink but don't have friends to take them home...

Horoscopes

Aries

This week you have sex. Afterwards, you steal the used condom that your Taurus boyfriend put in the bin, invert in over your hand like a glove and ram it up your vagina in an attempt to get the baby you've always wanted. You're a bad, bad woman.

Taurus

This week you catch your Aries girlfriend fisting herself with an inverted used condom. In an attempt to save your life you hire Chuck Norris to round-house kick her in the stomach, killing her instantly and taking the child with it. That'll teach her.

Gemini

This week you put your head in a bottle bank for jokes, you crazy lad! Your head gets stuck and your friends run off and leave you. At this point a gang of sex-starved neo-Nazi zombies arrive and they take turns to penetrate you, until you die from blood loss.

Cancer

This week you make a concoction of your body fluids in an ill-thought-out attempt to find the fountain of youth. Your mum walks in to find you covered in semen, earwax and chunder, and decides to have you put down. Your brother inherits your Game Boy.

Leo

This week you exchange masturbation tips with your Virgo friend who tells you to sit in the bath and place a wingless fly on your penis and watch it run around. The fly crawls into your jap's eye and lays its eggs. You come maggots. You win the grand prize.

Virgo

This week you exchange masturbation tips with your Leo friend who tells you to insert your thumb into your anus while masturbating. Your thumb gets stuck, your Catholic dad walks in, then you drown yourself out of shame after he finishes you off.

Libra

This week you do a Felix centrefold with a young man of questionable age. When the feds find out they arrest you, but instead of locking you up they hire you to seduce young male assassins. You get the first 'licence to paedo'. You're a bad, bad woman.

Scorpio

This week you're a London bus driver, one day from retirement. At the penultimate stop on your final journey you stop to pick up some heroin junkies who don't have the correct fare. You refuse to let them on and they stab you with their needles. You die of AIDS.

Sagittarius

This week you cover your testicles with peanut butter before summoning your dog. It all goes a bit too far and your sack gets split open. As you scrape together your non-salvageable bloody remains from the floor you realise that the dog is actually your dad.

Capricorn

This week you smoke pot for the first time, but little do you know that it was laced with crack. After one toke you become instantly hooked and only fixated with getting your next fix. To fuel your gruesome habit you offer hand jobs outside the SAF to innocent Biologists.

Aquarius

This week you decide to fight the power and drop out of university. But unfortunately the lifestyle isn't as glamorous as you imagined, and you're still confined to a life of ready meals, free view porn and social ineptness. You're still the biggest loser you know.

Pisces

This week you get a leading role in Swan Lake! After dabbling with ecstasy, bulimia, self-harm and lesbianism, you give a blinding performance on opening night, but instead of hooking up with Mila Kunis you decide to kill yourself on stage. WHAT THE FUCK, NATALIE?

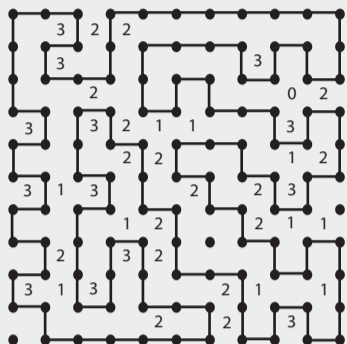
Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
James Hook
Aman Nahar

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

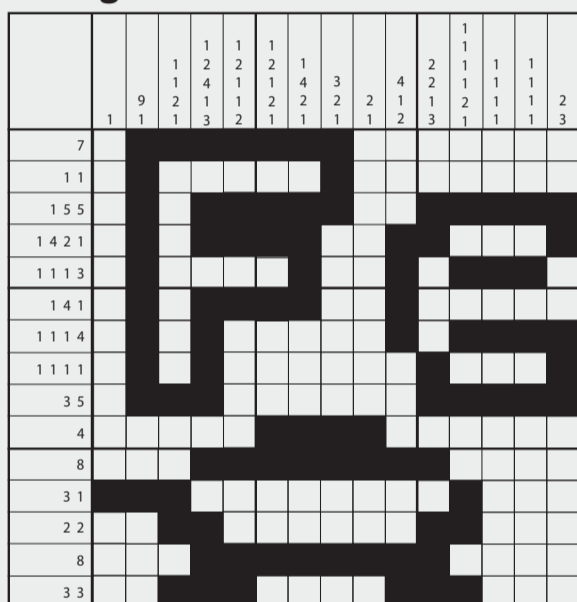
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

Slitherlink



Nonogram



Crossword



CRYPTIC - Across 1. Roadster 5. Fiscal 10. Take Into Account 11. Ambassador 13. Chai 15. Tenured 17. Isotope 18. Bahrain 19. Soprano 21. Neat 22. Addictions 27. Hammer and Sickle 27. Errant 28. Bad Taste **Down** 1. Retract 2. Ark 3. Slipstream 4. Extra 6. Itch 7. Couch Potato 8. Latrine 9. Calories 12. Bench Warmer 14. Compatriot 16. Done Deal 18. Banshee 20. Obscene 23. India 24. Rein 26. Kos

