

"Keep the Cat Free"

ISSUE 1488

FELIX

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The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949



THE END OF AN ERA

The Space Shuttle retires: [Page 6](#)

Further details emerge on Mech Eng refurbishment

College tight-lipped on specifics

Kadhim Shubber

New information about the delayed refurbishment of the Mechanical Engineering department has come to light in the past week; showing the effect of the disruption on PhD students and implying that the College was unhappy with the way the project was being managed and that the error with the £3 million exhaust system is just one area where the refurbishment has not proceeded smoothly.

In an extreme case, Felix has been told that due to the disruption from the refurbishment one PhD student is yet to start his experiment, three years after beginning his PhD. The student was not willing to speak to Felix about his situation as he is currently applying for an extension to his PhD. Several research groups have been hamstrung by the delays, mostly from the uncertainty over the completion date and from difficulties in providing temporary facilities for research. Currently around 12 PhD students in the thermal fluids division have to share a lab where only one student at a time can carry out their combustion experiments, due to insufficient ventilation.

The refurbishment of the Mechanical Engineering building began as part of a wider £277m South-East Quadrant (SEQ) project that envisaged a new modern building that would bring Mechanical, Aeronautical, and Civil Engineering together under one roof where the Mechanical Engineering building currently sits. It was first mooted in 2007 and included plans for a Business

School-esque façade facing onto Exhibition Road. The project, which it was said would 'make a statement about Engineering at Imperial', was eventually shelved at the beginning of 2010 when Westminster Council rejected the College's planning application, demanding changes to the design, and the College decided that the funds required to complete the project would be difficult to raise after the recession.

However, Phase One of the project, involving the refurbishment of the Skempton Building as well as the ongoing Mech Eng refurbishment had already received planning permission and funding from the College and both were well underway. Reports from Imperial's former Chief Operating Officer Dr Martin Knight seemed to indicate that the refurbishment was continuing smoothly until May 2010, when he reported to College Council that the Mech Eng refurbishment was "now under the management of a different Arup project manager [...] and is under tight control". The minutes record that he also said "An interim agreement has been drawn up to settle all current claims and variations". The statements suggest that problems with the refurbishment were encountered as far back as spring last year and that the College were unhappy with Arup's performance as project manager. The College declined to answer questions about the nature or scale of the problems referred to by Dr Martin Knight. Arup also declined to comment on this matter, suggesting that Felix ask the College. Neither

...Continued on Page 3

Rob Bishop



Bye, bye NatWest

Sherfield branch closes: [Page 2](#)

Imperial NHS Trust worst in country for cancer patient experience says cancer charity

Catherine Lu

The Imperial College NHS Healthcare Trust has been ranked as the worst in the country in cancer patients' experiences.

The findings come from a Macmillan Cancer Support league table, based on research carried out by the Department of Health between January and March in 2010, and follows news that the ...Continued on Page 4

ARTS



Musical Theatre Society in epic 24-hour show: [Page 14](#)

GAMES



Are computer games a waste of time?
[Page 21](#)

FOOD



Meat fruit at Heston's new restaurant: [Page 22](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

On campus

Resisting Earthquakes

Designing buildings to resist earthquakes, fires, and explosions is the focus of this lecture by Professor Ahmed Elghazouli. These situations, known as loading conditions, present complex engineering challenges and require structural engineers to come up with unconventional design philosophies. Registration in advance. Contact Kathleen Weeks – k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk – to register.

Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley
17 May 17:30-18:30

Avoiding climate change

'Carbon Capture & Storage: our only hope to avoid dangerous climate change?' marks the launch of the Grantham Institute's Briefing Papers. Professor Martin Blunt and Dr Nicholas Florin will speak. Contact Gosia Gayer – g.gayer@imperial.ac.uk – to register (required).



Lecture Theatre 1, Acex Building
19 May 18:00-20:00

How butterflies stay dry

Professor Serafim Kalliadasis cross the divide between engineering and natural sciences to show 'how raindrops form patterns on glass and why butterfly wings don't get wet'. The lecture will show why chemical engineering is more than simply the use of chemical processes in large-scale industry. Registration in advance. Contact Kathleen Weeks – k.weeks@imperial.ac.uk – to register.

Clore Lecture Theatre, Huxley
20 May 17:30-18:30

Volunteering with special needs children



Are you interested in volunteering with children with special needs? Do you want to give back to your community? Would you like to meet students and staff at Imperial with similar interests? If so, a new project, Activities for Children with Disabilities (ACD), has recently been set up to help you volunteer. ACD is linked to a charity called KEEN London which runs playgroups for children with special needs. It gives disadvantaged children access to fun recreational opportunities in a safe environment, giving their parents much deserved respite. Their first event is an autism awareness and information evening on Monday 16th of May from 19:00-20:00 at R3 at the Reynolds building. For more information email Kaush at kkt07@imperial.ac.uk

Notice

Union Awards

Nominations open now

Do you know someone who has been such a bad-ass, I mean, selfless contributor to the student experience at Imperial, that they surely deserve some recognition? If so, here's your chance to make sure they get some love, in the Union Awards sense, not in that other sense you filthy reprobate! The Union Awards are given to students who have made significant and repeated contributions to the student experience at Imperial. The standard award is a Union Colour, going up to an Imperial College Union Fellowship with Distinction, which is given to students who have made "an innovative development to the work of the Union such as to leave a positive legacy that will make a lasting impression for future members". Head over to www.imperialcollegeunion.org for more information and remember that nominations close on the 24th of May.

Correction

In the article entitled "£40 million shortfall in Imperial NHS budget" (Issue 1487 – 06/05/11), Stephen Smith was incorrectly named the CEO of the Trust. He has left the position. **Editor**



FELIX

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NEWS

NatWest shuts its doors for last time

Maciej Matuszewski

The Imperial College branch of NatWest in the Sherfield building closed its doors for the final time last Thursday. The reason for the closure, which was first reported in Felix in February, is unknown as NatWest has repeatedly declined to comment.

Since being notified of the closure in February, Imperial has been working on mitigating the impact of the closure of the branch, which is used by many students, staff and College services.

In a memo sent out to senior staff on the 6th of May, Malcolm Aldridge, the College Financial Controller, set out the plans that have been put in place to deal with the situation. Cash from College shops and services will now be processed through a dedicated secure room in the Sherfield building. Loomis (UK)

Limited has been contracted to deliver money to and from this room. Renovation work was carried out to ensure that the room is secure enough to hold significant amounts of money.

One of the major concerns raised at the time the closure was announced was the effect that it would have on international students. Sorting out bank accounts is a major concern for international students and they benefited from having a bank on campus with experience in dealing with international student issues.

The College is planning to allow payments to newly-arrived international students who don't have UK accounts (previously made by College cheques which could be cashed at the branch) to be made to foreign accounts by wire transfer, or a UK-resident's account, although the College say that they cannot

be held responsible for any such agreements.

Dr Sharon Bolton, Head of International Student Support, says that the College will provide international students with more information about other banks in the existing area, including "details of accounts that can be opened before travelling to the UK". Many of these banks will also be invited to the International Students Welcome event at the start of the new academic year.

Dr Bolton believes it is unlikely that another bank will take up the vacated space. Nicholas Roalfe, Director of Facilities Management, said that he anticipated that a decision on how to use the area would be reached by the end of the month by the Space Executive Committee. He said that the decision would be made "as part of the overall strategy for [the] Sherfield [building]".

Mech Eng refurbishment

...Continued from Front Page of the architects involved in the SEQ project, Foster and Partners and Sheppard Robson, responded to requests for comment. Several efforts to contact Dr Martin Knight were unsuccessful at the time of writing.

In addition to last week's news that a £3 million exhaust system for test engines was built with galvanised steel instead of stainless steel – an error that meant the exhaust wouldn't "stand up to long-term use", as the College described it – a number of other errors have delayed the renovation process. The most embarrassing is the news that sensitive measuring devices in a materials testing lab are disrupted by vibrations from researchers walking in the lab because the floor is too thin. Additionally the lab in which the test engines are situated has not been adequately sound-proofed, with questions raised about whether sound-proofing was in the original recommendations, and the ventilation space below the floor has been blocked off, meaning that researchers will be unable clean up fuel spillages or retrieve equipment if they drop it through grilles in the floor.

The College are currently involved in an investigation on the cause of the blunder with the £3 million exhaust system as well negotiations about the final cost of the refurbishment and did not wish to comment specifically on the issues raised in this article. Steve Howe, Director of Capital Projects and Planning at Imperial, previously stressed that the liability for the exhaust mistake was still unknown and didn't rule out the possibility that Imperial would have



A section of one of the labs currently being refurbished. Each 'cell' will contain one or more test engines when the work is finished

to meet some of the extra costs.

A College spokesperson issued this statement: "The College is taking seriously the remaining issues involved in the completion of the Mechanical Engineering refurbishment, and is working with the Department and the contractors to address them. The priority is to minimise further disruption to the work of students and staff as these issues are resolved. The majority of the contract works should be completed in June and users will then move in over the following months. On completion staff and students will receive the full benefit of the refurbishment work, which will deliver world-class teaching and research facilities."

The contractors ISG Plc did not return requests for comment. A spokesperson for Arup said: "The programme management work we have been involved in to date is unrelated to the choice of materials for the exhaust [...] Our work was completed in accordance with the original programme and we aren't party to any dispute with the client on this."

If you have information about the ongoing refurbishment then please contact the Editor at felix@imperial.ac.uk. We will never disclose your details if you wish to remain anonymous.

Extra uni places for rich students?

Genevieve Pugh

The government is considering proposals to allow universities to offer extra places on their courses at market prices, outside the government loans system. Students entering university in this way could pay fees similar to that of overseas students without any public funding and they would also have to meet the entry requirements of the course.

The development came on Radio 4's Today programme when universities minister David Willetts suggested that charities or businesses may wish to sponsor places for students. For example, the accountancy firm KPMG has unveiled a plan to pay fees for students at universities including Durham, in a training program leading to an honours degree in accounting. He also suggested that rich parents might be able to pay too.

The suggestion quickly drew condemnation as many accused him of allowing rich students to pay their way into university. Willetts insists that the government will only consider "allowing off-quota places where it contributes to the coalition commitment to improve social mobility and increase fair access" and stressed that "There is no question of wealthy students being able to buy a place at university".

However, his reassurances were not enough and the Prime Minister was forced to wade into the furore and repeat the universities minister's statement,

telling the BBC "There is no question of people being able to buy their way into university".

This latest development in the student fees saga comes as the government tries to balance its books after three quarters of universities have decided to introduce the maximum £9000 fees. This means the government is now faced with paying out considerably more money in loans than they had budgeted for, with no return for a significant number of years. Les Ebdon, chair of the university think-tank Million+, said: "There is one very obvious pro, and that is, it's a source of additional money at a time when the sector is being squeezed very hard." NUS president Aaron Porter said the government was trying to "disguise the chaos it has created in university funding".

The policy will now be modified and it will be interesting to see what version of the idea appears in the white paper on higher education, due to be published next month, setting out further details of the governments proposals.

In the mean time the government is launching an advertising campaign to convince students that even with higher fees they can still go to university. The aim is to "Make it clear to young students that no one pays upfront". This campaign will be run through radio, press and social media.

