

FELIX



18.02.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949



INTERVIEW WITH ALEX KENDALL

The Union President talks about leading the Life Sciences protests, higher tuition fees and what's still to improve in Metric: Page 8

Imperial to charge £9,000

Imperial becomes first university to officially declare plans to raise fees to maximum level

**Katherine Bettany
Madhura Ghosh**

Imperial College has this week revealed that it plans to charge the maximum £9,000 tuition fee rate for 2012 entry. The move is an unsurprising one, with the universities of Cambridge and Oxford signalling earlier this month that higher fees would be necessary to fill a deficit created by government cuts. Imperial is currently the only university in the UK to have formally announced its intentions.

The decision was announced in a message to staff on Monday by Rector Sir Keith O’Nions, who said: “To maintain the excellence of the education we provide to students it is our intention, subject to agreement by the Office for Fair Access, to set fees at £9,000 for Home and European Union students for 2012 entry.” Government budget cuts have been a major factor for universities moving towards higher fees – Oxford University, whilst having made no formal decisions about tuition fees, has said that fees of £8,000 would be necessary to replace the budget cuts and maintain teaching standards.

With the increase in fees there is the legitimate fear of excluding individuals from deprived backgrounds. To ensure equal access, the ‘Student Fees and Financial Aid Working Group’ has been looking at two models. Imperial College Union President Alex Kendall explained earlier this month that Imperial could either charge £6,000 tuition fees for everyone – with significant reductions in financial aid – or a “£9,000 fee so that those with a large household income pay and everyone whose family earns below £60,000 gets some form of subsidy”.

This week, Kendall revealed his support for higher fees in an interview with Felix: “Courses do cost money and the courses at Imperial are especially expensive. By increasing the fees to £9,000, those from lower income will have a much greater bursary scheme available to them, and it’s quite exciting how much bigger this will be. Unfortunately there can’t be any announcements until the government specifies its requirements on access.”

Imperial is yet to reach an agreement with the Office for Fair Access as to how less economically able students will be funded, with one potential option being fee waivers for the poorest students – at the expense of cash bursaries. A proposal previously submitted by Cambridge University outlined plans to charge the maximum £9,000, giving financially disadvantaged students a discount of £3,000 – with a reduction in the maximum bursary from £3,400 to £1,625. The proposal was opposed by the Cambridge University Students’ Union who said that the only way to ensure access “is a substantial maintenance bursary”. Alex Kendall made similar comments and noted that as someone who had received a full bursary for his time at Imperial, he had found that “the difficulty in coming to Imperial was the living costs – and for that you need cash in hand. That’s extremely important for widening access”. He also highlighted the lack of awareness surrounding bursaries, and the need for Imperial to advertise what bursaries are available before people apply: “I don’t think people have a clue about the bursaries on offer until they arrive here by which point it’s too late to widen access.” Kendall con-

...Continued on Page 6

Marie Chkaiban



The plight of the ‘hidden homeless’ and the passing of Martin Milligan: Page 7

Cash-strapped libraries threaten to end journal subscription deals over rising costs

Intimidating isn’t the first word that springs to mind when you first meet Deborah Shorley, Director of the Imperial College London Library. A short, erudite librarian, one would not imagine such a character to be leading a fight against two of the largest publishers in the UK: Elsevier and Wiley Blackwell.

But, cometh the hour, cometh the woman, to tweak a well-worn phrase. University libraries are facing at best a cap in funding as the government’s cuts to higher education, yet to be detailed institution by institution, put an end to

...Continued on Page 10

SCIENCE



Imperial blogger nominated for Bloggie: Page 13

MUSIC



Bow down before your alien overlord, puny Earthlings!: Page 28

GAMES



The Guitar Hero franchise finally dies: Page 35

HIGHLIGHTS

On campus

Lunchtime Concert

Swiftly following on from last week's concert provided by Alvin Moisey, the critically acclaimed London Mozart Trio will be on campus to deliver an ensemble performance. The event is open to everyone on a first come first served basis. For more information, contact Andrea Robins – a.robins@imperial.ac.uk

Wolfson Education Centre, LT1
22 February 13:00-13:45

Entrepreneurs in Academia

The first in the 'Best Practice in Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Design' series of talks, this lecture promises to characterize the academic individuals that engage in entrepreneurial activities as well as best practice in technology commercialisation. Registration via the Imperial website.



Business School, LTUG
22 February 18:00-19:30

BioSoc Debate

The BBC's environment correspondent, Richard Black, is to chair the 2011 BioSoc debate, entitled 'Has the media failed science?' Guest speakers include Simon Singh, Mr. Andrew Cohen, head of the BBC science unit, Hannah Devlin, science correspondent for The Times and Dr. Gareth Mitchell, presenter of the BBC's Digital Planet. The event is free and open to all.

SAF, G16
24 February 18:00-19:00

Medics' RAG Week



Unfortunately Ragman can't fly; his cape is full of holes...

It's that time of year again, when Imperial students have ton loads of fun to raise money for charity. The ICSM RAG Week kicks off on Monday with collections starting at 6am (yikes) and continues throughout the week with events at Reynolds like Battle of the Bands (Tuesday), Sports Night (Wednesday) and the traditional Circle Line collection on Thursday – tiny.cc/circleline.

Editor

Union Notice

Halls Survey

The Union is looking into the issue of rent in halls (see opposite page) and is launching a survey to discover student opinion on a range of ideas. These include whether the amenities fund should be scrapped or replaced with an alternative, and also if there are any luxuries included in room rent (like cleaning) that students would be happy to do without for a lower rent. The survey should be online early next week.

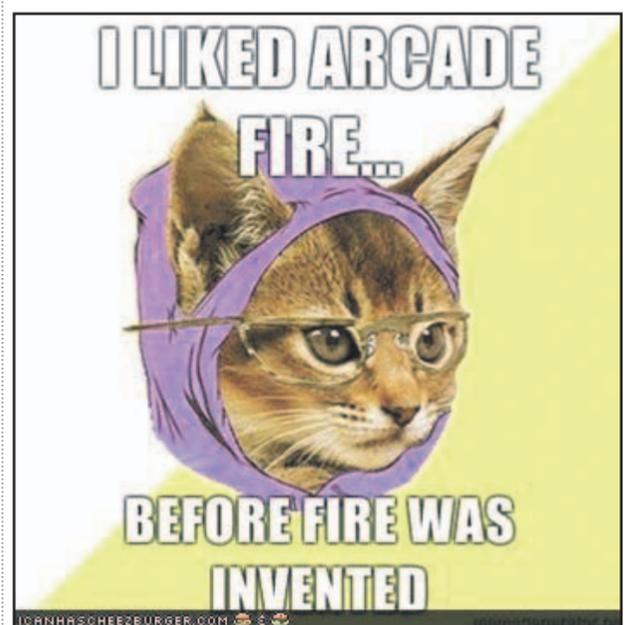
Environmental Policy

surveymonkey.com/s/SNLDXL5

The Union is in the process of amending its Environmental Policy. Deputy President (Welfare) Charlotte Ivson has created a survey to find out student opinion on the sale of bottled water.



Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

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Breakdown of hall rents revealed

Halls should not be subsidising alcohol with the amenities fund argues Union President

Sophia David

The price of university hall accommodation has come under scrutiny as a survey is set to be launched by the Union into how hall rents could be reduced. The Union has obtained a breakdown of what makes up the rent and are debating a range of cost-saving measures. Students are encouraged to take part in the debate by filling out a questionnaire, to be released early next week.

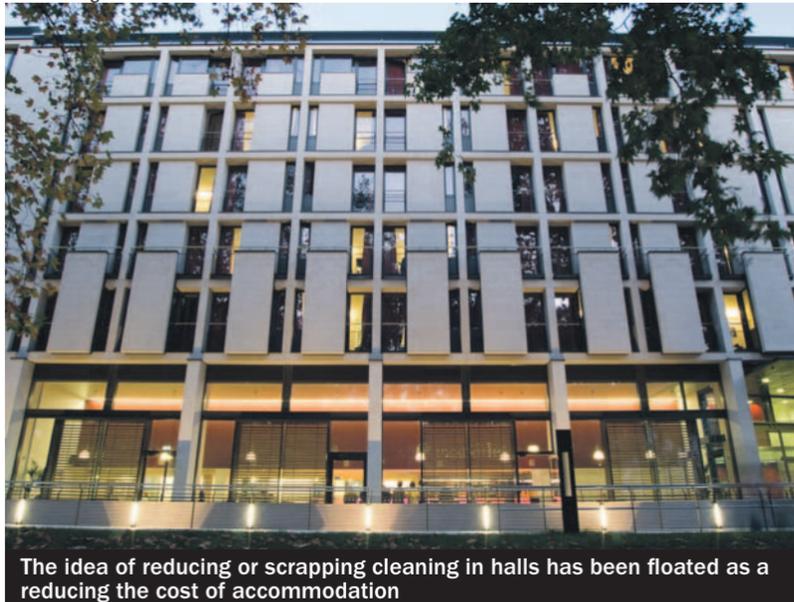
Alex Kendall, Imperial College Union President, said that "the idea [to provide more information about hall rents] originally came up because I was surprised [to find] that first years pay for the fact that we have free Ethos membership from their hall rents". Other costs that make up the rent include the amenities fund, cleaning, contract length and wardening, as well as other costs like heating, electricity and internet.

Scrapping the "amenities fund" that each hall spends on social events throughout the year such as event tickets, food and alcohol could save each student between £81.90 and £122.85 (based on 39 weeks of rent). This comes directly from hall rents and the exact amount is decided by each warden. The amenities fund is also used to promote Wardening vacancies. If the fund was scrapped hall events would still take place, but would no longer be subsidised, therefore costing more for the people taking part.

It could be argued that this is a fairer option as the number of places on hall trips and the amount of food and alcohol available are often limited, and so some students can end up subsidising others whilst reaping no benefits themselves.

Alex Kendall believes it "is a fundamental principle that no alcohol should be funded from the amenities fund. I'm very interested to hear what students who don't drink alcohol, because of their religious beliefs, think about this since they're effectively subsidising

Dave Guttridge



The idea of reducing or scrapping cleaning in halls has been floated as a reducing the cost of accommodation

other other people to do so."

However, Dan Read, Warden of Fal-mouth and Keogh Halls, argues that "removing the subsidy from events in halls would be very damaging to the communities that live there. Hall events throughout the year and particularly in the welcome weeks are extremely popular and help residents to make friends and enjoy shared experiences." He also suggested that cutting this funding would make minimal difference to rent prices anyway as "amenity contributions only amount to about 1% of rents."

Ben Cook, a second year Biologist who lived in Wilkinson hall last year, also commented that he "would not have gone to most events if they had not been subsidised". Other options such as a £10 common room charge for each term have also been suggested.

Reducing the cleaning of communal areas such as kitchens from every day to just once a week, and removing cleaning of bedrooms entirely could also save students up to £195 per year. Instead, cleaning equipment such as vacuum cleaners would be provided, like in many other universities.

Students currently rent rooms in university halls for 39 weeks each year, which includes the Christmas and Easter holidays. It has been proposed that four weeks of rent could be saved by reducing this to 35 weeks if students vacated their rooms during the Easter holiday. The rooms could then be rented out to the public as they are in the summer period. If this were to be implemented,

it would likely to be in only a few halls, giving students the choice between a 39 week contract or a cheaper 35 week contract.

These efforts to drive down costs come as new postgraduate halls in Clapham Junction costing £235 per week are set to open in the next academic year, described by Dan Read as "an unwise move especially as they will not have warden cover and thus offer no pastoral care for students." The recently renovated Eastside and Southside halls also have deluxe single rooms costing £227.36 per week and premium single rooms costing £195.37 per week. Alex Kendall argues that there is not a problem in providing this more expensive accommodation. "According to Accommodation Services, all students get a room in the cost bracket they have identified, and so there is an argument saying that some students can afford to and want to live in more expensive accommodation."

However, Joe Herbert, a second year biologist who lived in Wilkinson Hall, argues that there shouldn't be as many deluxe or premium rooms as there are. "I know a lot of people who were allocated them but didn't ask for them, and you don't get a choice, you take it or find somewhere else to live." Dan Read also added that "the extra features of these deluxe rooms include a 'luggage rack', so one might wonder if this is really for the benefit of the students who stay in halls a full academic year or for the lucrative summer accommodation

SOLE results show high satisfaction

Maciej Matuszewski

The College has recently released results of the 2010 Autumn Student Online Evaluation (SOLE) survey aimed at measuring undergraduate students' opinions about the teaching in the first college term. The results of the survey are mainly positive, with overall satisfaction across the College for different aspects of lecture courses ranging from 84% to 92%. The proportion of students answering either "good" or "very good" saw a marked increase from 2009 for all the questions which had also been asked that year.

The survey targets students in all years, apart from medicine, where only first years are questioned. Participants are asked to rate to their feelings towards a number of statements using a five point scale, as well as give written comments on what they believe should be improved. The results are reviewed by all the departments' Directors of Undergraduate Studies, and in previous years have led to changes in courses and lecturers even being replaced.

The latest SOLE introduced a new section which questioned all students, apart from those in the Business School and Humanities Department, about their opinions relating to assessment and feedback. The results here were more mixed, suggesting that the problems identified in the National Student's Survey earlier last year have not yet all been resolved. 19% of students thought that "the level of detail received in comments on [their] work" and "the helpfulness of feedback in clarifying things [they] did not understand" was poor or very poor. Overall satisfaction in these areas, however, was still between 69% and 81%.

The humanities lecture courses were judged to be some of the best in the college, with approval ratings of between 88% and 95%. 86% of students rated "the interest and enthusiasm generated by the lecturer" as either "good" or "very good", the best such result in the survey.

The department of Earth Science and Engineering, on the other hand, had

some of the best results in the assessment and feedback section, with satisfaction levels between 88% and 94%. Dr Lorraine Craig, the department's Academic Tutor, attributed this success to "excellent teaching in the department".

The student participation rate in the survey has been steadily increasing over the past three years, reaching 67% this Autumn, making the results reasonably representative of the student population. The Mathematics Department saw by far the largest improvement. Having had the worst turnout in the last two years it managed to increase its participation rate from 41% in 2009 to 67% in 2010. The head of the department, Dr Emma McCoy, attributed this success to the department's new policy, borrowed from Electrical Engineering, of "giving extra printing credit to those who complete SOLE". She said the success of scheme meant that it was likely the department would use it in the future.

As in the previous few years participation was greatest in the department of Earth Science and Engineering, with all of its 229 undergraduates taking part. Professor Martin Blunt, the department head Dr Lorraine Craig, whose position "combines the roles of Director of Undergraduate Studies, Admissions Tutor and Senior Tutor". He said that the department's small size allowed her to have "a personal rapport" with all the students. Dr Craig sent out "reminders to all students to complete the SOLE survey", which were "reinforced by every lecturer during classes". The department also discusses how it uses the data obtained with groups of students from different years, thereby making sure they understand the survey's benefits. This has resulted in excellent participation rates without the need for additional incentives such as in Mathematics.

The SOLE survey will take place again at the end of this term in all departments and in summer for students taking Chemistry, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Earth Science & Engineering or Life Sciences. Students can view the full results from the latest survey on the college website.

Correction

In the article entitled: "iConnect: Eat for Cheap" (Issue 1481 - 04/02/11) Nigel Kheng's name was misspelled 'Zheng'. Felix apologises for this typo.

Editor

guests!"

Currently, new students select five preferred choices from a range of twenty halls of residence, varying in price from £55.30 a week for a triple room in Fisher Hall at Evelyn Gardens to £227.36 per week for a deluxe single room in Eastside or Southside in Princes Gardens. However, the university website states that it is not guaranteed that students will be allocated one of their preferred

options, meaning students are often left paying more than they anticipated.

Kendall also warns of the future risk of losing the cheaper alternatives currently offered by Imperial. Fisher hall, students' cheapest option, is currently at risk of renovation and being lost as student accommodation. Kendall argues that the university should be doing "everything it can to provide a cheap hall option close to campus".

NEWS

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

In brief

Library to remain open over Easter

Dave Guttridge



Yes! Now I can play WoW over Easter as well! I mean, I can revise over Easter... (yay!)

The Central Library and Charing Cross Library will both be open as usual (albeit with limited desk services) on College closure days this Easter, closing only on Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday (23rd and 24th April). Both libraries will also be open as usual over the Royal Wedding weekend and May bank holiday weekend.

The change comes as Easter falls so late this year and hence during a critical revision period, catering for the many trying to maximize hours spent in the library.

In another new development for the library, on Monday the PC availability screens on Level 1 went live. This scheme, which updates every 30 seconds, was developed in response to comments from students and ICT surveys. Although it remains common practice to "save" computers with one's belongings whilst away so the PC may not be as available as indicated, the information provided about where PCs and study rooms are available upon entering the library will be infinitely useful. It is an efficient alternative to a futile prowling of Wolfson, Level 2 and Level 4.

Alex Nowbar

Nominations for Union sabbatical elections open

Nominations for the 2011 Imperial College Union Sabbatical elections have now opened. For the position of President, three candidates have put themselves forward: Naida Dzidal, Scott Heath and Danish Khan. Four candidates are currently nominated for Felix Editor: Victoria Bignet, Matthew Colvin, Alexander Karapetian and Indy Leclercq. Two students have nominated themselves for the position of Deputy President (Finances & Services): Rebecca Clark and Michael Foster. While the positions of Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and Deputy President (Education) currently have one candidate apiece: Monya Zard and Stefan Bauer respectively. No-one has put themselves forward for Deputy President (Welfare). Ravi Pall and Joseph Rumer have nominated themselves for the Student Trustee positions. The above information is accurate at the time of print. Nominations are open until the 1st of March at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote.

Protests as new School of Public Health opens

Demonstration outside Sherfield as Health minister Andrew Lansley marks launch of new school

Maciej Matuszewski



I know that he shouldn't cheat on the NHS, but when you've got other health services falling over you, it's hard to resist sometimes...

Maciej Matuszewski

This Monday, Imperial celebrated the opening of the new School of Public Health. The school will focus on both teaching and, according to its director, Professor Elio Riboli, research aimed at providing "the evidence that will help societies understand the causes of diseases and how to prevent them". Visitors to the opening event, taking place in the Great Hall and featuring Health Secretary Andrew Lansley, were, however, met by a group of over twenty demonstrators, part of the 'Big Society NHS' campaign against the government's planned NHS reforms. Although they were not allowed into the Sherfield building's entrance foyer, the group stood outside, handing out leaflets and shouting the slogans "public health not private wealth" and "Lansley, Lansley don't be a fool – you're making me quit medical school".

Big Society NHS opposes Lansley's plans to abolish primary care trusts, transferring their powers to GPs, and allow more competition between different health service providers, including the private sector. While the protesters admitted that "GPs should have a larger say" in the care of patients they were adamant that this was not the right way to achieve this. Their literature points out that "over half of GPs don't want this responsibility". Indeed, a recent

"Lansley, Lansley don't be a fool – you're making me quit medical school"

Royal College of GPs survey found that only 21.5% agreed with Lansley's reforms.

James Chan, a foundation year one doctor, said the plan would allow the "private sector [to] undercut" the NHS, leading to its "fragmentation". He argued that the "best doctors [would be] attracted to better paying private healthcare" which will be "focused in rich areas" leading to "budget healthcare" for the poor. He said that in his experience "cooperation", rather than the financial competition supported by the coalition, "leads to better healthcare". A number of the protests' organisers issued a joint statement saying that they were "opposed to the new health and social care bill which signified a moving away from the NHS' founding principle". They said that if the bill was passed the health service would "no longer [act] in the best interest of the people[but in the interest of] profit" instead.

The group was also keen to stress how they believed that the Conservatives were not impartial in this issue. They pointed out how, since 2006,

the party has received £107,000 in donations from the family of the CEO of the private health company Care UK, with Lansley personally receiving a separate £21,000 from the company. They accused the party of serious misconduct in afterwards awarding the company with a £53 million prison healthcare contract. The Conservative Party have previously denied that the donations had any influence on policy-making.

College members were poorly represented at the protest, with most of the students involved coming from UCL. Reactions of passer-bys were, however, mixed. Humam, who did want to give his full name, pointed out that a system similar to the one proposed by the coalition already seemed to be working well in Germany. On the other hand, Ben Bell, a third year mechanical engineer, said that he would have liked to have attended the demonstration from the beginning and wished that it "could have been better publicised".

The protest passed peacefully and wound down quietly after just over an hour. The jury is still out over whether it did any good. Laurence Pope, a second year life sciences student not involved in the event, said that while the people involved were certainly "loud enough" and that he thought that they might affect a few students' opinions, they were unlikely to change Lansley's policies.

THE 

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DAILY FELIX

IT BEGINS MONDAY 28th

The Daily is almost here. 24 pages of your favourite sections every single day (except Arts, Music, Science and Technology – see below). Help us report the news by emailing us about events, meetings and suspicious goings-on around campus.

Monday

ARTS

The first day of this fool-hardy escapade. We'll have a 6-page Arts section pullout with all the happenings from Artsfest as well as reviews of some of the hottest exhibitions in the capital. Additionally we'll have comprehensive reporting from the Royal School of Mines' Bottle Match.

Tuesday

MUSIC

Day 2. Hopefully, by this point we'll either be terribly excited about how well it's all going (fingers crossed). We'll be publishing a bonanza of reviews, interviews and musical opinion. If that doesn't float your boat, don't forget that we'll have a page of Puzzles in every issue.

Wednesday

SCIENCE

The half-way point. By now things will have really got tough and your Facebook feed will be full of messages begging for some news to happen. After two days without Science, we'll be publishing a 6-page pullout featuring the best the Science section has to offer. Don't miss it!

Thursday

TECHNOLOGY

Almost there. By Day 4 the elections will have got into full swing and will, hopefully, have descended into farce. As well as that and reporting from RAG week, the Technology section will make a stupendous comeback with a 6-page pullout (are you noticing a pattern?)

Friday

VARSITY

The last day. We'll be looking back at the week, continuing our coverage of the sabbatical elections, including manifestos, and also looking forward to Varsity. If we're still standing, we'll be in the Union, either drowning our sorrows or, hopefully, celebrating pulling this thing off.

NEWS

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

The Summer Ball

Tim Smith



Tinie Tempah at last year's Summer Ball. Give us Bieber this year! Please?

End of year summer exams, nobody likes them. It is the best way to ruin the best season of the year and everyone dreads them. But now there's something epic to look forward to, because this year, not only is there an end of year summer ball, but there's a whole day of live performances to go with it.

Basically, the Union is planning a festival, with events scattered across the Imperial campus. Plans are underway for various activities to take place during the day, giving the Summer Ball a more 'festival-esque' feel.

The Union are going all out this year – not only are they adding in the all-day festival but they will have live music (including more student acts) on a large stage in Queen's Lawn and a smaller stage in Princes Gardens. In addition to this there will be upmarket food and various other stalls.

The Union says that they're moving away from the standard formal dinner approach and are trying something different this year. The possibility of collaborating with other London universities is also being considered, to make the event bigger and better than ever (and to have a wider range of acts).

Taking you back to your primary school summers, there are plans for more 'fun-fair'-like activities to take place on the day of the ball and the Union aim for the festival to end with 'enough time to finish your drinks and catch the tube home if you want' according to Deputy President (Finances & Services) Ravi Pall, with the after-party continuing after in FiveSixEight and Metric, as well as the Great Hall.

So when is this ultra-spectacular and unmissable event? The date for your diaries folks is the 18th of June (conveniently chosen as a date close to the end of exams so that all students can attend). It'll undeniably be a great way to celebrate the end of another great year at Imperial.

Aemun Reza

Government signals £9,000 fee restrictions

Geneieve Pugh

Imperial's plan to join the gentlemen's club of universities charging the maximum £9,000 for tuition fees from the 2012 academic year will come with restrictions from the government.

Nick Clegg has said in a recent BBC interview that "universities can only charge £9,000 if they are given permission to do so". If Imperial wants to charge fees of more than £6,000 it must have an access agreement approved by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). This sets out the measures it would use to maintain and improve access to the university for students from underprivileged backgrounds. This is the government's attempt to remove the barriers to higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds that increased fees would inevitably produce.

Clegg's view is that "universities can and should do more to ensure fair access. ...social mobility in this country has stalled. It will only improve if we throw open the doors of universities, especially the most selective, to more bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds."

Last Thursday, a letter was sent by Vince Cable, Business Secretary, and David Willetts, Universities Minister, to OFFA "setting out the Government's expectations in respect of fair access to higher education". It introduces significant changes to the access agreements that colleges must submit to OFFA if they wish to charge more than the new baseline fee of £6,000 for 2012 entry. The letter also suggests that universities like Imperial should make lower offers to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

If Imperial wants to introduce the maximum fees or indeed charge above the £6,000 mark in



Nick Clegg is obviously not pleased about having his sandwich stolen by the kid. But then again, he did just steal away the kid's future. Oh yeah, I went there...

general, OFFA will require demonstration of a real measurable progress against agreed benchmarks for fair access. Their requirements could include a reduction in drop out rate, more investment in access measures if progress against agreed benchmarks is not sufficient and an annual review of their access agreement.

OFFA's job now is to draw up detailed guidance for universities. Sir Martin Harris, Director of Fair Access, said the aim is to publish this guidance towards the end of February. Universities must submit their access agreements in April and these will be assessed and agreed by mid July.

The government is also introducing a na-

tional scholarship programme that will provide a reduction of fees by at least £3,000 for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, to help them cope with their mammoth university fees.

But how effective will this policy be in resolving the issues of social mobility the government has highlighted? The proposals have been criticized by Graham Stuart, Tory Chairman of the Education Select Committee, who said: "any university admissions policy that focuses on factors other than the merit of the student is misguided. ...We need to improve the quality of schooling, not dumb down the entry requirements for universities."

Imperial announces £9,000 fees

...Continued from Front Page
 firmed that the Union would be trying to survey the 27% of Imperial students who receive bursaries about "how they feel their bursary helps them, and also how they think it should be targeted in terms of a fee waiver or cash in hand."

With tuition fees set to rise, the issue of access to financial aid such as bursaries becomes an ever more important one. Presently Imperial has a means tested fund of £4 million to distribute, of which £3.5 million is from tuition fees and £0.5 million is from the endowment. With cuts to government funding, Kendall cautioned, "the university may not be able to afford the £3.5 million give in bursaries unless [...] Imperial charges higher fees". Earlier this month, Kendall spoke about the discussions within the working group about how bursaries will be allocated. It is Imperial's fear that the government may demand 'fee remission',

whereby students will not be able to use the money for living costs – a highly contentious issue for students living in London. Kendall continued, "For a London university, we know that living costs are the most expensive factor at university, and the current loan and grant only just covers this. Preventing [students] from using the bursary to top this up is a mistake". O'Nions recognized that Imperial still has "a way to go in our considerations about what forms of financial aid would attract and support the most able, but needy, students" but highlighted that "for those who can manage Imperial's courses, the College will work to ensure they can manage its costs."

While the costs may be manageable, many may be unwilling to take on such large debts before they are economically independent. With the crushing toll of the recession, both the financially deprived and the squeezed middle

class are more aware than ever of the result such large debts will have on their lives. Concerns that world class education will only be available to the very richest are still very much present. Whilst Imperial has an academically elitist image, many are concerned that this elitism might extend into the cross-section of society Imperial attracts. O'Nions highlighted that the college has "plans for a long-term campaign for philanthropic support [...] to attract the brightest and the best in the world for generations to come." Nonetheless, whether these plans will yield their intended results is another matter; anxiety is still expressed by numerous students despite the many reassurances of financial aid. With questions surrounding the diversity of the student population already arising, how Imperial will ensure that students from poorer backgrounds continue to apply remains an unclear but important issue.

The 'hidden homeless'

Lizzie Crouch and Anna Perman remember Martin Milligan and look deeper into the problem of homelessness in the UK

Marie Chkaiban



Flowers have been left in remembrance on Exhibition road

A few weeks ago, many people were saddened to hear that Martin Milligan, who many knew as the man who sold the Big Issue in the South Kensington pedestrian tunnel, had passed away.

People flustered by the morning commute who would usually put their head down and stride past a homeless person, would stop to talk to Martin, buy a Big Issue from him, offer him food. He was part of people's lives and he will be missed by many.

In our daily lives it is not uncommon for us to see rough sleepers around London. Even though they are there, many of us see through them or avert our gaze when walking past. But the truth is we are not seeing the bigger problem of homelessness; the hidden homeless of London.

According to the 1996 Housing Act a person is classified as homeless when they have no accommodation that they are entitled to occupy, or they have accommodation, but it is not reasonable for them to continue to occupy this accommodation.