Going Underground

C	H	A	L	K	F	A	R	M
3	8	1	12	11	6	1	18	13

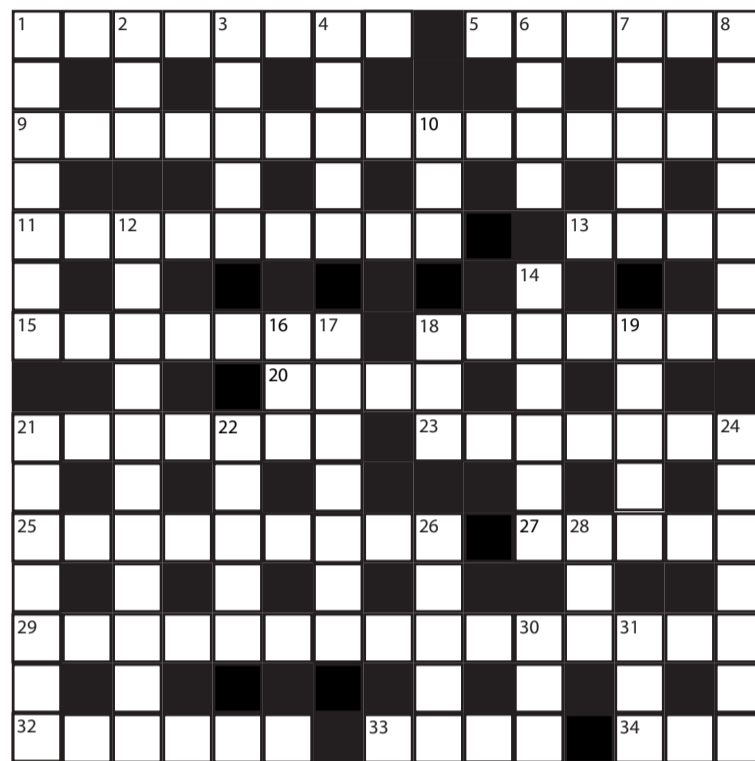
Crossword

Across

- Canopy (8).
- Obscure spelling of a loaf of yeast-leavened egg bread (6).
- Latin: "let arms yield to the gown; let violence give place to law" (8,6).
- A large seabird (9).
- Cut (4).
- Confused cricketer (7).
- A character in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (7).
- My favourite biscuit (4).
- A small restaurant serving Greek cuisine (7).
- The crystalline structures that produce the green shades in butterfly wings (7).
- Ghostly goo (9).
- Nande --- In the Osaka dialect: "you've got to be kidding" (5).
- To cause a nation or area to lose or be deprived of manufacturing capability or strength (15).
- A Chinese river (6).
- The method by which a thread is turned into a cloth (4).
- Abbreviation for the country of a C20th war (3).

Down

- Minty sweets (7).
- The end of Ramadan (3).
- One of the principles on which a belief is based (5).
- Greek philosopher (5).
- The icy, sixth planet of a remote system of the same name, and the base of the rebel alliance in Star Wars (4).
- He had a cinematic run (5).
- It's good to be out in - - (3,4).
- A city in Turkey; a genus containing mice (3).
- An archaic name for copper (II) sulphate (4, 7).
- A thick suspension of solids in a liquid (6).
- An indefinitely long period of time (3).
- Robin Williams' character's official name in the film *Patch* --- (2,5).
- A small sailing vessel; part of a gear system (3).
- A child (5).
- Mardi (7).
- To be caught, fastened, or secured (5).
- Song: *Jesus wants me for a* --- (7).



- Archaically - someone with a mental age of between 8 and 12 (5).
- A long pointed spike used for making holes and marking wood (3).
- An arthropod of the order *Hymenoptera* (3).
- A charged atom or molecule (3).

Wordoku

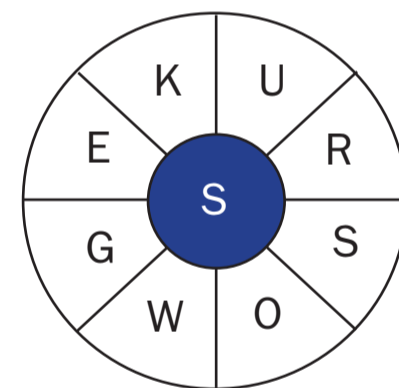


It's Friday night and an Imperial student is lonely... Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol.

Word Wheel

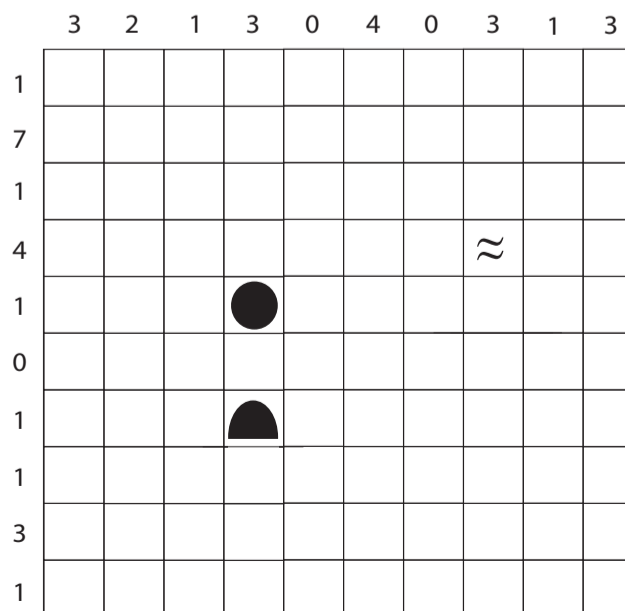
TARGET: 18

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



Battleships

Ahoy mates, battleships is here for fans of pirate based logic. You have to fit all of the ships to the right into the grid, with one piece taking up one square (so the biggest ship takes up four squares in a row, either vertically or horizontally). The numbers outside the grid indicate how many pieces of ship are in that row or column. Ships are not allowed to touch, not even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in for you, with waves of the sea where there definitely is no ship.