Angry Geek: The government's plans are "the political equivalent of a cockslap" – Page 12

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts

Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

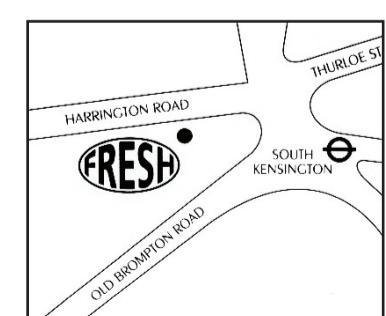
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NEWS

News Editors: **Alex Karapetian**
Matthew Colvin

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial NHS Healthcare Trust criticised for poor cancer care by Macmillan

Trust says that they have learnt lessons since cancer care survey

...Continued from Front Page
Trust faces a budget shortfall of £40m next year.

Patients who were surveyed rated the Trust poorly in particular for the support they received while being treated, how much information they were given on their disease as well as the number of medics on duty and said they had little confidence in staff.

The league table assessed criteria such as the number of nurses on duty, the amount of support given to patients after leaving hospital and financial information given. It does not cover the medical treatments received, such as standards of chemotherapy or surgery.

The Chief Executive of Macmillan Cancer Support, Ciarán Devane, issued a statement saying, "Cancer patients are being let down by many Trusts that are failing to give adequate levels of care. The experiences you have whilst in hospital can have a massive impact on your health and wellbeing and how well you cope once you leave hospital. We hope that the Trusts given a red card will work with community services and take urgent action to improve the care they offer cancer patients."

The Trust have said that improvements have been made since the period when the survey was taken. A spokesperson acknowledged that some

150 posts to go this year as Trust makes £44m saving

of their cancer care at the time of the survey "was below the standard we strive to deliver". However, they said the Trust had listened to patient feedback and a number of improvement programmes have been implemented, including improving the provision of information for patients and investing in a new chemotherapy suite and young

persons' cancer unit.

It has further emerged in the past week the Trust plans to cut 'pay expenditure by £44m, or 8%, and cut 150 posts this year'. The investigation by the Nursing Times shows the pressure of government cuts on hospital budgets. A Trust spokesperson said: "We intend to achieve these savings by first reducing our substantial bank and agency numbers and by natural turnover and redeployment of staff into areas of growth."

"As outlined in our annual plan, we expect to selectively reduce substantive staff numbers by around 150 over the year."

The latest report by the Care Quality Commission, the government's independent healthcare watchdog, found their patient experience quality to be 'slightly less than the national average'. However, The Trust were rated highly in meeting cancer waiting time targets and preventing and controlling hospital acquired infections, as well as being well above the national average in ensuring that no cancer patients wait longer than one month from diagnosis of cancer to the beginning of treatment.

Macmillan have said that they will work with hospitals that performed poorly in their league to help them improve patient experience.

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Features Editor: Lizzie Crouch

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FEATURE

SPACE AGEING

ANDREW PURCELL WAVES GOODBYE TO THE SPACE SHUTTLE AND SAYS HELLO TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

After being delayed for over two weeks, on the 16th May the Space Shuttle Endeavour is set to blast off into space for the final time. Following this mission, NASA plans to send only one more shuttle into orbit. It will then retire its ageing shuttle fleet after a total of 135 spaceflights.

For many, this decision is long overdue. Running a space agency is a very expensive business and hardly sits well with the libertarian zeitgeist which currently pervades the US. According to the Obama administration, we can all look forward to a future where competition between private companies drives the exploration of space relentlessly onward. However, for others this vision isn't so rosy. Some fear that the private companies simply aren't yet ready to fill the huge void left behind by NASA's shuttle programme, while others are ideologically opposed and see the shuttle fleet's retirement as an abandonment of our enlightenment principles.

The Space Shuttle Endeavour's final flight will see the shuttle crew complete four space walks and deliver a micro-meteoroid debris shield to the International Space Station. The Endeavour mission will also deliver a new particle physics module, the brainchild of Nobel laureate Samuel Ting, which is set to measure cosmic rays and search for evidence of both dark matter and antimatter. The International Space Station is planned to remain in orbit until at least 2020, with astronauts being ferried to and from the station exclusively by Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

The decision to retire the shuttle fleet was made back in 2004, in the wake of the Columbia Shuttle disaster. At the time this decision was made, it was accompanied by an announcement from President George W. Bush, outlining plans to send astronauts back to the Moon potentially as early as 2015. However, these plans have since fallen by the wayside.

Under Bush, NASA's Constellation programme had started development of a series of rockets, with the potential to take astronauts much further into space than the shuttles are currently capable of doing. This development culminated in the successful test flight of the Ares-I prototype in late 2009. However, only three months later, President Barack Obama decided to cancel the Constellation programme entirely.

A history of the space shuttle

1977 NASA begins test flights of prototype shuttle 'Enterprise' (yes, it was given this name because of Star Trek).

1981 Columbia is the first shuttle to go into space.

1986 The space shuttle Challenger, with teacher Christa McAuliffe on board, breaks apart in the sky over Florida just 73 seconds after taking off.

1990 Discovery launches the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit. However, when Hubble returns its first images to Earth, it is apparent that the main mirror has been ground incorrectly.

1993 In the most audacious mission of the entire shuttle programme, Endeavour carries a seven-strong crew into orbit to carry out repairs on the Hubble telescope.

1994 Discovery is the first shuttle to carry a Russian cosmonaut into space, marking a new era of cooperation between the two superpowers.

1998 Endeavour flies the first US mission to the International Space Station.

2003 Columbia disintegrates during re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven crew members onboard. 2011 Later this summer, Atlantis will fly NASA's last ever shuttle mission, marking the end of an era in spaceflight.



While Obama's recent budget request for 2012 does include a small amount of funding for developing vehicles for long-distance manned spaceflight, its real focus is on developing the commercial space sector. The belief in the US seems to be that ferrying astronauts to the International Space Station, as well as other low-orbit activities, should be left to private companies, thus leaving NASA to concentrate its resources on research in other areas.

Obama has recently said that the U.S. hopes to send astronauts to Mars by the fourth decade of this century. So, perhaps NASA's decision to farm out some of its activities to private companies wouldn't actually be such bad news, if tangible progress were in fact being made towards achieving this goal. However, since the scrapping of the Constellation programme, the global financial crisis has really taken hold and there are currently huge question marks surrounding the future of manned space exploration, despite the Washington rhetoric.

Also, as far as low-orbit manned missions are concerned, not everyone is convinced that private companies are ready to fill the gap left by the shuttle fleet's retirement. There is concern that it is a few years too early to be handing over responsibility to private companies while other more outspoken critics, including a number of former NASA astronauts, fundamentally disagree with the idea of handing over responsibility to private companies at all.

Earlier this month, NASA celebrated the 50th anniversary of its launching of the first American into space. On 5th May, 1961, Alan Shepard became the second man in space, just less than a month after Yuri Gagarin's inaugural spaceflight. Upon Shepard's return to Earth, he was asked by a journalist what had been going through his mind as he sat atop the Redstone-Mercury rocket which was to propel him into space. Shepard reportedly replied: "I was thinking about the fact that every part of this ship was built by the low bidder".

In many ways, Shepard's laconic response sums up the fundamental problems with relying on private companies for low-orbit manned space missions. Making a market out of low-orbit spaceflight may result in reduced costs, but this should not be sole the factor taken into consideration. There is also the astronauts' safety, as well as the safety of

National Archives, United States of America – Space Shuttle Challenger, June 22 1983

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Instead of the shuttle fleet's retirement spelling the end of an era, perhaps it can be used to signal the start of a new beginning



FEATURE



Who will win the new space race?

Last month, NASA announced it was awarding a total of \$270m to private companies currently developing the next generation of low Earth-orbit spacecraft. Eventually, these companies will sell seats in their vehicles to NASA and other space agencies seeking to put astronauts into orbit.

The \$270m award was split between four US companies: SpaceX, Blue Origin, Boeing and Sierra Nevada Corporation. The largest individual award went to Boeing, who hope to have their CST-100 capsule ready to transport astronauts by 2015. This, like the other companies' vehicles, will

not be capable of launching into space. Instead, it will simply serve as a crew capsule, which can be mounted on top of current rocket designs, such as those frequently used to put commercial satellites into space.



By contrast, Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic is planning a whole new way of getting into space. Unlike the four companies which NASA has awarded money to, Virgin Galactic is not about putting astronauts into space. Instead, it's all about putting ordinary people (albeit 'ordinary people' with a spare £100,000) into space. Last week, successful tests of this spacecraft, named 'SpaceShipTwo', brought the dream of space tourism yet another step closer to reality. Virgin Galactic hopes to start taking passengers into space within the next two years.

the highly expensive payloads, which must come into play. Of course, one could argue that paying private companies to take astronauts into space is simply the natural, logical extension of these companies' work sending various satellites into orbit. However, if NASA's shuttle programme is ultimately being scrapped on account of concerns surrounding its safety, it is only fair to apply these same stringent standards when assessing the shuttle's likely successors.

In March, a Taurus XL rocket, built by the Orbital Sciences Corporation, plummeted to Earth after its final stage failed to separate properly. And it wasn't the first time the Taurus XL rockets have failed to launch successfully. Back in 2009, the same problem occurred during separation of the rocket's final stage, resulting in the loss of the new orbiting carbon observatory, which for the first time would have shown scientists the geographical distribution of carbon dioxide sources and sinks on a regional scale. In total, Taurus rockets have been launched nine times since their debut in 1994. Only six of these nine missions have successfully made it into orbit. So, with private companies having success rates as low as these, the amount of money lost due to payload destruction also quickly becomes a factor.

However, as well as issues of safety and finance, there are also political motives to consider. The decision to transfer a large portion of NASA's space operation into the hands of private companies seems to be part of a wider vogue for decreasing federal expenditure. Of course, there is the necessity to reduce the US budget deficit, but, in accusations similar to those being made on this side of the Atlantic, there are those who would argue that the Republican-controlled House of Representatives is keen to make cuts for ideological reasons.

Stalwart economic liberals argue that it is only through competition that one can hope to drive the innovation required for developing the future of spaceflight. They often point to the

space race, which ultimately ended with US triumph in 1969, as proof of the necessity of competition. In many ways, Americans see this triumph as a victory for US capitalism over Soviet communism; as proof that the big state cannot drive innovation in the way that private enterprise can. However, what advocates of this argument seem quick to forget is that, at the height of the Apollo programme, the US was spending a staggering 4.5% of its total federal budget on the space programme. With federal funding levels as high as this, one can hardly claim US success in the space race as proof of the superior driving power of liberal free markets.

Of course, it is understandable that NASA no longer receives federal funding as high as 4.5%, particularly in light of the global financial crisis. Today, NASA receives around 0.5% of the federal budget, and from this they carry out a whole host of research activities in addition to spaceflight. Yet, this 0.5% still amounts to \$18.7bn per year. So, with spaceflight as expensive as this, perhaps it's time to abandon the idea of international competition as a driver for future exploration of space, whether that's competition between competing companies or between competing nations.

It is no-longer fair for nations like ours to expect the US to bear the brunt of the burden in pushing the boundaries of space exploration forward. Perhaps we should see the shuttle fleet's retirement this year as an opportunity to increase international collaboration for the future of spaceflight. The US and Russian Space agencies are already working together on a range of projects, and the European Space Agency is increasingly becoming a key player. But perhaps the future of manned spaceflight, particularly in terms of going back to the Moon and on to Mars, will rely on collaborations between the superpowers of old and the new rising big players in the space industry, such as China, India and even Brazil. Instead of the shuttle fleet's

retirement spelling the end of an era, perhaps it can be used to signal the start of a new beginning, when national interests are cast aside in favour of greater humanitarian goals.