Despite not living on the streets, many people meet the legal definition of homelessness. These people can spend

their lives bouncing from hostel to hostel, sleeping at Bed and Breakfasts or be living in overcrowded houses.

Homeless charity Crisis carried out research in 2004 in an attempt to find out the extent of the homeless problem in the UK. The figures are staggering.

Around 800,000 people are estimated to be homeless. Worryingly, half of these people are described as the 'hidden homeless'. These people, despite being technically homeless, have not been provided with accommodation either because they are 'not a priority' or they have not been officially classified as homeless. This includes people who sleep rough.

Many of the hidden homeless are defined as 'single homeless people'; this simply means that they have no children

"But the truth is we are not seeing the bigger problem; the hidden homeless of London"

or dependents, and therefore are not such a priority to for councils to house. However, these people are often among the most vulnerable people in society; for example, people who have left a violent partner or those who are dealing with mental health issues.

Those that can often slip through the net are the younger generation of homeless, those under the age of 25, our peers. How many people have heard of a friend sofa surfing whilst trying to find a permanent place to stay? Or having to stay with family temporarily? Well, those friends are technically homeless. This is a stressful situation that thousands of young men and women are currently living through.

As far as the government is concerned, once you're 18, they are not responsible for arranging accommodation for you. For students in this situation, the first port of call should be the university accommodation office. After graduating, contacting the local council is the best way of getting referred to a hostel.

Unfortunately, for many, sleeping on a mate's sofa is not an option. The people sleeping rough in the UK are the most obvious face of homelessness - the person next to your tube stop who you pass on your way home every night or the

people offering you Big Issues on your daily commute.

St Mungo's deals with those who have run out of options and find themselves on the streets. Judith Higgin from the Trust told us that helping people who are sleeping rough isn't just about putting a roof over their heads. "Homelessness isn't just about housing. It's about the situation that leads to it, be that mental health problems, family breakdown, substance abuse. Those things can spiral out of control quite quickly."

Most people who end up in hostels like this stay for around eighteen months, during which time they can get help with education and training that could help them back on their feet. But many of them also have mental health problems, which hostels and charities have to tackle.

Data from CHAIN, a database managed by the Broadway Homeslessness and Support charity, shows that 35% of London's rough sleepers have mental health problems. These can be the cause of people finding themselves on the streets in the first place. But they can also be caused by the strains and stresses of sleeping rough.

Intertwined with this issue is drug and alcohol abuse, which can be a cause or a

Dedication to Martin from Lovena at Pandora

Lovena Chettiyar shares her thoughts and memories about Martin Milligan.

I've known Martin for the past 8 years, he was like a father to me. He was a retired English and Latin teacher, he was originally from Edinburgh.

Martin had a caring and kind nature. He was very thoughtful and would go out of his way to help people. Martin was very much loved by all of us at Pandora [a designer dress agency], he was like our agony uncle.

He was great at giving us fashion advice as he had a good eye.

My favourite memory of Martin was when he spent Christmas with me and a couple of friends in 2009. We had a delightful evening and shared a lot of jokes, he later went on to tell everyone that it was one of the best Christmas he had for a very long time. He was a bit dubious about my lamb roast at the beginning as he never believed I could cook.

Martin had a very dry and sarcastic sense of humor.

Pandora will never be the same without Martin, his absence is deeply felt by all of us.

consequence of homelessness.

It's really easy to become homeless, but really hard to get out of once you get there. That's why charities and hostels need your support. You can either give money to charities, or volunteer to help out at a hostel or soup kitchen.

Imperial student Katy Bettany volunteered with Holy Trinity Brompton at St Pauls, Onslow Square. She had to persevere to get through the checks, getting a CRB and a reference from a priest through her church.

But to her, it was worth it. "Homelessness is something that really upsets me, so it was nice to be able to do something tangible to help."

Although it is easy to paint homeless people according to a stereotype, Katy found the people she worked with full of surprises. "One of the guys just sat down at the piano, and he turned out to be the most amazing pianist. I just don't understand how someone that talented ended up on the streets."

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
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INTERVIEW

Miles Robertson



He fought the Life Sciences cuts but supports higher fees: Alex Kendall on why he picks his fights carefully

Life Sciences cuts and Student Protests

Would you say that you have been an activist this year?

Yes, I have, but not in the general sense. I don't just jump on any bandwagon because it happens to be something other people are getting excited about. I'd like to think the Union is quite good at picking its fights carefully, if they need to be fought, but also in collaborating on some things and realizing that some issues are better attacked in a different way.

The biggest thing that you've been an activist on is the Life Sciences cuts. Would you say that protests that were led by the Union were successful?

It depends how you measure it. We were unsuccessful in changing the plans for the restructure, which are now going ahead. However, we were successful in making a lot of people in College, the management side, realize that students do care about their education, and I think, even though they won't admit it, they know the plans were badly thought through. On the other side, we were able to make those people that are being made redundant, and other members of staff, aware that students do care about them, and care about the teaching they receive.

Does the fact that you are from the Life Sciences department and you did those courses have anything to do with how vigorous the union's campaign was?

It meant that I was more clued up, as to exactly what was happening, and it

"I don't think that it's in our remit to spend a long time protesting."

probably made my reaction better, in a way, because I knew what I was talking about. I'd like to think I'd be able to respond to any department if it was unjust like that, and I think I've shown that in the PhD issues.

An area where you have explicitly stepped away from activism is the government's cuts to higher education. Why did you decide not to engage with the demonstrations?

The first thing I heard about this was obviously during the summer when the NUS were planning their demonstration on the 10th November. There were a few reasons why I was a little concerned about that – firstly I wasn't really sure what its goals were. Obviously it was to highlight student unrest, but the main issue seemed to be the complaint against rising fees, and then tagged onto that was to complain about the government cuts. Obviously those are two related things, but they're going to make cuts regardless of what we say. They know that students don't want them to make cuts to higher education – it's a no brainer.

So the reason not to march on the street is that you don't think it would change the debate?

Yeah, firstly I don't believe it would have an effect, but that's not necessarily a reason not to go and demonstrate

– people go and demonstrate for a lot of things that they don't think they're going to have an effect on. The reason I didn't put my time into it is because we were elected as a Union to help the students at Imperial. I don't think that it's within our remit to spend a long time protesting (some sabbatical officers at some universities literally spend their entire time doing this – organizing protests against cuts). Of course, I wouldn't discourage students if they wanted to protest; we put the NUS demonstration in the full student email.

Do you see a parallel between the campaign to stop the cuts to the life sciences department and the campaigns to stop the cuts to higher education funding, which also affects Imperial?

Well it's interesting that, a lot of people have said that, and in a way of course you can see a parallel: why would you be lethargic about cuts on one hand and not on the other? It goes back to what I said just now, that actually it is within our remit to try and find a better way to address the changes in Life Sciences. Actually we never said there shouldn't be a Life Sciences restructure, we just said that if you are going to restructure, and if you really have to get rid of people in that way, and of course it's horrible, you have to consider every metric, you can't just look at research, that was the entire point. The other thing is that they are two completely different situations, if you look at it on a UK political level, yes, the country is in a massive deficit, and has a huge amount of debt. But Imperial doesn't – it could easily keep the Life Sciences department running at a deficit while they reduced it over time. Imperial have enough money to do that. But Britain doesn't, you could argue.

Some people argue that the government doesn't need to make cuts on the scale that they are making.

That's a very good point, and I'm perfectly happy to get into a debate with any student about this. However, I don't think I should be spending my elected time as a sabbatical officer of a student union of one university trying to engage with the government on UK-wide cuts – I don't think it is what I was elected for. There are a lot of issues going on within Imperial that we can help deal with, and that we have helped deal with.

In terms of how you see your role, why is it right for the Union not to engage in these national issues when many other student Unions do?

I think that Imperial students should engage...

...But if the students should engage, why shouldn't their student union help and encourage them to engage?

Helping them to engage is different to actively encouraging them. We did help them to engage, we didn't ignore the debate by any means, we had the debate in council, we had the debate in Felix, people emailed in, and we are right now having a follow up debate about the bursaries and fees in college, and I'm trying to publish them as much as possible. We've certainly helped

"Courses cost money and the courses at Imperial are especially expensive."

people get involved. With regards to supporting them to take a particular political viewpoint, no I don't think that is the Union's responsibility.

£9,000 Fees

The College has now decided to increase fees to £9,000 subject to conditions, and that's something you support?

Yes. Firstly there is a big gap in the national debate at the moment, which is rightly focusing on the fact that to charge more than £6,000 universities have to show a certain amount of commitment to access. Now obviously I completely agree with that, but the debate hasn't focused at all on how actually some universities might have to charge £9,000 because their courses cost that much. Courses cost money and the courses at Imperial are especially expensive. By increasing the fees to £9,000, those from lower incomes will have a much greater bursary scheme available to them, and it's quite exciting how much bigger this will be. Unfortunately there can't be any announcements until the government specifies its requirements on access.

Is it better to reduce student debt or to offer cash during the course?

This is the debate about how the bursaries are going to be targeted. There are two ways. We give students fee waivers, where they don't have a choice about how to spend that bursary money. You just take it off the debt. Or you give it to them up front in cash. We want to survey the 27% of Imperial students

INTERVIEW

who receive bursaries, to find out how they feel their bursary helps them and also how they think it should be targeted in terms of a fee waiver or cash in hand.

Personally, as someone who received a full bursary for my time at Imperial, I found that the difficulty in coming to

Imperial was the living costs and for that you need cash in hand. That's extremely important for widening access.

Do you think that fees of £9,000 exacerbate issues with access?

I do accept that there is deterrence in debt, which is the mountain that we all have to climb. One thing that Imperial can start doing straight away is advertising what bursaries are on offer before people apply. I don't think people have a clue about the bursaries on offer until they arrive here by which point it's too late to widen access. It does help that the national conversation is about the fact that you need to widen access and improve bursaries if you want to charge £9,000 because then students will know when they see £9,000 that there are good bursaries etc. that's the mindset we need.

The Union passed a policy last term, which backed the Browne Review. It talked about bursaries but it also backed unlimited fees. Is this going to be revisited, tweaked and altered?

Yes, in fact we'll be doing that at the next Council meeting. I wanted to change it in response to the survey we're hopefully going to do about bursaries, to put in something about higher education funding, where the Union believes bursaries should come from, where they should go and how they should be distributed. And we may need to revisit other parts of it also.

Would you say that there isn't a good knowledge about what Imperial students think about higher education funding?

Yes probably. It's relatively hard to judge and you can't keep doing endless surveys. But there's a point to make that just to cover its costs Imperial has to raise fees. The funding isn't going to come from anywhere else. There is simply no choice, regardless of my opinion, regardless of any student's opinion; they have no choice but to raise fees to a certain level. So spending time gathering opinions about "do you think fees should rise above £3,225?" is, I would say, pointless. However, I do think that it's worthwhile to find out what people think about the difference between £6,000 and £9,000, as in; do you have £6,000 and less financial aid or £9,000 and an impressive packet of financial aid?

"It seems to be that they're hoping that students don't notice or don't care."

Hall Rents

The Union is currently working to make hall rents more transparent.

Yes we are, the idea originally came up because I was surprised that first years pay for the fact that we have free Ethos membership from their hall rents. Technically it comes from the whole commercial services budget but if people paid for membership, hall rents would be cheaper. That's one side of the debate; I'm definitely not suggesting that people should start paying for Ethos. Commercial Services have been very helpful in giving us a breakdown of what makes up the rent, aside from the fundamentals like electricity etc. There were five things: Ethos, the Amenities Fund, Cleaning (which you can argue isn't a fundamental), the contract length and the cost of wardening – but that's being addressed by the wardening review and I'm not going to even touch that subject.

Is it right that people pay into an amenities fund that is used to fund social events, when for example that money is used to buy alcohol and they don't even drink?

The amenities fund is for paying for social events. There's a debate to be had about whether people think the amenities fund should be scrapped entirely and people can pay directly for the events that they attend. But something that I think is a fundamental principle is that no alcohol should be funded from the amenities fund. For a start, we in the union don't allow clubs and societies to buy food or alcohol from their grant money because they're consumables; your participation in a club shouldn't affect on whether you can or can't have certain consumables and so it shouldn't affect your participation in a hall either. The fact that some students are subsidising others to drink alcohol is, I think, quite immoral. I'm very interested to hear what students who don't drink alcohol, because of their religious beliefs, think about this since they're effectively subsidising other people to do so.

PhD Funding

PhD funding has been a big issue this year. Three departments – Aero, EEE and the Business School – have had problems.

Yes it has. I have brought this up with College management. Pro-Rector (Education) Julia Buckingham has been extremely helpful. She's been very concerned and has investigated and resolved the issues. The problem is that when the College point out there's something wrong, the department does something; when students do they just shrug their shoulders. It seems to be that they're hoping that students don't notice or don't care.

Do you think they drag their feet on these problems?

Yes but the issue in EEE was slightly different. That department was probably the best; they at least arranged a meeting where they explained the situation to students. But with the Aero and Business School issues, they can say that it's all about miscommunication but I've seen the emails and I've heard what students affected have said and it just doesn't match up. So now we're asking PhD students to monitor their bursaries and how much they are paid and their conditions more vigilantly.

The Union

Metric and FiveSixEight have been well received, but what still needs to be improved?

The one thing that we really do need to get right, which is still a problem, is the pricing in metric, which has been a permanent thorn in our side. Some students say that it should be free but you still have to run a business. If you're go-

"The pricing in Metric [...] has been a thorn in our side."

ing to get bands and artists in, they do charge money and it costs us to run the place. On the other side, if you charge too much you deter students even if there's a drink offer. It's extremely hard to judge but we're sensitive to student concerns about pricing and we have been changing prices, using different models. I will say that it's never, except for big events like the Winter Ball, going to be more than £5 online beforehand. I think that's pretty reasonable for a club on Friday until 2am.

One thing that was criticised was serving shark burgers, which is a sensitive issue. Was that the right thing to do?

I'm not going to say whether it was right or not, commercial services decided to do these different types of meat and they decided that shark would be one of them. It appeared and it was certified shark meat, it's not an endangered species but at the same time I was aware

that this area is particularly sensitive so I asked them to take it off. However, with the food people generally seem to like what we've got this year; I haven't heard a great deal of negative feedback. It was about getting more variety and the menu is a lot bigger than it was last year.

Finally, have you enjoyed the job?

I have really enjoyed it. It has been demanding trying to get students to engage more and express their opinions. For example, Felix had lots of stuff about the Browne Review, we were putting information out, we had a paper to council, we were the only student union to support it actually and yet no one who wasn't a council member came to council for the debate. I suspect that this isn't an indictment of Imperial students, that this is not because of apathy but because actually, a university like Imperial is full of people who do understand the value of their degree; charging more for it isn't going to have such an effect if they get the bursary scheme right. Overall though, this year hasn't been all about fee rises; there is plenty about the job to find stressful, but also plenty to find inspiring. You get out what you put in.

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FEATURE

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Jan Piotrowski



“I WILL NOT BLINK”

Deborah Shorley, Head of Imperial's library, will take Britain's biggest publishers to the edge if necessary

Kadhim Shubber

“The fact is we don't have money in the sector and we can't afford to go on spending as we have.”

...Continued from Front Page
the spending of the last decade – a period which now by comparison seems like a golden age. At the same time, publishing companies continue to make large profits. From 2005-2009 Elsevier's profits increased from around £1 billion to £1.6 billion. Libraries have been locked into so-called “big deals” with these publishers. Their 3-year subscription deals offer their researchers instant access to thousands of journals but have tied libraries into 6% price increases year-on-year.

The pressure for libraries to reduce costs has become irresistible – “the fact is that we don't have money in the sector and we can't afford to go on spending as we have,” says Deborah. With journal subscriptions taking up a significant chunk of library spending – Imperial spends £3.8 million each year on journal subscriptions (out of a total library budget of £8.9 million) – there is no question, in Deborah Shorley's opinion, as to where the savings need to be made: publishers need to cut their prices.

So leads us to the remarkable story of Imperial College's self-effacing head librarian, pitted in a battle of nerves against the publisher of titles like the *Lancet*. She is leading Research Libraries UK (RLUK), which represents the libraries of Russell Group universities, in a public campaign to pressure big publishers to end up-front payments, to allow them to pay in sterling and to reduce their subscription fees by 15%. The stakes are high, library staff and services are at risk and if an agreement or an alternative delivery plan is not in place by January 2nd next year, researchers at Imperial and elsewhere will lose access to thousands of journals. But Deborah Shorley is determined to take it to the edge if necessary: “I will not blink.”

Pre-2000, university libraries would subscribe to individual journal titles. They would take a discerning look at the journals on offer and purchase only those that they explicitly desired. The primary mode of delivery was print but at the Internet took bold strides forward and publishers invested time and money developing software that would allow

researchers to access papers and journals at the click of a button, a new age of the “big-deal” was born. Publishers offered access to thousands of journals – including back-issues, meticulously and expensively digitized back to volume one, issue one – at a marginally higher cost. Where before libraries would subscribe to a few hundred journals, their researchers now had access to thousands.

But prices soon began to rise. The bulk deals would include an approximate 6% price increase year-on-year, well above inflation. Why did libraries accept these increases? David Prosser, Executive Director of RLUK, says that libraries didn't have much choice: “In the past the researchers have been saying to us that they need access to this material, so pay for it. We had to pull out all the stops to meet the demand and because we could find the money to pay, we did.” Publishers have defended the rises by pointing to the increased volume of articles that publishers provide, about 3% each year says a spokesman for the Publishing Association (PA) – Elsevier declined to comment while Wiley Blackwell had not responded to questions by the time of print. Include inflation with the increased volume of articles, the PA argues, and the 6% price increase is entirely reasonable. However, an institution like Imperial now accesses journals entirely electronically, which means that though the volume of articles increases by 3%, the associated costs do not.

This isn't the first time that big publishers have faced these sorts of criticisms. In June 2010, the University of California (UC) threatened to boycott the Nature Publishing Group, which you could have guessed publishes *Nature*, after they tried to increase the cost of their subscription by a whopping 400%. In a letter to its faculties, UC accused them of being “unresponsive to the [financial] plight of libraries” and urged its researchers to boy-

cott the publisher if necessary by declining to peer review or edit for journals owned by the Nature Publishing Group or even submit their papers to them. The letter spoke of the need to “break the monopoly that commercial and for profit entities like NPG hold over the work that we create”. The dispute was eventually resolved amicably but UC's comments were echoed by Robert Darnton, the Director of Harvard University Library, who in December 2010 called for the “monopolies of price-gouging publishers [...] to be broken.”

Publishing companies can, by purchasing the major journals in an area of research, own a monopoly in certain research topics. However, the Publishing Association reject the accusation and say that publishing companies operate in a market and that researchers have a choice as to where to publish their papers and that libraries are free to negotiate on price. Deborah Shorley points out that their contracts are subject to non-disclosure agreements meaning that they can't compare prices with other universities: “Which means that you're negotiating with one hand tied behind your back.”

The alternatives to reducing the cost of major subscriptions are quite unpalatable. Subscriptions to smaller publishers and learned societies could be the first to go. But ultimately resources must be protected says Deborah Shorley. The result of this, which she admits is controversial, is that library staff are vulnerable to redundancy: “If I protect the staff but not resources, it leaves no resources for staff to provide.” David Prosser claims that publishers want libraries to cut staff in order to be able to afford the subscriptions: “The Publishing Association has told us that we should be saving money by sacking people. It's completely unimaginable for them to reduce their costs.” However, the PA told Felix that they it is for libraries to decide how to balance their books and, publicly at least, Elsevier has appeared sympathetic to library budget constraints, telling the *Wall Street Journal* last November: “These are very difficult times, and we will work with [libraries].”

In the middle of these high-level negotiations, both public and private, are the researchers, who of course don't pay for their

consumption; when the cost is zero, demand is infinite. RLUK, however, are searching for an alternative to the current arrangement with big publishers. They are developing a contingency plan which will allow them to walk away from the publishers while reassuring academics that their research won't suffer. A “world expert in document supply”, as Deborah Shorley refers to him, is developing the contingency plan at Imperial. The plan will involve purchasing the must-have, high-use journals individually (research has shown that 5% of journals account for 40% of journal subscription use) and supplying other papers through document supply, which means that researchers are able to read an abstract and request delivery of the paper, commonly from the British Library. Delivery times for document supply can be less than two hours electronically. Additionally, 10% of the material that libraries receive through paid subscriptions is already available through open-access. Deborah Shorley is keen to work with researchers, to help them avoid disruption if the contingency plan is needed, “At the beginning of the next academic year, we'll be offering very practical help to researchers so that they are as unaffected as possible.” The PA is sceptical about RLUK's ability to replicate the service that publishers currently provide, which Deborah Shorley admits will be difficult. However, she argues that they will be able to go a long way to matching it and that any short-term pain will be for long-term gain, “we want researchers to be on board to understand this is worth it in the long term.” She stressed that ideally they would not have to resort to the contingency plan.

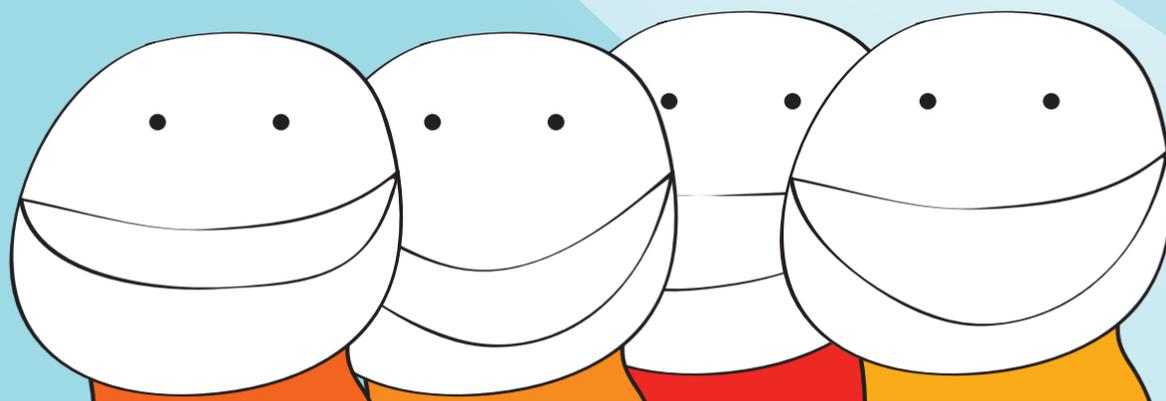
Still, the libraries are adamant that they won't back down from their demands. The key, however, to the struggle is how researchers respond to the debate. If they can be convinced that rising journal costs are threatening to compromise research in the long-term and that the contingency plan will allow them to continue their work without much disruption, then the pressure on the publishers will be overwhelming. But if researchers demand access to journals, whatever the cost, libraries will be between a rock and a hard place. The fight for the hearts and minds of academics is crucial.

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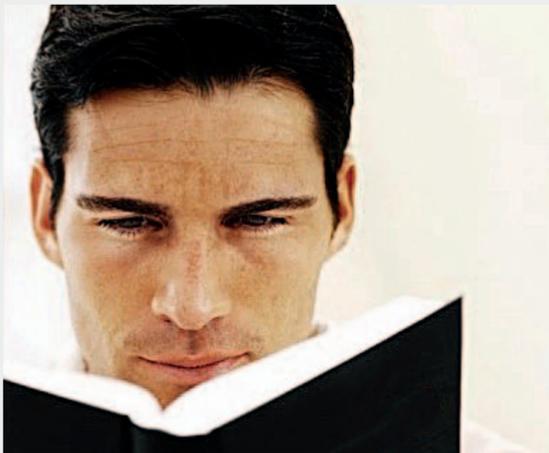


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SCIENCE

Science Editors: **Kelly Oakes**
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You won't believe it...



Judging a book by its cover

Why is it that the most attractive people always seem to be the most popular too? Research from the University of British Columbia has shown that fitties, as well as being noticed more than their plainer friends, are seen as more open, conscientious and agreeable. Researchers observed 75 conversations between men and women, making the participants rate their conversation partners on a number of traits. So if you find yourself alone at the next houseparty, don't worry. It's not because you've got a lame personality, it's because you've got an unattractive face!



Science Hoax of the Week

Musical Condoms

This hoax dates back to the mid 90's when reports in the UK emerged that a Hungarian Scientist had invented a condom which would play music when put on. The stories reported that one song selected for the condoms was 'Arise, Ye Worker' (a communist hymn). Despite their best efforts no one was ever able to find Ferenc Kovacs and his lyrical inventions. The same occurred almost a decade later when reports surfaced that Ukrainian Dr Grigorii Chausovskii had produced condoms with 'sensors' that would alter the music they played depending on the wearer's position. Again it turned out to be nothing more than a hoax with Dr Chausovskii and his invention impossible to track down.

Ben Good

Seahorse race to equine finish line

Mathematical model demonstrates an upright advantage

Thea Cunningham

How did the seahorse get its shape? According to a new study published in *Nature Communications*, the tiny critters' horse-like bodies evolved to help them capture prey large distances away from their beady eyes.

Seahorses, so-called because their bent head, curved neck and long snout resemble our equine friends, evolved from pipefish, which have straight, pencil-like bodies. Both seahorses and pipefish are part of the syngnathid family of fishes, which feast on small shrimps and larval fishes and are all equipped with large tendons that enable speedy head and neck movements. Unlike pipefish, which swim towards their prey, seahorses dine by a process known as pivot feeding, where the recoil of these tendons allows their head to move rapidly upwards and draw the prey into their snout using suction.

It's been suggested the evolution of seahorses from pipefish was somehow related to changes in seagrass habitats or the creature's behaviour towards hunting for food, but until now it's not been understood how the straight and narrow bodies of pipefish evolved into the S-shaped structure seen in seahorses today.

To investigate, Sam Van Wassenbergh at the University of Antwerp and colleagues developed mathematical models to simulate head rotation in both fishes. By gradually adjusting the posture of the head and trunk, they transformed the pipefish model into a seahorse-like shape. Whilst doing so, the team discovered the strike distance (the distance between the eyes that see the passing prey and the final position of the mouth that catches it) increased considerably.



See horse, that's how you got your shape, you silly little horse

Motion measurements recorded by the group revealed a curved trunk enables the seahorse to strike at prey further away compared to pipefish. An increased strike distance is particularly useful for seahorses, who spend more than 80% of their time glued to seagrass or fellow seahorses, and adopt a 'sit-and-wait' feeding strategy, where they sit tight whilst scanning the water for tasty-looking prey.

The team propose this difference in foraging behaviour is linked to selective pressures on strike distance, which caused the sharp head

and trunk angle seen in seahorses to evolve. Because seahorses are weak swimmers, evolving an S-shaped body increased the volume of water in which they could probe for prey, whilst allowing them to cling on tight and lunge forward. This sit-and-wait feasting method is likely to have evolved before selection for increased strike distance through a curved trunk in the common ancestor.

Read the original journal article:
[doi:10.1038/ncomms1168](https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms1168)

BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON 5

Maciej Matuszewski
 on political corruption,
 giant cosmic evils and
 libraries

One of my most pleasant discoveries since arriving at Imperial has been the amazing science fiction library. For a small membership fee anybody can borrow items from its vast collection of over 9000 books and 1800 DVDs. It's allowed me to see brilliant films, such as *Donnie Darko*, and TV shows such as *Firefly* and, most recently, *Babylon 5*.

Never reaching the widespread recognition of *Star Trek* it nevertheless has a well-deserved reputation in science fiction circles as one of the best television shows of the genre. It focuses on the space station *Babylon 5*, built by humanity in the aftermath of the deadly *Minbari War* as an attempt to foster peace throughout the galaxy. In the first four seasons the station's crew have to face the re-emergence of an ancient evil, the *Shadows*, and a corrupt government back at home. Filled with political intrigue and moral dilemmas, I can safely say that there was nothing like *Babylon 5* on TV until the new *Battlestar Galactica* came out.

That's not to say it doesn't have its faults. The show consistently aimed its attempts at humour at the lowest common denominator, often resulting in their abject failure in a show with so serious a tone. The deeply moving episode 'Day of the Dead', where many of the charac-

ters saw visions of their dead friends and enemies, was almost completely spoiled by the appearance of the comedians *Rebo* and *Zooty*, played by *Penn and Teller*. They were made out to be sharp political satirists and the greatest comic minds of their generation but turned out to be a lame *Laurel and Hardy* style double act. When almost the entire cast burst out laughing at their antics near the beginning of the episode I began to worry that there was a gas leak on the station.