- 1 x Aircraft Carrier
- 2 x Battleship
- 3 x Cruiser
- 4 x Destroyer

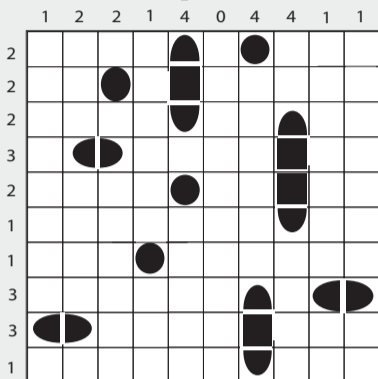


Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
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PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

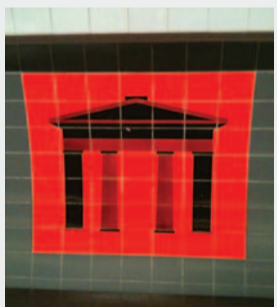
Battleships



Guess the tube stations!



Highbury & Islington



Euston

Pictogram

1. Raki
 2. Sake
 3. Fenny
 4. Yakju
 5. Huangju
- Ans: Sangria

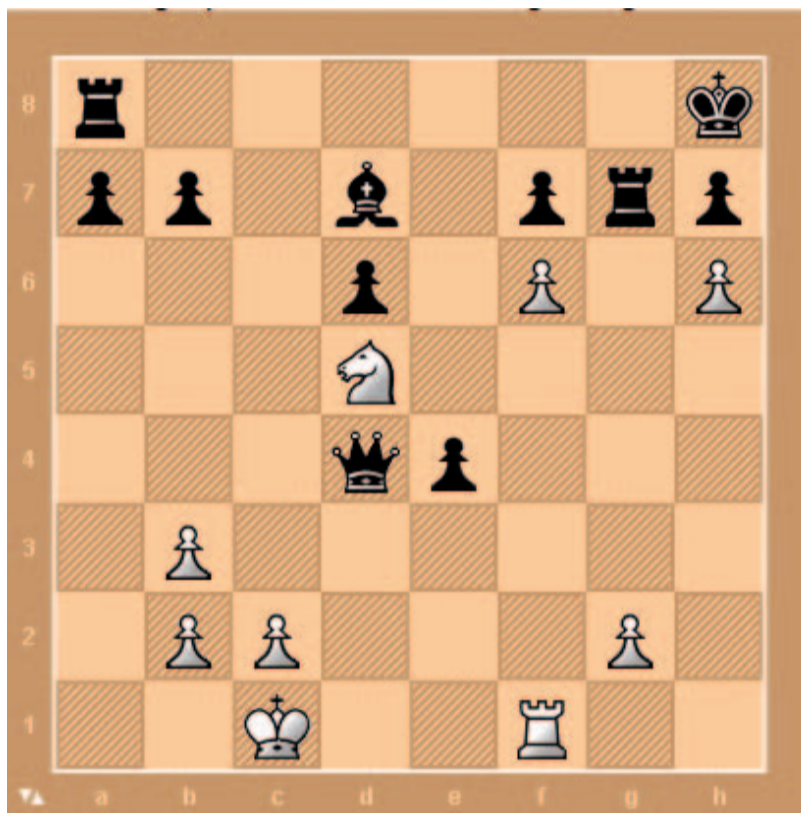
Chess Maze



W Rook A1, B Rook H6, W Pawn D4, B Bishop G3

Chess Maze

Black mate in 2 - White to move first



Word Hunt

This is exactly what the title suggests - hunt for words!

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

Guess the tube stations!



This week you have a tube station (left) and a famous London landmark (right) to identify.



1. Hatchback
2. Automobile
3. Limousine
4. Hardtop
5. Wagon
6. Plug
7. Sedan
8. Van
9. Coupe
10. Buggy
11. Saab
12. Nissan
13. Torque
14. Plug
15. Biker

Pictogram

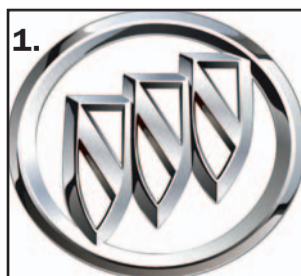
- anagram of the letters in red spell the thematic answer

~ Any man who can drive safely while kissing a pretty girl is simply not giving the kiss the attention it deserves. ~ Albert Einstein.

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____
4. _____

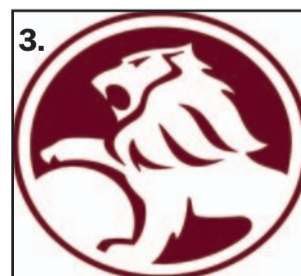
5. _____
Ans _____



1. Division of General Motors which sells vehicles in the United States, Canada, China, and Israel by GM Company.



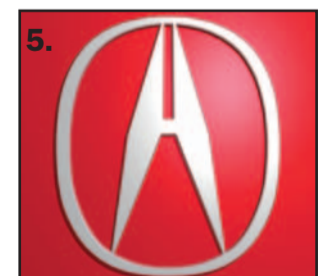
2. Automobile marque of the Ford Motor Company founded in 1939 by Edsel Ford, was phased out in 2011.