Of course, there are those who would argue that the entire concept of manned spaceflight is a waste of time and money, particularly when there are large numbers of people living without basic resources here on Earth. Yet, in light of the mounting list of threats which endanger us all, regardless of nationality or political persuasion, there has perhaps never been a time when it has been more pressing for us to push forward with the exploration of our solar system. On this subject, Stephen Hawking has had this to say: "Life on Earth is at the ever-increasing risk of being wiped out by a disaster such as sudden global warming, nuclear war, a genetically engineered virus or other dangers [...] I think the human race has no future if it doesn't go into space."

In many ways, despite the Challenger and Columbia tragedies, the shuttle programme can be seen as a victim of its own success. For the US, the shuttle was a way of showing that it had well and truly won the space race. It was supposed to show that spaceflight had become easy, that it was a routine part of everyday American life. This idea was even reflected in the name: 'the shuttle', as well as the frequency with which launches took place. However, as spaceflight has become routine, it has also lost its glamour. So, perhaps the future of manned spaceflight is not only dependent on getting the technology right, but also the PR. Perhaps space exploration once more needs the great idealistic goals which drove it in the sixties, if we are to expand humanity's horizons in space. Personally, I could think of no greater motivation for this than the prospect of all nations working together to explore deeper into our solar system. If we are capable of doing this, then perhaps our horizons will have been expanded before we even take off.

SCIENCE

You won't believe it..

Residents of Rome flee earthquake predicted in 1915...



The Romans earthquake-proofed this, right?

Urban myth or not, rumours of a possible earthquake predicted over 90 years ago sparked mass panic in Rome this week, with residents vacating the Eternal City for fear of a large tremor. The prediction was made in 1915 by Italian-born seismologist Raffaele Bendandi, who forecast Rome would be devastated by a quake on 11 May 2011. Despite officials stressing the unpredictable nature of quakes, hundreds of workers requested leave and families chose to keep their children away from school amid fears that Bendandi's forecast may become true.

With scenes of devastation left by the recent earthquake in Japan and memories of the 2009 quake in the Italian city of L'Aquila, the concerns circulating amongst Italians this week were understandable. A prediction made by Bendandi has become true in the past. In 1923, he forecast an earthquake would strike on January 2 the following year. On 4 January 1924, the Italian province of Le Marche was struck by a quake.

Despite his apparent knack for forecasting, sceptics this week downplayed Bendandi's prediction of an earthquake in Rome, saying they had no record of a specific date and place. The potential for predicting earthquakes has been the focus of much controversy. Bernandi based his quake predictions on the movement of the moon, sun and planets, yet some scientists argue it is impossible for us to predict such an event, namely because they often tend to strike in a random fashion, without warning. To date, there are no examples of forecasts that have successfully predicted the exact date, place and size of an earthquake. Felix was still waiting for news of a quake at the time of print...

Thea Cunningham

**Time Travel –
Shamanism to the Space Age**

20 May 2011 6.30pm

Architectural Association School of Architecture, 36 Bedford Sq, London

As part of a new collaborative energy exhibition 'Feel the force', Imperial cosmologist Professor Andrew Jaffe, architect Shin Egashira and photographer Go-swin Schwedinger explore the human desire to alter our past and future, and question whether science fiction is any closer to becoming science fact.

**Science Editors: Charlie Harvey
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Device reaches the final heat

Scientists create generator to make use of waste heat

James Pope

Ever looked at the squandered energy shimmering off hundreds of idling, traffic-jammed cars and wondered, "couldn't we do something with that?"

The waste heat problem has puzzled scientists for decades. Some researchers predict that waste heat from wind turbines could have a small global warming effect, leaving us with an ever greater need for a solution. However, scientists from China and America may have the answer – thermoelectric generators.

The generators – which convert heat into electricity – have been around for a while. But the materials they are based on are inefficient and have only found use in niche applications like powering space probes. The team has uncovered a talented alloy of lead and tellurium that could change all that.

When electricity flows between conductors, the moving electrons carry heat with them, causing one conductor to heat up and the other to cool down. The reverse is also true – if you heat a circuit containing two different conductors, electricity will start to flow. This is known as the Seebeck effect, after physicist Thomas Johann Seebeck who discovered it in 1821.

The thermoelectric problem lies in finding materials with a high zT value. A material's zT value is the relationship between its Seebeck value, its conductivity, and the temperature. To make a useful thermoelectric generator, zT should be at least 1.5 – for this it needs a high Seebeck value, high electric conductivity, and low thermal conductivity.

By carefully adding sodium and selenium to their alloy, and by manipulating its structure



As the temperature soared, the heat was on to make use of it

at the nano scale, the researchers were able to create a material with 'valleys' that conducted electricity more readily, while keeping thermal conductivity low. When heated to 577°C, the material has a zT value of 1.8, an achievement

the team has labelled "extraordinary". The research, published in Nature, could soon be transforming thermoelectric generators from niche nobodies into heroes – delivering extra power whilst effortlessly cooling our world.

Managing malaria with modified mozzies

Chloe McIvor

Scientists at Imperial and the University of Washington have taken an important new step towards controlling malaria by genetically modifying mosquitoes.

Malaria affects 300 million people every year and, as it is one of the infamous 'Big Three' infectious diseases, eradication is a global goal. Scientists have already succeeded in creating 'malaria-resistant mosquitoes', which are modified in ways that target the mosquito's ability to transmit the disease. But until now the main sticking point has been trying to find a way to ensure that this trait is maintained in wild populations. As they do not offer the mosquito an advantage, the modified traits tend to disappear shortly after the mosquitoes are released.

These most recent developments tackle this problem by inserting a gene called I-Scel, which is a homing endonuclease, into the mosquito genome. This sequence produces an enzyme which deactivates a target gene and re-

places it with a copy of itself. As this occurs in the mosquito's sperm cells, the I-Scel sequence is inherited by nearly all its offspring. In this study the gene targeted for inactivation by I-Scel was simply a green fluorescent marker for ease of observation, but further research will now aim to target genes needed by the mosquito for reproduction or transmission of the

malaria parasite.

It is hoped that this will result in a low cost, highly effective malaria control strategy, though much further research is required. Professor Andrea Crisanti, a senior author of the study said: "We expect to conduct many more experiments to determine its safety and reliability."



It's been so hot lately even the mosquitoes have been dropping like flies

SCIENCE

Gut reaction kills worms

Research could aid global fight against parasitic infections

Camilla Ruz

Researchers have found a component of gut mucus that is toxic to parasitic worms. The discovery could help one billion people worldwide.

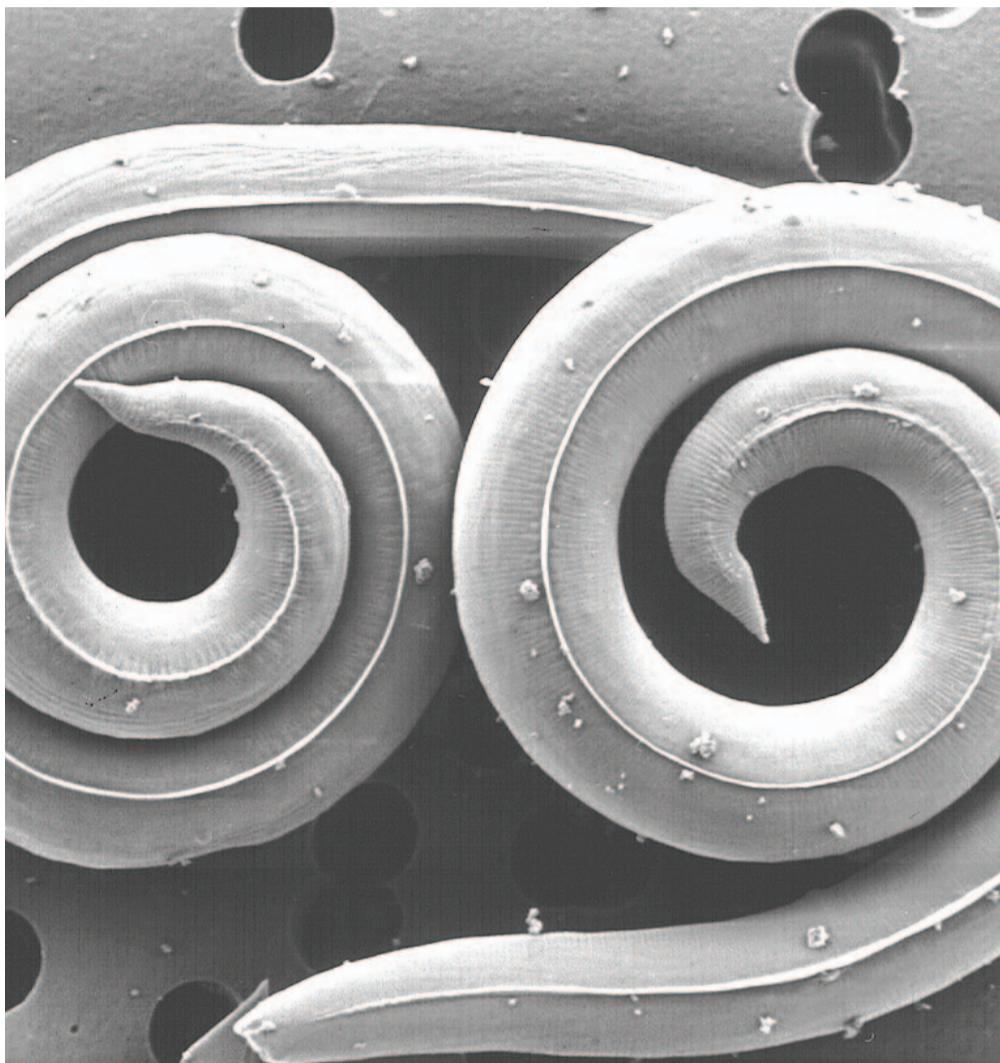
The research, published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, found that just one component of the mucus, a mucin known as Muc5ac, is needed for the efficient expulsion of worms from the body.

Parasitic worms living in the gut are a major cause of disease. The gut is protected by a thick layer of mucus that is a mixture of salts, water and large proteins called mucins. Muc5ac mucin is rarely found in the gut, but when it is it physically changes the properties of the mucus barrier.

Scientists from the University of Manchester studied whipworm infections in the guts of mice. They discovered that mice that could not produce the mucin Muc5ac were unable to expel the worms from their guts and suffered long term parasitic infections. Professor Richard Grencis, one of the lead authors on the study, explained that Muc5ac is so important because "it is 'toxic' for the worms and damages their health."

The researchers went on to find that Muc5ac is harmful to several worms including human parasites such as hookworm and spiral threadworm. Together these two worms affect up to one billion people worldwide. The research may help identify people who are more vulnerable to infection.

Dr Sumaira Hasnain, the lead experimentalist on the project, added: "For the first time, we have discovered that a single component of the mucus barrier, the Muc5ac mucin, is essential for worm expulsion. Our research may help to identify who is and who isn't susceptible to parasitic worms, and it may eventually lead to new treatments for people with chronic worm infections."



These parasitic worms didn't have the backbone to stand up to the toxic Muc5ac mucin

Rusty fungi genome gets a polish off

Another step towards food security

Alex Jenkin

In a pioneering step towards achieving food security a team of American and French scientists, including members from Harvard and the University of Minnesota, have unveiled the first sequenced rust fungi genomes.

Rust fungi infect the cells of their host plants, taking nutrients from the plant and causing losses in yield that are often devastating to a harvest. Selective breeding and genetic engineering have created many rust resistant varieties of the crops we use today but the rust evolves quickly and there are strains we have not been able to control. The scientists hope that unravelling the genomes of the poplar leaf rust fungus (*Melampsora larici-populina*) and wheat stem rust fungus (*Puccinia graminis*) will lead to more successful attempts to control these strains which are damaging both economically and in terms of biofuel production and food security.