The show is also quite dull and slow-paced at its beginning. While most people say it picks up in its second season, for me it only reached its true potential in the brilliant season three episode 'Messages from Earth' when the conflict with Earth begins in earnest. This was always my favourite storyline, as government corruption is easier to relate to than giant cosmic evil.

I hope that these comments don't put you off. I am, in fact, only stalling for time as I simply cannot find words to describe how good this show can be. I even enjoyed season five, which got a mixed reception from the fans.

If you watch no other science fiction, watch *Babylon 5*. At its worst it's still as good as a mediocre *Star Trek* episode and at its best its Hugo-award-winning good.

SCIENCE

Imperial science blog star up for award

David Robertson is the small town blogger done good. In only 2 years he has converted his own little personal website into one of the globe's most eminent science blogs (davidpj.wordpress.com). Just this month, it has been nominated for the 2011 Weblog Awards Best Science Blog. Felix Science caught up with the web celebrity to discuss blogging, science, and blatant self promotion.

Could you say a little about your background?

I'm originally from Australia, where I did an Environmental Science degree on the sunny Gold Coast. After my degree I stayed on to do a few years of research, but started to feel a bit trapped in the university grind. I took on a couple of extra part-time roles with science outreach organisations, and really enjoyed them. With a real desire to see more of the world, I decided to move to London and study science communication!

When did you start, and why did you start blogging?

I started blogging early in 2009. I'd recently started photography and also knew that I wanted an outlet to express myself more, and a blog was an obvious choice. It was a bit of fun at first, a place to rant and put up stories about surf trips and the like.

What do you write about on your blog?

Whatever I like! It reflects a lot of what I do in my life, so it's got science, photography, music, surf, random videos and links that I like and stories from what I've been doing. Lately there's been more science and definitely less surf!

How has your blogging style changed over time?

If anything, it changes to reflect what I'm doing at the time. So, while I was working in Australia, it was about weekend trips and concerts and stuff. Then, when I went on a big road trip and followed it up to my move to London, it turned into a travel log; and most recently, it's morphing more into a science theme, because that's what I'm studying!

Do you think we need specialist science communicators, such as yourself, or is it something that scientists themselves should be doing?

That's a really good question! If I didn't think it was worthwhile, I wouldn't be doing the course, so I'm probably not the most objective person to ask.

I think that science communicators take some of the pressure off scientists;

Vote for David's blog at 2011.bloggi.es/#science

while it's important, not everyone who does research has a flair for publicity, and science communicators can help to share new knowledge. However, I also think science has a big aesthetic dimension. It's not just about scientists telling people about their work, but about enjoying the discovery, the beauty of scientific explanations and uncovering the interesting stories that surround the doing of science. That's where science communicators can find a niche.

Why do you think academics aren't blogging more?

I think that, in certain fields, they actually are! If you look into the world of science blogs, many disciplines have quite prominent representatives. Obviously there aren't thousands of blogs about each subject, but if you have a research area, you can probably find an academic who blogs about it. However, it is quite time consuming and can also be very personal; not everyone has the desire or the motivation to share their research or thoughts online.

What do you think the role of the internet is in the future of science communication?

I think it's already quite immense. While scientific publication is still, largely, in the paper-based model, research blogging and critique are already changing how the scientific world deals with important new results. It is a new, diverse



David Robertson has a camera and a nomination for a Bloggie

medium which incorporates elements of everything that has come before: images, videos, text and sound, with a huge extra element of interactivity.

However, it also has pitfalls: it's easy to find any opinion online, and sometimes it's hard to know which sites and sources to trust, both on science or any issue.

Why do you think your blog has become so successful?

It's not that successful yet! I think it's having a diversity of content and a fairly

easygoing approach. I like my blog to be accessible and fun to read wherever possible, and that makes it easy for people to return to.

What's the future for you and your blog?

Me? I wish I knew! I'd like to pursue outreach and engagement in science, or perhaps policy, depending on the opportunities I get. The blog will no doubt keep ticking over; it seems to have a bit of a life of its own!

Interview by Charlie Harvey

The state of academic blogging at Imperial

Imperial's David Robertson might be up for a Bloggie, but what about the rest of us? It might not be something you've thought about, but science blogging is an activity that could be worth considering. And with funding tighter than ever, it might be time to start fleshing out that CV and publications list with some extras.

A blog may seem like an attractive option. You get to share some of your interest in science with the wider world, connect with other scientists, and (most importantly) it can be done from the comfort of your sofa. If you get good you may even be given the opportunity to join one of the many new, emerging networks of science blogs run by more traditional media outlets like the Guardian or Wired Magazine. But it may be worth thinking twice before registering that domain name.

As a student, blogging can be a good way to make sure you've re-

ally learnt the material. As an academic, it can be a way to make new connections and explore areas of science outside your almost certainly narrow specialism. But there are some pitfalls, and you need to make sure you don't fall into them.

Professor Henry Rzepa, of the Chemistry Department at Imperial, started his blog three years ago and treats it as a "research notebook". Some of his blog posts have even turned into research projects, which in turn have been published in high profile peer review journals.

Rzepa sees his blog as part of his "brand" as a scientist, although stresses that he tries to keep it quite light-hearted and entertaining, writing in a style that is very different to a traditional scientific paper. It's also given him a chance to "hop across subject bounds" into areas he wouldn't have otherwise considered.

However, Rzepa was already an established name within the research community when he started blogging. For a younger scientist, forever chasing positions and funding, he admits that the story might be a little different.



You need to strike a balance: blogs often have a personal slant, and tend to feel much less formal than more traditional media. But it's possible to go too far. It's generally not a good idea to use your blog to complain about your lab mates or latest experimental failure. As a young scientist, you never know who you might need to depend on for help as you scale the academic career ladder, or who might look at your blog in future years when you're applying for jobs. Rzepa says he never publishes anything on his blog that can't be backed up with evidence.

As long as you can refrain from ranting, the benefits can be worth the time. And it will be your own time you spend on it.

Professor Andrew Jaffe, of the Physics Department at Imperial, said that a blog is generally seen in a positive light, but only if it's

done after hours and doesn't take away significantly from real research. "Funding agencies want to have their cake and eat it too; the ideal is for [blogging] to be a high quality hobby".

Jaffe believes, and I'm sure most scientists would agree, that quality and quantity of research is the most important thing for a scientist early on in their career. As time goes on, and you've gained approval from your peers, there may be more time to spend on "extras" such as blogs and other outreach.

So, blogs can be rewarding if you do them right. They can lead to new research interests and collaborations, or even just be an outlet for writing talent that isn't fulfilled by writing those endless academic papers. But if you're just looking for somewhere to rant, you'll need to find a good pseudonym.

Kelly Oakes

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Editors: **Samuel Gibbs**
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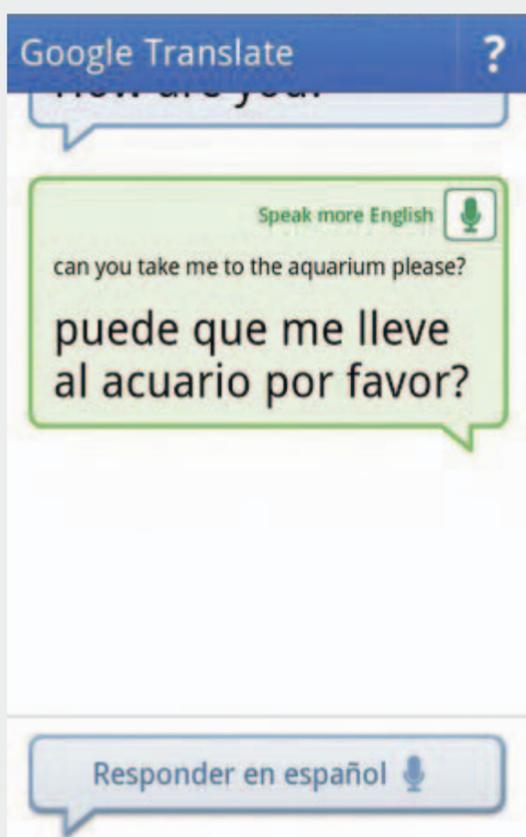
Free App of the Week

iOS - Google Translate



Google Translate has finally made it to iOS! Finally you can wield the power of the Universal Translator in the palm of your hand. Speech or text both accepted.

Android - Google Translate



Google Translate has been on the Android platform for a while now, but it's still an essential tool if you ever get lost in translation.

EU ends charger nightmare

Jacob Lea-Wilson

Plans for a universal phone charger for all mobile handsets sold in the EU have gone ahead this week. Manufacturing has already begun by many of the 14 firms that have subscribed to the initiative, which will see a special charging port added to all devices manufactured from now on.

This will help with the environmental impact of having over 51,000 tonnes of waste chargers produced each year. The problem arises when consumers purchase new mobile phones and discard their old chargers. Over 30 million mobiles are sold in the UK each year leading to a huge amount of rubbish.

How often have we travelled somewhere and forgotten our charger and had to borrow one from a friend? Inevitably we can't find the correct charger and have to traipse around asking whether someone at the office has the correct charger. There are over 30 different chargers on the market today which almost always results in waste and too many chargers in every household!

Did you know that since 1994 an estimated 10 billion mobile phones have been sold worldwide? As of July 2010 we know that 5 billion are in current circulation. This easy maths means that around 5 billion mobile phones are defunct and lying, buried amongst wires and disused currency in our drawers, in our garages and in our attics. With all these handsets inevitably comes the paraphernalia associated with them: packaging, boxes, instruction manuals and the obligatory chargers.

Unfortunately the most costly of these to the environment is the charger. All the electronics, manufacturing, transportation and electricity drain adds up to huge amounts when multiplied by 10 billion. That is why in March 2009 the EU drew up a voluntary contract for all mobile



Instead of ten wires eternally tangled, you can now have one eternally lost

phone manufacturers within the 27 EU member states to subscribe to using a single charge device or the firms were to face mandatory EU legislation. Unsurprisingly they opted for the voluntary common standards option which left the details open to negotiation. The voluntary common standards were henceforth known as a Memorandum of Understanding and are confusingly referred to as the MoU.

The cross-company technology has been unveiled as the micro-USB (universal serial bus) connector that is already in use with some of the major handset manufacturers like Nokia, RIM (Blackberry) and Samsung. In total 14 firms have signed up for this voluntary contract including the giants of Apple, Motorola and SonyEricsson. This port traditionally allows data transfer as well as power charging capabilities for handsets. Thus they will be able to charge from wall sockets or computers.

Fortunately for Apple there is a loophole in the standardisation contracts that states that the devices don't have to have a mini-USB port directly on the machine. They can instead be added by means of a converter. Apple make a large portion of their profits from selling licenses to third party companies to develop peripherals to their devices. They will be able to continue doing this and it's likely they will ship a small converter with their iPhones within the coming months.

The next step, once these chargers have saturated the market, is to stop supplying the chargers with the mobile phones. This is likely to happen inside of two years, thus removing any further manufacture of unneeded chargers. It is hoped in the future that this will spread to other personal devices such as MP3 players, tablets, digital cameras and laptops but no move by the EU has thus far been made.

Feather-light protection for your iPhone 4

Samuel Gibbs

Incipio is pretty well known for its slimline iPhone cases. From the first generation through to the iPhone 4, Incipio has made some of the best minimal cases money can buy. So you could say Incipio's latest, the feather for iPhone 4, has some big boots to fill.

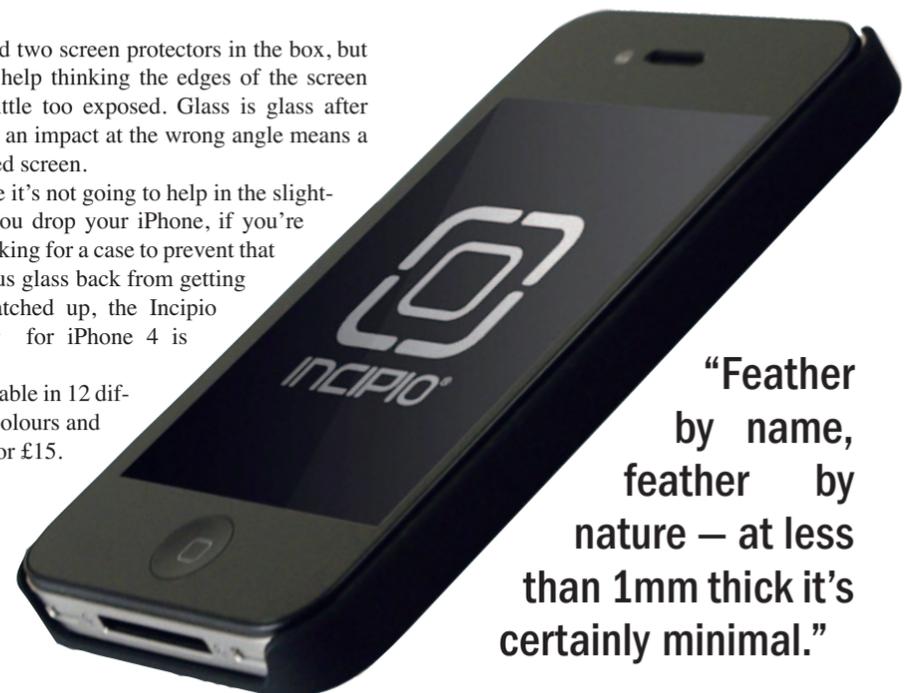
Feather by name, feather by nature – at less than 1mm thick, it's certainly minimal. In fact it's the thinnest case I've come across, and fits the iPhone 4 exactly. The entire back is covered except for a hole for the camera lens and flash, while the side controls plus the top and bottom are exposed for easy access.

The case is made from a rigid, but soft-touch plastic, and clips onto the corners of the antenna band and along the sides, minus where the volume controls are located. This means that the glass screen sits about 1mm out from the case edges, essentially leaving it totally exposed. It's a good thing then that Incipio have

included two screen protectors in the box, but I can't help thinking the edges of the screen are a little too exposed. Glass is glass after all, and an impact at the wrong angle means a shattered screen.

While it's not going to help in the slightest if you drop your iPhone, if you're just looking for a case to prevent that gorgeous glass back from getting all scratched up, the Incipio Feather for iPhone 4 is ideal.

Available in 12 different colours and yours for £15.



“Feather by name, feather by nature – at less than 1mm thick it's certainly minimal.”

Business Editors: **Sina Ataherian**
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BUSINESS

The New Worlds Conference

Marco Aliprandi and Henri Sartorius share with Felix an attendant's first-hand view of the Finance Society's conference and flagship event of the year

Florian Rathgeber



Hey! Lady in the middle, stop playing Angry Birds and pay attention. You don't see beige jacket woman slacking off, do you? That's why she's going straight to the top baby!

On Saturday 5th February, the Imperial College Finance Society organised a landmark event – the first financial conference in its history. The aim of this conference was to present students with the opportunity to listen to experienced industry professionals about issues that have concerned the financial markets in the recent and not-so-recent past, as well as to provide them with a set of insights into the much debated world of finance; hopefully enabling them to make up their own mind as to where the industry is heading. This, along with the networking opportunities available during the breaks with the Finance Society's illustrious list of sponsors represented a unique experience for all students, many of whom are looking to enter a career in the financial markets and the banking industry in general. The conference has been fathered and nurtured by Vishnu Aggarwal, whom we wish to thank and congratulate with particular emphasis; its success is a direct result of his professionalism, leadership and organisational skills and of the motivation and attention to detail of the team that supported and surrounded him. The marketing and advertising of the event was crucial as the attendance

was the gauge by which the success or failure of this first conference would be measured. A very dedicated marketing team did a fantastic job, which included setting up a website, sifting through dozens and dozens of CVs and applications as well as actively spamming and hunting down the chosen few in order to get them to pay the £24 fee sooner rather than later (we would like to stress that it is a very reasonable price tag considering that other conferences charge upwards of £75). The efforts of the marketing team did not go unanswered and many of the 250 delegates were drafted from a wide range of top universities such as LSE, Warwick, UCL and Imperial College itself.

It is, however, worth noticing that the organisation of this event was no picnic; rather it was a lengthy, difficult and slightly painful funeral luncheon. Selecting a venue in central London was the first challenge, but the society managed to secure a very prestigious location, the Bloomberg headquarters. Its most remarkable trademarks are the many fish tanks and modern art exhibits scattered around the building as well as the wide selection of complimentary food and drinks available throughout the day, of which delegates and speakers alike took advantage quite unceremoniously. The

selection of speakers was next on the to-do list; thanks to the extensive network of corporate sponsors of the Finance Society, Vishnu and his acolytes would contact various senior professionals cur-

“It has been informative without being boring, factual, as jargon-free as possible, interactive and challenging.”

rently working in the City or otherwise employed (or unemployed). The speakers were selected from a wide range of backgrounds and their contributions were very varied; from a renowned maths Professor dishing out formulae, to a former investment banker revealing inside stories of a credit-crunch-struck bank; from a gloomy perspective of an inevitable financial doomsday, to an optimistic view on junk bonds, there was something for everybody.

The day kicked off with a very interesting, albeit challenging talk on high

yield bonds by Teo Lasarte of Bank of America Merrill Lynch, followed by a very engaging viewpoint on the broad themes in commodities given by the lively Morgan Stanley duo Michael Brennan & Russell Dyk. The attendees then got told how to deal with risk by Professor Lane Hughston and were made aware that society as we know it may cease to exist due to a deadly cocktail of debt, population growth, ageing, climate change and peak oil production by Dr. Mike Haywood. After a well deserved break, guests were able to attend three different workshops organised by Amplify Trading; the first two dealt with market analysis where a video of frantic trading around the major news flow of the non-farms payroll data, while the third dealt with trading psychology. The feedback on these workshops was extremely positive and everybody was very enthusiastic about it. The afternoon was kick-started with a valuable talk on what sparked the financial crisis by the very experienced former Societe Generale's Global Head of Fixed income and FX, Mr. Desclaux, followed by talks from Mr. Simmonds, the Global Head of Strategy and Research at RBS as well as Mrs. Flax, the EMEA CEO of Commodities at JP Morgan about their respective industry

sectors. The day ended with a panel discussion mediated by Philip Alexander, a journalist at 'The Banker' magazine. The panel discussing the future of banking included Kiri Vijayarajah, the European Banks analyst at Barclays Capital among other figures. It was then time to head for some well-deserved complimentary drinks for organisers and guests at a bar near Liverpool Street; details of that part of the day are unworthy of a newspaper of this stature and are probably quite hazy for most participants anyway.

Overall, the conference has achieved the aims it was designed for; it has been informative without being boring, factual, as jargon-free as possible, interactive and challenging. The feedback from both speakers and delegates has been overwhelmingly positive and both parties found that a real exchange took place, especially during the lunch break and during the Q&A sessions after each talk. The Finance Society intends to hold such an event next year as well; the very wide appeal this conference has had, combined with its quality and affordability, will ensure that it will grow and become more successful every year and eventually overtake in fame and glory other, more established, equivalents.

POLITICS

The world beyond College walls



Malaysia

Islamic morality police in Malaysia have arrested 96 people for khalwat or close proximity in an operation to stop them from celebrating Valentine's Day. Khalwat is an Islamic law preventing unmarried Muslims from being alone with members of the opposite sex. Under Malaysia's dual-track legal system, Shariah courts can try Muslims for religious and moral offences, with those arrested facing up to two years imprisonment. Religious authorities in Malaysia have said that Valentine's Day was synonymous with vice and has issued a fatwa against celebrating it in 2005. However, not all Malaysian Muslims agreed with the campaign with some saying that celebrating Valentine's Day is harmless.



Italy

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has been indicted to face trial on charges of paying for sex with an underage prostitute called Ruby and abuse of power. Mr Berlusconi's trial is expected to begin in April and he faces up to 15 years imprisonment if convicted. Mr Berlusconi has denied paying for sex with Ruby and denies abusing his power by seeking her release when she was detained in another case, claiming that he was doing former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak a favour after being told that Ruby was his granddaughter.



Algeria

The Algerian Government has said that it will end its 19 year old state of emergency within days. Algeria is coming under increasing pressure



to lift the state of emergency, which was imposed in 1992 to halt a civil war, after protests in Tunisia and Egypt which led to the Government being toppled. Thousands of protestors defied a police ban on Saturday and protested in Algiers. There is widespread discontentment in Algeria over poor housing conditions, unemployment and food prices sparking a riot in January. The Algerian Government is preparing to make wholesale changes to the Government in a bid to head off discontent, although some protestors vowed to protest every Saturday until the Government resigns.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

Elections never won

Belgium and Ivory Coast remain without governments

Tim Arbabzadah

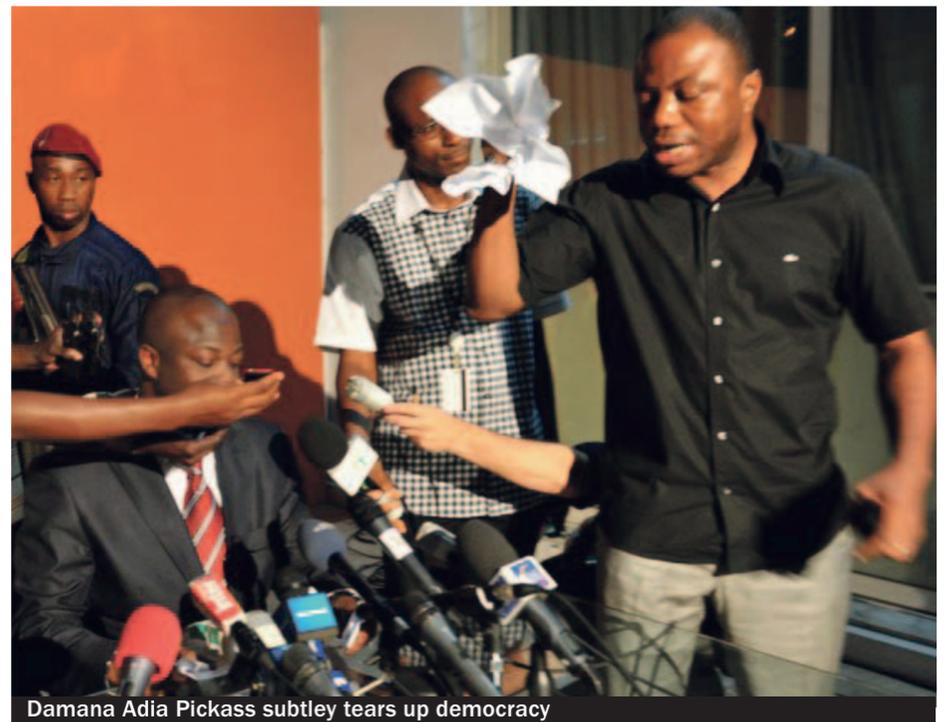
The last article I wrote was about Mubarak and he resigned when it came out. Not saying it was all me but coincidences like that don't happen. So now I'm going to hope my curse can help two other countries.

Question: What do Ivory Coast and Belgium have in common? Answer: both are without a stable government. In fact Belgium has been without a real government for longer, over 200 days. A well known Belgian actor Benoit Poelvoorde has urged men not to shave until a permanent government is formed. A Belgian senator, Marleen Temmerman, has gone to more extreme lengths saying wives should impose a sex ban on MPs until a government is formed, Male Belgian MPs should direct queries to Jacqui Smith's husband for tips on handling, no pun intended, the situation. Definitely worth noting that the senator was female, no matter how desperate they are for a resolution, no man would ever call for that. Although I also note she mentioned MPs and not senators – clever move. No specific mentions on what type either so I'm sure there is a loophole somewhere. Perhaps Benoit Poelvoorde (he was in Man Bites Dog and Coco before Chanel) and the Senator are working together. They both have a beard fetish and like to be teased, it's the perfect crime.

The Belgian election was in June and no one gained a majority or came to an agreement on a permanent coalition. If Belgium doesn't get their act together by March 30th they will actually have a world record. They will have gone the longest since an election without forming a government, beating Iraq. That's right, longer than Iraq. If having to go without sex for a long time isn't a motivator. The thought of beating Iraq at what is essentially an arguing contest must be enough to get everyone to agree on something. Likely starting with the immediate blacklisting of Marleen Temmerman.

Elsewhere, Ivory Coast is at a stalemate. With dramatic uprisings elsewhere it has been pushed fairly low down the news agenda. The election consisted of a first round where no outright winner was produced and so entered a second round. International observers described the election as 'generally fair.' Take into account that it is part of their job to be diplomatic, and that becomes the faintest praise possible. Both the incumbent Laurent Gbagbo and opposition Alassane Ouattara are claiming victory and have named their cabinets. By that I mean political cabinets not that they have simultaneously become attached to their furniture.

They aren't people who are going to enter a power sharing agreement – I checked and they defriended each other on Facebook. The international community is recognising Alassane Ouattara as the President and Laurent Gbagbo is recognising Laurent Gbagbo as President. Gbagbo is reminding me of a spoilt child. He hates losing, has locked himself inside his office and is refusing to come out. Gordon Brown



Damana Adia Pickass subtly tears up democracy

should have tried that. Meanwhile, Ouattara is under UN guard at a five star hotel. So maybe Ouattara doesn't actually want a resolution to this situation. 'Oh no, this is terrible. Someone in the International Community help, I'm stuck here in this 5 star resort. Got to go; I'm late for my massage, I mean my meeting, I still REALLY want to be President. Honest.' If he can drag this out long enough he'll be in line for some serious reward points.

A bizarre situation occurred when the results of 3 out of 18 of the countries regions were about to be announced. The election commission spokesman was about to read them out

“Both sides are saying the other has been rigging the election. That must be what hurts most for the loser. You couldn't even win when you were cheating.”

when Damana Adia Pickass (I promise you that is his real last name) snatched the results and tore them up. Mr Pickass (stop laughing) claimed there had been some 'electoral hold up.' More precisely he held up the results and, on camera, tore them up. All of this occurred in front of a room full of journalists who were 'asked' to leave. The results weren't read out that day. So they only printed out one copy of

the extremely important document containing the election results? No printers around at all in the building? Not one! We have a shitload in the library but they don't have one in a governmental building. Forget that for a second and think of this. It was a runoff between two people, 3 regions were being announced – so that's 6 numbers to remember. It's like an exam. Later Gbagbo said that not all of the results had been read out and so the result was not valid, therefore he won. Well of course they weren't read out; as previously established, you got someone to rip them up.

The full results are inconclusive. Both sides are saying the other has been rigging the election. In all likelihood both sides were. That must be what hurts most for the loser. You couldn't even win when you were cheating; it's like being an athlete in the 80's. African nations have met to try to decide what should be done. They have been pressured to intervene but that is extremely unlikely to happen. The main problem is that some of the leaders at the summit were not exactly as fairly elected as they should have been. The meeting, which took place on the 1st of February, concluded with the decision that they should give themselves a deadline of 1 month to think of something. Here was me worried they would end up just doing fuck all but wait and hope for the best. They had better pull an epic all nighter at the end of February. Maybe as February is shorter than other months, if they aren't ready, they will do what I would and say they meant 30 days not calendar months. We will all have to wait to see how these two situations end. I don't know about you but I think I would rather be Ouattara than a Belgian MP right now. I can't wait for Belgium to open Parliament set to tune of The Lonely Island and Akon's 'I Just Had Sex'.

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metric RAVE

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COMMENT

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FELIX

Researchers should get behind our libraries and support their campaign

Universities are facing a drastic funding shortfall. As Felix reported last week, the Higher Education Funding Council for England has announced that it will be cutting the money that it gives to universities by almost £1 billion for 2011/12. These cuts could affect all areas of a university's activities, and it will be up to individual institutions to decide what to prioritize. Even though fees of £9,000 will go some way to plugging the shortfall in funding, austere times lie ahead of us.

This is the prime motivator for Research Libraries UK's (RLUK) campaign to persuade publishers like Elsevier and Wiley Blackwell to reduce the cost of their journal subscriptions. In the first decade of this new millennium, universities and their libraries were comparatively well off. There was enough money in the sector to allow librarians to loosen their purse strings; there was enough money to accept supinely the 6% yearly price rises demanded by publishers. Now, however, this state of affairs cannot continue. As David Prosser, Executive Director of RLUK, succinctly puts it: "It was unsustainable in the long-term and there was always going to be a crunch-point. That crunch-point has now arrived."

Researchers must accept this fact. They too will be aware that budgets are tightening; indeed their funding will also be under pressure. Work with libraries and there's a chance that subscription costs will become more sustainable, therefore ensuring continued access to the world-class service that big publishers provide while not endangering other library services and subscriptions. Blindly demand the status quo at any cost and ruin lies ahead.

This could mean accepting the short-term pain that the contingency plan might bring. The back-up plan being developed will admittedly provide a service that will not match what researchers currently receive. But rejecting it on this basis would be to ignore the fact that libraries can no longer afford the prices that big publishers have demanded in the past.