3. An automaker that operates in Australia, based in Port Melbourne, Victoria.



4. American multinational automaker headquartered in the Detroit suburb of Auburn Hills, Michigan.



5. The semi-luxury vehicle division of Japanese automaker Honda Motor Company.

CLASSIFIEDS

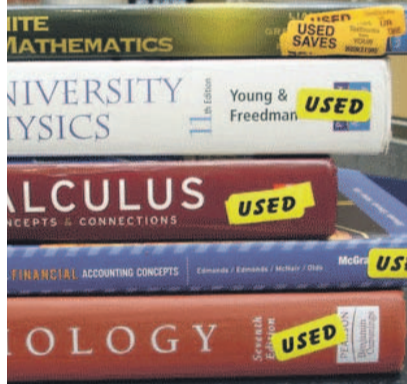
To place a free advert, please email felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix accepts no responsibility for items/services bought/sold

Deadline for adverts is Tuesday midnight

ACCOMMODATION

LOVE



Room to let: Clapham

Room has wardrobe and chest of drawers. Bed not supplied. Flat has dishwasher, washer/dryer and shower/bath. 15-minute walk to Clapham Junction. To be shared with couple looking for clean, working professional. £600/mo
adam.mills10@imperial.ac.uk
07888899511

Rooms to let: Southfields

Imperial College female looking to share 3-bedroom flat with 2 female flatmates. No smoking/pets. Furnished with shared bathroom, living room and balcony. 15-min walk to Southfield Station.
07894469072
£108 & £126/week

Room to let: Fulham Road

Double bedroom in a 3-bedroom flat with bathroom, shower room and balcony. Available now.
£153/week
07716090381 (Tom)

Room to let: North Acton

Double bedroom with wardrobe and desk. 2 bathrooms, each with bath/shower. Available now til August 2011.
4 PhD students, 2 male/2 female already occupy property. Parking space available. 5-minute walk to North Acton tube station and Main Line.
£482.50/mo + bills
h.muncey09@imperial.ac.uk

Room to let: Wapping

Part of semi-detached, 3-bedroom house in quiet neighborhood. Fully furnished with garage for storage..2 professionals looking for a third flatmate.
Available 1 Feb. 2011
£580/mo + bills
jarzabek.artur@gmail.com
(Arthur Jarzabek)

Room to let: Harrington Gardens

Single bedroom in basement flat located off Gloucester Road. Fully furnished with dishwasher and washer/dryer. 2 minute walk to Gloucester Road tube station.
To be shared with 2nd Year Bio-chemistry student.
£200/week
07964100616
brian.balchin09@imperial.ac.uk

Room to let: Fulham

3 males, 1 professional/2 students, looking for PhD student to occupy 4-bedroom flat.
5-minute walk to Barons Court tube station. 10-minute bike to campus.
bwaltherb@gmail.com

Room to let: Shepherd's Bush

Double bedroom with double bed within furnished flat. Preferably looking for post-graduate student for 6-month contract.
15-minute walk to Shepherd's Bush station. £530/mo + bills
john.costaschuk10@imperial.ac.uk

Rooms to let: Hammersmith

Three double bedrooms with wardrobe, drawers, desk and chair located off Fulham Palace Road. Female student looking for non-smoking housemate. No pets. 12-minute walk to Hammersmith/Barons Court. £65/145/165/week + bills. 07540093939.
harsita.patel08@imperial.ac.uk

Room to let: Streatham Hill

Single room available 29 January 2011.
£320/mo + bills
07757107867
l.foscolo09@imperial.ac.uk

Room to let: Shepherd's Bush

Fully furnished double bedroom in large Victorian house off Uxbridge Road.
4 international post-graduate students looking for long-term let to non-smoking PhD student.
Available 1 Feb. 2011
£411/mo + nilld
john.oneill05@imperial.ac.uk

Room to let: Hammersmith

Double room with 50" plasma in flat located on Adie Road. 5-minute walk to Hammersmith tube station. Flat to be shared with American professional. Suitable for MSc or PhD student. Available 30 January 2011. £680/mo + bills
07571124919
christian.philippen@rwth-aachen.de

Send us your *real* adverts (see left), so we don't have to write random rubbish (see below).

Men Seeking Women

Often misunderstood and utterly lonely writer looking for a muse for a new novel. Must be willing to share income. If interested, meet at midnight on Saturday at the nearest telephone booth to Buckingham Palace gates.

Women Seeking Men

Newly transformed woman (6 months post-operation), looking to get back on the horse. Must have minimal body hair and a strong stomach. Skills in kama sutra preferable. If interested, go to streetview of Inner Circle at Regent's Park on Google Maps. I'm the one on my mobile. Usually there most afternoons.

Men Seeking Men

4th year Physics student looking for shy male to hold hands with while watching Black Swan. If interested, let go of yourself and become the Black Swan!

Women Seeking Women

6ft 4" long-legged beauty looking for similarly sized Bosnian bombshell to share lust, romance and jokes about short guys. If interested, stand head and shoulders above the crowd in FiveSixEight with a look of disinterested disgust. I'll spot you.