Wheat stem rust has long been a threat to food security. The fungus can reproduce asexually in the wheat plant during the whole summer, producing spores that can spread over vast distances in a single year. Infected plants suffer from a reduced yield and, if severe, can result in an early death. The effect on the food production of a country can be devastating. So much so, that in the 1950s the US developed a biological bomb designed to spread wheat stem rust and cause havoc in the infected country.

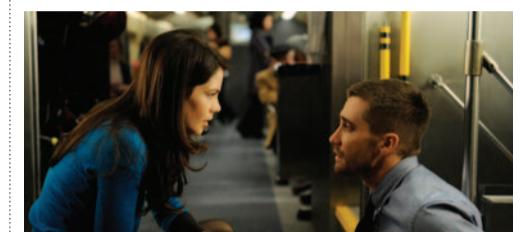
Poplar leaf rust threatens the use of fast growing poplar trees as biofuel as well their value in the wood industry. The rust fungus affects the general health of the trees, limiting their growth and resulting in a reduced profit for the plantation.

The team of scientists have predicted several proteins similar to known proteins in other pathogens. Some of these are expected to be involved in the actual infection of the plant and the way in which

the fungi enter the cells. Others are transport proteins which enable the fungi to steal nutrients from their hosts. There are, however, some missing proteins which suggest the reasons that the fungi rely on their hosts is related to them being unable to take up some nutrients in the forms found outside the plants. This also partly explains why the rust fungi could not be grown *in vitro* in the lab, a challenge that the team had to overcome during the project.

One of the great successes of the Green Revolution was the development of rust resistant wheat varieties. Currently, a new, highly virulent strain, Ug99, threatens global wheat production, particularly in many African countries. The identification of proteins resulting from the genome sequencing will aid understanding of the way in which the rust fungi infect their hosts, obtain nutrients from them, and overcome plant defences. This will in turn help to develop new resistant strains of wheat and poplar plants and restore yield levels.

Sci-fi Column



Maciej Matuszewski

This week I'd like to talk about 'Source Code', a science fiction film released over the Easter break directed by Duncan Jones, who had previously worked on the film 'Moon'. Though I gave 'Moon' a scathing review my main problem was with the screenplay. That film had a brilliant atmosphere for which Jones was in a large part responsible, so I had great hopes 'Source Code'.

The film focuses on Captain Colter Stephens who, after the helicopter he was piloting crashes during a mission in Afghanistan, finds himself forced to participate in a secret military program called Source Code. He is made to repeatedly relive the last eight minutes in the life of a train passenger so he can discover the identity of the man who planted the bomb that destroyed the train and who is now threatening to attack Chicago. At the same time Stephens, who has no memories of what happened after his crash, tries to figure out why he was recruited for Source Code.

This is certainly an interesting premise and initially it is handled very well. Unfortunately it is not long before problems with the film's pacing appear. The secret of the Source Code becomes quite obvious early on and indeed is explicitly revealed about halfway through, removing one of the main driving forces of story. The identity of the bomber itself is revealed some ten minutes before the end of the film, after which we get an unnecessary and somewhat tedious coda. Some critics have compared 'Source Code' favourably to 'Inception'. While there are obvious similarities between the two, 'Inception' is clearly the superior film. It keeps raising the stakes and never loses the feel of an epic. In 'Source Code' though the stakes initially appear to be much higher, the whole of Chicago is threatened with destruction, the film's atmosphere doesn't succeed in conveying the appropriate feeling of importance and we seem to lose some tension almost every other scene. 'Source Code' also doesn't explore its premise to the same depth as 'Inception' did: even with its poor pacing it feels terribly short.

I also wasn't very happy about some of the characterisation. Captain Stephens shows a strange reluctance to participate in the Source Code program, even when told of the lives in danger. His confusion at suddenly being thrust into the program is understandable but I would have thought that a highly professional soldier would put aside any personal concerns until the mission was over. It's also strange that the director of the Source Code program, Dr. Rutledge, is set up as somewhat of an antagonist because Stephens' welfare isn't his first concern. Again, however, with so many lives at stake those who oppose him later on in the film seem a bit shortsighted.

This certainly wasn't a bad movie and there were several good scenes. It just could have been a lot better and it seems to have been overrated in the press.

POLITICS

The world beyond College walls



Japan

Japan has announced that it will reconsider its energy policy following the accident at Fukushima plant. The plant has been leaking radiation since the March 11 earthquake and subsequent tsunami damaged cooling systems to the reactors. The accident is expected to cost TEPCO up to £62 billion in compensation claims. Nuclear power currently provides about 1/3 of Japan's energy needs and will continue playing a significant role in the future according to Japan's Prime Minister. However, Japan will invest more in renewables following the accident and expects 20% of its energy needs to come from renewables by 2030.



Uganda

Uganda's lawmakers have begun debate on the controversial Anti-Homosexuality Bill and could vote on it as early as this week. The bill is currently in its second Parliamentary reading. One of the bill's main backers, Pastor Martin Ssempa urged the Government to pass the bill but says that he no longer supports the death penalty for homosexual acts. Critics of the bill which includes foreign government and some local pastors have said that it would not stop homosexuality and will adversely impact the nation's fight against HIV. Uganda is considered to be a conservative nation.



Syria

Syria has started moving columns of tanks to the restive city of Hama after weeks of anti-Government protests. Reports from Syria have said that water, electricity and telephone lines have been cut off to the city of Baniyas and troops are busy rounding up and interrogating youths as part of the crackdown against the protests. The European Union has announced an arms and personnel embargo on Syria in response to the crackdown. However, President Assad is not on the sanction list following objections from Germany and Spain.



Massacre in Kenya

40 unarmed people killed as tribal violence escalates



A Turkana herdsman watches his flock

Rory Fenton

She didn't stand a chance. Carrying underarm the small goat she was hoping to trade, Akiru could only join the other traders as they were rounded up in a small village along Ethiopia's border with Kenya. The following morning she was one of twenty Kenyans carried away in bin bags by Catholic missionaries in a tractor. She was shot at close range.

Her twenty companions joined a total of 40 killed on a day of unforeseen and unprecedented violence between the northern Kenyan Turkana people and the southern Ethiopian Merille. What started with the unprovoked murder of two Turkana fishermen exploded through a spiral of revenge into the massacre of these unarmed traders just hours later.

Like the rest of the Turkana dead, Akiru was from Todonyang, a small village turned refugee camp just a few kilometres from the border. The people of Todonyang are no strangers to suffering since conflict flared up with the Merille during a severe drought in 2009. Both communities rely heavily on keeping goats and when grass became scarce, conflict arose over the remaining patches, which happened to be on Turkana land. Merille attacks, taking animals and land, would kill several Turkana each month. On top of this, HIV prevalence is 25% among the 500 or so herdsman and fishermen in Todonyang and police, stationed nearby to protect against conflict with the Merille, had brought the problems of drugs, alcohol and prostitution to the village. A proud nomadic people, the Turkana had been forced by the trouble with the Merille to seek safety in numbers, gathering at Todonyang.

In recent months, however, real hope had been building. Efforts at peace talks sponsored by Steven Ochieng, a Catholic priest, seemed to be paying off as Turkana and Merille started tentatively to visit each others villages to trade. There hadn't been violence for months. A new

school had just been built to teach Turkana and Merille children together. For Akiru, the opportunity to trade with her former enemies presented a real chance to break out of poverty. As the wife of a fisherman, Akiru and her family of 6 would have earned around £300 per year; even the smallest amount of extra income would make a substantial difference to this young family's meagre earnings.

But the Turkana and Merille were still a desperately poor people living from day to day, and endemic poverty can lead to panicked, short term decision making. Last Tuesday morning, while Akiru set out for the Merille village, a group of young Merille men left that same village for the shores of Lake Turkana. It is not certain what motivated them, but the prospect of returning as war heroes, as young men everywhere fantasise, was likely one of them. They ambushed a group of Turkana fishermen, killing two of them. When word spread

to Todonyang, five unarmed Merille traders were killed in cold blood.

There is a terrible inevitability about the conflict. Desperate poverty is entrenched by corrupt government. The failure to provide decent schools and law enforcement is leading to murder over mere grazing land. Poverty and the threat of violence devalue life for both Turkana and Merille. As Yeats said, "too long a sacrifice makes a stone of the heart". Akiru reached the Merille village just minutes before the news of the murder in Todonyang reached there too. Not knowing the Merille language, she probably didn't know what was happening when she was taken away from the village with the other Turkana.

But even had she spoken their language, the wheel had been long set in turn, leading to an unarmed mother, goat in hand, dying for tradition and a patch of grass. She didn't stand a chance.



The Turkana people of northern Kenya

POLITICS

Breaking a two-party system

Canada's NDP has done what the Lib Dems couldn't says **Tagore Nakornchai**

I'm looking at the Canadian election results and can't help but feel slightly jealous. This time last year, after the debates, the Lib Dems were looking at a surge similar to the New Democratic Party's (NDP) surge, and Labour looked like it was heading towards electoral oblivion. The NDP has pulled off what the Lib Dems, and before that, the (British) Liberals, have dreamed of for almost a century – of destroying the comfortable two-party system (which, granted, was always weaker in Canada because of the Bloc Québécois), and throwing the country's electoral system wide open.

There were, of course, many subtle differences that meant that what the NDP managed in Canada could never have been replicated in the UK last spring. For a start, the (Canadian) Liberals were sick – infighting and uncertainty had churned through four party leaders since 2006, and the Liberals had been tarred by scandals from their last time in office. The once "Natural Party of Government" has been left with a rut of 30 or so seats, mostly in the maritime provinces, from their previous 120. Canada has also been a country where voters have long had a tradition of com-

pletely wrecking unpopular parties – the present Canadian Conservative party rose from the ashes of the Progressive Conservatives in the 1990s, which was ignominiously thrown out of power in 1993, winning only 2 seats in the Lower House, and the Progressive Conservatives had in turn arisen from the ashes of the old Conservative Party in the 1940s.

Finally, the NDP had easy, low hanging fruit – Quebec, Canada's 2nd most populous state, which had been poisonous ground for the Liberals, and too social democratic for the Tories, and therefore usually elected representatives from the Bloc Québécois – a broad coalition united only by support for Québécois sovereignty. When a credible, 3rd (well, 4th) party alternative emerged, one that actually had views which resonated with the population, the voters deserted the separatist bloc and plumped for the NDP – more than half of the NDP's gains this election came at the Bloc's expense.

The NDP is not the equivalent of the Lib Dems – it is the Canadian equivalent of Old Labour and still firmly rooted in social democratic traditions. It is the defeated Liberals who occupy the political ground most similar to the

"The NDP has pulled off what the Lib Dems have dreamed of for almost a century – destroying the two-party system"

Lib Dems. The Liberals faced a squeeze from both sides of the spectrum – the right was buoyed by Harper's competent economic management – Canada escaped the worst of the financial crisis, mostly due to the tighter regulations of banks that were brought in during the last Liberal government, and the resource boom that is fuelling China's growth. The rise of the NDP in Quebec caused many left-leaning Liberals to reconsider their votes and plump for the NDP instead.

And yet, despite the hope and optimism of NDP supporters today, there are several potential problems on the horizon. Most prominent is the government itself – it is important to keep

in mind that despite the NDP's success, Stephen Harper won the election. Harper has proved himself to be willing to use "dirty" constitutional tricks. He avoided an earlier vote of no-confidence by asking the Governor-General to suspend parliament. The Conservatives have shown scant regard for the environment, opting to continue producing oil from Albertan tar sands – an environmental catastrophe, both in terms of the waste from the extraction process and the dirtiness of the fuel itself. Harper has also pushed forward a conservative domestic agenda – getting "tough on crime", and promising to build more prisons despite crime rates in Canada being the lowest in many years. This is also the first election in almost a decade that has produced a majority government – since 2003, every Canadian election (all under FPTP, I might add) has resulted in a hung parliament. Harper can now rule without cross-party support for its policies – in his previous two terms, Harper has had to act in a more restrained manner in order to secure cross party support to get his bills passed in the Commons.