The point is not to pillory the publishers. The role that they perform is not trivial and they have invested significantly in enabling modern scientific research. The statements that they have made in public give the impression that they are sympathetic to the problems faced by libraries. One hopes they are not simply posturing. The zeitgeist has changed irrevocably. University libraries have understood this; it is essential that researchers and publishers do the same.

Pop star politicians

We don't want politicians who watch X Factor, so stop faking it guys, and get back to running the country



Matt Colvin

Politicians want your vote, and they will do anything to get it. So it has been, so it will always be. But the difference today, in this age of growing individualism, television and internet and is that to sell you whatever you want, whoever you may be, their face needs to be seen. And what does this mean? Utter despair on my part at the lengths political leaders will go to be seen as hip, serious, family orientated, funny, conscientious, laid-back – the list goes on.

Today, they are everymen, desperate to appeal to everyone, often at the cost of policy and promises. Now they're probably best suited to be actors, and I'm not just talking charisma and public speaking like the days of old, I mean absolute character actors of the highest order, rather than overlooked thespians.

It wasn't always this bad. All politicians had to do since the dawn of mass media was deliver uncomfortable radio interviews or doubly uncomfortable television ones and then get back to their job. Of course, the media has changed, alongside the growing prevalence of television and the internet. Reality TV has put the lives of the individual at the forefront. "These guys run our country," the people shout, "why shouldn't we know everything about them?"

Blair was probably the first Prime Minister able to deal with a more technological age; his charisma saw ministerial duties pass without great mishap. He was down with Jarvis Cocker! I saw through him, of course. Even in '97 I could see through his smug grin, though I was probably biased, John Major had SWEET glasses.

But then it all went downhill. Gordon Brown enters office and crisis after crisis hits. MPs' expenses, recession and the desire to follow both Blair and Cameron's charm offensive. Suddenly, the Prime Minister wants to be bestie mates with you, yes you! I wish I'd been there when some genius suggested he appear on Youtube. We are today blessed with



Ah, I see Boris has gone for the old 'tickle behind the knee'. What a player...

countless minutes of Brown's determined grimace.

Then it was time to turn the computer off and put Britain's Got Talent on. Yes that's right, Brown, tell us what you like to watch with the kids. Ring up Susan Boyle and ask how she's doing. It's for the good of the country, yeah? I'm sure there's nothing else more important. Literally nothing. At all.

Which leads us to the nexus of pain, the build up to the 2010 election. Everyone was at it, at the expense of any credibility or policy. Ostensibly motivated by American politics, but no doubt inspired by part time music mogul and full time cretin Simon Cowell and The X Factor, the three main leaders took part in perhaps the most ill advised and gut wrenchingly unconvincing 'debates' that I've ever had the displeasure to see. Cameron once met someone of a different race? Nice job, Dave!

And, oh God, the morning chat show publicity tour. A party leader on GMTV is as misplaced as Boris Johnson in a gaffe-free zone. Yes, please ask Mr Brown what he enjoys for breakfast. Oh I'd simply LOVE to know what box sets Mr Cameron is watching in his copious free time. The Wire? What a guy! At least now GMTV's gone and nobody watches Daybreak.

Their wives join in too, with Sarah Brown being paraded around alongside Samantha Cameron; look at these high-powered businesswomen, with their nice shoes. That's obviously what

Ring up Susan Boyle and ask how she's doing. It's for the good of the country, yeah?

we want from a leader. Doesn't it just warm the heart? No, it doesn't. There's your answer.

At least it's all worn off a bit now in this inter-election political hinterland. Well mainly, though Clegg's still there, now criticising Cambridge and Oxford's decision to raise their fees. A right master of disguise, eh? He'd give Tom Cruise a run for his money, not least his situation being a real Mission: Impossible, zing!

I guess what I'm trying to say is that it's great that you politicians want votes, but seriously, get behind your desks and back to sorting out important things – like policy. Get it into your heads that the leader of a political party can't always relate to everyone, and if you try, with your forced smiles and your dire jokes, it's really going to put me through severe mental trauma. And that's basically akin to punching a basket of kittens, guys.

I won't be too mean though, go ahead and sit down with your family in front of Saturday night TV, but if I ever want your opinion on why Lucy never gets picked on Take Me Out, I'll bloody well ask for it.

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.

I can't stand intolerant people



Angry Geek

“My position works because I don't differentiate; I simply hate everyone.”

I was linked to a post on Political Scrapbook this week, a blog which seems to mostly cover UK politics from the sort of left-wing perspective that makes you want to pat in on the head and pinch its cheek. The post in question highlighted the genocide-worthy activities of the York University Young Conservatives (YUYC), a bunch of incredibly distasteful foetuses who have taken to the Tory stereotype like a particularly fascist duck to a pond full of army uniforms. There were the usual arse-faced drunk Facebook photographs, of course. But mixed in with these were some unbelievable ‘hilarious’ posters offering a buffet of horrible, insulting slogans like a Cadbury's selection box of human faeces.

The worst of the lot is the photo of George Osborne holding the Budget aloft with “They See Me Cuttin', They Hatin'” written underneath, although the one with Cameron laughing at people who will have to pay for their own education is pretty bad. You might be happy for these people to express their political views as an exercise in Freedom of Expression, but you're forgetting that your

opinion is incorrect while mine is quite the opposite. So be quiet and let me tell you a thing or two.

Frankly, I could take or leave Political Scrapbook. I've flicked through, and as they state themselves, it's mostly gossip and rumour. Finger-pointing, that kind of thing. The sort of character-building stuff that trains up student politicians to become the self-cleaning cat's arsehole they've dreamed of being since their A-Level Politics lessons. But I don't mind it because, on the whole, it's just poking fun at silly things. If you remove the silly things from the world of internet opinion-sharing, you're left with MySpace. And nobody wants that.

But the YUYC group pisses me off a little more because it's just creating a closed-off social group, and then shitting on those who aren't within the circle. I don't do politics because it bores me witless and because there are few genuine debates nowadays, but no matter what sphere of human smuggling you try to engage in, be it academia, government or otherwise, there are always those eager to divide people up and emphasise difference.

My position works because I don't differentiate – I have a badge with words on to that effect; I simply hate everyone. The alternative is to try to like everyone. Elizabeth Lesser is a cofounder of America's Omega Institute, dedicated to adult education. She gave a TED talk about the benefit of taking someone you disagree with to lunch. It's a good talk, you should watch it, but the take-home message was that divisions generally don't help people. We end up in the state we are politically – a state where we don't want to discuss the issues, and instead governments fight on public image, pandering to large demographics, and bullshit.

Now for all you care, I think Elizabeth Lesser is a hack. Because my position is that you can all go fuck yourselves. More to the point, I'd rather tear apart and devour the chargrilled carcasses of the YUYC than take them out to lunch and understand them. But that doesn't mean you should. So be sure not to let us ever get as hate-filled and feckless as York University, and be sure to invite the Tories the next time you make dinner plans.

Don't be afraid to ask for help

Everybody has a coping mechanism; a way to ensure their heads don't explode from stress, annoyance or the general tedium of life. My own takes the form of cooking; every revision period you can guarantee a minimum of 5 three-course meals and a couple of home recipe cakes.

The result of this habit is that I tend to carry my stress around with me, though less in its “emotional” form and more as a rapidly expanding waistline.

For my friends, this method of de-stressing seems weird. Sarah, who I have known since High School, turns her stress into jet fuel. “If I'm not stressed, I'm not working,” she would continually remind me.

The story is less true for two of my other friends from home. One has become as close to an alcoholic recluse as anyone who regularly attends lectures can. The other found that pain distracted her best, and still bears those scars today.

As you can imagine, I advocate no method I have mentioned as a way to cope. My own – stuffing your face with fatty food – is not a good way to stay healthy. Pretending that you like stress inevitably fails (I still recall Sarah throwing pottery at me) and drinking heavily can lead to a stage where its difficult to distinguish between “just a good time” and alcoholic.

What is often worse about stress and general welfare issues is that we hide behind this fog of “everything is ok” or “I'm OK on my own.” Though it's not weak to ask for help, people often perceive this to be the case.

As the president of a Faculty Union I often feel this is a flaw we as students have. We are all happy to say that lecture X was crap because lecturer Y just read the PowerPoint slides but not to approach someone for guidance and advice.

If you are one of the latter people (and yes, sadly this is a plug) do try to visit the RCSU Welfare Week across campus. And if that is a little too brave, email your Faculty Welfare Officer, the relevant Sabb or your Personal Tutor – there's a lot of support out there.

Scott Heath

Give viewers a sporting chance



Indy Leclerq

“I can only hope the Olympic organisers actually get people into the venue.”

Picture the scene: the Olympic Stadium, East London, less than a year and a half from now, on a balmy August evening. There is little wind; the heat is slowly rising from the track. The atmosphere is heavy, but that has little to do with the weather. The entire world's gaze is fixed upon the ten men at one end of the track. Never before has one event monopolised the attention of so many people. Cameras are everywhere, and for the first time, people are watching in 3D.

The Olympics website is riding a humongous wave of tweets, as people voice their support for the athletes. Selected 140-character cheers are beamed across screens in the stadium. The organisers have pulled off the first Olympics 2.0, they say; the public is closer than ever to the action. Or are they?

While the London games next year will no doubt be a logistical and technological masterclass, I can only hope that the organisers achieve one of the most important aspects: getting the people into the venues.

There are 8.8 million tickets going on sale in less than a month, for 645 events in 26 different sports. So far, so good, you might think. However, almost ten percent of the tickets will cost over

£100, which makes the London games the most expensive in history. Here's to the corporate fat cats in their boxes, then. Never mind, that leaves seven-odd million tickets for the rest of us, no?

I'm afraid you're going to have to start saving up, though. With the new tuition fees, (big up to Imperial for always being a pioneer, by the way – we set the bar in fees as well as academic standards) spending fifty quid on an Olympics ticket isn't going to be part of most students' summer plans in 2012. Incidentally, despite all the proclaimed efforts at price reduction and special schemes for various parts of the population, as students we're going to have to cough up in full to get into any venues. And most finals or medal ceremonies start at, you guessed it, £50.

It's not all bad news, though. The ballot system put in place by Lord Coe means that obtaining a ticket will not depend on your internet speed or willingness to queue (and it's all about fair play in the first place, isn't it?)

As I mentioned before, there are twenty-six sports being played at the next Olympics. While the big draws such as athletics and cycling will be difficult to get a seat for (not to mention pricey), the other 23 disciplines are no less exciting. The athletes are just as passion-

ate, and in many cases have a tougher time of getting to the Games. However, due to lower public interest seats will be cheaper and easier to acquire – suddenly, watching canoeing or shooting becomes a no-brainer.

As a fencer I feel very strongly about this; many sports only come into the spotlight every four years despite the fact that they could appeal to a much wider audience. This is where university (especially Imperial) comes in handy. Considering the absolute mountain of clubs and societies we have, I'm sure you could find one for any Olympic sport (and if not, look into it and start one yourself!). Try something you'd only ever seen on TV one summer. I'm sure you'll enjoy it – and you'll be able to appreciate it being played at the highest level next year.

I'm incredibly excited about the Olympics coming to London, and sports fan or no, I think you should be too. For two weeks, our city is going to be the centre of the world, and we get to witness some of the greatest feats of human achievement ever seen. Success stories, bitter heartbreak; it's going to be an immense spectacle from start to finish.

For my part, I'm going to go to as much fencing as I can. Tickets start at twenty quid – why don't you come along?

COMMENT

Comment Editor: **Anna Perman**
Jan Piotrowski
 comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Time to meet your malevolent maker

I called shenanigans on the existence of God at the tender age of ten. Even before I knew pie was more than something you threw in 20's slapstick comedies it never made sense to me for an omnipotent being to be benevolent, given that we have such terrible things in this world as Justin Bieber, truly an apocalyptic horseman of our time. He also never returned my prayers, but I'm sure he was too busy setting bushes on fire like some geriatric job.

The fallacy in the previous argument is rather obvious but at the same time often overlooked because of what our idea of God generally is: some jolly old guy with a huge white beard who keeps a caring, watchful eye over us – except when he's playing the odd round of golf with Satan to keep on good terms with him so that he can take all the annoying do-gooders that would otherwise go to Heaven.

No. If God exists he is a jerk. Once you take a minute to think about it, it explains everything so beautifully it brings a tear to my eye. Earthquakes, tsunamis and volcano eruptions happen because He just likes seeing the different ways he can ruin your day, like a child pulling the wings and legs off a fly. Of course, on occasion good things do happen, like winning the lottery or getting an excellent in your latest lab cycle, but they're only to build you up so you can be knocked back down again. It's a lot funnier to see Fernando Torres break his ankle than Stephen Hawking.

I'm sure many of us would do the same; history is fraught with examples of dictators and Nazi doctors who probably weren't evil to begin with but inevitably did some really bad things simply because they could and were divorced from the morality of their actions for whatever reason.

God's ultimate dick move, however, was when he made the laws of nature. In creating the second law of thermodynamics he's essentially flipped the bird at us all by saying everything is just going to get worse as time goes by. That loaf of bread going from brown to blue? Entropy is increasing. Getting lung cancer and dying? Yep, you guessed it. Shit getting worse is just the natural order of things, and we as human beings we have a tendency to resist this because we don't like bad things happening to ourselves (exceptions include Catholics and sado-masochists).

In summary: if you want to get back at God for all the ridiculous lecture timetables, flat beer and cystic fibrosis he throws at us because he's an incredible dick, go do something amazing, like curing cancer.

Veli Akiner

Digital books kindle unease



Jakov Marelic

“I see people using Kindles and worry they're giving away their birthright.”

Tyrants and autocrats have always understood that literacy, learning, books and newspapers are potentially dangerous. They can put independent and even rebellious ideas in the heads of their subjects.

Frederick Douglass, a former slave who taught himself to read, recalled being found with books by his master and punished. In 1828 he wrote: “To make a contented slave it is necessary to make a thoughtless one.” This is why reading and critical thinking are dangerous in an unjust society.

The British Royal Governor of the Colony of Virginia wrote in 1671: “I thank God there are no free schools nor printing; and I hope we shall not have [them].”

But the American colonists, understanding where liberty lies, would have none of this and they enshrined free speech in their constitution.

I see people using Kindles and Sony Readers instead of bound books and I worry they're giving away their birthright. Digital books require a lot of technical expertise to understand which is currently in the hands of very few people. The books you buy for most e-book readers are encrypted with a secret key that only a particular device can understand.

You might think that's okay because, hey, Amazon and Apple need to make money too, but consider what happens when they go out of business, or the

power goes out and all those books are lost, inaccessible inside technological prisons.

In the past, authorities wanting to remove books from society would have to physically force their way into everybody's homes, examine all their shelves and make a massive bonfire to burn all the contraband.

With e-book readers and an ethereal wireless internet that task is made so much easier. In 2009 Amazon recalled two e-books that customers had purchased without warning. Just to make this clear, a clerk sat in an office and pushed a button. It resulted in thousands of copies of books being deleted remotely from all Kindles worldwide. Ironically, those books were *Nineteen-Eighty Four* and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

With the Wikileaks drama a few weeks ago, we saw how Amazon, Paypal, Visa, Mastercard and other companies will easily do the bidding of governments to control the population. I find it very easy to imagine that one day corporations or governments will give the order and all copies of certain ‘undesirable’ books will be remotely deleted.

I'll keep my bound books for now. But we've seen how the Free Software movement promises to give you complete control over your property and I don't see why the same model can't be applied to e-book readers. What we need is a Linux for the Kindle, easy to install and available to all.

Manipulative mediums



Jack Garnham

“Have we been here in a past life? Let me save you the trouble; the answer is no.”

While enjoying one of my typically exciting weekday evenings (during which I systematically avoid any kind of social interaction and retreat to the comfort of my couch), I stumbled upon a programme about past life regression presented by ethereal pundit Phillip Schofield. The grey-haired horseshit peddler asks one of the most important questions of our time – have we been here in a past life?

Let me save you the trouble; the answer is no. Each episode involves interrogating a suspiciously relaxed Z-list celebrity about their past lives. Comedian Eddie Large recalls being a Scottish warrior wearing “some clothes” and fighting in “some field somewhere,” adding that “it always happens in some field.” Compelling stuff. The programme hides behind a paper-thin veneer of objectivity, occasionally pointing out that it might all be a load of rubbish, while heavily implying the opposite.

This brief glimpse into the bizarre and confusing world of the paranormal got me thinking. According to a recent study by sociologist Fabri Cation, an increasing number of people are being drawn in by this nonsense. We live in an age where otherwise logical individuals read horoscopes daily, mothers hire baby-psychics, and, perhaps most distressingly, where Uri Geller can find repeated employment.

Despite the rapid progress of science and the continued elucidation of the unknown, people insist on taking advice from people with capes and crystal balls.

For the most part, casually dabbling in the curious world of ghosts and ghouls is harmless. We can hap-

pily laugh at the vast majority of the wailing morons who claim to have some link to the other side and easily refute their increasingly ludicrous claims with a measured dose of common sense and rationality. Most people who believe in this absurd nonsense are largely unharmed by their unfounded notions about reality. Sadly, there is a much more troubling side to this story.

The human mind is a vulnerable thing. I have no gripe with psychics who strip the odd penny from the deluded masses, but when they prey on those distraught, fragile individuals who have recently lost a loved one, I start to think that locking them all up in windowless cells and leaving them to die alone might not be so unreasonable after all. It is hard to imagine how, but it is possible to become addicted to psychic consultations. In a state of such extreme despair, some will do anything to connect to a deceased familiar. The high achieved during a consultation merely distracts the client from the real problem, and prevents them from moving on. It is certainly not a cheap distraction either; you can pay hundreds of pounds for a reading lasting less than an hour.

These psychics are exploiting vulnerable individuals in the most callous fashion imaginable with little concern for their wellbeing. This part of the paranormal world is deeply corrupt. Perhaps there needs to be some kind of regulatory body for psychic mediums, imposing appropriate fines for exploitative consultations. I personally think we should just put them all in one enormous bag and hit them with sticks until they agree to go away. Hitting things with sticks is always the best solution.



⊖ Circle Line Pub Crawl 2011

Thursday 24th February

tiny.cc/CircleLine

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

What's On

Hyde Park Relays

Entry is now open to the 63rd running of the well-established Hyde Park Relays – one of the largest student relay races in Europe.

It's an annual race organised by members of IC Cross Country Club which pulls in hundreds of runners from IC, across the UK and even as far as Europe. Entrance to the race includes a FREE HOT MEAL and access to the not-to-be-missed AFTER PARTY!

The race follows an historic route through Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, winds around the Serpentine lake, down to Hyde Park Corner, and finally finishes up at the band-stand.

Inter-club competition is heating up with alcoholic prizes on offer for the fastest non-Cross Country and Athletics club teams.

It is sure to be a great day and a memorable (or perhaps not so memorable if you get on it) night, which will be hosted at the newly refurbished METRIC NIGHT CLUB for the very first time!!

Enter your team online now, for as little as £4 per person, to make sure you don't miss out on this fantastic deal.

www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/crosscountry/hpr

Daniel Beatrup

ARTFEST

All Week:

Busking in the Business School Foyer and in Sherfield

Monday:

Sinfonietta perform in the Business School Foyer @ 6pm

ArtiFact (RCA-Imperial Speed Dating) in the Union Concert Hall @ 6pm – email artifact@imperial.ac.uk for info and to register

Tuesday:

New **PhotoSoc and LeoSoc exhibition** 'Un-tethered' unveiled in the Blyth Gallery – meet the artists, mingle and enjoy posh refreshments!

Wednesday:

Free workshops in Huxley 344 – 2pm Belly Dancing (girls only), 3pm Drama, 4pm A Capella Singing. Come to one or all!

Flashmob barn dance – evening, location TBC (see ARTSFEST on Facebook)

Thursday:

The incredible **Onyx Brass** @ 1pm, Business School Foyer

ROCKFEST @ Metric with Jazz & Rock and Musictech Live

Friday:

Open Piano Recital @ 12.15pm, Read Theatre, Sherfield Level 5 – boogie-woogie to Rachmaninov on a Steinway, in 4-minute bites

The ARTSFEST Finale 2011 in the Great Hall @ 8pm – unmissable. Buy tickets on the door or at any ARTSFEST event

International Night

And the winner is... Cypriot Society!

Maria Vafeades



While everyone else was watching the acts, the Cypriots sat in the corner drinking and gambling. They were the lucky ones...

Anastasia Eleftheriou

Last Friday, 11th of February at 7:00 p.m., the Great Hall of Sherfield Building was packed from Imperial College students, friends, parents and staff. The reason? One of the most entertaining and full of fun event that is organized annually by the Imperial College Overseas Societies Committee; the International Night 2011!

OSC was very proud to welcome for the very first time four Guest Judges who were responsible for choosing the best performing group; Fleur Estelle – International Dancer who has been a guest judge on Strictly Come Dancing as well, OSC Senior Treasurer Professor David Stuckey, the ICU President Alex Kendall and the ICSMSU President David Smith.

Christina Kontoghiorghe, the I-Night Chair, was very satisfied from that amazing night and she said with pride that they started organising the event in July last year having great expectations for that night, which were finally met! This year we had 16 acts and 190 performers in total.

Each society presented a characteristic act according to its culture, its favourite habits and hobbies. For more than 3 hours, the audience was supportive of all of the participants and the atmosphere was very warm and friendly, something that shows that people in Imperial College are not only good at Maths, but they also respect the diversity of cultures and recognize the equality of people all over the world.

However, some acts had greater impact on

"The main part of their act was to perform traditional Cypriot dances, with live music"

the audience than others, for example, after the performance of the last year's winners, the Japanese Society, Alex Kendall said with a sense of humour that "he was now confused about his sexuality"!

Although the first decision of the judges was to elect the Tectonics society, they quickly changed their minds because no representative was there at that moment and they decided to give the prize to the most popular society of that night, the Cypriot Society. Greeks and Cypriots were very excited about this, as you can imagine.

The President of the Cypriot Society, Constantinos Christou, said that "The secret of our success this year was that during the rehearsals and the performance we were having a lot of fun and we were enjoying ourselves. We were a batch of 13 friends having a traditional Cypriot party."

Although, the Cypriot Society presents a pretty much similar program every year, this year they had some innovations that entertained the audience. The main part of their act was to perform traditional Cypriot dances, but instead of using playbacks, they chose to play live music (guitar and violin) and sing live. The

whole scenario took place in a typical coffee shop, where people could enjoy a glass of zivania or koumantaria and a game of cards.

One of the most risky dancers of the show, Faethon Milikouris, performed the traditional and very demanding dance of tatsia, in which he used a tray with a glass of koumantaria in it and he spun it all the way around in all directions, leaving everyone there speechless. He confessed that he was really nervous for this particular point of his performance because he couldn't make any mistakes in order to keep everyone safe. But he finally managed to make it and impress the judges, showing his expertise!

I believe that the detail that distinguishes the Cypriot team from the others is that it was the most interactive and pioneering team, as they offered the audience Cypriot traditional food sampling (halloumi cheese and lountza) and drinks, showing the Cypriot hospitality.

Constantinos, who was playing the violin as well, believes that "Everyone in the group was dedicated and well organised, something that was highly appreciated by the judges." He seemed very proud about the result and at the end of the show he thanked everyone who supported him and the Cypriot Society.

At the end of the show, I heard some people murmuring that this was definitely a Cypriot night and I think they were right as in addition to taking the iNight prize, the winner of the raffle, Maria Zapiti was Cypriot, too! (note that a prize was a return ticket to Cyprus...!)

Well done guys!

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

ARTSFEST starts on Monday!

Aaron Pereira

ARTSFEST – to some this word might be completely alien; to others the phenomenon is as much a part of Imperial life as overnighting in the library. ARTSFEST is Imperial’s annual arts festival: a week of arts, dance, music and drama, inspired by the rallying cry that Imperialites are accomplished artists in addition to studying a real degree.

So what sets ARTSFEST apart from the likes of RAG and SHAG Week? “Campaign weeks at Imperial start with a needy cause and usually end with condoms,” says Jonathan Silver, ARTSFEST 2011 chair and former Sabbatical Officer. ARTSFEST is different, he asserts, because “we start with great talent

and end by having a good time together.”

The week kicks off on Monday 21st February with a free lunchtime concert in the Business School Foyer from Imperial College Sinfonietta. From then on, in various strategic locations around College, buskers will compete for a share of your lunch money from 1-2pm every day. Jazz & Rock will rock Metric on Thursday along with a set from Musictech Live and to top it off, an entire multitude of bands, ensembles and performing groups will come together for the Finale on Friday 25th, the jewel in the ARTSFEST crown and by far its most popular night.

From Hawaiian hula dance to swing band jazz to Shakespeare, the ARTSFEST Finale screams variety. In previous years, choral works and martial arts

performances have made appearances; if the standard of bygone Finales is an indicator, this year’s audience will certainly not be disappointed. “There really is something for everyone, and you’ll discover your friends’ hidden talents,” Silver enthuses. “My biggest hope is that it will inspire you to give at least one of our incredible arts societies a try.”

Concerts and shows are only part of ARTSFEST: the 23rd of February will see “Workshop Wednesday”, where clubs and societies throw open their doors and share their expertise with any enthusiastic Imperial student or member of staff. From learning how to sing like the Techtonics to Belly Dancing (women only!) to theatre workshops from DramSoc, next Wednesday’s free workshops will be for some the highlight of

the festival.

In Silver’s words, “ARTSFEST is a way for us to discover the fantastic creativity that’s going on under our own noses, give ourselves a pat on the back for being artistic scientists, and still raise money for an excellent cause in the process.”

This year, revenue from busking and collections at all ARTSFEST events will be donated to the British Heart Foundation, to coincide with National Heart Month.

ARTSFEST 2011 takes place from the 21st until the 25th of February 2011. All events are open to all staff, students and visitors. All but ROCKFEST and the Finale are absolutely free (just £2 and £5 respectively). See opposite page for full list of events.

Tom Roberts



RAG BALL

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH

£6 ENTRY - £10 VIP

FREE SHOT
BEFORE 10.30

FREE CHAMPAGNE
BEFORE 10.30

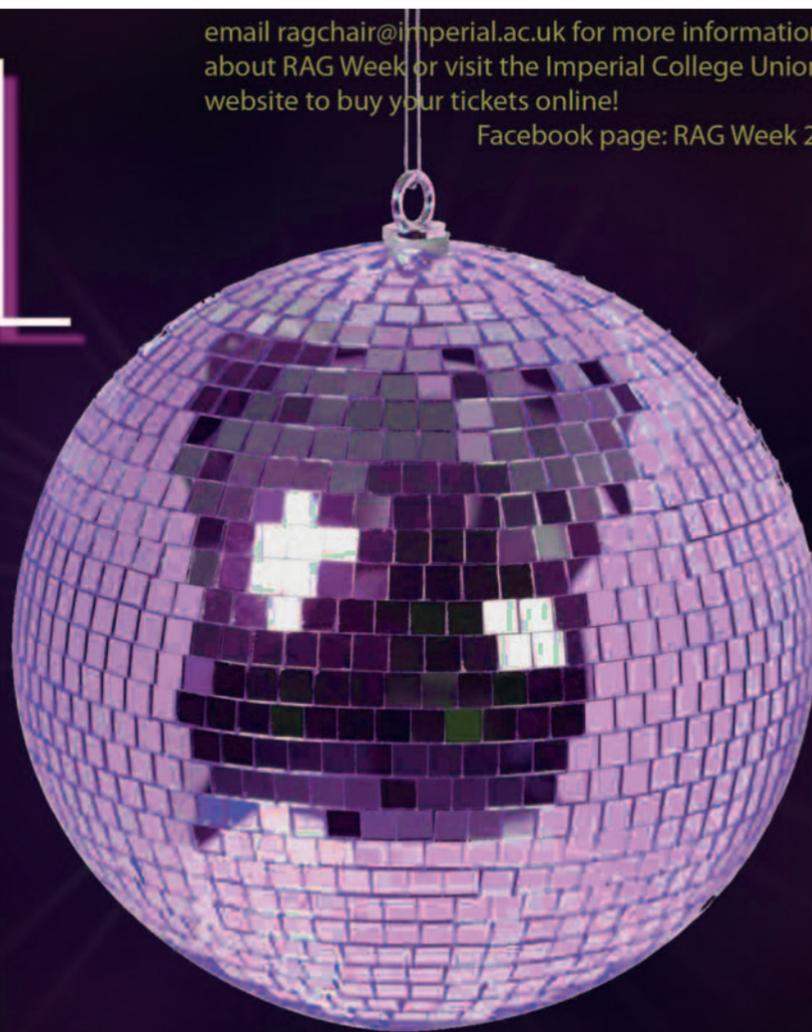
DRESS CODE: BLACK TIE

Chateau 6

563 FULHAM ROAD - DOORS 9 - 3

email ragchair@imperial.ac.uk for more information about RAG Week or visit the Imperial College Union website to buy your tickets online!