SPORT

Felix Sports League



sponsored by

ERNST & YOUNG

Quality In Everything We Do

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing W1	4	4	0	0	540	273	267	5.00
2 Basketball M1	7	7	0	0	529	391	138	5.00
3 Fencing M1	4	4	0	0	486	376	110	5.00
4 Table Tennis M2	5	5	0	0	77	8	69	5.00
5 Lacrosse W1	5	5	0	0	82	16	66	5.00
6 Basketball W1	3	3	0	0	132	101	31	5.00
7 Volleyball M1	6	6	0	0	12	1	11	5.00
8 Tennis M1	10	8	1	1	76	44	32	3.80
9 Volleyball W1	7	6	0	1	12	3	9	3.71
10 Table Tennis M1	6	5	0	1	70	32	38	3.50
11 Water Polo W1	2	1	1	0	16	6	10	3.50
12 Squash W1	10	8	0	2	31	8	23	3.20
13 Table Tennis W1	5	4	0	1	20	5	15	3.20
14 ICSM Netball W1	9	7	0	2	361	241	120	3.00
15 Rugby M1	9	7	0	2	206	131	75	3.00
16 Lacrosse M1	8	6	0	2	117	74	43	2.75
17 Hockey W1	8	6	0	2	48	14	34	2.75
18 Netball W1	9	6	0	3	374	263	111	2.00
19 ICSM Hockey W1	14	8	1	5	42	34	8	1.57
20 ICSM Football M1	6	3	1	2	21	14	7	1.50
21 Hockey M1	6	3	1	2	17	16	1	1.50
22 Badminton M1	10	4	3	3	44	36	8	1.40
23 Tennis W1	5	3	0	2	30	30	0	1.40
24 ICSM Hockey M3	5	3	0	2	9	18	-9	1.40
25 Football M1	8	4	1	3	23	13	10	1.25
26 Netball W2	7	4	0	3	274	283	-9	1.14
27 ICSM Rugby M3	7	4	0	3	146	202	-56	1.14
28 Badminton W1	10	5	1	4	34	46	-12	1.10
29 Fencing M2	9	5	0	4	1017	994	23	1.00
30 Hockey M3	6	2	2	2	6	5	1	1.00
31 ICSM Badminton W1	6	2	2	2	27	27	0	1.00
32 Hockey M2	8	3	2	3	15	23	-8	0.88
33 ICSM Hockey M1	6	3	0	3	12	9	3	0.50
34 Football W1	4	2	0	2	10	9	1	0.50
35 ICSM Football M2	4	2	0	2	14	13	1	0.50
36 Ice Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
37 ICSM Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
38 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
39 ICSM Badminton M1	6	2	1	3	16	32	-16	0.00
40 Fencing W2	9	4	0	5	1026	1051	-25	0.00
41 Netball W3	5	2	0	3	139	129	10	-0.40
42 ICSM Hockey M2	7	2	1	4	10	22	-12	-0.57
43 ICSM Netball W2	8	3	0	5	251	268	-17	-0.63
44 Water Polo M1	2	0	1	1	13	18	-5	-1.00
45 Squash M3	6	2	0	4	10	18	-8	-1.00
46 ICSM Hockey W3	3	1	0	2	3	13	-10	-1.00
47 Fencing M3	6	2	0	4	653	708	-55	-1.00
48 ICSM Rugby M2	9	2	1	6	154	320	-166	-1.33
49 Badminton M2	7	2	0	5	28	28	0	-1.43
50 ICSM Hockey W2	7	2	0	5	19	31	-12	-1.43
51 Hockey W2	7	2	0	5	10	30	-20	-1.43
52 Squash M4	4	1	0	3	5	7	-2	-1.75
53 ICSM Rugby M1	8	2	0	6	129	264	-135	-1.75
54 ICSM Badminton M2	5	1	0	4	14	26	-12	-2.20
55 Rugby M2	10	2	0	8	156	271	-115	-2.20
56 Football M3	6	1	0	5	13	21	-8	-2.50
57 Hockey M4	6	1	0	5	7	17	-10	-2.50
58 Rugby M3	6	1	0	5	44	215	-171	-2.50
59 Rugby M4	6	1	0	5	49	275	-226	-2.50
60 Tennis M2	5	0	1	4	14	45	-31	-2.80
61 Football M2	8	1	0	7	12	27	-15	-2.88
62 Squash M2	8	1	0	7	8	32	-24	-2.88
63 Squash M1	6	0	0	6	4	26	-22	-4.00
64 ICSM Netball W3	7	0	0	7	134	257	-123	-4.00

Ladies have a hot first term

Anusha Seneviratne

Table Tennis

Ladies 1st 5 - 0 LSE 1st

Ladies 1st 5 - 0 King's College 1st

Ladies 1st 5 - 0 Essex 1st

Ladies 1st 3 - 2 UCL 1st

Ladies 1st 2 - 3 Kent 1st

The Imperial Womens team are back and we are stronger than ever! After a frustrating couple of years trying to drum up interest amongst our female players, finally things have clicked into place. Nan and I were back after some busy times (we combined to win the BUCS Womens doubles bronze medal in 2007). We also welcomed Trang to the team, who was a mixed doubles bronze medallist for Cambridge University in the same year.

It was time for us to combine forces and make an assault on this year's BUCS Womens league. We were buoyed by the knowledge that London Metropolitan University were absent this year. They had previously recruited players from China including former Olympic bronze medallist Tong Fei-Ming even though she's over 40 years old! Middlesex were also noticeably weaker without their former England top tenners. Lack of interest amongst their players forced them to pull out halfway through the season. In 2008, when only the top two teams in the south east could go through to the next round, we finished third below these two teams. This time not only are they absent, but the top 4 go through making our lives a whole lot easier! Although we needn't worry about that considering the results we have had this year.