And in the end, Canada might just have turned into the UK – a country

where a centre-right party is in power for much of the time because of the split in the vote of the centre-left between two large, credible parties resulting in many wasted votes under FPTP. In many seats (such as Etobicoke-Lakeshore, the seat of defeated Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff), the combined Liberal-NDP vote would have been more than enough for a candidate to secure a comfortable majority, but the Tories snuck in because of the ideological unity of the right.

So Bravo, Jack Layton, because he has achieved the dream of every third party leader in many first past the post countries for many a year, for destroying the old comfortable consensus between the Tories and the Liberals, and for almost tripling the number of seats held by his party in a single election. This is a tectonic shift in the shape of Canadian politics, not only had the Liberals been crushed on home ground, but the destruction of the Bloc is a blow for Québécois independence – not that it was a realistic possibility in the first place. For all that, the NDP still has some way to go before it finds itself in government, and I wouldn't discount the Liberals just yet. The third party dream might prove all too fleeting.

Blasta from the pasta?

Berlusconi's disregard for democracy is reminiscent of another Italian strongman

Marcello Colombino

[...] Naturally the majority did notice his criminal activity [...] unfortunately, Italian People, if they have to choose between their duty and personal advantage, always chose the latter. He, a mediocre, rough man with vulgar but effective eloquence was and is a perfect specimen of his coevals. In an honest country he would have been at most the leader of a modest party, the not-too-brilliant author of verbose articles in his party newspaper, he would have been considered a ridiculous character for his manners, his megalomania, his offense to common sense due to his emphatic and shameless style.

[...] In Italy he became head of the government. It is hard to find a better example of an Italian.

He is weak but he admires the use of force, he tries to appear strong against his nature. He is venal, corruptible, adulterator, catholic without believing in God, corruptor, presumptuous, conceited, jovial, [...], good family man but with

numerous lovers.

[...] He uses those he despises and he despises (and sometimes fears) those who are honest, sincere, intelligent, because he does not need them. He laughs at them, he withdraws them. He surrounds himself of dishonest people and when these make him fall into ruin, they betray him (as their nature dictates), he whimpers to be innocent and cheated [...].

The passage above describes Berlusconi impeccably. When in 1994 he was first elected, he represented the change from 40 years of 'politicians by profession' to 'professionals into politics': he introduced economists, lawyers and entrepreneurs into his cabinet and he prioritised the interests of the middle-high bourgeoisie with his low-tax liberal politics. He used his popular support and political power to save himself from his many

judicial problems. He decriminalised fraud making it impossible to convict entrepreneurs who falsify company's budgets, he tried in many ways to obtain immunity from prosecution and now he has paralysed the parliament in order to pass a retroactive law to decrease dramatically the statute of limitation if the defendant is a first offender and save himself from a corruption trial.

With his able use of the media (he owns an extensive network

of media outlets), a populist media campaign made of resounding declarations, video messages to the nation speaking of prosperity and efficiency that ignored reality, and with an alliance with the 'Northern League' who give a voice to the discontent of the rural population of the north, he managed to broaden his appeal to the lower classes.

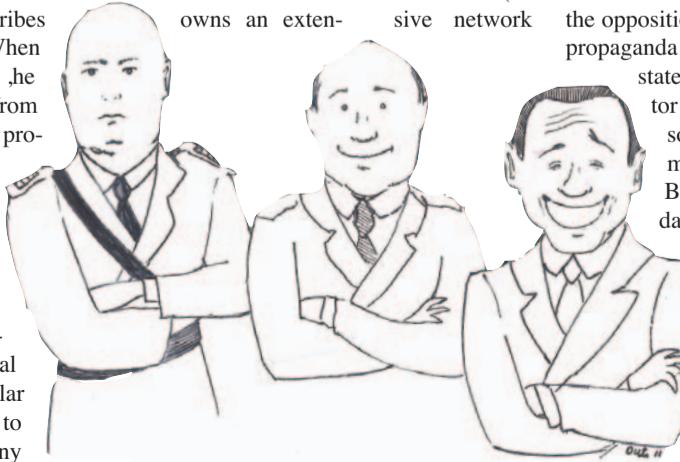
At first his family newspapers and televisions started limiting the voice of the opposition, now they openly peddle propaganda and the trend is moving to

state television too: the director of the first national news is so lined up with the government that when the latest in Berlusconi string of sex scandals arose, there was no mention on state news: no reference to the phone interceptions, the cars, apartments hundreds of thousands of Euros, public placements that Berlusconi gave to tens of soubrettes and show-

girls, some of whom were underage, as 'charity gifts'.

The sex scandal did, finally, crack his immense popularity. Nevertheless he has not resigned and many still defend him, especially the old Catholic block: those that were so easily disgusted by greater rights for unmarried couples and homosexuals are now the toughest defenders of 'Bunga Bunga' (evidently Catholics are used to delegating to others the use of their brains).

I did vote for him, it was for interest and because the alternative was weak but now I have realised my mistake: while Berlusconi is stepping over the values of the Republic, transforming the parliament into a goat market, Italians have to open their eyes and find a credible alternative. The situation is becoming dangerously similar to something that in this country we all fear, something that we all studied in history books and heard from the tales of our grand parents. By the way, the passage was written in 1945 by Elsa Morante, it talks about Mussolini...



COMMENT

FELIX

What is the website for?

A common declaration amongst many people in publishing is that 'print is dead'. By which they mean the idea that the public will continue to read content on paper in the future is laughably ignorant. While the print edition of this cat probably has quite a few years in it yet, we would be foolish to try and resist the inexorable push and pull towards web-based content.

So you may have noticed that Felix's website has been recently redesigned, increasing our potential to finally get serious about online journalism. The design is much more user-friendly and there are many more additional features. But now that we've reached this point, let's take a look back at where we started and where we might hope to get to.

When many of Felix's senior staff began at this university, it was impossible to read Felix online. This situation continued for two years – which is not to deride the editors at the time, quite simply the infrastructure didn't exist to deliver the content online. A useable website was constructed last year, along with a complete online archive of (almost) every issue of Felix. What we have seen since then is that our online readership has grown week-on-week as students and staff become more accustomed to reading the newspaper online.

So where do we go from here? Let's be bold. The online edition far surpasses the print edition in every measure except sentimentality and profitability. Felix can access a far wider audience online and it allows us to better understand what topics are interesting to our readers. We are able to provide multi-layered content: video, audio, and links to relevant or interesting information on other sites. The reader is able to directly query the author, and reader discussions can sometimes be as informative as the article that sparks the debate.

Which does not mean that there is no argument for the print edition. Profitability is no trifling factor; the advertising prices that a small website like Felix would command pale in comparison to the print edition. The reason for this, indirectly, is sentimentality, again not a factor to be waved aside. The print edition of Felix is an institution. The weekly ritual of thousands of Imperial students and staff leafing through the pages of this newspaper is something that connects us all. For as long as Felix is financially able to do a print version, for this powerful sentimental reason, we would urge future Editors to continue to do so.

But facts are facts. It is not possible to maintain the print version at its current standard and run a *Guardian*-esque news website – there are simply not enough hours in the day. One day, we hope in the distant future, the students of this university will have to decide which they prefer.

Money matters

If the rich get to pay their way into uni, I'm emigrating



Angry Geek

"It's the political equivalent of a cockslap"

I try not to get too interested in politics. It leads to disappointment and raised blood pressure, and I get enough of that during exam season as it is. I raised an eyebrow at the NHS reform debate, but even that managed to cool down after a week of whining from pressure groups, and my eyebrow repositioned itself on my face in its classic, slanted, hateful place, knotted between my eyes.

But this week, news reached my eyebrows and other body parts that made me sit up and pay marginally more attention than I do normally. The government has a new plan for university places. It's the political equivalent of a cockslap.

It's almost as if the Tories woke up on the Saturday after the AV referendum and realised that the feckless electorate and the breathtaking incapability of the Liberal Democrats has rendered them all but bulletproof until the next election, and that they can now do basically whatever they want. First on the list: if you're rich, you can now purchase a university place for yourself. Hooray! Now let's see what we can do about this 'women having the vote' problem.

In fairness, I should really expand on the policy before I melt down completely into an incomprehensible stream of swear words. Currently, university tuition fees are going to triple. For some reason, the government thought that most universities wouldn't increase their fees to the full amount when given the opportunity, thereby repeating the classic mistake of the Sunnyfields Day-care Centre's Paedophile Rehabilitation Program of 1998. But never mind that. In principle, I believe that education should cost, and the support of loans and grants mean that most of people will be able to make it through.

However, now it seems that there'll be



Poor guy, doesn't even have enough money for a cockslap...

While the rest of the student body competes, those with money will simply have to walk in with the bare minimum

be able to create extra, magical university places for you. The claim is that this is to enable charities and businesses to sponsor students, and will thereby improve social mobility. The reality is that they've always been able to do this by offering grants and other support, and that this is really a way to bypass the applications process.

You see, although the government proposals insist that students will have to pass the admission standards, it does not make any claims about interviews, or whether they will be measured against similar applicants. In essence, if you enter university via this route, your only competitors will be the other kids sufficiently rich to bargain their way in. While the rest of the student body competes for dwindling places and tries their hardest to differentiate themselves from the thousands of other hopefuls, those with money will simply have to walk in with the bare minimum of exam results and take their place.

It takes a lot to wake me up from my dazed state of margarita-sipping and sunbathing around this time of year, but this is beyond unacceptable. The admissions process is already a horrendous mess of poor interviewers, muddled pa-

perwork and luck. Allowing those with money to skip the queue so they can fill up lecture halls with their soul-sapping sense of entitlement while talented students are told to ‘fuck off and try again next year’ is the absolute epitome of disgusting, indecent politics. It is impossible to justify this; it goes beyond petty left and right ideologies – we are fucking with a nation’s education, when it should be sacrosanct.

It looks like Scotland will have a referendum in a few years to decide whether or not to leave the Union. My advice, if any Imperial College students have a vote in that referendum, is to implore everyone you know to get out while you still can. I don't understand patriotism at the best of times, but lately the news has been giving me every reason to actively avoid it.

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Arts Editor: Rox Middleton

ARTS

The Review

When a cast is given the name of the musical they will perform 24 hours before curtain-up, no-one should expect anything particularly special. When that cast is from the glorious Musical Theatre Society, the tables are turned. This rendition of 'We Will Rock You' was absolutely phenomenal. With a cast of 22, plus technical crew, choreographer, director, musical director, and a band, they kept the Union Concert Hall enthralled for nearly three hours.

'We Will Rock You' is a strange musical, and not one that I really believed everyone could appreciate. It's a showcase of the music of Queen, held together by a storyline which was created to do just that. Unfortunately, even seen amongst the plots of its fellow musicals, this one for me is pretty tenuous, it's all part of the fun but I've never thought there was something that could make you forget its artificiality.

It turns out there is something that can make you forget though. I don't know if it's because they hadn't slept, but the raw energy of the cast kept the show moving like a bullet-train. A huge number of Queen's songs are showstoppers, think 'Killer Queen', 'Another One Bites the Dust', 'Don't Stop Me Now', 'We Will Rock You', 'We are the Champions'... etc. etc. etc.) but this show didn't stop. With each song more visceral than the last, the audience's Sunday-night lethargy was blasted out of them by the lungs and muscles of people who should have been recovering from inhuman exhaustion.