Facebook page: RAG Week 2



imperial college union



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL



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

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

ARTS

If you read nothing else this week...

Majid Al-Khalil recounts a book which is called the most influential Latin American text of all time.

1000 years of solitude by Gabriel García Márquez

"Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice..." These are the first words which catapult the reader into Marquez's vibrant imagination and of a novel that has stayed with me from the moment I finished reading it.

The novel chronicles the lives, hopes and failures of seven generations of the Buendía family and the town they build on the banks of an Amazonian river. In the book's "magic realism" the line between our normal world and the supernatural is blurred, leading to a setting which seems very like our own, albeit the odd ghost or insomnia epidemic, all of which are portrayed with characteristic nonchalance and casualness. Coupled to this is the fluidity of time; while some characters are impossibly old and it can rain for years on end, there are contrasting moments when Marquez dismisses decades with a few strokes of his pen. This dreamlike and subjective way in which the various stories are told hint at the way we perceive our own lives: looking back at the multitude of events which unfold over the novel, it is stressed that memories are fleeting impressions of moments, an incomplete picture.

At the centre of Marquez's writings are always his characters. Richly developed and too numerous to keep track of, it is easy to become lost. Eventually comes the realisation that this is not too great a problem. New generations of children mature only to commit the same acts as their ancestors – the circularity of history is obviously important to Marquez.

Present in the novel is page after page of vivid description and imagery, much of it devoted to his character's love lives. The style is romantic but not clichéd. Rather than Hollywood style heroes overcoming obstacles to find eternal love and happiness, Marquez's characters are much more flawed, and much more human. Would be heroes are struck down by the size of their own egos (and sometimes libidos) amidst echoes of Nietzsche's "will to power". Those who endure solitude find that it is strongest when they are surrounded by others – a theme more relevant now than ever, in our world of urban alienation. Finally, the would-be poetic bubble is often punctured by the author's own sharp, if seemingly crude, wit.

To me, this is a magnificent work. Despite what the title suggests it is as much a celebration of the full richness of human emotion rather than just solitude. Bravado, ecstasy, love and blind lust are all portrayed within, along with their consequences. To anyone who is even thinking about reading it, do not hesitate a moment longer.

Tell us about your favourite book in 300-400 words and send it to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

High art awaits at the Wellcome Trust

Rocío Molia Atienza

An exhibition about mind-altering drugs is likely to elicit the curiosity of nearly everyone, since most of us are at least occasional consumers. Remember how full the Union is of inebriated students some nights of the week? So, I was ready to be surprised by what of artistic value anyone could produce under the influence of psychotropic drugs.

High Society is the title of the current exhibition at the Wellcome Trust Foundation, a charity whose aim is to support innovation in the medical sciences. Their exhibitions try to bridge the gap between the sciences and the arts – which may be an added bonus for you, or might have you running for the hills already. For my part, I was curious and willing to give it a try. Even better, the exhibit is free of charge, which is always a plus for someone on a student budget.

On arriving at the Wellcome Gallery I kept imagining what awaited me, bearing in mind the imagery of the sixties and psychedelic rock. However, the

"They were covered in LSD. Enlightening."

expectations that the poster, with its vibrant colours and Alice-in-Wonderland caterpillar, had provoked were soon shattered. At first sight nothing caught my eye. At the main entrance there is a stand full of objects from throughout history related to drug use, from shisha pipes to needles. In general, there was a great variety in what was being displayed, from projections to photographs to old posters used to discourage the consumption of alcohol. The exhibit was well thought out; however, the exhibition area was not spacious enough for all that was on display.

One of the most interesting pieces was a "Dream Machine" by Brion Gyson. Placed in a dark room, a spiralling cylinder with bright patterns rotates quickly, allegedly capable of inducing a trance as the observer stares at the changing patterns. A series of small pictures hanging on the wall caught my attention too. The themes they portrayed were unrelated – one was a picture of a fractal and the other one was the image of an Indian god. After detailed inspection I realised the paper had tiny squares drilled on it. They were covered in LSD. Enlightening.

Most of the artwork displayed did not

'Blotter Art', Constance Little



An Indian God printed on paper and covered in LSD, how 'New-age'

appeal to me. There were a few video installations but only one person at a time could listen to them, which made it unpractical given the popularity of the exhibit. There was also a huge sculpture representing an opium pipe, which was actually pretty tacky. One wall was covered with three diagrams of a spider web. Each one had been knitted by a spider under the influence of a different drug. Curious, informative but not very visually attractive.

Overall, the exhibition had too much of a factual side, reducing the few art pieces on display to historical proofs of drug use throughout history. For those interested in expanding their knowledge of drugs it is definitely a must-see; but for those of you who look for shocking art, the West End galleries or the Saatchi might better suit your taste.

'High Society' at the Wellcome Gallery until the 27th of February.

Taking your pick of Picocon

This weekend is Imperial's 28th annual Sci-fi convention Picocon. Sci-fi fan **Maciej Matuszewski** gives a flavour of the talents of three of the authors attending

The Thief's Gamble

by Juliet McKenna

I prefer science fiction to fantasy and so approached this novel with some apprehension and reluctance. It follows Livak, a thief and gambler, who becomes embroiled in an attempt by a group of wizards to discover a lost form of magic, but which eventually leads them to find a deadly new enemy.

Initially I found there was very little that was remarkable about this book but it was not long before I began to realise that I was starting to care for the characters. They are varied, interesting, often morally ambiguous and mostly very likable. From Livak herself, never failing to do the right thing, to Darni, often gruff yet ultimately kind-hearted and a good friend. They draw the reader into the story, which also leaves very little to be desired. It quickly picks up the pace and is full of excitement and intrigue.

One of McKenna's greatest achievements in this novel is the setting, the world of Einarinn. It is a detailed, complex place, with a fully fleshed out history and many distinct and interesting countries. It is further explored in McKenna's many other books, to which "The Thief's Gamble" is a perfect introduction.



Paul McAuley is the BOSS

Cowboy Angels

by Paul McAuley

This is the first book in a long time that I simply couldn't put down. It is set in an alternate reality where, in the 60s, the USA discovered the means to travel to other parallel universes.

For many years that America's version of the CIA had been sending agents to 'improve' the governments of other Americas, a policy which is stopped by the election of a new president. One retired agent, however, is forced out of retirement to help capture one of his former colleagues, who has gone on an unexplained killing spree across a number of universes.

The story here is simply brilliant. The mystery is truly intriguing and you are never quite sure of the characters' motivations until the very end. Many of the plot twists caught me completely off-guard and by surprise; none felt at all contrived.

The plot might become slightly too convoluted for some tastes in the second half but for me it just served to add depth to the story. Those who stick with the book will be rewarded with an ending that, while in keeping with the somewhat ambiguous tone of the preceding chapters, still manages to be deeply satisfying.

Living with Ghosts

by Kari Sperring

Kari Sperring's debut novel concerns the planned destruction of the city of Merafi by its enemies through the use of magic, an art that has long been forgotten there.

A fascinating examination of a society almost being brought to its knees by the unknown it features a disparate cast of characters whose different plot threads are masterfully brought together by the author. Sperring's experience as a mediaeval historian shines through as she has managed to create a world which feels very real, which is a major failing of many other fantasy writers.

The novel is somewhat slow paced but that just allows for a closer look at the issues involved, and for the characters to be given opportunity to develop, giving the relatively simple storyline great depth. The plot feels both epic and personally linked with each of these characters and this leads to a deeply poignant ending with a spectacular and climactic feel. It certainly deserves to have won the British Fantasy Society's Sydney J Bounds Award for Best Newcomer.

Picocon will be held at the Union on Saturday 19th from 10am, £8

IMPERIAL COLLEGE'S VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Matt Colvin

Yikes, despite the title, I didn't exactly realise that this was going to be exactly what it says on the tin. Eve Ensler's all female and always controversial *The Vagina Monologues* saw an adaptation by DramSoc on three nights last week as part of SHAG Week events, and the taboo busting subject matter had me shifting uncomfortably in my seat.

Well, to begin with at least. While I might have remained a little stony faced in the beginning, fantastic performances from a more than able cast pulled me straight in and made me listen to what had to be said, raising downright belly laughs



from me by the end.

The comfort and ease with which the cast treated their material (which some would call offensive) certainly jarred at the start, but once things invariably settled down and showed off a tremendous range of individual performances and stories, I could certainly appreciate the lasting appeal of the play, and the joy of the Dramsoc cast and crew in the creation of their own take on the production. The performance itself hinged around giving a monologue on a varied range of topics, written

by Ensler (pictured) from amalgamations of personal interviews with around 200 women. The breadth and mixture of subject matter, ranging from light hearted yet detailed tales of birth, to truly grim stories of horrendous female abuse in Bosnia surprisingly worked despite the grand shifts in tone.

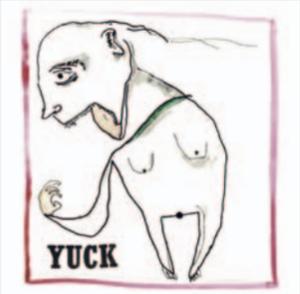
The performance was bolstered by an exceptional cast who really gave it their all, fully embodying the characters they were representing, from elderly women to loud and proud sex workers. By the end of the latter's monologue, the audience was riotous with the sheer audacity of it all.

Whether I agreed with the overall message of each monologue on offer or not, each was performed admirably and allowed for some serious thought of the ramification behind the role of language, perception and awareness of gender. A sure fire hit, then.

MUSIC

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

Album of The Week



Yuck
Yuck
Fat Possum
2011

It feels way too early to start listening to 90's revival music. But then again, so many great bands like **No Age**, **Male Bonding** or **Japandroids** draw heavily on Sub Pop and the Seattle grunge scene as a core inspiration for their music – albeit channeling the energy of 90's rock with modern experimentation. **Yuck** can be seen as pertaining to the same bloodline as the aforementioned bands, but if you close your eyes and listen to their self-titled debut throughout, I swear it's like travelling back in time. For me though it is even more interesting that this record is being released in 2011: Yuck have made an album full of noisy pop songs, displaying a clear talent for writing hooks (see 'Holing Out'), but they chose to intersperse these with beautifully-crafted acoustic songs. The true quality of this album is not that it takes you back to another time, but rather that the music Yuck is crafting is timeless. The infectious nature of the songs means that there is no use for modern tricks. Just down-to-earth, quality songwriting. **Greg Power**

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

1. James Blake
2. Radiohead
3. Kanye West
4. Gorillaz
5. Daft Punk
6. Muse
7. Arcade Fire
8. Rihanna (????)
9. David Bowie
10. Caribou

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

Make sure not to miss

19.02: Felix Music Night

Metric, Imperial College Union
Saturday 19th February 2011 (TOMORROW!)

In case you were not aware, we are throwing a musical megafest tomorrow night. It's going to be FREAKING AWESOME and there is no excuse for not showing up. Entry is a mere £3, and for that measly price you get to watch eight (that's right, eight!) brilliant acts. We believe this is a great way to give some exposure to the great student musicians that Imperial tends to forget about. Three bands from Jazz n' Rock Society (including Post-Indie Tech Punk headliners Vetoos), four Music Tech acts (one of which is going to be an insane experimental electronic improvisation crew) and one special non-Imperial guest (the devilish psych-pharaoh Raath-Mon-Tet) are gearing up to blow your collective minds. **Greg Power**

Bow before your alien overlord, puny Earthlings!

An exclusive interview with techno-deity Raath-Mon-Tet

After years of scouring through the Necronomicon and the Dead Sea Scrolls searching for proof of the existence of the mythical extraterrestrial pharaoh known as **Raath-Mon-Tet**, a friend suggested I should Google him.

I had not thought of that. I guess I just did not expect to find one of the most infamous evil spirits to ever rule the Galaxy on the friggin' net. But it turns out he does have a webpage. I'll be damned.

I contacted the Nommon pharaoh Raath-Mon-Tet, harbinger of chaos, through his delightful "Ask-A-Pharaoh" page. Little did I know that I had in fact unleashed a plague of biblical proportions upon Imperial College, under the form of a pscore/experimental techno closing set at Felix's Music Night, **19.02**...

What is Raath-Mon-Tet's story?

Since possessing a boy of your species, Raath-Mon-Tet has had many attempts at enslaving the human race using soundwaves. Notable attempts include a guerilla gig at your popular Trafalgar Square filmed on SkyArts, where the über-death-psy magnifier unfortunately never arrived, and the most recent of the heralded **ALAN** nights (www.wearealan.com) where

spirits channelled through a sacrificed alien also failed to brainwash your kind.

What does Raath-Mon-Tet want from us puny Earthlings?

Your resources, your bodies and your minds, but not your souls. Did anyone ever tell you earthlings that your souls taste like mayonnaise? Intergalactically speaking, smooth mayonnaise is the second worst tasting thing, only just falling behind chunky mayonnaise.

Why is Raath-Mon-Tet's music so goddamn loud?

Have you ever tried to harness the willpower of an entire race during a DJ set? You need to crank your tunes pretty loud for the whole

world to hear them. Besides, listening to quiet music can seriously damage your credibility.

What is Raath-Mon-Tet's favourite song to play?

The Imperial March, Darth Vader's theme from Star Wars. The movie was good but Darth was a much more fun guy in reality. The reason I moved from that quadrant was because of the Gungans. Man were those fellas irritating.

Is your dream to perform on a giant floating pyramid?

Raath-Mon-Tet does not dream, Raath-Mon-Tet does. And anyway, intergalactic arch-pharaohs regularly gig on colossal, crystalline trapezohedrons. Why Raath-Mon-Tet would stoop to perform on pyramids is beyond Raath-Mon-Tet's understanding.

And why in the world should people pay to see some dude jump up and down in a pharaoh mask and poncho anyway??

Raath blinks and interviewer falls to the ground unconscious.

This interview is adjourned! Raath-Mon-Tet will sanctify Metric's sound system tomorrow night! Don't miss it! Greg Power



Music Tech bring the noise to 19.02

My first experience with Music Tech Society resulted in internal haemorrhaging. I was a fresher and just arrived at uni after a particularly interesting summer. It was Friday of Fresher's Week and Music Tech were doing a night at dB's (as it was still called then). This was also my first exposure to dubstep, a visceral, primitive and funk'n' groovy style of dance music which I had no idea about until then. I had lost my friends somewhere in the crowds of the Union but was drunk enough to keep myself entertained so I proceeded to shelter myself in the smoke and lights of our club. The next morning in the shower I noticed I had a black blotch the size of a watch under my foot – the result of a night intoxicated on beer and good music.

It's hard to find good dance music. Usually it's in small clubs on the other side of town or in other towns altogether. You certainly won't get any at Picadilly Circus. My summer had been filled with free techno parties in the parks of Brussels (Piknik Elektronik, Soirée Gazon, Tea Time...) and I was elated to find people at uni who shared similar tastes. Being a member of the society now, I may be somewhat biased in saying the Music Tech nights at the Union club are probably the best ones we ever have;

but I've thought that way ever since Fresher's, and until they get **Squarepusher** (Imperial Mathematics alumnus?!) in, it will probably stay that way.

So much for the nocturnal frolicking. It's Monday evenings in the Union basement that really make it what it is. That's when we get together and make music of our own. There's room for the DJs as well as the producers and enough big and shiny equipment to make everyone feel like a kid in a candy shop. I myself am more of a maker than a player and the wealth of production know-how which is bounced around during sessions is truly invaluable. Sure we can sometimes geek out about LFOs, breaks and bass lines but then again we're at Imperial aren't we? Better bass lines than Bessel functions if you ask me... Oh and when sessions are over we get to listen to our own songs on the Metric sound system! If that's not an eargasm, I don't know what is.

Felix's **19.02** this Saturday will be the first Music Tech performance in Metric since it opened earlier this year and I must say I am 'totally stoked' about bringing the good sounds out to the people. There will be two DJ sets and one live improvisation which is a first for the society. To kick off the night, **Algo Ritmico**

(host of IC Radio's experimental music broadcast *The Big Racket!*) will cook up a mixture of chilled psychedelia, infectious afrobeat and psychotropic vibrations to settle everyone in nice and cozy. After all the bands have brought the funk (**Eleven 37s**), gone through the blues (**Tin Can 44s**) and rocked it side to side (**Vetoos**), a back-to-back set from **Chainz** and **Snatch DJs** will shake things up with a mash-up of DIY tuneage, dubby steps and high voltage electro. To explore the more abstract dimensions of live sound, three of our members have clustered together to form an as-yet-unnamed ensemble for a hazy concoction of improvised electronic music, before the headliners kick out the jams.

On a more personal note, it's great to see Imperial's homegrown talent getting a bit of recognition on home turf. I've never understood why the Union pays big money for BBC Radio 1 DJs and 'hot butter' live acts when its own students could pull off a more eclectic and intimate affair by their own means. Surely getting the students more involved in the events at the Union would do away with the lingering apathy so many are so quick to mention. After all, it's called the Student Union for a reason.

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto

MUSIC

Tin Cans talkin' Blues

Imperial's badass Blues barons **Tin Can 44s** give us some straight jive talk, promising to push your tushie into full swing at **19.02**



Sometimes life just kicks you square in the balls. It sucks, but it is an intrinsic part of Mother Nature's menstrual cycle. Yeah I know it hurts because it turns out that chick you liked is actually a total slag. And that guy you thought was giving you the eye? He happens to be a sex offender. Life is full of disappointment, so you better get used to it. What the hell did you think they invented whiskey for anyway? But when you're right at the bottom of your cesspool of despair, **Tin Can 44s** are there to pull you out, give you a kind slap across the face and drag you along for a night out on Kingly Street.

I spoke to two of the Tin Cans about what the Blues means to them, musical authenticity and what they'll bring to the party tomorrow, when they play Felix's Music Night, **19.02**.

Would you like to introduce yourselves?

Phil (guitar, vocals): Wait. What if I introduce him, he can introduce me.

Sounds like a plan.

Phil: Ok, this here's the Big Shot. He plays percussion for us, and tends to rearrange pretty much anything we intend on doing, pretty much how he wants to do it right then and we all need to hold on tight.

Aaron (drums): This is Phil. "The Power". "Taylor". Nah, it's just Phil. Plays guitar, vocals in The Tin Can 44s, which is who we are.

Phil: There was supposed to be someone else here. Boxcar Joe. Plays harmonica for us. He's an actor and creator. Well... he calls himself that, so it's not as omnipotent as he thinks but... Yeah, he plays harmonica for us. And fills in any of the gaps on the Delta lyrics that we've forgotten. That's us at the minute. And we're going through bassists at a pace. Umm. Having to replace them far too regularly.

Did you guys start out with blues covers and then move towards your own songs?

Phil: I always had my own songs that I always wanted to play, and I used to write them faster than we would get them recorded or get them rehearsed properly. Immediately when we started playing we found that we needed to play gigs now, and the kind of joints that we wanted to play require you to have a playbook. You have to be able to play a certain number of standards and not sound like an idiot.

Aaron: I think we did start off with doing Blues standards and covers, but now we are writing more original material and playing that more so instead of the focus before being: "we'll try an original song interspersed within the set", now it's more like we'll play our own stuff and then at the end we'll do a standard there that everyone knows and loves. And I think that's what we enjoy more. Because it's hella fun to play the blues but it's also much more satisfying and enjoyable to write your own stuff which is still inspired by the same sort of thing.

Phil: I found we needed to do what was effectively the Blues – but a bit more. Because a lot of the original sounds, original structures, they've been hammered out pretty thin by the original guys, who could run rings around me certainly.

So we needed to do something that was a bit more – necessarily original. Because it just wouldn't be authentic really, I can't sing about the Delta, or my woman dying, or the flood in Tupelo. I wasn't there!

Where do you get your inspiration?

Phil: To set out writing a blues is really forced. Because the process by which the blues were written were from work songs from call-and-reply tunes that were sung even without any music. The percussion was breaking rocks with a pick-axe, and a sawblade and a train. That's what you had to work with.

So it would be a call and reply: there would just be the biggest loudest guy standing there a little bit up on a hill, and everyone would just shout the line back to him, and you get some repetition and natural harmonies and things like that. That's a very organic way of doing it.

So if I was to sit down and go: "OK, that's a line, and I'm gonna do that twice, and then I'm gonna go up to the dominant chord, and then come back down..." No man. Nobody's gonna buy that. You can see all these people who

are going through the motions.

Aaron: I do listen to the blues, obviously, but my background musically is a lot more kind of abstract and very sort of progressive, kind of music. So Phil can bring stuff in and I'll completely change it. Flip everything round. But we still listen to all those great blues songs and I think that's hopefully what comes through in our playing. Just because we're not doing a standard 12-bar or something, you know the themes that we're bringing up, and the way we play, and the feeling we put into it, hopefully all of that's still there.

Phil: I mean certainly the great thing about the three of us – Boxcar Joe included – is that what the three of us do together, no one of us could have made up on their own. Boxcar Joe writes his own stuff, that he doesn't bring to our band because he thinks he's just gonna mix up the vibe. He writes dirty sea shanties about big-leg women and, uh... sailing. He sings that with his harmonica frame on and his guitar.

Aaron's there listening to some progressive shit, in some time signature – like 9/11 time signature or something. So when I give these guys a song I could get it back in any old way, I have no idea, I can't predict it. Certainly I write all my stuff acoustic. But then when it's gone through the Tin Can factory, it comes out a completely different animal.

What does the Blues mean to you?

Aaron: The Blues is when you ain't got no money to pay yo house rent, cuz you're thinkin evil.

Phil: When you come in your front door, you hear your backdoor slam. You're thinking evil.

Aaron: On a serious note, everyone feels shit during their life at certain points, maybe for crap reasons or not. Whatever. Everyone feels down. And the blues is just a celebration of that, laughing instead of crying, and just a great way to let it out and feel good. And it's just a really enjoyable experience for me.

Phil: The Blues isn't about moping in the corner. The Blues is about sitting on your housetop shirtless with a half-bottle of rye, shouting at the neighbour, because he done stole your woman. It's that kind of stuff. There's certainly a lot of commaraderie in it. When you see bluesmen talk to each other it's something different. It's like they've got a secret story. That only they know. Only they know the plot, or only they know the scene. And they can change the scripts how they want. It's this kind of secrecy, it's like a little club. It's a secret handshake, it's that kind of music. That's what the Blues is: mythology.

What will you guys bring to 19.02?

Aaron: People will be fucking dancing when we're playing our tunes.

Phil: If people aren't dancing, I'll eat my hat. And I think people will see that when we play a song, it's that one time we played that song. It wasn't that we've written beat by beat, bar by bar how it goes.

Aaron: That's the only time you'll hear the song that way.

Phil: The themes are the same, plot's the same, characters are the same but the scene has changed. That's what you get: a one time experience.

Greg Power

The 19.02 Playlist

The time is almost upon us to let our proverbial hair down and listen to some sick ass tunes by Imperial musicians. Here's a few you can check out online beforehand to get yourself in the mood.

Vetoes

Melting Clocks

The Eleven 37s

Straywire

Tin Can 44s

Down By The River

Vetoes

On The Waterfront

The Eleven 37s

Personality

Tin Can 44s

Bad Craziiness

Raath-Mon-Tet

Live @Trafalgar Square

Go to beholdthemachine.com for links to the songs. You won't regret it. **Promise.**

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



Tin Can 44s tearing into another blast of blues, minutes before they raided a liquor store and drank all the rye

FILM

Classic Cinema

Bicycle Thieves



A man searching for his bike hardly sounds like a great plot for one of the most beloved films of all time, but **Vittorio De Sica's** 1948 masterpiece is a beautifully crafted portrayal of suffering and poverty in post war Rome. Being the definitive Italian Neorealist film, *Bicycle Thieves* has all the anti-Hollywood touches that made this genre so refreshing. The cast are all amateurs, the script largely improvised and the whole film is shot on location.

Lamberto Maggiorani (a factory worker before being snagged by De Sica for the role of Antonio) plays a typical down and out Roman, desperate for work, who assembles every morning with his fellow unemployed begging for a job from a city official. Fortunately his run of bad luck is over and he gets a job putting up glossy film posters around town. However his bad luck soon returns after his bike is stolen on his first day of work. Accompanied by his plucky young son, he spends the next day pounding the pavements searching for the precious bike which his livelihood depends on.

The beauty of this film is the relationship between Antonio and his son Bruno (A mesmerising performance by Enzo Staiola). Bruno idolises his father, regardless of his inability to provide for his family and over the course of the day the young boy learns the invaluable lesson that life is simply unfair. In one scene, Antonio agonises over the hopelessness of his situation and strikes his son but quickly jumps to conclusions after witnessing another person nearly drown in the Tiber. But his relief after finding Bruno alive and well quickly dissipates upon realisation that he is no closer to finding his bike. The social commentary is not subtle, this is a Marxist parable after all, however an exchange of glances between Bruno and another child in a restaurant is remarkably charming.

Being a Realist film, there is predictably no happy ending. Against all the odds, Antonio recognises his bike and after tracing the thief to a brothel he finds himself confronting the local gangsters. A local policeman admits he can't do anything and in absolute despair Antonio steals another bicycle but is caught straight away. Although his sympathetic victim doesn't press charges, the damage has been done and in the famous heartbreaking ending Antonio takes his distraught son home, his heroic opinion of his father shattered. **Ed Knock**

EVENTS

Tuesday 22nd February
iCU Cinema - AGM & FILM TRIVIA PUB
QUIZ 6PM - Free/£1
Megamind - £3/4 (members/non-members)
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad

'Down Under' six feet of earth

Animal Kingdom

Director David Michôd
Screenwriter David Michôd
Cast Ben Mendelsohn, Joel Edgerton, Guy Pearce, Luke Ford, Jacki Weaver, Sullivan Stapleton, James Frecheville

John Park

"You've done some bad things, haven't you sweetie?" gently reminds the matriarch of the Melbourne-based Cody crime family. It's a moment of true wonder, as Janine "Smurf" Cody (Weaver) calmly manipulates her way into the minds of everyone around her without a flinch. She casually smiles away, putting on that brave face, pretending nothing will ever go wrong in her life with her three criminal sons: Andrew "Pope" Cody (Mendelsohn), Craig Cody (Stapleton), and Darren Cody (Ford).

Joshua "J" Cody's (Frecheville) mother was far from perfect – but even she had enough sense in her to keep her only son away from her own mother and siblings who are constantly up to no good and are in trouble with the law. But after she dies of a heroin overdose, the 17 year-old J is left with no choice but to join the relatives he hasn't seen for a long time. The oldest, Andrew, is in hiding with ties to armed robbery, Craig is dealing drugs with a dirty cop, and Darren is doing whatever his brothers tell him to do. Over the period of less than a single day, J has quite suddenly been thrown into a world he knows very little about.

Blood is spilled and loyalties are tested. As Leckie (Pearce), a smart detective leading the police investigation, starts closing in on the various members of the Cody family, the role of the newcomer becomes that much more crucial. J is asked to steal a car to be used as a setup for murdering two police officers. J's dedication to

his family is constantly challenged, even more so when Leckie starts targeting the newbie of the family for information. He is under the watchful eye of Janine, his scary grandmother who turns a blind-eye to all of her sons' criminal activities whilst she looks to gain as much benefit from them as possible. She is financially sorted for life, as long as her sons, who mostly obey her in ways no grown-up sons would ever do, keep bringing in the cash.

Animal Kingdom is not just a good "Australian" film. It's an absolutely phenomenal crime drama that is surely in league with similar themed films that are considered great in American cinema. The intimate family dynamic is looked at with so much focus and tension that every time a character even blinks, the audience is brought to the edge of their seats. Since several important characters have such volatile minds and vastly different goals, you have no idea just where this film will take you, and every interaction with key family members is absolutely crucial to the plot development. It's a compelling watch, and superbly paced, with director David Michôd having the confidence to take his time in extending various scenes to create as much suspense as possible. A lot of the scenes are quiet, restrained, but hugely effective in building up the gritty, morally corrupt underground network of criminals.

In portraying this great tragedy which chronicles the conflict and eventual fall of the proud family, the exceptional actors do an admirable job. Frecheville, in his debut performance, adds a surprising amount of layers and depth to his character. He's not someone to warm up to right away, since he is mostly very distant and awkward around the "new" members of his family but as events unfold and he travels deeper into the criminal activities of this one family, his inner battle and wake of conscience

is shown subtly. Of the three criminal brothers, Mendelsohn, playing the eldest, gives the most frightening performance. Something isn't quite right with this guy; he comes off as psychotically detached and it is unsettling to see the brilliant Mendelsohn in so many scenes. But since he is one of the major characters of the film, we'll just have to settle with being afraid of him throughout.