First up were LSE who were so keen they turned up half an hour before us and were practicing hard even before we got our kit on! But Trang and I won our first matches comfortably. As they adapted to our games and the conditions, they provided sturdier opposition forcing Trang to drop a game. But in the end it was a 5-0 win to us.

Next Nan and Trang travelled to King's College. The venue wasn't your typical table tennis hall. It appeared to be the underpass of a railway bridge transformed into a sports hall, or at least an attempt to transform it into a sports hall. But that wasn't enough to distract our girls. They were given a good test by King's but they ultimately came out on top 5-0 again.

Giving Trang a well deserved break, Nan and I took on Essex University who were without some of their former England international players this year. They gave us a few troubles early on, I seemed to be unusually nervous making too many mistakes but we won this match 5-0 too. I felt a bit harsh considering they had travelled for two and half hours only to get a thrashing from us. But that's sport and nothing beats that winning feeling!

Nan and I played the first of two tough matches against UCL. One of the opposition players was ridiculously muscly by a normal table tennis player's standards, confusing me enough to relinquish a 2-0 lead and lose the game against her! However Nan was brilliant and despite narrowly losing the doubles match, we won the tie 3-2.



Why is hers red? Why are ours black? I want a red one too. Can someone buy me one?

Finally in a battle to top the south east division Trang and I played Kent. Unfortunately Nan had to pull out of this tie at the last moment due to a nasty wrist injury (smacking your hand against the edge of a table tennis table at high speed is never pleasant!). A combination of nerves due to the occasion and post-Christmas rustiness meant I played poorly winning only one of my singles matches knowing I was capable of more. With Trang also winning one singles match, it came down to the deciding doubles rubber. We battled hard but we lost the

tie 2-3.

As we look forward to the next round we are safe in the knowledge that we are capable of much more and can go deep into the competition. I am delighted with the strength of our team and the progress we have made. A huge congratulations and thank you to Nan and Trang for the contributions they have made this year. This is the best chance we have ever had of winning the BUCS championship, maybe it is too ambitious at this stage but nothing is impossible!

Women's ultimate frisbee a fun place to be

...Continued from Back Page
in London, Crown Jewels. "Training at a club level involves working on teamwork and tactics. The focus for university Ultimate is often teaching beginners the basics of the game, and this means that the training is often based on personal skills. I think the two complement each other quite well." She also represented Ireland at the World Under-23 Championships in Florence last summer. "We were given a 16-week fitness plan before the tournament with both aerobic and core twice a week. The support we got from our team mates and coach was amazing. I have never cared more about a game before, for every game and every point I ran harder than I thought possible." Sport Imperial has recognised her achievement, awarding her a scholarship to help her reach the next level - playing for Ireland's senior team in the European Championships later this year.

Ailing Teo began playing Ultimate in October, having heard about it from her boyfriend. She admits that coming into a new sport was quite daunting; having to learn the rules, develop new skills and improving fitness are intimidating prospects which face anyone new to the game. "The players in women's Ultimate have been really supportive, giving me advice about improving my game-play and teaching me dif-

ferent techniques. The club members make it really fun to learn." Imperial College Ultimate prides itself on its ability to include anyone who wants to play, with the vast majority of its members having never played before coming to university.

When asked about their personal highlights in women's Ultimate, their three responses were very similar. Meg mentioned Women's Winter League, a tournament held over a number of Sundays in which players entered individually and were placed into teams. Several Imperial players played with some of the best female competitors in the UK, making new friends and connections in the women's Ultimate community. Áine agrees; "the friends that you make and the fun that you have on a women's team can't be beaten," although trailing all game to Finland at the World Championships, only to steal the game and win on a sudden death point in forty-degree heat, comes a close second. Ailing, having played for only four months, summarises their sentiment well. "The club has been really encouraging and try to involve the newcomers in the external matches. When we play against other universities we do not meet competitors, we meet new friends. I think this is really what makes Ultimate unique from other sports."

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SPORT

Are foreign managers victimised in the Premier League?

Riaz Agahi



One of the stories that has emerged over the transfer window period is the clash between certain premier league managers. Houllier is such a manager, who has received criticism due to his conduct over the signing of Darren Bent and what is seen as an insulting bid for Blackpool's Charlie Adam.

Bruce was particularly insulted that Houllier neglected to give him a phone call, leaving Sunderland less than half of the transfer window to replace Bent. While the transfer is strange given the league positions of the teams, perhaps Bent simply wanted the pay rise Villa offered him.

Holloway is taking negotiations into the press, criticising the teams who have offered what he perceives to be low bids, such as Villa and Liverpool. However, Houllier claimed that he was being targeted because Holloway's criticism seemed to exclude Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish. This, I think is a bit unfair on Holloway, who perhaps didn't want to criticise a legendary player and manager.

However, I feel that the other criticism of Houllier, this time coming from Steve Bruce over Darren Bent's move from Sunderland to Villa, was justified. Bent is a great player and I'm sure he will be sorely missed by Sunderland. These events raise a deeper issue. Is the establishment hostile towards foreign managers? Is the fact that Houllier is French a factor which means English managers

feel it is OK to criticise him excessively in the media? I would argue no in this case. This is a country which has the rare situation of a foreign manager managing the national team.