Being pushed to their physical limits didn't stop the cast from keeping control of their highly choreographed movement and singing. There were some lines which hadn't been learnt and it is to their credit that they managed not to break the illusion whilst prompting themselves with notes written on just about every prop they had. Some cast carried off these manoeuvres with musical hall aplomb while a couple were self-consciously happy to point out their failings. Although apparently at odds with the gusto of the genre, it worked to keep everyone laughing.

On a weekend when most of us were lamely pushing ahead with the revision schedule, these students created something spectacular. From a society that has proven time and again just what dedication and rehearsal can do for a performance came a showcase of the part that pure talent and energy play as well. It was genuinely brilliant regardless of the time taken to put on. If this exercise is repeated, I advise you not to miss out. **Rox Middleton**

Cast List

Galileo	Robert Felstead
Scaramouche	Katie Clemence
Killer Queen	Shamini Bundell
Pop	Sebastian Junemann
Khashoggi	Al Norman
Meat	Rebecca Jones
Brit	Phil Raymond

Ensemble: Charlotte Ivison, Saneel Patel, Owain Jones, Christine Simpson, Oluwatosin Ajayi, Sophie Campen, Lucy Harrold, Michael Willmott, Barry White-side, Felix Millne, Holly Russell-Allison, John Wheatley, Philip Jackson, Tony Bannister, Yun William Yu.

Director: David Swain

Musical Director: Zoe Humphries

Choreographer: James Perry

1 **9:25** The triumvirate at the head of this incredible undertaking have just announced the name of the show. David Swain nonchalantly goes over to his laptop to press play on what he calls: "One of the most famous numbers of the show, and indeed of all time". Silence falls among the cast as the opening notes of Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' fill the hall. Cheers are heard from some, silence from others, as they realise this means they will be performing Ben Elton's musical of Queen songs: 'We Will Rock You'.

21:10 Seb Junemann, a society veteran and director of this summer's production of Guys and Dolls, pointed out to me earlier that 'We Will Rock You' was a surprising but great choice for a project like this. Not only would most people know the music, he claimed, but the naturally chaotic, Bohemian show could only benefit from the exuberant disorganisation this 24-hour musical was certain to display. Those optimistic words came at 19:40 – before the first musical sing-through and well before the first dance rehearsal.

22:05 Slices of Red Leicester on Cream Crackers are an ideal substitute for dinner. Hey-ho: off to look for a copy of Ben Elton's script.

00:15 So, we're a sixth of the way through this ordeal, and I think the onset of the late-night-high can be felt. Morale is high and appetites are low after a midnight gorging on Domino's Pizza and Lucy Harrold's jelly.

The cast are now attempting their first run of 'Radio GaGa' on the Concert Hall stage, and the amount of wiggling going on in the cast's hips is causing the jelly to turn green with envy. Or maybe that's the food colouring. Director David Swain has returned to his hiding place upstairs, consoling himself with visions of a 4am power nap. And his half of a meat feast pizza.

00:36 I still haven't seen a copy of this blasted script. There are about three copies of same making the rounds among 24 cast members, so I rank pretty low on the guest list.

Sitting next to the window, looking out at the stars above the Royal Albert Hall (too late for stars in the Royal Albert Hall, I'm afraid), this seems like an opportune time to mention Queen's specific relevance to the Imperial community. The guitarist Brian May, almost universally considered to be among the best living exponents of that instrument, is an Imperial alumnus. Since graduating in 2007, Brian May CBE has received a disproportionate amount of coverage from Imperial's Communications Centre as one of the university's few presentable graduates. Call me bitter, but I hardly think that David Irving would make as good a poster child. And the plot of his rock musical is, quite frankly, just plain silly.

11:36 Having listened to more Queen in the past 14 hours than in the rest of my life combined, it strikes me that there is something powerfully earthy

Photos by Simon Worthington

WE WILL ROCK YOU



"Sure, it's a little loose around the edges, but not significantly more than most other dress rehearsals I've been involved with. Awesome. Just awesome"

in what I've heard so far. Music of a breathtakingly epic quality which explicitly names objects, fears and desires that ordinary human beings would encounter. I don't know if I'm making myself as clear on this point as I would like – let me get back to you once my philosophy of rock has some more time to develop.

12:00 The technical crew have now arrived, in the persons of James Gallagher and the suicidally competent Francis Clegg. Lights are going up, keys are being rattled and ladders are being moved around at frightening velocities. Having been involved with a number of technical set-ups over the past few years at Imperial, these are all good signs.

Read the full liveblog at felixonline.co.uk

15:15 I'm realising that I haven't given enough credit to the amount of preparatory work this operation must have involved. The choice of show was made less than three weeks ago, and the secrecy surrounding it must have made any planning well-nigh impossible.

And yet, at 19:30 last night, copies of the score and script (though admittedly not enough!) were printed and ready for distribution, a detailed rehearsal schedule was taped to the wall, and James Perry arrived with enough energy coursing through him to electrocute a meadow full of Duracell bunnies.

So far, at least, this preparation has paid off in an astonishing way.

17:01 One aspect of this performance which is brought into sharp focus by the short rehearsal period allotted it is the raw vocal power possessed by so many of its cast. When Katie Clemence sings 'Somebody to Love' over the hall's speakers, the walls seem to bend under the force of her voice. The awkwardness which the cast must feel they are displaying comes across as beautifully edgy realism. Which, I need scarcely point out, suits the music of Queen to a T.

Musical Theatre Society
rehearse and perform
Ben Elton's smash hit in
only 24 hours

**Read highlights from
Gilead Amit's liveblog**



17:43 As Rebecca Jones prepares to lead the ensemble through: 'Only the Good Die Young', I have to keep reminding myself that these guys and dolls have only been doing this for 22 hours. Sure, it's rough, ready, and a little loose around the edges, but not significantly more than most other dress rehearsals I've been involved with. Awesome. Just awesome.

18:24 Act II of the dress rehearsal is well underway here, and everyone must be keenly aware of how little time there is before the audience is scheduled to arrive. Hopefully, however, they are also keenly aware of how massively impressive their work has been, and, according to the liveblog stats, how much interest this project is garnering from the wider Imperial community.

The wonderful truth is that by far the most important audience for each of these performers will be each other. This is a project for them. They entered into it together, and what will get them through these final hours is the knowledge that they are all still together.

18:35 Whoop! This is now officially the most popular article on the Felix website. I would do a little celebratory

dance, but after watching these guys for so long I'd feel inadequate. That and my left thigh has gone to sleep for the eighth time today.

19:32 One final song bites the dust as the cast sings 'We are the Champions of the World'. Which, to my mind, they most definitely are.

19:38 All right. It's been 24 hours of constant rehearsals, and not-so-constant liveblogging. I've expended nearly 6,000 words in an attempt to convey the awesomeness of this cast, and I don't think 60,000 could do them justice. I don't have much more to say, or indeed much more time in which to say it, as I need to help the exhausted David Swain clear the hall. I've been struggling with the right words to describe this adventure all day, and I think I've finally come up with a description which satisfies me, if not anybody else. For all the talk of tonight's audience, the real performance is just finishing. These past 24 hours haven't been a rehearsal period – they've been a constant, frenetic, euphoric, emotional, exhausting, intense and unbelievable performance.

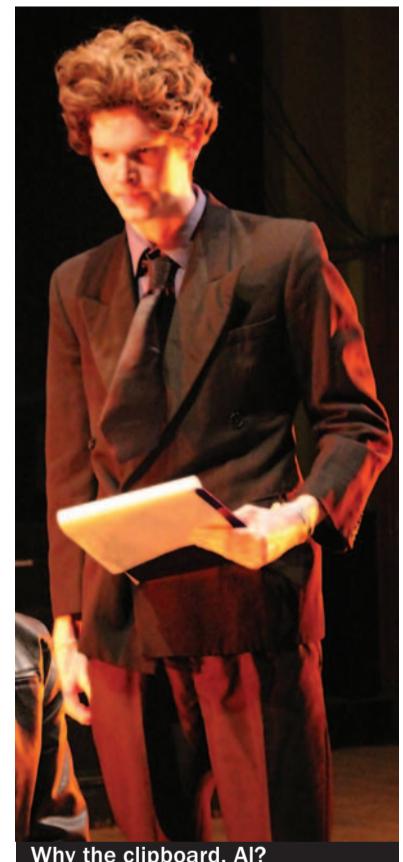
They don't need you half as much as you need them. They will rock you.



"I think we're finally alone. Except for the band. And the audience... Dammit!"



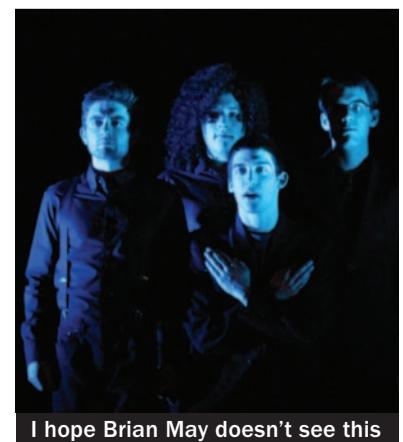
"Why he won't just throw that sock away, I'll never know..."



"Why the clipboard, Al?"



"Before I met you, I had a girlfriend who was *this* big!"



"I hope Brian May doesn't see this"

Imperial Medics Boat Club No



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

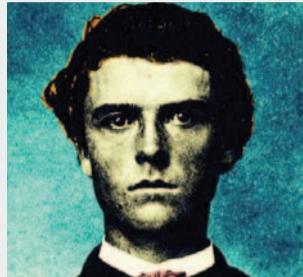
ovices



Photo by Kadhim Shubber

MUSIC

Album of The Week



Tyler, The Creator
Goblin
XL
2011

By now **Odd Future** are pretty much the biggest new thing in music, having just finished their first full-fledged European tour. They incited a bit of a riot at the Camden Crawl, where they outshined every other band present, and have an established and dedicated fanbase that just keeps on growing. *Goblin* marks a clear musical progression for the leader of the Wolf Gang, as he pushes his Neptunes-influenced minimalist indie hip-hop to brave weird worlds. Tracks like 'Yonkers' and 'Troncat' retain the same visceral anger and insanity that fans know and love, but it is on the heavily R&B-tinged 'She', the manic and funky 'Transylvania' (produced by **Left Brain**), and in the strange beauty of 'Analog', that Tyler really outdoes himself. On this album more than ever before Tyler separates the different sides of his musical persona (Wolf Haley, Ace Creator and Troncat) onto distinct tracks, resulting in what could be considered a concept album: Tyler discovers the pitfalls of becoming an instant celebrity, questions his abilities, falls prey to his weaknesses and ends up shooting every member of the Golf Wang (metaphorically?) before finally discovering himself. Bring on *Wolf*. **Greg Power**

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

1. Radiohead
2. Muse
3. Daft Punk
4. The Strokes
5. Gorillaz
6. Arcade Fire
7. The Killers
8. Arctic Monkeys
9. Red Hot Chili Peppers
10. LCD Soundsystem

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

Make sure not to miss Stag and Dagger

Several venues in Shoreditch
Thursday, 19th May 2011
www.staganddagger.com

Stag and Dagger is an annual festival of new music which takes place in and around Old Street in East London. It promises to be an amazing night with acts such as **D/R/U/G/S**, **James Yuill**, **New Young Pony Club**, **Star Slinger**, **Toro Y Moi**, **Wire** and many more. Buy your ticket online, then head to XOYO after 6pm to exchange it for a wristband which grants you access to all participating venues for the entire night. The principal venues are CAMP Basement, The Macbeth, Hoxton Bar & Kitchen and 93 Feet East, amongst others. The nearest tube stations are Aldgate East and Old Street. Take the night bus back home if you stay after 1am.