The true revelation here however, is Weaver, who has been the talk of Hollywood for nabbing a surprise Oscar nomination. She shows her love can be limitless – when she decides to share it that is – but can also be taken away in a heart-beat, as soon as she senses imminent

It's an absolutely phenomenal crime drama that is surely in league with similar themed films.

danger or threat to her little empire. She is the monstrous female in the background, pulling the strings behind the scenes, so everything can work to her advantage. Her words are piercing enough to get under your skin, but she delivers them with such calmness that her detachment alone is enough to give you shivers.

It's encouraging to see something from Australia is getting its much-deserved international recognition. It won't have a huge sales impact, but for those of you seeking a taut, finely written, confident and brilliantly performed crime drama, this is no doubt on the same standard as the more flashy, high-budget U.S. thrillers.



Okay I'll admit it, I have a massive thing for older women

Can the BAFTAs be a good prediction for the Oscars?

Jade Hoffman

Despite the rain on February 13th, Leicester Square was once again a buzzing night of flashbulbs and red carpet walks as it played host to the 63rd annual BAFTA awards. A semi-reliable predictor of which way the Oscars might swing, the BAFTAs has become an increasingly high profile event in the film world, injecting a bit of life and glamour into the British film scene and bringing big names to the capital. Julianne Moore, Jessica Alba and Mark Ruffalo, were among the Hollywood faces who turned up, but the big winners of the night were the cast and crew of the recent British hit, *The King's Speech*.

A runaway winner, *The King's Speech* took away seven awards, including Best Film, Best British Film, Best Original Screenplay, Best Leading Actor (for Colin Firth) and both of the Best Supporting awards for Helena Bonham-Carter and Geoffrey Rush. Whether or not this success will be repeated on the 27th of February at the Academy Awards remains to be seen. Though last year's big winner, *The Hurt Locker*, took away Best Film and Best Director at both the BAFTAs and the Oscars, the idea of the Academy giving this many major awards to a British film seems unlikely.

It's been a good year for cinema, and one that has left one of the most celebrated films of the year, *Inception*, going fairly unrecognised in awards season

– it scooped a handful of BAFTAs but mainly technical awards (Best Sound, Best Production Design etc.). Up against four other films from a good year, it's even more of an achievement that *The King's Speech* beat *Inception*, *The Social Network*, *True Grit* and *Black Swan* to the title of Best Film.

The Social Network didn't go completely unappreciated. David Fincher picked up Best Director for it, and it also got a nod in the Best Adapted Screenplay category, whilst *Black Swan* received recognition by way of Natalie Portman's Best Leading Actress award.

A nice touch for British cinema was Chris Morris' Best Debut win for *Four Lions*. Even though most Chris Morris fans will have known him for some time as the creator of *Brass-Eye* and *Nathan Barley* television series, it's a well-deserved acknowledgement for one of the most talented filmmakers in Britain today. British actor Tom Hardy also went home with the Orange Rising Star Award, most likely for his breakthrough appearance in *Inception*, though his previous roles in British films *Bronson* and *L'ayer Cake* have definitely made him worth of this award – definitely more worthy than last year's winner Kristen "Twilight" Stewart.

So how good is this as a predictor of Oscars? It'd be a big surprise if *The King's Speech* repeated this clean sweep on the 27th, and after winning Best Leading Actor last year for *A Single Man*,



I'm not sure if 'bland' is her colour...

Colin Firth is unlikely to be awarded it again. Instead, *The Social Network*'s Jesse Eisenberg could be in with a better shot, with films like *The Social Network* and *The Fighter* likely to pick up more than they did at the BAFTAs. How the

exact breakdown will be at the Academy Awards, however, is not clear-cut. The only sure-fire thing to put your money on is probably the Pixar failsafe option in the Best Animated Film category with *Toy Story 3*.

Blood Ties is a lesson in budget filmmaking

Blood Ties

Director Kely McClung
Screenwriter Kely McClung
Cast Kely McClung, Robert Pralgo, Erik Markus Schuetz

Saphira Gurski

Surely they're called "big budget action flicks" for a reason!? I was initially excited yet cringing at the thought of reviewing an indie action flick. Indie film virgins like myself need not despair; this film is not a desperation tune-in to Air Canada's In-flight film fest after 10 hours of inter-continental leg cramps. *Blood Ties* will snatch you out of mainstream cinema drudgery and entice you into the world of micro-budget film viewing.

Director (and lead actor) Kely McClung creates saturated visuals, a sense of movement and an ethereal background glow calling to mind the

otherworldly sensation in Nolan films which drags viewers into the screen (no 3D glasses required). Luckily, this gritty dreamscape fabricated in the back streets of Thailand and Eastern US doesn't overshadow the story. Jack Davis (Director Kely McClung), former federal agent "G.I. Joe", discovers his brother Jim (The Vampire Diaries' Robert Pralgo) is kidnapped and flies off to the danger-filled alleys of Thailand to secure his freedom. What Jack doesn't know is his former shadowy employers are pulling the strings from the USA. The film subtly reveals a much deeper, intriguing tragedy beneath martial arts action à la Jacky Chan.

The most beautiful yet at brief points frustrating part of the film is the complexity of storyline and characters shown without words. In a few scenes I felt like additional dialogue would've added more depth, but in most, there

"It captures beautiful interactions between characters."

was a raw beauty in exploring characters through expression and reactions – silent, physical or emotional – you'd see in real life. Far more satisfying than dialogue filmed for the sake of exposition, this drags you into contemplating everything you see.

Careful casting adds an additional layer of gritty realism. Average-Joe Americans are cast as non-descript military black-operatives instead of Hollywood beach boys. Thai gang kidnapers convince you they're a street gang for hire that took a job on a movie set as an amusing break from their nightly prowl. Tuk-Tuks and their drivers were

paid to film a chase scene in Bangkok traffic and main characters are played by real-life martial arts experts fighting with visually exotic techniques you've never seen in a mainstream action flick. My favourite scene involves Jack and a Thai girl – who genuinely can't speak English – expressing their love for one another through a very real language barrier. *Blood Ties* skips the "acting" of most films and simply captures beautiful, real moments of interaction between characters.

Clearly, there's a reason *Blood Ties* has been cleaning up the awards circuit (Best International Film in UK at the End of the Pier Int'l Film Festival, Film of the Year at the Action on Film Festival, etc). Its exotic visuals and martial arts scenes will get your blood pumping, but its mind-bendingly subtle story and characters are what will keep this on your DVD rack for ages!

BAFTA Winners

Best Film

The King's Speech

Best Director

David Fincher
(The Social Network)

Leading Actor

Colin Firth (The King's Speech)

Leading Actress

Natalie Portman (Black Swan)

Supporting Actor

Geoffrey Rush
(The King's Speech)

Supporting Actress

Helena Bonham Carter
(The King's Speech)

Original Screenplay

David Seidler
(The King's Speech)

Adapted Screenplay

Aaron Sorkin
(The Social Network)

Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer

Chris Morris (Four Lions)

Film not in the English Language

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Best Animated Film

Toy Story 3

Original Music

Alexandre Desplat
(The King's Speech)

Cinematography

Roger Deakins (True Grit)

Editing

Angus Wall, Kirk Baxter
(The Social Network)

Rising Star Award

Tom Hardy

Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema

The Harry Potter Films

Academy Fellowship

Sir Christopher Lee



TELEVISION

Television Editors: **Matt Allinson**
Veronika McQuadeova

tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

What We Watched...

Welcome to the TV-obsessed world of James Simpson

Give it up for the 'Easy Crew'— "der to make de bad tings good" – Rastamouse, Scratchy and Zooma in CBeebies' new series titled **Rastamouse**. The show seems to be popular with adults too, with the widely held theory that 'cheese' actually means 'marijuana'. Refreshingly, the mice are puppets in stop-motion, rather than CGI like the rest of children's TV these days. It's a pity that their English grammar is akin to that of an ill-educated rap-star, but the fact that they all sound like Lenny Henry more than makes up for it. If you're really pissed and bored it'll be the funniest thing you've seen since Susan Boyle.

President Wensleydale (seemingly erroneously dressed as a policemouse – trouserless too of course) often enlists the help of the Easy Crew to get to the bottom of Grove Town's petty crimes, which are always punished with what seems to be community service rather than custodial sentences. The subliminal message of all this is bound to create a generation of gangsta-speaking, car-stealing, no-trouser-wearing people who expect to say sorry and paint some walls to atone for their crimes.



It's not hair, his head is actually that shape...

This week's **Hustle** was particularly good, as the team's con nearly falls apart when Ash twats his face and ends up in hospital, developing an unusual condition which stops him telling lies (something of a problem for a professional con-artist). Predictably everything works out when he twats himself for a second time and his lying ability is restored.

The first episode in the BBC's **Toughest Place to be a...** followed paramedic Angie Dymott as she spends two weeks in Guatemala City – probably one of the world's most violent places outside of Max Moseley's head. More used to dealing with old people's heart attacks and kitchen accidents, Angie struggles to keep her horrified reactions to herself at the sight of so many gang stabbings and shootings.

If like me, you stayed in and did nothing this Valentines' Day (sobs), you might have seen **The Worst Place to be Gay** on BBC3. This rather odd documentary was presented by Radio 1 DJ Scott Mills who travels to Uganda and meets, amongst others, the Preacher who thinks that homosexuality should be punished by the death penalty. Mills tries a witch-doctor's cure for homosexuality, which consists of his partially naked self being wiped over with a wet chicken. After this ordeal, Mills proclaims that he feels 'dirtier than before'. We are also treated to a few pearls of wisdom from the people on the street – "I was asked to be gay once, I refused". I think he may have misunderstood the concept slightly.

Stargate SG-1: A love story

Maciej Matuszewski tells of his first time with Sci-Fi

The first science fiction television show I ever saw and the series that got me interested in the entire genre was Stargate SG-1, the follow-up to Roland Emmerich's forgettable 1994 film.

The film followed the US military discovering how to operate the Stargate, an ancient device which allows instantaneous transportation between planets, which was discovered several decades earlier, buried in Egypt. The TV series picks up this story, with the unearthing of the Gate allowing the Goa'uld, an evil alien race which ruled Earth thousands of years ago under the assumed identities of various civilizations' deities, to rediscover the planet. The military therefore sets up a number of 'SG teams' to go on missions through the Stargate to find means of defending against the enemy. The show follows the exploits of SG-1, led by Colonel Jack O'Neil (Richard Dean Anderson) and consisting of polymath scientist Captain Samantha Carter (Amanda Tapping), archaeologist Daniel Jackson (Michael Shanks) and Teal'c (Christopher Judge), a defector from the Goa'uld armies.

At first glance there seems to be little to praise in this series. Most villains are entirely two dimensional, everyone on alien planets seems to speak English and the heroes defeat two evil alien races introduced later on in the series by genocide, the moral implications of which are not even touched upon. These problems, however, are nothing compared to the show's strengths.

The main characters are some of the best I've ever seen on television. I can relate to all of them in one way or another and all are both likable and show some depth. My favourite must be Colonel O'Neil, a deeply professional yet light-hearted man who conceals the trauma of his past military experience and of his son dying after accidentally shooting himself with O'Neil's gun. He is the show's main source of humour, its unique selling point. It is always present, with O'Neil ready to point out how clichéd the villains' actions are, no matter how



Colonel Jack O'Neil: Wise-guy glower king

desperate the situation, yet it is never overplayed. The show only devolves into outright comedy in its 200th special episode, with the show's creators being careful not to allow it to overshadow the drama at other times.

The overall story is somewhat weaker and less detailed than that of shows like Babylon 5 or the new Battlestar Galactica. It is far 'lighter', and you can watch an episode just for the sense of adventure as the main characters explore a planet. This is not to say that Stargate's plot is bad: the characters take a long time to defeat the technologically superior Goa'uld and their other enemies and do so in a logical way. There are also very few of the deus-ex-machina endings of the type seen so often on Star Trek.

Stargate SG-1 lasted ten seasons and, as most shows of that length, it did eventually begin to decline. For me this happened during seasons nine and ten. The show's creators had thought that it was going to be cancelled and so had given season eight a very satisfying ending which tied up most of its loose threads, with one of the last episodes even being called "Threads". Rather than promoting the few unresolved minor plot elements to main plot status in when they learned the show had been reprieved, they introduced a new, even more powerful, adversary and even tried to shoehorn it into the existing continuity. This felt completely contrived and, despite all that they had achieved, the characters were essentially left back where they had started: facing an immensely powerful enemy race with little chance of success.

Even worse, this was also the time when Richard Dean Anderson decided to leave the show. The remaining cast could probably have managed alone but it was decided instead to introduce Lieutenant Colonel Cameron Mitchell, played by Ben Browder. He was simply boring, which would have been tolerable if the writers had not been trying so hard to make him fill O'Neil's shoes. The comparison just helped to emphasise what the series had lost. Even worse he took away attention, as well as the well deserved sole command of the team, from the far more interesting Carter, who had herself risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by this time.

On the other hand this was also the time when Claudia Black's Vala Mal Doran, who had appeared in one episode earlier on, joined the team. She was the polar opposite of Mitchell: very funny and, as a compulsive liar and ex-thief, a type of person we had never before had on the team, with all the exciting possibilities that this entailed. Together with a few great episodes, such as "Bounty", and the still very good remainder of the original SG-1, she helped save the last two seasons.

Stargate SG-1 is far from the best science fiction show out there, especially its later episodes. It is, however, one of the most fun shows, and a brilliant introduction to the genre.

What to watch this week

Friday

Treme

Drama about the Katrina aftermath by the team behind the Wire
Sky Atlantic, 10.15pm

Tuesday

Too Fast To Be a Woman

The fascinating story of athlete Caster Semenya
BBC2, 7pm

Saturday

Aliens

If like me you haven't seen this, you can join me in catching up
Film 4, 9.00pm

Wednesday

How Drugs Work...

Ecstasy. Vital for the Felix team preparing for the Daily (LOLJKS)
BBC3, 9pm

Sunday

Toughest place to be...

...a bus driver. (see "what we watched") It's Manilla, apparently.
BBC2, 9pm

Thursday

10 o'Clock Live

It's gotten better since the awful first episode
C4, 10pm

Monday

The Beauty of Books

This episode features Illustrated books, for the simpler of you lot.
BBC4, 8.30pm

If you missed it...

Rastamouse

The newest kids' TV show for adults to reference ironically
iPlayer

Eat to live? Live to eat?

Chinhua Yap implores you to enjoy the finer details of food

maria klärner/flickr



Who'd have thought? A toffee apple is another way to apply lipstick, albeit it may require some skill...

There are many reasons why we eat, sometimes we eat to fill that rumbling stomach — a purely physiological requirement, but other times, we eat for our hearts and (corny as can be, I know), our souls. Many of us are rather methodical about food, treating food as an invariant, a necessity to tick off the daily list. I'm not saying that it is wrong to have such a pragmatic view about food, but it is rather a shame; it is untapped potential. No, foodies like us are not food snobs. We appreciate food (sometimes obsessively) but we don't expect everyone to treat food with as much intimacy as we do. It is extremely unfortunate if we are thoughtless about eating though.

More often that not, it is not just the food; it is the act of eating and the stories we build around food; it is the gathering of friends around a table and their

leaving hours later. Food is disarming, it makes everyone more receptive.

Food should be more than mere sustenance, it is more than just fuel for the body — food can feed us in so many other enriching ways. Life would be so much more vivid if we take a daily ritual and turn it into a celebration. If we need to eat everyday, why not make an effort to make eating enjoyable? It magnifies the moments we find joy in, and it heightens the festivity of daily life.

The smell of roasted potatoes conjures images of Christmas past, and the nuanced fragrances of freshly brewed tea is lubricant for conversation — it is alchemy of the highest order. The velvety smoothness of a crême brûlée screams indulgence, the heady scents of a beef stew signal the start of the chilly months and a tart made from plump and flavourful stone-fruits, so effortlessly charming. We have five senses, so use them.

The moments shared alongside food evoked by the mere whiff of familiar smells and the taste of shared memories. The simple act of having eggs (over-easy, please) for breakfast instead of cereal (again) can make every morning feel like a luxurious weekend — food can be transformative.

Enjoy every mouthful: appreciate the textural adventure, the contrast in flavours and the intensity of the moment. Every meal can be a bookmark in your autobiography, and you can indulge in as many dog-eared pages as you'd like.

Remind yourself to consciously scribe food experiences into your memory. It is like making an inventory, but not for bolts and screws, rather, for a box of histories waiting to be rediscovered and for indulging and celebrating with.

Yes, I'm celebrating — I'm having a hot cup of tea and a gently warmed up scone. It is glorious. I live to eat.

When the Dinner's Over

by Christian Franke

Franck Tourneret/flickr



After having a long, drawn out and indulgent dinner, what does one have whilst engaging in sophisticated conversation and to cleanse the palate after the cheese board? To continue drinking wine simply lacks imagination, besides it wouldn't be best suited to aid digestion. Fortunately a whole genre of drink has been developed over the past several hundred years purely for this purpose, I am of course writing about the *digestif*.

Typically these beverages are in the form of sweet, yet deceptively strong (usually 40%, or more) liqueurs though there are more bitter alternatives available and fortified wines, such as *port*, which are often drunk in the same setting. We'll look at the former for simplicity. Despite how delicious these liqueurs may be, I wouldn't recommend one to binge drink large quantities of them, purely for financial reasons of course.

Gran Marnier

A personal favourite of mine, this cognac-based orange liqueur has a beautiful gold orange tint. Its flavour hails from the peel of bitter oranges. If juices were used then it wouldn't have the same sweet taste. The uses of this drink go further than a *digestif*. When eating *poftertjes* (small Dutch pancakes), it is accompanied by icing sugar and butter. It is used in cocktails such as the Dirty Harry, which I believe is Clint Eastwood's favourite.

Cointreau

Gran Marnier's dark and mysterious brother. This triple sec is completely colourless with a lighter taste; where as Gran Marnier has a deeper, orange fla-

avour. It is made from sweet and bitter oranges.

Chartreuse

Possibly the most famous herbal liqueur of all; I often think of this as Listerine that you can swallow. Usually seen in its green form, it can also be yellow, and is made by monks in the Grande Chartreuse Monastery, near Grenoble. Best enjoyed on an Alpine chalet balcony.

Drambuie

This scotch liqueur, flavoured with honey is, as legend has it, a product of a secret recipe given to the rescuer of Bonnie Prince Charlie. The main use of the beverage is introducing youngsters to the taste of whisky, thus is very, very dangerous.

Limoncello

Generally liked, this Italian lemon liqueur has become more popular in recent years and is commonly served in restaurants. Unlike the other beverages mentioned so far, Limoncello must be served ice cold, so if you have a bottle at home then put it in the freezer now. You can very easily make this one at home with vodka, sugar and lemon peel/zest.

Sloe Gin

Armies of housewives across the country must have felt redundant when Gordon's started manufacturing sloe gin. The making of sloe gin is one of those quaint great British institutions, which I for one, admire. Once the sloe (blackthorn) berries have been picked, each berry must be pricked and placed in a container with gin and sugar. Sugar is necessary to infuse the flavours into the gin. The infusion takes several months to a year, needing a vigorous shake every now and again. The fruit must be extracted once ready.

You can make homemade liqueur with any fruit of your choice, sugar and a neutral spirit, though how it's served can vary. In countries such as Holland, the liqueur isn't left to mature for very long and is served with the fruit. It is more common in England to drink the liqueur by itself.

Soufflé Omelette

by Stephen Smith

Ingredients:

- Eggs (2-3 per person)
 - Some butter
 - Seasoning
- Time: ~25 minutes.

Impress your friends! Amaze your guests! Elevate your boring omelette ten levels in classiness and tastiness by making *Une Omelette Soufflée*! Anyone and everyone can make an omelette but this soufflé can cement your position as

razmatazern/flickr



future king or queen of the kitchen.

Separate the eggs into two bowls, ensuring the bowl for the egg whites is completely clean. Add a little salt to the egg whites and whisk until soft white peaks are formed, slightly less whisking than the amount required for a meringue is the optimum.

To the yolks add a splash of water (approx. 10ml per egg), a sprinkling of salt and pepper and your favourite herb (rosemary or thyme are excellent). Whisk until a layer of bubbles sits atop the yellow liquid.

Very gently (with a silicone spatula or wooden spoon), fold the whites into the yolks a little at a time. Don't mix the

mixture too much, separate white and yellow patches should still be visible.

In a large frying pan, on a high heat, melt enough butter to coat the bottom of the pan (too much will cause the omelette to deep fry). Now turn on the grill for later. Pour the omelette mixture into the pan and let it cook for about 4-5 minutes until the bottom forms a crust. The top should still be wobbly and bubbly.

Quickly move the pan from the hob to the grill (dilly-dallying will cause the soufflé to sink). Cook until the top has a lightly golden crust and serve immediately. Serve with bacon or caramelized onions, but definitely do not serve with cheese.

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PHOENIX

Founded in 1887, Phoenix is the annual arts publication of Imperial. It will be published next term, as a supplement in Felix. It is a channel for the artistic output of all members of the College. We are open to every art form imaginable: from poetry to painting, short stories to symphonies.

The continued success of Phoenix, more than a century after its birth, is a testament to the strength of the artistic spirit at Imperial. Phoenix is a collective achievement; it is nothing without the talents of its contributors. That's why we strongly encourage everyone to get involved, whether that be by submitting their work or by aiding its production.

phoenix@imperial.ac.uk for more information.

26th - 27th Feb
Jailbreak

28th Feb - Monday
Last Man Standing @ Union

2nd March - Wednesday
RAG Slave Auction @ Union

3rd March - Thursday
RAG Ball @Chateau 6 -Doors 9pm
Cooking Sale @JCR

4th March - Friday
Smoothies with Foodcycle

5th March - Saturday
Mystery Megaraid

6th March - Sunday
Late Night Soccer Tournament

10th March - Thursday
PostGrad RAG Ball @ Chateau 6

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sahil.chugani08@ic.ac.uk (Slave Auction)

james.lurkins07@ic.ac.uk (Soccer Tournament)



GAMES

It's the *Eye of the Tiger*... but I don't need itDo you know how **Omar Hafeez-Bore** got those abs? By playing video games!

Is Survivor's 80s classic 'Eye of the Tiger' the sweatiest song of all time? Whilst Elvis can take credit for millions of broken teenage hearts, and Barry White for millions of unplanned children, Survivor can take pride in being responsible for a sea of sweat lost by inspired gym-goers since Rocky III in 1982. Did you ever wonder why the Pacific Ocean only appears on maps made since the 1990s (maybe a lie)? Well, now you know where it came from.

But I don't need it. Before setting off to pump iron yesterday it was not a Rocky training montage I watched to get me psyched, nor Al Pacino's Inches speech, but the Deus Ex 3 trailer in all its cyber-badass glory. Thus, like the genius of logic I am, I can conclude this article early, having demonstrated conclusively that gaming is not an inherently lazy and fattening pastime. Video gaming has a huge cast of heroes, its hulking space-marines and lithe ninjas that inspire my fitness hits as much as anything else.

Wait, you find it weird to use these fake folk as examples? But is it any stranger than actors strapping on fake-ab-packs and smearing on body grease for 300's phoney Spartan army? Or the droves of people who signed up to martial arts classes after witnessing The Ma-

trix's fantastical fighting? Or a teenage girl's neurotic comparisons to touched-up fashion photography? It's just psychology, yo, the power of exaggerating the normal. Reach for the moon and all that. Check out Cammy's abs in Street Fighter and feel your flabby belly curl inwards in shame.

Talking of which, she has fairly impressive tricep definition as well, though not as ripped as Ryu's when busting out one of his spectacular hadokens. In fact, I would go so far as to say that one of the main draws of Street Fighter is its depiction of the fighters; the fluidity of their animation and heft of their impacts. In its over-the-top, fantastical way it is a spectacular celebration of human movement and physique, and the one-on-one drama of fighting sports.

So there, I'm done. Point proven. I might as well fill the rest of the column space with pictures of my own insanely chiselled abs.

But I can't really leave it at that (there's not enough space here to do justice to my abs for a start): Bulging biceps, graceful animation, dynamic angles, swelling soundtracks, lean character design; these are all parts of gaming's multimedia mongrel appeal but these things aren't the exclusive territory of gaming, are they? And yet there is a dif-



"It is my personal level up to pump up my muscles and push through pain"

ference, that's for sure.

So I posit: There is no doubt that those Rocky films, soaked in the visual paraphernalia of boxing, are a great cinematic homage to the sport. But in Street Fighter we can feel the drama of split-second strategy changes and sudden bursts of action ourselves. After racking up an embarrassing amount of hours on learning its depths and button-pressing combos into my subconscious, I realise why people treat it as a sport unto itself.

And now I think about it, that's sort of the point. Deus Ex 3's trailer may get me hankering for some futuristic fisticuffs, but the credit still goes to a video and not the actual game. Street Fighter on the other hand inspires me with its actual gameplay. And in being interactive, it does so in a different way, one at times more seamless with my normal view on the world.

I am not of course saying that games can replace real sports (yes fat man, even your Wii Fit), or vice-versa. They are both two discrete things, and Street Fighter is more focussed on being Street Fighter than any kind of real fight simulator. But gaming's interactive nature is unique amongst other forms of entertainment, and when I go to kick-boxing it is the hard-earned defence reflexes and attack combos of the game I am re-

minded of, more than any Karate Kid or Ong-Bak.

Because most of all, gaming's interactivity makes it infectious. It keeps a hold on my mind long after the console has been turned off. It can transform my text-books into Tetris bricks and rubbish skips into potential hiding places (in case the guards see me, innit). Others use headphones to pump out their Eye of the Tiger and add a baseline of cinematic drama to their life. I, with my poor game-addled mind, instead activate a sort of game-world visor at will, transforming my view like some mental 'Lens of Truth'. It is my personal level up to pump up my muscles and push through pain. Whether music or my game-o-vision, rousing speeches or courageous quotes, they're all just illusions of entertainment we use to simplify the world and maximise our effect, sporting or otherwise; our very own media-made and steroid-free performance enhancing products.

So maybe you want to call me a geek for taking the whole thing so seriously, for running that little faster when I go past a bus like it was some hulking colossus, or climbing bollards as if in some cut-price Mirror's Edge.

Go on, call me a geek. But if you do, I'll Shoryuken your ass.

Guitar Hero comes to a timely demise

Chris Bowers

On February 9th, Activision announced they were discontinuing the *Guitar Hero* franchise, and as a result, their planned 2011 *Guitar Hero* title was also cancelled. Activision cited "declining interest in the music genre" as their reason, a phenomenon which is quite possibly down to an almost completely saturated market.

Since the release of *Guitar Hero III: Warriors of Rock* in 2007 (the first *Guitar Hero* game not to be developed by Harmonix – who now make competitor *Rock Band*), the two franchises have published 15 different titles between them (excluding mobile versions and *DJ Hero*). This equates to more than one release every three months on average – an astounding statistic. But each new iteration generally offered little in terms of new functionality – instead, the main purpose was just to add new songs for the user to play. Add to that the hundreds of songs that can be bought from

each franchise's online catalogue and it becomes a distinct possibility that the games start to compete with others from their own series.

Maybe customers became dissatisfied with having to splash out £40 - £50 on each new offering (plus the initial cost of the plastic peripherals), and decided to just stick to the games they already owned, topping up the songs they could play with downloaded ones if they got bored. If this is indeed the case, then *Guitar Hero* was always going to suffer, as *Rock Band* has a far vaster downloadable content library. It could also be partially down to the ever-present recession – people's spending habits have changed, and a new disc for 80 or so songs doesn't make the cut.

So what does this mean for the future of the music game market? It's definitely a shame straight from the off – I've been a big fan of the genre since *Guitar Hero III*, and I'm disappointed to see the series go. But in the long run, it's possible that this announcement may have a

bigger impact than it at first seems.

There has never been a clear cut "better" game between the two series, and this required both developers to work hard on new features that would encourage gamers to buy their product over their rival's. This, like any healthy competition, was advantageous for the consumer, as they were always getting the best deal for their money – if either company got complacent with their game they would lose out on sales. Now that *Guitar Hero* is gone, *Rock Band* has no one to push them to constantly improve their games, and make sure they sign the right deals to get the best songs, which may end up as detrimental to us players.

The future of *Rock Band* has also seemed a bit murky recently, with Viacom (the owner of published MTV Games) selling Harmonix for the princely sum of fifty dollars. However, Harmonix have assured gamers that this won't affect them.