In Italy, for example, the top jobs are generally given to Italian managers or managers who have been in Italy for the vast majority of their playing careers, such as Inter's Leonardo. In Italy's top four, Leonardo is the only non-Italian manager, whereas in the current top four of the Premiership, there are no English managers and only one British manager, with two Italians and a Frenchman. Therefore it is clear that those running the clubs even have a positive bias to foreign managers. Furthermore, it is clear that a manager like Wenger is generally respected across the board, despite being French.

It is clear that everyone is simply pro-

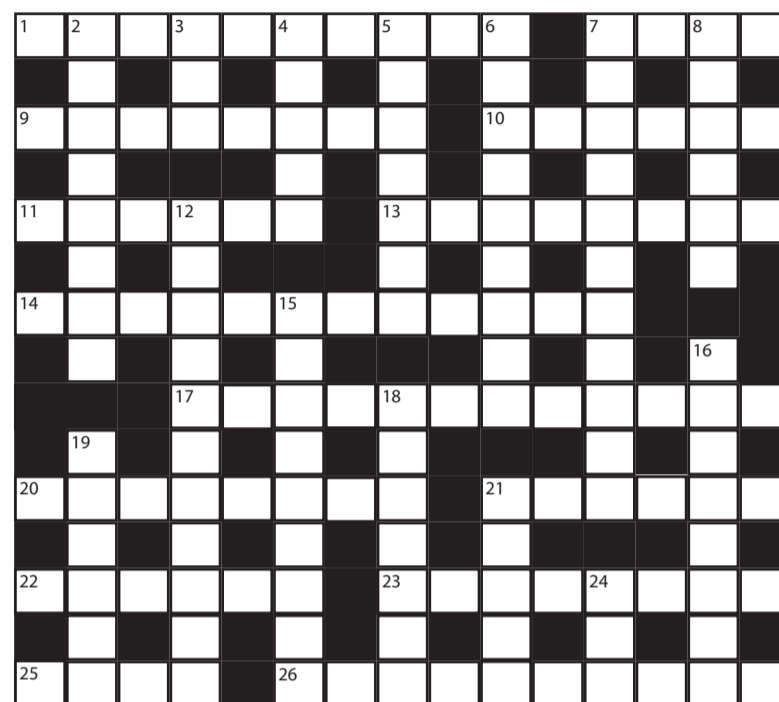
tecting their own interests, and that Houllier is attempting to play mind games but losing at them very badly, as he appears to be simply clutching at straws to silence criticism about the way he has operated on the transfer market. Houllier allegedly broke regulations by contacting a player without permission from the club, shown by the suspiciously short time between Bent's transfer request and his announced move. If this is true, which it seems to be, Houllier has used what he labelled 'racism' as a PR tool which is wholly unacceptable from a person in any position, let alone one in the public eye in one of the world's most followed sports.

If, in over six years at Liverpool, he was unable to grasp transfer regulations or build up a reputation which other managers respect, then citing xenophobia when he is criticised will only cover up a deeper problem.



Don't wave your finger Houllier, it's unbecoming of an English gen... oh wait

Cryptic Crossword 1,480



Across

1. Ideas of bad, awful weather perhaps (10)
7. Bland thanks for myself (4)
9. Confident after request for joy (8)
10. Used for walking on beach grain, Green for instance (6)
11. Air Force ran from unceasing speculation (6)
13. Sweet, loud laugh after lip surgery (8)
14. "Stop money" written more explicitly with this (5,7)
17. Attract attention and steal status (4,3,5)
20. Jellyfish soldier (3,2,3)
21. Easterner in bother with a terminated currency (6)
22. Sparkly object can sell endlessly (6)
23. Looks at creepy-crawlies consuming president (8)
25. Degree of shine in conflict (4)
26. One gaining friends for money and sweet pop (10)

Down

2. Horrendously, be liar - hold the Spanish responsible (8)
3. Deadly sin produced by bad air (3)
4. Dress for second golden church (5)
5. Fold when done with circuit (7)
6. Most elite managed to get kiss below this (9)
7. Heavyweight's ailing, it's inflammation (11)
8. Lead, losing head inside, mow field (6)
12. Humourously on surface, being evasive following note of debt (11)
15. Food steps are simple things (9)
16. Frustrated, I get data incorrectly (8)
18. Going around mealtime making money, say (7)
19. Motor rounding through for exquisite eggs (6)
21. Quizmaster, perhaps, one who models (5)
24. Period of time when 3 heads differently (3)

Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership imperial college union sport imperial