Veronika McQuade

Music Editors: **Greg Power**
Luke Turner
Stephen Smith
music.felix@gmail.com

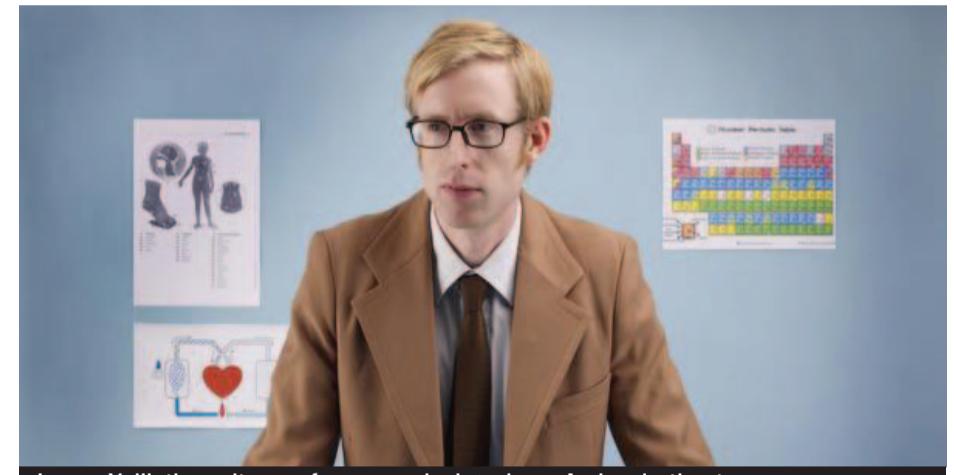
A night at the Garage

Give a warm welcome to our new Editor **Stephen Smith**, as he kicks off his career with a review of HMV's Next Big Thing at the Relentless Garage

Above The Relentless Garage in Islington lies a small hall signposted from the outside as "Upstairs". The quirky mystery of this sign gives every hint of what lies beyond, namely a small 150-capacity hall with all the trimmings of the perfect hipster hideout. The music was an oddly mismatched combination of folk, electronica, and pop. Perhaps it would be best described as a folktronica gig but some of the acts certainly didn't fit this description. This night was part of HMV's Next Big Thing series of concerts, and all of these artists have a great deal of promise, though I hesitate to patronise the main act, **James Yuill**, in such a way, since he has already settled into a fine niche in the folktronica scene (if such a scene could be said to exist at all).

The first act was boy/girl combo **Visions of Trees**. Amongst the slew of **Bat For Lashes** copycats, few have managed to match Natasha Khan in any way. Only **Florence Welch** comes to mind as a possibility, but in Visions of Trees there is perhaps a new band to eventually take the title of creepy, fairy-like, female, electronic-folk artist of the moment. Their songs follow a well trodden path of ghostly whispered vocals over a sparse yet heavy harmony of strings/piano/noise, a path that was first walked by **Kate Bush** in the 80s, and a style that has apparently not been bettered since then. In that sense, Visions of Trees are completely mediocre, but they have some catchy songs and they play one of the most enjoyable genres around so they are definitely worth a listen.

The second band were **Trophy Wife**, a band that I had seen before and liked a lot – mostly due to their simultaneously disturbing and enthralling cover of **Joanna Newsom**'s 'Book of Right-On' (Look for it on Myspace, Newsom fans will be amazed at how well it works). This time, they were even better, perhaps the musical highlight of the evening. They are a band very similar in musical style to **Holy Fuck** – a



James Yuill: the epitome of pure musical geekery. An inspiration to many

quartet of musicians stood around an island of wires, keyboards and guitars while each one danced vigorously and still managed to play his part effortlessly well. One of the most striking aspects of Trophy Wife's setup was their home-made drum kit: a wooden frame housed a mixing desk and a large number of regularly and violently beaten polystyrene pads. As with **Holy Fuck**, Trophy Wife's appeal lies in their very humble take on dance music; it is very refreshing, and interesting, to find a band making dance music with traditional, non-computerised instruments.

Third on stage, and after a painfully long gap, was the one pop act of the evening, **CocknBullKid**. She is an indecisive songwriter who performs a variety of styles, but whereas other genre-spanning artists (**Animal Collective** immediately comes to mind) give off an air of well-rounded musical knowledge drawing links between otherwise distant genres, CocknBullKid simply seems confused and unsure of her position in the very wide and complex spectrum of modern music. New single 'Hold on to Your Misery' is extremely reminiscent of **S**

Club 7, whereas 'One Eye Closed' could easily be Britney's next single. On the other hand, the superb eponymous track **CocknBullKid** is perhaps best described as experimental 80s dance-rock, a welcome break from the trashy 90s pop that made up the rest of her set.

Adequately disheartened, I very eagerly awaited **James Yuill** who came on stage dressed like the definition of a music geek in a Lyle & Scott shirt and thickly rimmed nerd glasses, his Macbook on prominent display. I had seen James Yuill once before at XOYO on Old Street and his lovely mixture of folktronica and rave music was entrancing. This night was very similar, the undisputed highlight being the folky 'This Sweet Love', beautifully accompanied by an animated video of balloons, boats and moustaches. The occasional rave moments dimmed the lights into a club atmosphere, but these were intelligent songs with a rare combination of complexity and danceability. Yuill is a fantastic musician who deftly and intelligently stole the show with simple, assured maturity, but the younger Trophy Wife impressed everyone with an effortless and supremely enjoyable set.

The Tin Can 44s

The Speak Easy EP
Unsigned
★★★★★



Gregory Power

Imperial's own blues maestros, **The Tin Can 44s**, have released their first studio recording: a five-track gem called *The Speak Easy EP*. Everyone who attended the first Felix Music Night on the 19th of February will remember The Tin Cans as "that wild bunch of whiskey-swiggers" that kept us grooving during the totality of their tight, raw set. Pretty damn classy, indeed. Their EP was recorded over two day sessions at Alchemea Studios in Angel, Islington, and is available for free up on their Bandcamp.

All songs were written by bandleader Phil Overton, who possesses a God-given grace on the guitar, recalling the technical, Jazz-influenced guitar work of acts such as **The Yardbirds**. Whereas in concert their goal is clearly to make you dance till your feet fall off, on record the intricate level of their musicianship and the tightness of their act really becomes apparent: they chug through these five tracks like a well-oiled machine, fueled on whiskey.

Don't get me wrong, tracks like 'Bad Craziness' and 'Three Coats' will make you boogie like a wookie, but it is in the softer moments of 'Now They Know' the band really shows how interesting their compositions and teamwork are. Overton's **Knopfler**-esque riffing complements his end-of-the-line vocals – reminding this humble reviewer of early **Dylan** – whilst

drummer Aaron Berk shows skillful restraint. Berk then tips the song into more rocky territory, leading into a crescendo of wild harmonica tomfoolery by the brilliant Box Car Joe.

'Picket Song' feels like the intro to a good old-fashioned Cowboy-bar brawl. 'After The Show' will make all the ladies want a piece of the action ('Get Laid Easy' tip number 34: learn to play this on the guitar).

All in all, an extremely solid debut, and a pleasure on the ears of anyone with a taste for bluesy folk.

Get the free EP on the band's bandcamp:
<http://thetincan44s.bandcamp.com>

The Tin Can 44s perform at an "acoustic circus" every Sunday in Whitechapel. Follow them on Facebook for more details.

Film Editors: **Jade Hoffman**
Ed Knock

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

Superhero overload

Ed Knock laments the rise and rise of the comic book genre

I'll be honest, I'm not the biggest comic book fan. Sure, I used to watch X-Men and Spiderman cartoons in my pajamas during the now distant nineties but as far as turning the pages of actual comics, my only memories are of the occasional Beano – if I had enough change from my pocket money. Many people take the DC and Marvel canons very seriously and the zeal of fans has changed the nature of blockbusters over the past decade. The once action movie staple of the Hollywood summer schedule has very quickly been replaced by the now familiar parade of lycra-clad superheroes. If you browse through the major film websites and magazines, you very quickly start to get a sense of *déjà vu* at the bombardment of comic book adaptations that dominate the features and eventually the cinema screens. Are studios scraping the barrel to find obscure characters to spin money from? Will audiences eventually become bored? And how many more flops will it take for the comic book phenomenon to implode and make filmmakers realize that maybe the market is oversaturated.

To make myself clear I have no prejudice against comic book films in themselves. It's easy to come across as a pretentious snob who only deems that high brow art-house cinema is worthy of our attention and acclaim when having a rant against comic book films. I, like every other person on this planet, loved both Christopher Nolan's Batman films. However, in rebooting the Batman franchise, Nolan removed any supernatural elements and silliness and in its place dolloped a heavy dose of existentialism. In a similar vein to Coppola's serious interpretation of the pulp novel The Godfather, Batman Begins was constructed in a realistic manner as opposed to the ridiculous Joel Schumacher versions which ruined the franchise (two words: bat nipples). Such is the operatic scope of the recent Batman films, you look over the fact that Bruce Wayne dresses up as a bat to fight crime.

My problem with comic book films is that they all follow the same formula. We have our hero, who is typically shown performing an appropriate heroic act until an evil villain appears to perform some evil deeds. Our hero eventually defeats the villain but only after nearly being defeated in an epic fight. It's simple, it's popular, it's boring. Look at the first two Iron Man films for example. In both films Tony Stark has to fight a villain with a bigger better version of an Iron Man suit and he only wins by sheer luck. In Ang Lee's Hulk, Bruce Banner emerges vic-



This summer we can 'look forward' to Ryan Reynolds as The Green Lantern (seriously), Anthony Hopkins undoing a career of great acting, another X-Men film, and the chant "USA! USA! USA!" in film form, I mean, Captain America

In the pipeline

X-Men: Deadpool

X-Men: The Wolverine

Iron Man 3

The Avengers

Another Superman reboot

A Spiderman reboot

The Dark Knight Rises

In case you missed it, that's another two X-Men films. Who in Magento's name watching these things?

torious over his demented father who, guess what, is a bigger better green Hulk.

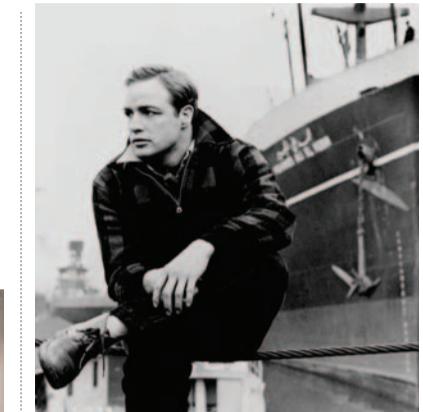
The four big films this summer are Thor, X-Men: First Class, Captain America, and The Green Lantern. Now I can't pass judgment over Thor as I haven't seen it but the general vibe I got off reviewers was although it was entertaining, they had seen all it before. X-Men: First Class has a disappointing trailer; it appears to be a feast of CGI wizardry against a thinly constructed political background. The Green Lantern looks truly awful and I can't see audiences flocking to see Ryan Reynolds play a galactic policeman who wears a magic ring to fight aliens resembling Star Trek rejects.

Captain America has a more interesting premise as it's set during WW2 but a comic equivalent of The Red Line is unlikely. Cyberpunk Nazis may be a

refreshing change from armoured automatons but a hero decked in the Stars and Stripes looks a little bit ridiculous. I guarantee the script will contain some deep mumbo jumbo about the responsibility of power or something similar but it's inevitable that Captain America will result in a manic face off between Hero and Villain.