Whatever the result, it's a sad day for fans of the series everywhere.



Damn, now I can't even be an armchair rockstar

TRAVEL

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Wishing You Were Here



Thai vegetarian festival by Athit Perawongmetha

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Tragic tourism perils

Priya Garg contemplates the natural beauty of Foz do Iguaçu, and its fragility at the hands of mass tourism

After many buses and a short internal flight, we hauled ourselves and our somehow heavier backpacks to the small town of Foz do Iguaçu, the closest resting point in Brazil en route to the famous Iguaçu Falls of the dramatic 'terra de cataratas' (land of the waterfalls). The Iguaçu Falls are formed by several spectacular drops of the Iguaçu River culminating in an 82 metre plummet termed 'Devil's Throat', a glorious junction uniting Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. Hearsay declares that in awe of this thundering vision Eleanor Roosevelt apparently exclaimed "poor Niagara!"

Carrying huge expectations, our first impression of Foz do Iguaçu was of a greasy dirty strip stifled by fast food joints; burgers, hotdogs, fries, sushi, chinese, supermercados, supermoffatos and pizza, interspersed within a riot of Las Vegas-style coloured lighting. Disappointed, we took an early night.

In the morning before visiting the waterfalls, we were convinced by a travelling Irish couple to join them in slipping over the border in a rickety local bus to Paraguay until midday to visit an electrical goods market. Imagine streets chock-a-block with stalls simmering with the sounds of hustlers selling knock-off brands, perfumes, tyres, shoes, laptops, chargers, mo-

"How can a waterfall be owned? What makes it an attraction to be paid for like a fairground ride?"

bile phone covers, rubbery crocs, hairpins and rows of fake aviators. There was red dust, chattering, honking cars, people dragging large plastic bags, hawkers and con artists everywhere amidst unfinished buildings and Paraguayans hanging off flimsy tiers of wooden scaffolding. Without purchasing, we escaped back to Brazil and went to the Iguaçu National Park.

A plush air conditioned tourist bus took us up through bushy green wilderness where rich red and golden butterflies fluttered by the windows, as the bus whipped over-exuberant branches of forestry. The layout of the National Park allows one to wander down paved walkways beside, take glass elevators above, lean on metal posts over and even boat across the surface of the fantastic waterfalls. Having watched the infamous 'Gap Yah' video, this was truly a place where I expected to feel the "awesome power of nature and the insignificance of man", however we found ourselves curiously disappointed.

Priya Garg



Strategic photo cropping has managed to conceal the overweight naturists and rabid children

Yes, the waterfalls are indeed devastatingly beautiful. Imagine a whole panorama of black rock before you, with water gushing furiously from every angle, crashing, falling, pouring and pounding to churn foamy waves in pools below. First you see one stupendous stream of a waterfall surging 64 metres downward, then a whole circular basin of waterfalls until you finally arrive at Devil's Throat in its extravagant width, the crowning glory of the Iguaçu River. Birds fly ahead, trees sway behind, and you are hit by the magnificence of what lies before you. What spoils it, ironically, is you being there in the first place.

As we peered over sweaty heads, fighting to line up our cameras at each viewpoint, we felt a growing envy of the first explorers to expose this sight. We imagined them, hacking for days through dense backwoods, picking at the edges

of this spectacle until falling back in astonishment of the majesty of this wondrous sight. There they could revel alone in solitude and peace.

Now, in the searing heat, it was a noisy, busy commercial centre where after paying a hefty ticket fee you can duck past children flicking water, elbow tourists meandering over cement walkways, stumble over recycling bins and saunter past overpriced cafés on your trip around the waterfalls.

How can a waterfall be owned? What makes it an attraction to be paid for like a fairground ride? The destruction of nature by commercialism in man comes at a cost, and as tourists we felt a sudden hypocritical surge of sadness in being the ones adding to it, stamping our industrial marks all over the ancient wonders of the world.



Sorry Asian tourist, Priya is rocking a much better look: you look like a shit Hunter S. Thompson

Be there. Or be a square bear.

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Simon Hunter
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Music Tech DJs
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Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

FFS



SexyOsama69

What? is sammy preggers again?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

no, i just fuckin hate conservatives



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

yeah me too lol



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Totally ruined my 'Big Society' idea



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

your 'Big Society' idea was just fascism



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Yeah! Trying to spice shit up. Bein Primey M is boring as fuck



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

How can it be boring? You come to the house of commons gurnin your tits off



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Yeah lol. Eddy does as well though. He's worse than me. I don't think there has been a time when Ed hasn't been on Mandy



willyoujoinmymiliband?

HEY GUYZ! :P!!!! SRSLY!!!!
FUCKIN <3 U GUYZ :) XXXX <3 <3

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk.
For triple-WIN, send them to the Daily Mail

Attention Imperial...

Hangman is buying condoms... EXTRA-LARGE condoms

Would all the men reading this (that's a large portion of you) just silently nod if you find it embarrassing to buy condoms? You didn't nod. I don't care if you're in the library reading this with a friend opposite you. I bet you still take a few glances at the girl over there when you think no one notices. They do, and it's a bit creepy. She wants you to stop, as she has to pretend to be very interested in her food to avoid eye contact.

See, that's how embarrassed you are, you forced me off topic to try to avoid the shame. Back to the question posed, nod if you are. Yeah I thought so, you're nodding aren't you. This is a universal truth it seems. It's like Newton's three laws but a fuck of a lot more fundamental. I bet you do all the tricks. Only get them free from the health centre – although even then you feel uneasy, but don't worry you can just put down a friend's name. When you buy them you go and put a whole bunch of other crap in with it don't you. 'Hey person working at Sainsbury's I'm here to buy some items. I'm here to get 3 bottles of water, 4 snickers and a pack of crisps. Oh condoms, oops, well I guess I'll just have to pay for them as well.' Doesn't work at all. In this case homeopathy is correct. The more you try and dilute the condoms, the more powerful it becomes when the real reason for this shop is revealed.

It is a minefield though. No matter what you do it could have negative connotations. Here is a quick run through:

Normal – you're boring.
Flavoured – well it's not the subtlest way to ask for a blow is it.
Thick – you either need the padding



Warning: Men and women of legal age, who are within 100 yards of Hangman's condom purchase, are at risk of penetration...

or maybe you need the desensitising (apparently it has that effect).

Thin – you are selfish.

Ribbed – you need a little extra help.

Extra large – No-one's convinced...

I would also like to say to the man looking at the various types of condoms of offer. When someone walks by don't pick up the extra large in a showy way and make off as if to go and pay for them. You are not fooling anyone. Everyone in the shop is a stranger. For arguments' sake let's say the best-case scenario happens. A woman sees you getting extra large and is instantly infatuated. She immediately drags you home for passionate ecstasy. Then all is revealed and you end up getting nothing but laughed at while looking like a frankfurter in a parachute.

Men hate this certain purchase so much that we have invented, and made

One of the Hangman writers has done a Mubarak and fucked off to die... Good riddance

widespread use of, an entire machine to help us have no human interaction. The Sainsbury's self check out. I don't want to know what it's like to work at Sainsbury's and I doubt anyone else does so therefore this must be why it was made. This is how extreme the lengths are that we will go to.

The thing is – it makes no sense for men to be embarrassed. Let me reiterate why they are embarrassed. They don't want to be seen buying something that implies they are about to have sex in the near future. Men don't want people to think they are having sex. Yeah. Men. You know, that gender that is world renowned for its hard earned reputation of modesty about sexual prowess. The gender that hates bragging about any sexual conquests. I bet if I asked you right now "Why are you embarrassed about buying condoms," your reply wouldn't be "Well you know, I wouldn't want people to think I'm getting laid. That would be awful." I think the US rapper Cam'Ron sums up men's attitude perfectly in his song 'Hey Ma.' Let me set the scene. Cam'Ron has just had sex with a woman. She is still, possibly, lying next to him. The next part of the song describing his actions goes as follows:

Cam'ron: Now I'm flipping the cell, that's right, I had to call up L. Yo L.

L: What up?

Cam'ron: I hit.

L: What else?

Cam'ron: Plus dome.

L: Say word.

Cam'ron: (Breaks out into song) And we got it on tonight.

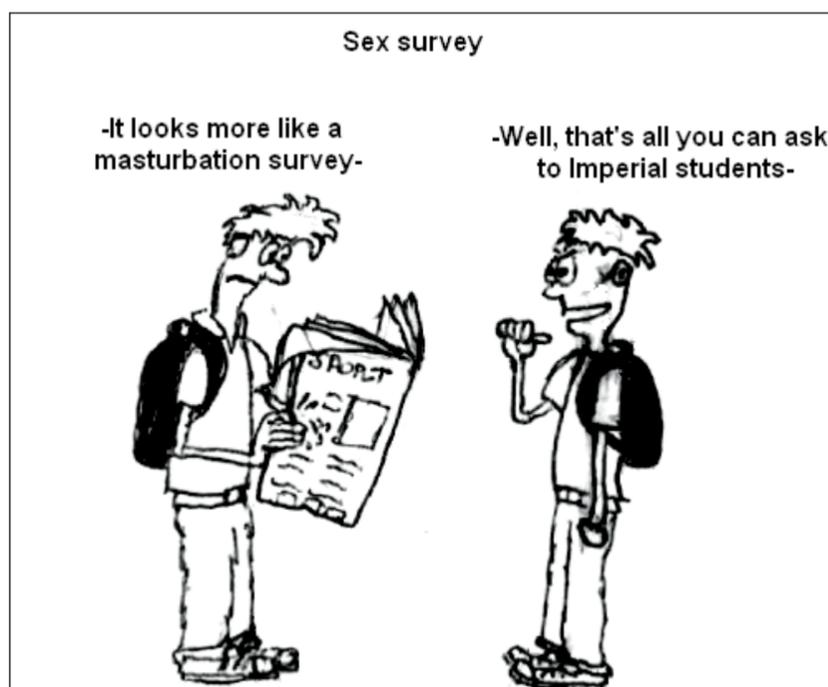
See, his first reaction was to tell someone about it. Ignoring the fact that it's a bit lame to do that, you can see he wants people to know. Although it is likely that he misrepresented that conversation a bit. I bet it really went like this:

Cam'ron: "Yo L ... L! I HAD SEX! LIKE 30 SECONDS AGO! IT WAS AWESOME!"

L: "It's 3 in the fucking morning you fucking asshole. Stop calling me every time you get some. If you don't I'll stop buying those condoms you can't psyche yourself up to buy."

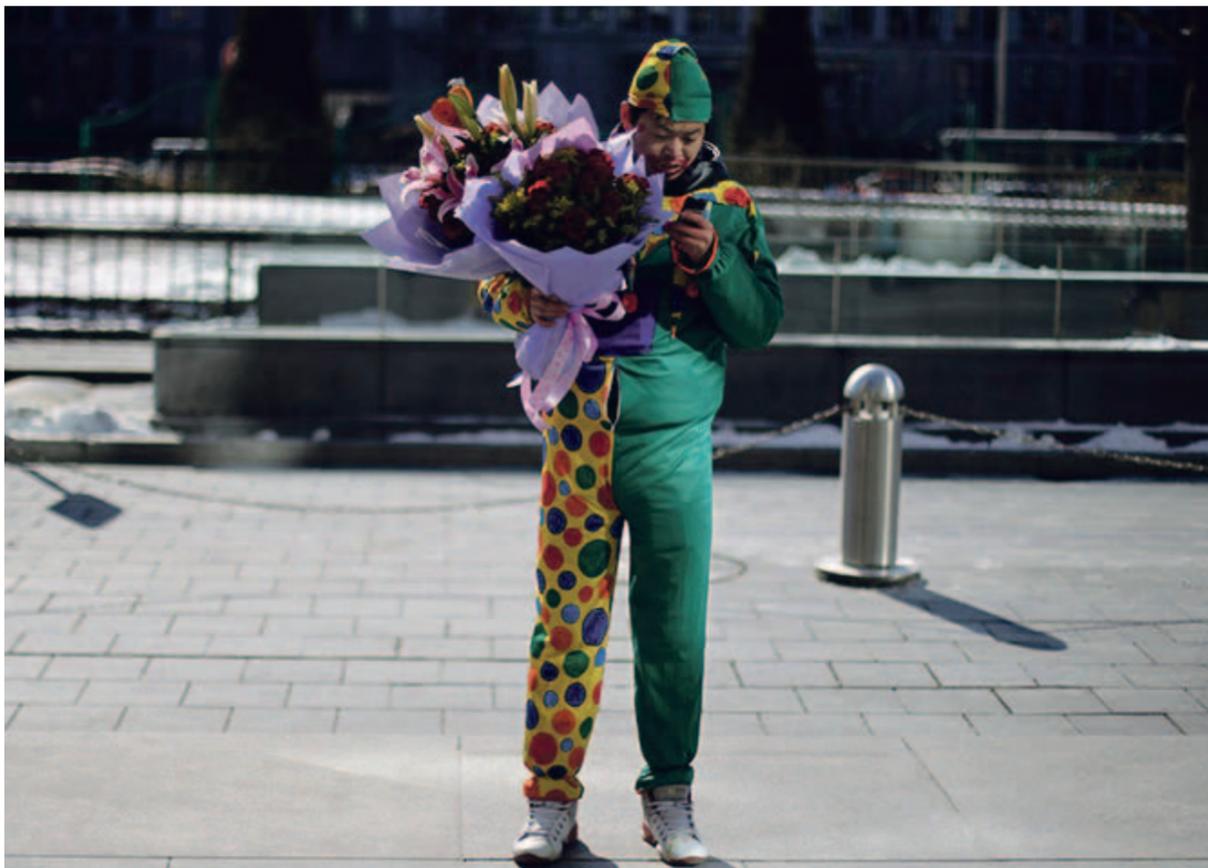
I'm not like most guys. I relish the opportunity. I'll tell you the scene I want to take place. I walk in and stride over to the condoms. Pick up a pack and place it on the self checkout. A siren goes off. 'Man expecting to have sex in the near future detected,' is the announcement. Then smoke starts shooting out of the machine. An awe inspiring power ballad plays as I swagger out, condoms in pocket, ripping open my shirt to reveal the iconic Superman 'S.' That's how I want that shit to go down. Maybe you disagree, I don't know.

Luca De Benedetti



THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

China introduces 'two-wife' policy



DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Oh yes, it's all fun and games until you realise that there's a little boy in that toy house, whose life has been completely and irreparably destroyed by Mr Tan Line...

Horoscopes

Aries

This week, you're floating on a hazy cloud of warped chimes and ghostly, child-like wailing. You feel as if your mind has separated from your body and is holding court with the stars. You're having a truly spiritual experience. Bieber forever. Who is Arcade Fire? Ofwvgtka

Gemini

This week, you're getting rowdy at a gig when you notice a cute girl watching you. You throw a smile her way and suddenly you've got a good thing going on. As she walks seductively over to you, some fat bastard falls out of the mosh pit, lands on top of her and breaks her neck...

Leo

This week, you decide to cut out the middle man and just scoff coffee beans straight – Waitrose coffee beans mind you. It's all going swimmingly until you realise your mouth is really dry. There's no time to lose! You chuck the scalding water straight in there... Free Earl.

Libra

This week, you grab a fistful of your hair, and start hacking away with some scissors. Before long you realise that it's not your hair but some random child that you've abducted... This is a difficult one: Murder and hide the body, or hope the child won't remember you... Decisions...

Sagittarius

This week, you've only got a week or so until the Daily starts. You're secretly hoping that the entire population of Imperial College London starts fucking everything up on the 28th so that you've got something to write about every day. (Pretty please?)

Aquarius

This week, you're in your bath tub, head submerged beneath the water, reliving all your past memories, those lost times with lost friends. A figure blocks the light. It's the Burger King guy. He rams twelve Whoppers up your arse while whistling the theme tune from Skins...

Taurus

This week, you're having dinner with your boyfriend. He's droning on about his course again. You've had enough. You pick up your fork, eat that last piece of lettuce and stab yourself in the neck repeatedly. He doesn't even notice. Happy Valentine's Day.

Cancer

This week, you've misplaced your B machines. You're pretty sure that you left them in the drawer but they're not there anymore. Your A machines are on the table where they're meant to be but some cuntin knob has moved your B machines... You write a song...

Virgo

This week you're waiting at the Union for your mates. You're getting out of the house! You're going to get crazy drunk! You're going to socialise! Yes! After waiting two hours, you get a text. It reads, "lol, just needed to get you out of the house so we could shit on your pillow!"

Scorpio

This week, you self harm. You quietly leave the library without your friends noticing. The bus home is achingly slow. You yearn for the pain. You rush up the stairs, run into your bedroom, lock the door behind you Jessie J on full-volume... ZING!

Capricorn

This week, you ponder the great question of the day: How did that fat guy get that totally fit girl? Is he a really good dancer? Does he have some special type of Lynx that I haven't heard of? WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON PEOPLE!?!?!?

Pisces

This week, you dig up the time machine that you buried in your garden when you were 8. You find a photo of yourself. Man you used to be so full of life and joy. Now you're letting balding businessmen toss your salad for £5 a go... Ah, Imperial degrees.

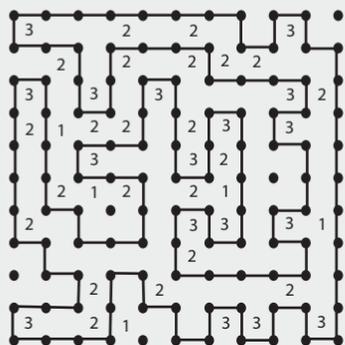
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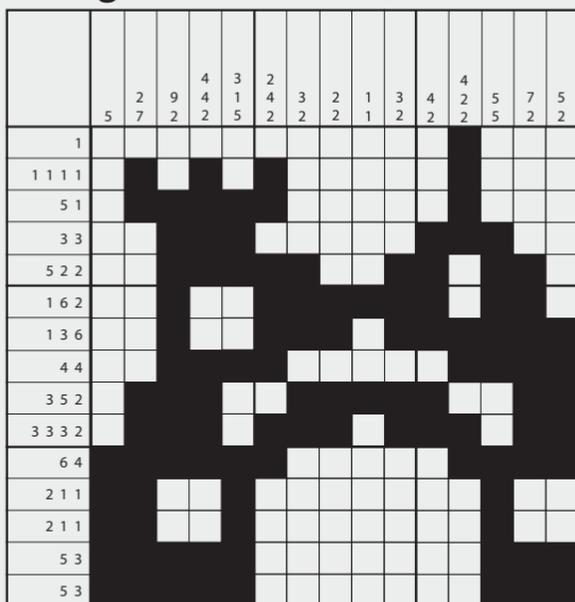
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

Slitherlink



Nonogram



Crossword



CRYPTIC - Across 1. Coalesces 9. Tornado 10. Actaeon 11. Venom 12. Lighten Up 13. Dolphin 15. Adieu 17. Ariel 18. Jetty 19. Style 20. Samurai 23. Dishonest 25. Scrum 27. Loosest 28. Inferno 29. Bookmaker **Down** 1. Cradle 2. Antagonism 3. Eventual 4. Canon 5. Stamp Duty 6. Drivel 7. Barn 8. Normandy 14. Hit The Deck 16. Inside Job 17. Assassin 18. Jeroboam 21. Remark 22. Stator 24. Salvo 26. Rife

Going Underground

C	O	L	L	I	E	R	S	W	O	O	D
3	15	12	12	9	5	18	19	23	15	15	4

Crossword

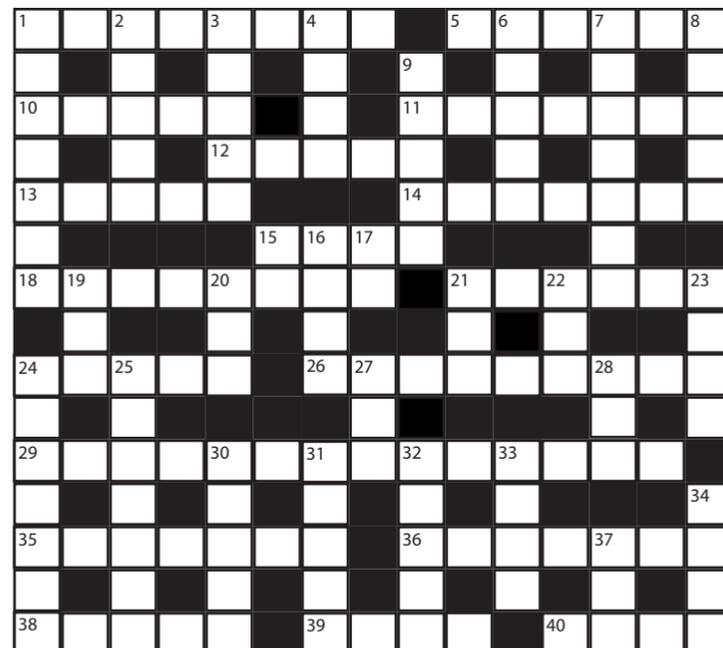
Across

- To have asked for something peremptorily (8)
- An informer (6)
- A planet (5)
- A type of thick stew, usually milk or cream based and with seafood or vegetables (7)
- A type of soy sauce (5)
- A bone extending from the elbow to the wrist (5)
- A truncated design/structure for attaching double wall lights (4,3)
- A French word meaning to line, scratch or mark (4)
- The county town of a West Midlands English county (8)
- The act of equipping (6)
- A tubular scarf (5)
- A denomination of British C19th & C20th coinage worth 2 shillings (3,6)
- A novel by E. M. Forster (1,4,4,1,4)
- A French word, very similar to English, meaning the measure of time delay experienced in a system (7)
- Sid ---, bassist of the Sex Pistols (7)
- Saucy (5)
- Lois ---, love interest of Superman (4)

- A self-contained piece of music for one voice with orchestral accompaniment, most common in opera (4)

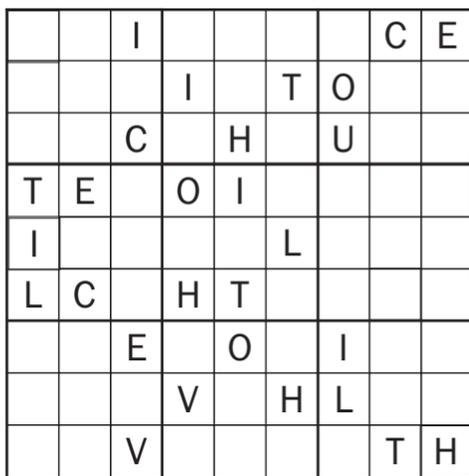
Down

- A description of how someone consumes greedily (7)
- An opera by Jules Massenet (5)
- The house in which Dead Man's Folly by Agatha Christie takes place (5)
- Repetition of sound resulting from the reflection of sound waves (4)
- A common girls name (5)
- A verb meaning dominate (2,5)
- The sphere of women in a polygynous household (5)
- In medicine the description of a disease with a rapid onset and a short course (5)
- The internet country code domain for an Eastern European country (2)
- The river that runs through Florence (4)
- One part of the psyche as described in Freud's structural model (2)
- A commonly mined metal in Cornwall (3)
- To have provided food (3)
- A big, clumsy, slow-witted person (3)
- A number (3)
- A fork prong (4)



- Thin pieces of wire used to fasten paper (6)
- A Syrian river (7)
- The egg of a louse (3)
- The unprocessed and unsalted form of caviar (3)
- Squalid or shabby (5)
- A type of artery feeding oxygenated blood to a part of the small intestine (5)
- A place of safety (5)
- A wicked trait (4)
- English rock group famous for the song Heat of the Moment (4)
- An implement used for rowing (3)

Wordoku

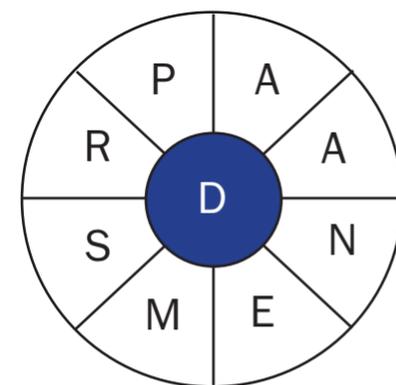


Sometimes it's so subtle, you don't even know it has happened... Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol.

Word Wheel

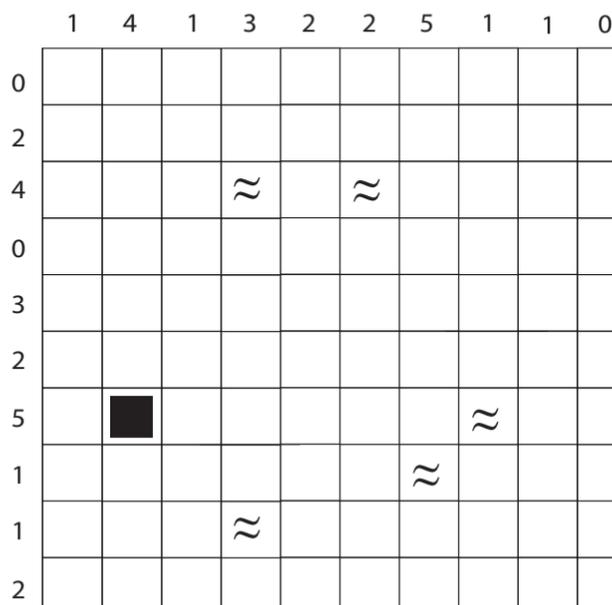
TARGET: 31

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.

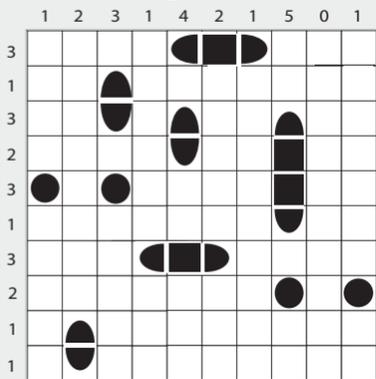


- 1 x Aircraft Carrier
- 2 x Battleship
- 3 x Cruiser
- 4 x Destroyer

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

PUZZLES

Battleships

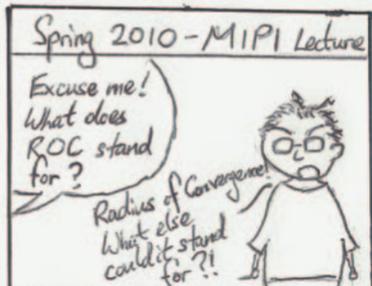
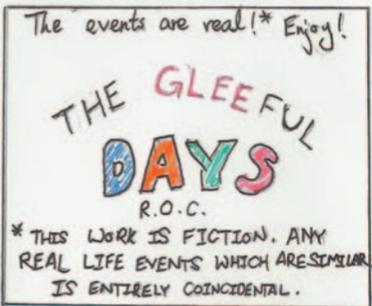


Pictogram

1. Cleopatra 2. Guinivere 3. Paris
 4. Victoria 5. Salim Ans: Romeo

Guess the tube stations!

Green Park & Hyde Park Corner

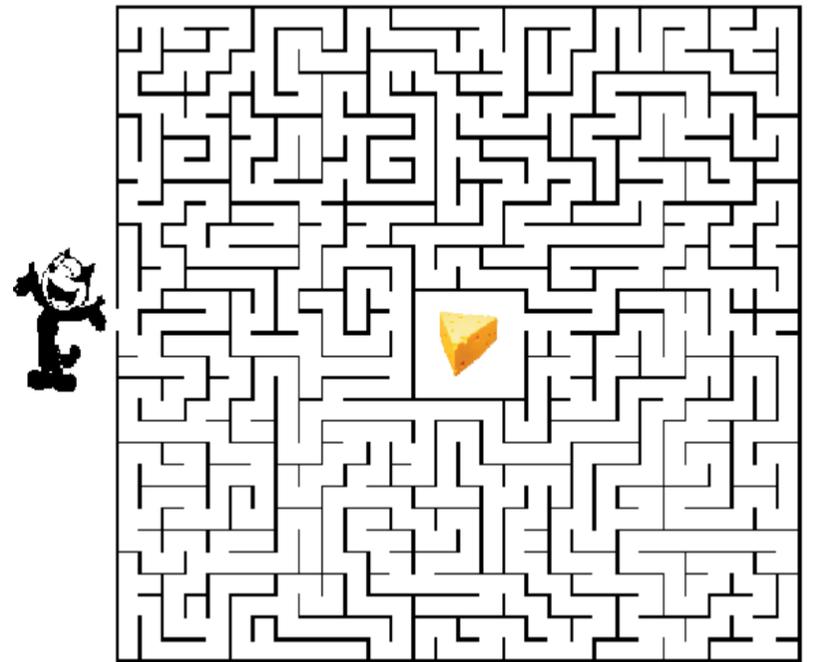


Word Hunt

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

- | | | | |
|----|------------|-----|------------|
| 1. | Account | 6. | Expense |
| 2. | Ante | 7. | Gravy |
| 3. | Commission | 8. | Handle |
| 4. | Emolument | 9. | Honorarium |
| 5. | End | 10. | Payment |

Mentalist maze



- | | | |
|-----|------------|------------------------------------|
| 11. | Recompense | So yes - just find these words.... |
| 12. | Reward | |
| 13. | Salary | |
| 14. | Share | |
| 15. | Stipend | |

Guess the tube stations!