Saturday 22 January	Sunday 23 January	Monday 24 January	WATERPOLO ULU	FENCING	LACROSSE	Women's 1s	15
BASKETBALL ULU	HOCKEY ULU	BADMINTON ULU	Men's 1s 9	Men's 2s 94	Men's 1st 14	Royal Holloway 1s	56
Women's 1s 31	Men's 2s 48	Mixed 1s 3	St Bart's 2s 3	University of Kent 1s 133	Royal Holloway 1s 2		Men's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st
LSE 1s 48	St George's Hospital Medical School 1s 1	King's College London Medical School 1s 5	Wednesday 26 January		Women's 2s 64	SQUASH	4
FOOTBALL ULU	LACROSSE ULU	NETBALL ULU	BADMINTON	UCL 1s 135	University of Essex 40	University of Sussex 2s 0	Women's 1st vs Queen Mary University of London 1st
Men's 1s 4	Mixed 1s 1	Women's 2s 18	Men's 1s 4	FOOTBALL	University of Essex 38	TENNIS	8
St Bart's 1s 1	St Bart's 1s 7	Imperial Medicals 3s 9	University of Hertfordshire 1s 4	Men's 2s 0	Portsmouth 4s 2	Men's 1s LSE 5	8
Men's 3s 7	WATERPOLO	Women's 3s 17	Women's 1st 4	HOCKEY	UCL 1s 2	Women's 2s 34	FOOTBALL ULU
South Bank 1s 0	Men's 1s 2	RUMS 3s 21	King's College London Medical School 1s 4	Men's 1s 4	King's College London 10	King's College London 1s 8	Men's 1st vs SOAS 1st
Men's 4s 2	University of Warwick 1s 8	SQUASH ULU	BASKETBALL	King's Medical 1s 3	RUGBY	Men's 1s 26	Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 2nd
RUMS 2s 1		Men's 4s 0	Men's 1s 76	HOCKEY ULU	Men's 1s 26	St Bart's 1s 7	Men's 3rd vs Queen Mary University of London 2nd
Men's 5s 2		King's College London 2s 5	Roehampton University 1s 65	Men's 3 3	Saturday 29 January	Men's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st	
LSE 5s 1		Women's 1s 5		St George's School 1	FENCING	Men's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st	
Men's 7s 3		RUMS 1s 0					
St Bart's 3s 1							



**Are foreign managers
victimised?**
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Hockey 1st out of ULU cup but still in BUCS

Ed Lacey

Men's Hockey

ULU Cup Quarter Final
Imperial 1st 4 - 6 UCL 1st

BUCS Cup Third Round
Imperial 1st 4 - 3 GKT 1st

This week saw the hockey mens 1st XI in action twice, both in cup matches. As holders of the ULU challenge cup, IC were hoping to retain the trophy this season, but received a tough draw against this seasons form side, UCL, in the quarter finals. Imperial showed plenty of ability, but some defensive mistakes and some missed chances saw us crash out of the ULU cup, eventually losing 6 - 4 in a fast, open game, where attack was the only form of defence for both sides.

IC took heart from their Sunday game, but started poorly against GKT, and were 1 - 0 down at half time, causing legendary first team coach Avtar to swear for the first time in living memory. After some relentless metaphors, IC improved after the break, and showed real character and patience, eventually breaking the deadlock midway through the second half with some inspired play by creative playmaker Tom Koch. At 1-1, all was to play for, and the game opened up, leading to goals on both sides, with fresher sam scoring his first goal at Imperial, and captain Yogi finding the net despite hav-



Big crowd, eh? It doesn't even look like the goalie is paying attention...

ing his dislocated finger reset twice this week.

With 5 minutes to go, IC went 3-2 in front, and looked to have sealed a victory, when a last minute breakaway gave GKT a controversial penalty corner seconds before the final whistle. With all their men up, GKT managed to convert the corner courtesy of a baseball style shot as the ball rebounded. Three all at full time meant extra time was to follow.

Vowing to continue in the same vein, IC went into extra time confident that they could find a goal,

but after being reduced to 10, and then 9 players courtesy of some debateable yellow cards, the first half of extra time was goalless. When IC returned to full strength, they were dominant, and creative playmaker Tom Koch once again found some magic, sealing the victory with an outstanding golden goal, with 2 minutes of extra time remaining.

IC go into this weekend's BUCS league match with Holloway full of confidence that they can turn around a disappointing start to the season on the back of the fantastic BUCS cup win.

Imperials ultimate frisbee full of Double D's

Phil Sandwell

Ultimate is played across three divisions: Open, Mixed and Women's. Any player is eligible to play in the Open division, although the highest levels are dominated by men. The Mixed division requires a combination, usually split three to four, of both men and women where the two genders compete as equals, an unusual scenario in team sports. Finally the Women's division, although the smallest, is becoming increasingly competitive not only at national and international level but also in university sport. Three of Imperial's female players give their insight into what makes women's Ultimate unique.

Meg Claverley, captain of the Imperial women's team, explained that while female players are capable of the skills of their male counterparts, victory is determined more often by ingenuity rather than by physicality. "It's about the communication and how each player plays off of the rest of the team. In Women's, the game is more often won because you figured out the other team's tactics and shut them down rather than having faster players and longer throws." She also highlights the team spirit within the female branch of dD, affectionately known as Double-D. "Women's Ultimate at Imperial is a relatively small group of people, which makes us really close and also gives you a lot of opportunities on the team. It's given me a better understanding of the game than I would have had otherwise and also meant that I play a lot!"

Aine Ní Bhreasail, a PhD student at Imperial, likes to play across all three Ultimate divisions. "Open is interesting as a woman because you often have to mark or be marked by a guy. In some cases you will be as fast as him, but in other cases you aren't and have to use tactics and skill to beat them rather than brute strength." As well as for Imperial, she plays for one of the best club teams

...Continued on Page 42

COMMENT



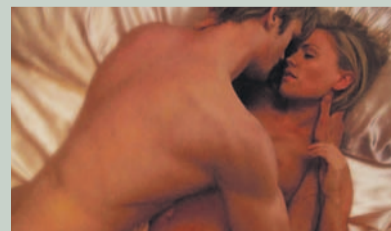
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