3 glorious tube stations to decipher this week!



Pictogram - anagram of the letters in red spell the thematic answer

~ A foole and his money, be soone at debate: which after with sorrow, repents him too late. ~ Thomas Tusser

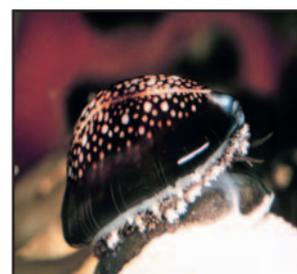
- | | | | | | |
|----|-------|----|-------|-----|-------|
| 1. | _____ | 3. | _____ | 5. | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | 4. | _____ | Ans | _____ |



This common aquatic being, *Carassius auratus auratus*, was a sign of abundance in ancient China.



The more common name for a heliotrope thought to bring wealth by the Gnostics.



This shell, used as a form of currency in Africa, once held the life of a sea snail.



A big, blue gemstone. It's pretty!



Also known as Hades, god of the underworld in Greek mythology. His domain holds the precious metals.

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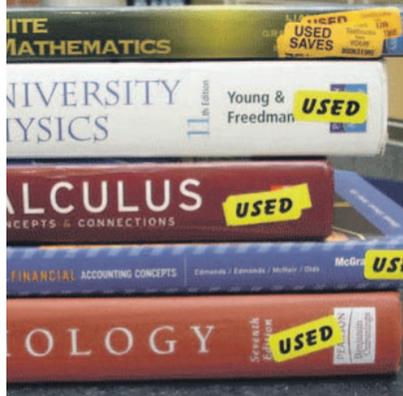
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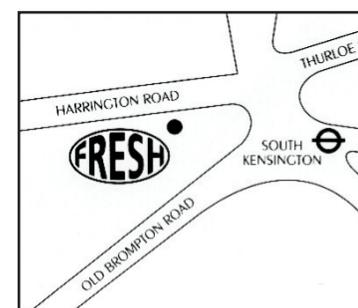
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SPORT

Sports Editors: **Jovan Nedic**
David Wilson

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Imperial Tae Kwon Do take on Italy

Maija-lisa Han reports on the
4th International
Mediterranean Open

Last weekend, six students from the Imperial College Union Tae Kwon Do club (ICUTKD) travelled to Cagliari in Italy where they competed in the 4th International Mediterranean Open. Open to all levels whether they be black belts or white belts, ICUTKD were joined with a few members from their sister club at Queen Mary's to compete against other clubs from Britain, Belgium and Italy.

The competition is split into two types: patterns and sparring. Patterns involve the competitor performing a series of movements set in a logical sequence in front of a group of judges who would then score each individual performance. Sparring involves a one-on-one fight against another opponent, with points scored for each hit (though knockout is acceptable for senior grades!).

Sparring categories are determined by weight and grade, however, during the tournament many from ICUTKD were moved up in weight categories to balance out the numbers. Several found themselves competing against opponents much larger than themselves,

which made sparring an even tougher challenge! Furthermore, whilst British rules state that sparring is semi-contact for junior levels, rules in Italy declared that sparring is full contact, regardless of level. This came as a shock to some members who only recently started TaeKwonDo and found out about the full-contact rule in the morning of the competition. Despite all this, every member embraced the challenge and fought hard. ICUTKD were able to come away with a few medals, with Charles Heng Sok winning bronze medals for both patterns and sparring, and Maija-Lisa Han winning the gold medal for patterns and the bronze medal in sparring.

It's not all hard work and training at ICUTKD though! With the tournament over, there was the chance to go sight-seeing around Cagliari, a peaceful town on the coast of Sardinia. With their average level in Italian being zero, the team were still able to navigate themselves successfully through every nook and cranny of Cagliari. At the same time, this provided a golden opportunity to take a peek at how the locals led their life.

To truly relish the Italian culture, the team treated themselves to delicious Italian pizza, which was followed by a trip to the local gelateria. In addition to the wonderful food, we also managed to climb up a hill overlooking the town and saw a magnificent night view of Cagliari.

Finally, on the way back to the airport in the rented cars we faced some, let's say 'interesting', Italian driving whilst doing our best at dodging the speed cameras (we were running a bit late!). The challenges we faced were never ending as we struggled to find a petrol station that would accept a foreign credit card.

Without a doubt, the tournament was an incredibly valuable experience and a great deal of fun. We cannot wait for the next tournament not only in Italy but other parts of Europe and even within the UK. We would like to encourage anyone to come along to our club. Both IC and QM Tae Kwon Do clubs are coached by Mr Davion Cheng, a IV Dan black belt.

If you feel like giving it a go, training is held on Mondays 6-9pm in the Union gym and we welcome people of any level.

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Swimmers in command of the situation

Thomas Whitehead-Clarke

Over the last two weekends, the IC swimming team have gone out and tested their credentials on a national level, proving themselves to be a formidable force.

Two weeks ago the swimming team took a small squad of swimmers to the BUCS south regional team event, taking on teams from all over southern England from Bath to Southampton and beyond. Both the girls and guys teams performed brilliantly, with special mention going to Hannah Collins and Jaime "quiet man" Gonzalez, for fantastic displays in the 100m IM and 200m freestyle respectively. As the gala went on it was clear that Imperial were in the hunt to reach the BUCS final up in Loughborough, brushing aside competition from other universities to be in a promising position halfway through the afternoon.

More good swims followed the mid-gala interval, however the team nar-

rowly missed out on a position in the final to the University of London swimming team. This was particularly galling given that IC had been told that they had reached the final, only for that to be taken away due to errors in calculating points.

The swim team soon brushed off this disappointment on their way up to Sheffield to compete in the BUCS Long course national championships.

It was clear from the first day of the gala that the team were in good nick, when the men's freestyle relay team qualified for the B final, after which results only improved. Hayley Rigby narrowly missed out on a place in the 200m IM final, and had to settle for a reserve place. A new addition to the squad Chris Jones made an instant impact when he qualified easily for the final of the 50m breaststroke narrowly edging Florian Brock out of the "situation".

Both men's and women's medley relay teams then went on to qualify for

their respective B finals, on a day which would be capped by Chris coming 5th in the 50m breaststroke, and the men's freestyle relay team of Chris, Niki Peric, Jaime Gonzalez and Thomas Whitehead-Clarke smashing their time from the previous day by 4 seconds to come 2nd in the B final, leaving them 12th in the country. The weekend was capped on the Sunday with Maria Graney narrowly missing out on the final for the 100m backstroke for reasons unknown, and a great performance from the girls' medley team in their final, again improving on their time thanks to a tactical master-stroke from Alex Charleson.

All in all a fantastic 2 weeks of swimming, and a suitable farewell gift to the swimming club coach Sergio Catania who will be moving on after over 5 years with the club. His enthusiasm on pool-side will be missed, but the club hope to build on the success that he has brought, and go from strength to strength in the coming years.

Snookering success at the Midlands Cup

Shyam Pankhania

On the weekend 5th/6th February the ICU Snooker team descended on Coventry for the annual pre-BUCS warm-up; the Midlands Cup Tournament. After an eventful journey in which one player missed the train, the team arrived with high spirits. The 1st team consisted of experienced old heads whereas the 2nd team composed of enthusiastic Freshers and 2nd years who had worked their way into the team.

Individual tournament matches were played on the Saturday, with the 1st and 2nd teams being separated to enter the individual championship and individual trophy tournaments respectively. Both teams had mixed success and there were notable performances from Nitesh Mehta who overwhelmed his opponent in the first round with accurate potting and flawless safety. The individual tournament ended without an Imperial student progressing beyond the 3rd round, however the team event was still to come.

The 1st and 2nd teams were once again entered into separate team tournaments. The 1st team of Sam Dennis (Captain), Hari Arora, Lawrence Wild, Bogdan Cozmacuic and Grace Yip played some fantastic match snooker and finished 4th in their group. Most notably Hari Arora managed a draw against Cardiff's R. Taylor and from 25 points behind against Southampton's D. Jose.

The 2nd team of Nitesh Mehta (Captain), Shyam Pankhania, Aaron Trowbridge and Paul Choong was one player light. Consequently two random players competed in an extra frame in each

match. Nitesh Mehta and Paul Choong endured tough matches and persevered to keep the Imperial 2nd's in the tournament at the close of play on Saturday. So far results had not gone the teams' way, after losing 6-4 against Cardiff 3rd's and Warwick 2nd's. In the final team match against Southampton 3rds, Aaron Trowbridge's persistence paid off and he obtained a well-earned draw in the first match. Unfortunately, Nitesh Mehta nor Paul Choong could secure a frame leaving Imperial 2nd's trailing 5-1. It was time for Shyam Pankhania to step up to the plate and give Imperial an unlikely path through to the knockout phase. The first frame started off with the Southampton player taking a 20 point lead, however with some fantastic safety play and astute snookering the frame went down to the black. The Southampton player potted the long black, and went on to win the next frame on the black. Imperial's pride was at stake and Shyam Pankhania earned a couple of chances in the final frame. He successfully converted these chances with breaks of 14 and a career high break of 27, winning the frame on the long black which had eluded him throughout the tournament.

The high breaks table was dominated by a Cardiff player who made fourteen breaks of over 30. Nevertheless the Imperial 1st's had impressive breaks of their own with Lawrence Wild making 41 and 43, and Bogdan Cozmacuic complemented this with a 32.

Overall the Tournament was successful and now the ICU Snooker teams switch their minds to defending their BUCS Snooker Title in March.

1st XV overrun Portsmouth

David Wilson
Rugby Union

Imperial 1s 33 - 0 Portsmouth

The 1st XV travelled down to Portsmouth on Wednesday eager to maintain their challenge for promotion against a side that are extremely difficult to beat at home.

The match began with fly half James Hayward rocked by three late hits by the Portsmouth openside in sequential plays. Portsmouth's repeated ill discipline around the field allowed Imperial to capitalise on penalties through their superior line out and subsequent mauls. Charlie Esberger, Chris McGeough and

Ed Labinski provided safe and secure line out options. The breakthrough came mid-way through the first half with a try finished off by Louie Barnett after good work in the tight from the forwards. Hayward added the conversion and a penalty before half time to give Imperial a respectable lead at the turn around given that Imperial had defended for most of the first half, leading by example was returning captain Caolan Cotter.

Following the restart, Imperial carried on where they left off, man of the match George Lane and his centre partner Ben Adubi looked comfortable in attack and defence whilst Joe Harris and Jack Newton on the wings threatened when

given the opportunity. Hayward added another penalty before Toby Spittle, on for Jamie 'S&M' Aldridge, charged over for a second try after good vision from replacement scrum half Olly Cox, who replaced the ineffectual Graeme Riddler. The third try was simply a collective effort from the front row. Simon Fenton stole an overthrown lineout and charged into the opposition 22 before offloading to Spittle who had the vision to see hooker, David Wilson, rampaging down the touchline to score in the corner. Hayward added the conversion to end the day with a perfect kicking record.

Imperial hope to carry such intensity into their remaining games this season.



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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing W1	8	8	0	0	1075	549	526	5.00
2 Fencing M1	9	9	0	0	1094	845	249	5.00
3 Basketball M1	9	9	0	0	697	493	204	5.00
4 Table Tennis M2	8	8	0	0	116	20	96	5.00
5 Water Polo W1	5	4	1	0	72	12	60	4.40
6 Volleyball W1	11	10	0	1	21	4	17	4.18
7 Volleyball M1	10	9	0	1	19	4	15	4.10
8 Tennis M1	10	8	1	1	76	44	32	3.80
9 ICSM Netball W1	12	10	0	2	493	312	181	3.50
10 Table Tennis M1	6	5	0	1	70	32	38	3.50
11 Squash W1	10	8	0	2	31	8	23	3.20
12 Netball W1	12	9	0	3	491	339	152	2.75
13 Rugby M1	12	9	0	3	272	164	108	2.75
14 Basketball W1	8	6	0	2	386	325	61	2.75
15 Lacrosse M1	8	6	0	2	117	74	43	2.75
16 Hockey W1	11	8	0	3	59	20	39	2.55
17 Lacrosse W1	9	6	0	3	110	64	46	2.00
18 ICSM Netball W3	9	6	0	3	245	214	31	2.00
19 ICSM Rugby M3	9	6	0	3	245	214	31	2.00
20 Table Tennis W1	6	4	0	2	20	10	10	2.00
21 ICSM Hockey W1	19	10	3	6	53	43	10	1.68
22 ICSM Football M1	9	5	1	3	28	18	10	1.67
23 Hockey M1	9	5	1	3	30	23	7	1.67
24 Tennis W1	7	4	0	3	42	42	0	1.14
25 ICSM Hockey M3	7	4	0	3	11	27	-16	1.14
26 Football M1	10	5	1	4	27	17	10	1.10
27 Badminton W1	10	5	1	4	34	46	-12	1.10
28 Netball W2	9	5	0	4	346	362	-16	1.00
29 Badminton M1	11	4	3	4	44	44	0	0.91
30 Fencing M2	10	5	0	4	1122	1128	-6	0.90
31 Hockey M2	10	4	2	4	16	24	-8	0.80
32 Netball W3	8	4	0	4	247	194	53	0.50
33 Hockey M3	8	2	3	3	7	7	0	0.50
34 Football W1	6	3	0	3	15	18	-3	0.50
35 ICSM Hockey M1	9	4	0	5	21	18	3	0.00
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 Hockey M2	10	3	2	5	18	28	-10	-0.10
40 ICSM Badminton W1	8	2	2	4	29	41	-12	-0.25
41 ICSM Badminton M1	9	3	1	5	24	48	-24	-0.33
42 ICSM Football M2	5	2	0	3	14	16	-2	-0.40
43 ICSM Netball W2	10	4	0	6	308	333	-25	-0.40
44 Fencing W2	10	4	0	6	1142	1170	-28	-0.40
45 Badminton M2	8	3	0	5	33	31	2	-0.63
46 Squash M3	8	3	0	5	15	23	-8	-0.63
47 Squash M4	5	1	1	3	5	7	-2	-1.00
48 Hockey W2	10	2	1	7	11	36	-25	-1.60
49 ICSM Rugby M1	10	2	1	7	144	386	-242	-1.60
50 Hockey M4	8	2	0	6	13	19	-6	-1.75
51 Football M3	8	2	0	6	16	25	-9	-1.75
52 ICSM Hockey W3	4	1	0	3	3	14	-11	-1.75
53 Fencing M3	8	2	0	6	880	978	-98	-1.75
54 Tennis M2	7	1	1	5	22	61	-39	-1.86
55 Rugby M2	13	3	0	10	194	334	-140	-1.92
56 Water Polo M1	3	0	1	2	23	30	-7	-2.00
57 ICSM Rugby M2	12	2	1	9	200	438	-238	-2.00
58 Rugby M3	9	2	0	7	66	313	-247	-2.00
59 ICSM Badminton M2	5	1	0	4	14	26	-12	-2.20
60 ICSM Hockey W2	10	2	0	8	21	42	-21	-2.20
61 Squash M2	12	2	0	10	16	44	-28	-2.50
62 Rugby M4	7	1	0	6	49	295	-246	-2.71
63 Football M2	10	1	0	9	14	32	-18	-3.10
64 Squash M1	6	0	0	6	4	26	-22	-4.00
65 ICSM Netball W3	7	0	0	7	134	257	-123	-4.00

5 points for a win | 2 points for a draw | -4 points for a loss



Hockey: Men's 3's continue unbeaten streak

Jonnie Clowes & Keshava Murthy
Men's ULU Hockey

IC 3rds 3 - 1 King's 2nds

The mighty Men's 3rds continued their fine form on and off the pitch by laying down a marker to their ULU rivals. Designer V scored an early brace before a potential comeback by Kings was snuffed out by a counter attack fortuitously finished off by B Tablet.

Straight from the push off IC broke with pace and forced an early short corner. Looking to make a mark on the game the Men's 3s pulled out the infamous sex panther short corner routine. This led to our illustrious captain driving his finish into the bottom left after a brilliant assist from A Beads.

Following this period of early domination, IC continued to stamp their authority on the match as they kept possession for long periods. Hard work led to many more scoring opportunities but the final ball was always lacking. Seeing that King's were putting 10 men behind the ball, IC knew that set pieces would be their best opportunity to score again and pressed hard for another short corner.

This tactic quickly paid dividends as Cockerel drove into the circle and with a quick change of direction planted the ball on a King's defender's foot for the second short of the game. Another sweet routine ended with Fresher Tom's beautiful pull back providing a golden opportunity for Designer V. This was duly converted and IC went 2-0 up with just 15 minutes played.

Arrogance started to drift into IC's play and they were made to pay as they gifted a goal

to their opponents. What should have been a routine interception from B Tablet resulted in a simple tap in for the King's striker with virtually his first touch of the ball.

IC quickly rallied, and their next goal again came from a set piece but this time from a King's one. Defending a short corner IC won the ball back thanks to a champion diving tackle by Fritzl (which is becoming somewhat of a weekly fixture). A pinpoint hit from Bottle Top found Fresher November, whose accurate pass pierced through the King's defence and landed perfectly on B Tablet's stick. Facing a one on one in the D, B Tablet shot straight at the keeper, but in true 3s style he followed up and, somewhat fortuitously, scored his first ever goal. Try as they might, IC couldn't add to their tally and went into the break 3-1 up.

The second half was a rather stale affair with neither team able to create many chances. Of the two King's created, one was fantastically snuffed out by Fresher Alex's covering tackle. The other one led to Sifter getting his first touch of the ball as, with tiger-like reflexes, he dived to his right knocking a scorching shot round the post. IC's best chance of the half came from Brickney after a one-two with Teabag left him with a tough reverse stick shot that shook the cross bar.

Following the match, Kings foolishly challenged IC to a boat race hoping to regain some pride. With confidence still oozing from the 3's after victory on the pitch Gingypop's stormer led IC to their second win of the day.

Cricketers struggle at BUCS Tournament

...Continued from Back Page

soon left that a pipe dream after a catastrophic run out did for Parmar and it was once again left to the middle order to rescue the innings. Ankit Patel, the grandfather of IC cricket, came to the fore and batted wonderfully well with little support from the other end. He manipulated the attack and the slightly better total of 85-5 was thanks almost entirely to him.

Imperial's bowlers struggled to contain the Coventry openers and had there been a repeat of the opening spell of the first game a tight contest might have ensued, but the batting side had wickets in hand, and despite another good spell from Ismail, Coventry were able to reach the target. It was a bitter pill to swallow for the Imperial boys who greatly surpassed last year's achievements by reaching this latter stage.

All that was left was to put intimate local knowledge to use, find a curry house to wash away the bad taste of the day's play and to curse the cricketing Gods for bringing us to such a wretched place.



NEXT WEEK:

Time to bring The Bottle home

Preview of 2011 Bottle Match

SPORT

Judo: Imperial bring home the medals at London Uni Judo Open

Jake Woods

Considering the 06:00 start, Imperial Judo were in high spirits as they trekked to the edges of civilisation in the wilderness of Uxbridge for this year's London Senior Universities Judo Open, the biggest competition of the year so far. We hurried down the steps to Brunel yesterday to meet a very nervous coach who informed us we had four minutes to get weighed-in, the guys and girls hurried onto the scales to see if the morning ablations had shaved off half a kilo.

Thrust onto the mat in front of a sizeable crowd (sadly missing some cheerleaders), Imperial displayed some great technique and caused real problems for the competition starting with the best Judo of the day from James Ko (U66kg)

who solidly beat all 5 of his opponents and claimed gold without seeming to break a sweat?! Nikola (U90kg), on the other hand, decided throws weren't his style and promptly threw the rules of judo out of the window. Instead of the tradition turn in and throw Nik pulled his opponent to the ground and forced them into an armlock Not exactly classy but a bronze medal is a bronze medal.

In between the two were an impressive collection of two-handed hips throws, drop throws and foot sweeps and a case of a particular person losing a match through falling over their own feet. Imperial dominated both men's and women's with Alice (U57kg) winning gold even though it was her first competition.

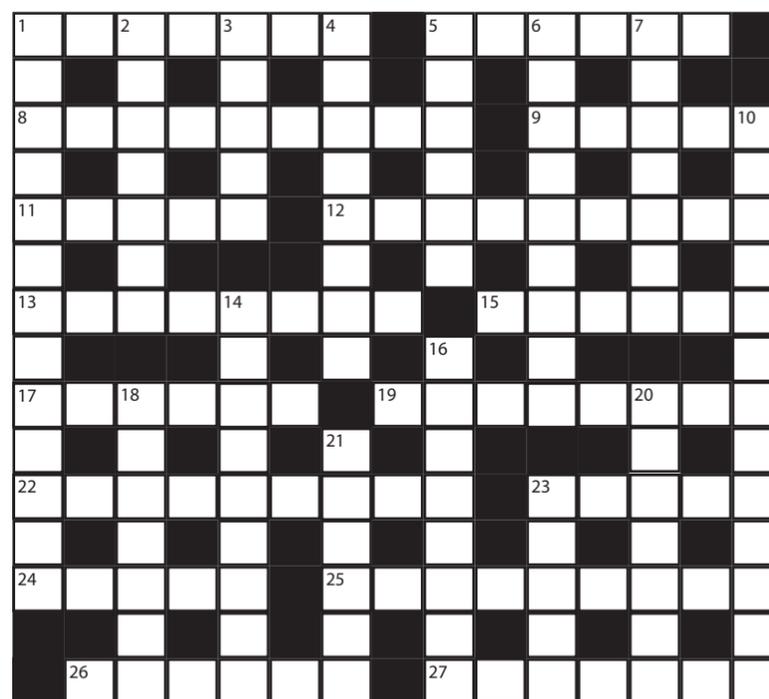
The black belts faced some incredibly

tough opposition against people with various things written on their back, worrying things like GBR and WALES. Karl (U81kg) was unlucky losing both his fights to two of the best in the competition but Matt and Ed fought some heroic battles both losing only to the eventual winner and had to settle for bronze and silver. Marie (U63kg) fought hard but unfortunately lost in the final and took home the silver.

So when the final medals were dished out Imperial came home with an impressive two gold, two silver and five bronze medals (for Jake, Stefano, Bronwyn, Joe and Nik) and second in the competition overall. A great performance all round with some huge throws from everyone, not bad for a day's work as everyone looks forward to BUCS.



Cryptic Crossword 1,483



- Across**
- Bow to missing Queen with cucumbers brewing (7)
 - Easterner protected by vital leg armour (6)
 - Caught flu maybe through nefarious means (3-6)
 - Dad yearly to view primary subscription-based satellite (3,2)
 - The French expert bounded (5)
 - Memorable act losing twist (9)
 - His Majesty hides revolutionary connection, seeking pleasure as a way of life (8)
 - Found in armchair, docile in Barnet, for instance (6)
 - Summaries are something hazy with complete nonsense (6)
 - Refinements to Northern glacier bands (8)
 - Premium 15, perhaps (1,3,5)
 - Last sacred word for two undead (5)
 - Killed, leader sacked and put to rest (5)
 - Unusual description of orbit (9)
 - Classified in case of being concealed by cult (6)
- Down**
- Tell the whole story, as Jack did (5,3,5)
 - Band of Democrats finding seaweed (7)
 - Turn about ship (1-4)
 - Computer, one primary plant expert (8)
 - One with great wisdom cut without direction (6)
 - Asleep and smashed on seaside path (9)
 - Yoga exercises involved in raising speed of spacecraft (7)
 - Ring of fire - it gets worse every time you try! (7,6)
 - Airborne nitrogen potentially obvious (2,7)
 - Leader shouted "WE ARE IC! Confusing and someone annoyingly intelligent!" (8)
 - University of London Union no longer, wait in self-pity (7)
 - I am me - not half averse to a plunge! (7)
 - Main street covered in trees (6)
 - Fierce, dry wind located in kibbutz on Dallas (5)

Fixtures & Results

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Saturday 12 February		FENCING		GOLF		LACROSSE		SQUASH		Men's 2nd vs Imperial Medicals 1s		Men's 7th vs St Bart's 4th	
FOOTBALL ULU	St George's Hospital Medical School 1s	1	Men's 1s	134	Mixed 1s	1	Women's 1s	4	Men's 2s	2	Medicals 1s	LACROSSE ULU	
Men's 3s	3	Loughborough University 1s	88	University of Essex 1s	5	Loughborough University 1s	26	University of Bournemouth 1s	3	Men's 3rd vs UCL 4th	Mixed 1st vs UCL 2nd		
Imperial Medicals 2s	0	Monday 14 February		HOCKEY		NETBALL		TABLE TENNIS		Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 3rd		Sunday 20 February	
Men's 3s	7	NETBALL ULU		Men's 1s		Women's 2s		Men's 2s		Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 3rd		BASKETBALL ULU	
South Bank 1s	0	Women's 2s 35		Men's 2s 105		St Mary's University College London 1s		University of Essex 2s		Men's 3rd vs UCL 4th		Men's 2nd vs Imperial Medicals 1st	
Sunday 13 February		Royal Holloway 2s 41		Exeter University 1s 134		London 1s		University of Essex 2s		Men's 5th vs King's College, London 3rd		Men's 2nd vs Imperial Medicals 1st	
FOOTBALL ULU		Women's 4s 27		University of Bristol 1s 52		Brunel University 2s		29		Men's 6th vs UCL 7th		FOOTBALL ULU	
Men's 2s	2	Queen Mary, University of London 4s 26		Women's 1s 5		1		41		Men's 6th vs LSE 7th		Women's 1st vs St George's Hospital Medical School 1st	
Imperial Medicals 1s	2	Wednesday 16 January		FOOTBALL ULU		HOCKEY ULU		33		Men's 7th vs Royal School of Mines 1st		Women's 1st vs Goldsmiths 1st	
Women's 1s	2	Men's 4s		Men's 4s		0		33		Men's 6th vs LSE 7th		Women's 1st vs Goldsmiths 1st	
City University 1s	2	LSE 5s		LSE 5s		0		University of Portsmouth 1s 0		Men's 7th vs UCL 1st		Women's 1st vs Goldsmiths 1st	
HOCKEY ULU	2	Men's 7s		Men's 7s		0		RUGBY		Men's 7th vs UCL 1st		Women's 1st vs Goldsmiths 1st	
Women's 2s	1	RUMS 4s		RUMS 4s		0		3		Men's 7th vs UCL 1st		Women's 1st vs Goldsmiths 1st	
UCL 2s	1	0		0		0		3		Men's 2nd vs Goldsmiths 1st			
		0		LSE 2s		LSE 2s		3					



Tae Kwon-Do travel to Italy: Page 44

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Judo Club in nine medal haul

Success for the Imperial Judo Club at the London University Judo Open
 Page 47

Cricket have tough time at BUCS Indoor Tournament

James Musgrave

Imperial took a squad of seven to Edgbaston, Birmingham on Sunday with genuine hopes of progressing from the semi-final of the BUCS men's indoor tournament, despite a tough draw of Loughborough and Coventry Universities.

Having been asked to bat, it soon became apparent that it was going to be a tough day for the cricket club's finest against a well drilled Loughborough side. Viran Parmar showed great touch at the top of the order but his opening partner James Musgrave went just as a promising start was beckoning. A constant loss of wickets left the captain, Matt Tarr, isolated towards the end of the innings and despite his excellent lower order hitting he was running out of partners. Imperial struggled to 71 all out, generally considered well below par in the indoor format.

Imperial needed early wickets and the opening bowlers, Parmar and Navin Surtani, started with superb spells but the necessary wickets didn't come quick and as the batsmen began to find their feet, they set about knocking off the total. Ahsaan Ismail did make a breakthrough, but the runs on the board were not sufficient to sustain pressure and Loughborough made it home.

It meant Imperial needed to beat Coventry to have any hope of making the Cardiff final, so the squad went searching for inspiration in Birmingham. It turned out the gloomy surroundings did nothing for the cricketer's chances.

Again inserted Imperial had their batting line up strengthened by the addition of Iain Stobbs and knew more runs would be needed. Early wickets

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HANGMAN



Warning. Hangman is purchasing condoms: **Page 38**