The trend for comic book adaptions does not look like slowing at all, in fact it's accelerating at a scary pace. But although the supply of superhero movies will continue as long as there is a demand for it, there are plenty of people in the movie business with big original ideas and I think it's time that the major studios stop patronising their audiences and give them something new to watch. The success of Inception proves that the tried and tested formula of Superhero versus Supervillain is not the only recipe for a blockbuster.

Most importantly On the Waterfront was a turning point in American cinema; afterwards the classic dramatic style of acting began to wane and the natural Method acting of Brando and Malden gradually became the norm. **Ed Knock**



Classic Cinema On The Waterfront

The Italians dominated social commentary cinema in the fifties and with the British kitchen sink dramas and French New Wave in their infancies, this gritty genre of cinema was their playground until the Americans caught up a couple of decades later. However, amongst the gaudy visuals of Technicolor musicals and melodramatic epics of the Golden Hollywood era, On the Waterfront bucked against the trend with a classic tale of corruption and working class rebellion against oppression. Elia Kazan's highly regarded classic was based upon a series of exposé articles about mafia controlled extortion and racketeering on the docks of New York. After being reluctantly involved in the murder of dockworker who is preparing to testify against the Mob, Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) finds himself questioning his conscience about his actions (or lack of) as he becomes romantically involved with the dead man's beautiful sister (Eva Marie Saint) who is determined to discover the truth about her brother's untimely death.

Terry is a gentle man, a failed boxer who took a dive for the Mob and lives a complacent but unfulfilling life under the protection of his brother, the gangsters' lawyer. Spurred on to question his morals by a crusading priest (Karl Malden), Terry decides to break the unspoken code of silence and fight for better treatment of his fellow down-trodden longshoremen. Marlon Brando steals the film in his Oscar-winning performance; every twitch and stare along with his trademark chin scratch masterfully convey all the emotions of man reflecting on his own exploitation by his Mafioso brother. The scenes between Brando and Marie Saint are especially touching as the specter of her brother's death hangs over their blossoming relationship. The script is vivid and passionate including the immortal 'I wish I coulda' bin a contender!' speech.

Most importantly On the Waterfront was a turning point in American cinema; afterwards the classic dramatic style of acting began to wane and the natural Method acting of Brando and Malden gradually became the norm. **Ed Knock**

Games Editor: Simon Worthington

GAMES

Web Games

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

Nyan Cat Fly!

nyancatfly.com



There are two groups of people in the world: those that know what Nyan Cat is, and those that do not. For the former, this game is a dream come true: guide the titular kitty on its journey through space, nomming treats as you go. For the latter, it's the start of a hellish nightmare of Japanese music and animated GIFs from which there is no real escape.

Treats get you bonus points, whereas slurping down vegetables loses you a life. Really, it's no wonder kids are getting obese these days. Apart from the inexcuseable soundtrack, *Nyan Cat FLY!* is actually very good at what it does and there's a good amount of fun to be had as the game speeds up and dodging rogue leeks gets more and more challenging.

Reimagine :The Game:

tinyurl.com/67bvapx



If my gran ever comes out of her irreversible coma, I won't show her the BBC News website, or give her a copy of today's paper, I'll just sit her down in front of this old-style platformer. The past few years of popular culture, from Lady Gaga to Julian Assange, have been compressed down into bitsize gaming nuggets, each with their unique flair.

For example, pictured above is a level about the BP oil spill, where pelicans must be used to sponge up oil and are then burnt in furnaces to allow the player to jump higher. Lots of good humour and satire here, and plenty of fun levels to keep you going.

Who knew climate change could be so much fun?

Chris Bowers becomes a global dictator while reviewing *Fate of the World*

The year is 2020 and climate change has reached critical levels. The global temperature is rising, the Maldives are being evacuated, and countries have realised that their individual efforts are no longer enough. 2018 brought what scientists called the world's first ever "hypercane", and the serious possibility of dangerously high temperatures by 2100, along with growing economic uncertainty, is leading to growing civil unrest.

Something must be done, and so the Global Environment Organisation (GEO) is formed – an independent, but slightly controversial organisation with the goal of countering the increasing effects of climate change. And with them they bring a newly elected President – you. Your first order of business is to decide how you would like to be addressed (ranging from Darling and Dude, to Learned One and Your Excellency), then it's straight into saving the world.

The way you go about it is to hire representatives in major regions around the world (Europe, Russia, Middle East etc.) to carry out your bidding. Once hired, you can play one 'card' per representative from a set currently available in that region. Each of these cards represents a project that the representative will carry out over the next five years, leading to long-term positive and/or negative effects in that region, such as a change in GDP or carbon emissions, or even global mega-death.

It does all sound a bit like a dictatorship, and to that end the GEO and its representatives can be kicked out and banned from a region if its population doesn't think you're acting in their best interests. This is one of the ways *Fate of the World* manages win and loss conditions – lose control of too many regions and you fail the level. Most win conditions must be achieved by a specific year (and there are



bonus ones for extra points), and your funds are generally very limited, so there's real pressure to play the right cards in the right places.

The system is conceptually rather simple – play cards and click next – but developer Red Redemption have added a great deal of complexity really quite well. In addition to the sleuth of statistics available for each individual region – and on a global scale – every 'turn' of five years you get major news stories from that region. These headlines provide you with even more insight into public opinion, and the general state of things, and it's from here that you will probably be harvesting most of the information that you need to plan your next move.

It's easy to see that this game requires a lot of thought. You are guided in with only two regions, and a large number of cards to play with, but you should enjoy the simplicity while it lasts. Once you've finished the first level, you get chucked in at the deep end – the whole

world is yours to look after (or control, if you prefer, Your Excellency) with a tight budget and only a handful of cards in play.

It's a steep learning curve, and with so many different strategy paths to try out, it'll probably take a few attempts to get it right. But once you get going, it's quite satisfying to see your plans unfolding before your eyes. The whole system makes sense – there is clear logic to the cards mechanism, requiring you to set up each region's infrastructure first. From here, you can begin shaping that region's future – be it an unpopular, highly-taxed one to get funds, or a flourishing technologically advanced one.

With all these decisions to make and implement, it's important that the interface is helpful and unobtrusive, and *Fate of the World* does this well. It's quite clean and navigating through the game is simple, with no more than a few clicks to get to any of your resources. There are little, finishing touches – like playing region-themed background music when you're making decision in that area – that let you know the frontend has had attention too. There's even a heat map of the entire Earth so you can keep track of which countries are contributing the most to global warming, but the emphasis here is definitely on the detailed underlying mechanics.

With so much of the premise relying on the core gameplay, it's so important that it feels strong and offers a good experience, and *Fate of the World* certainly delivers on that front. Not only that, but it manages to deliver a game based on a really interesting concept – one that links well to our own, current conditions, and is possibly even trying to make a point about a future that our actions could take us.

I really would recommend *FotW*, even if this genre isn't your usual tipple. Having to think about your various strategies and the solid gameplay makes this game one to look out for.

Fate Of The World is available now from www.fateoftheworld.net, for about £10.



GAMES

Simon Worthington



With games now enjoying their official status as art, whilst worming their way onto every device we own, Felix asks:

ARE VIDEO GAMES A WASTE OF TIME?



[But] last time I checked, movie-goers didn't quite get the same flak for seeing films as gamers do playing video games"

to spout it out.

However corny it may sound, many modern games have storylines and plots comparable to that of a movie, the difference being you don't normally sit through a movie with a mouse/controller in your hand. Hell, only recently the US National Endowment for the Arts declared video games, among other associated media, 'officially-sanctioned art forms'. To proclaim video games a waste of time is to do the same to films and every other form of traditional art, and also brings into question why one activity should be better than another. Yes, this is imperfect logic, shut up. I'm a video gamer, not a logician with a PhD in being smart.

Look folks, let's face the facts here. You can cut up the argument however you want, but at the end of the day, games do suck up time – anyone who's played *World of Warcraft* can testify to this (just ask down at Blackett Labs). They are specifically designed to draw you in and a game that does, one that is capable of sapping away hours from your life, is considered successful. But that's no reason to feel guilty about playing them, and I'm not just saying that so you'll continue to read the Games page.

Having fun in life is important, and if you draw pleasure from video gaming then more power to you. Yes, I consider them wastes of time at the end of the day, but you should feel no guiltier indulging in them than a person who watches films, reads fiction or listens Justin Bieber.

Actually, scratch that last one.

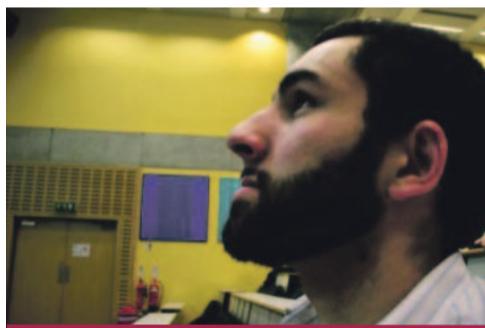
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on felixonline.co.uk

I guess - Laurence Pope

This was always going to be a difficult piece to write, since the answer to the above question could be summed up succinctly in a single syllable – yes. Unfortunately, my editor isn't particularly happy with one word articles, so I suppose I'd better make something out of this question. Apparently I'm going head-to-head with Omar on this issue, but because I'm a good sport I'm going to avoid digging up dirt to discredit his argument, irreversibly wreck his reputation, and shame his family for generations to come.

The first thing I'd have to ask is what people consider a 'non-waste' of time. If it is something that is considered fun, then one can hardly label video games as wastes of such time – unless you're the kind of weirdo who plays them to increase their sense of crushing boredom, o'course. After all, in the words of Bertrand Russell: "The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time." If something is enjoyable, it can hardly be said to be wasteful (whether it is moral or not is another question entirely, and not entirely relevant to the matter at hand). If old Berty agrees with me on this issue, who are you to dare argue back?

If something has to be productive to be a non-time waster, then one has to ask themselves what ISN'T a pointless time sink. Films come instantly to mind – last time I checked, movie-goers didn't quite get the same flak for seeing films as gamers do playing video games. There is a line of thought that says films can educate and games cannot, and I hate it every bloody time someone opens their gob



Never! – Omar Hafeez-Bore

We'd need a whole year of Felix to crack this issue. At least. Even then, after discussing the importance of play and whether we actually deserve to have

so much entertainment at our fingertips, we'd still come up short. This is Big Philosophy; a discussion of how Man Should Spend His Time, no less.

Yes, time. The very currency of our lives and we choose to spend it playing games? And then have the nerve to celebrate how much of this precious currency games cost us? 'It's very addictive!' That's it! The jackpot. The bullseye. The highest accolade a game can get. But why?

If people reviewed sweets – and if they did, I'd give the mega-sour balls from Mr Simm's sweet shop 5/5 – 'addictive' would be the last thing people would praise about them. The Daily Mail headlines would write themselves: 'Kids go crazy for crack candy', 'Lollipop lady lamed by lolly-loving Lilita', 'Immigrants stole my sherbert!' *et cetera*.

Because too much of anything is bad for you. Think of the best thing for you in the world. Water, right? Well, even that is bad for you if you drink too much! No joke. I checked. And unless you're really crap at, you know, basic actions of human instinct, drinking water takes up way less time to drink than games do to play.

So let's make one big fat assumption right now. Let's assume we are not good-for-nothing students who feel that spending a few hours each day in lectures listening (puff, pant) is strenuous enough an activity to justify frittering our free time on hard-

earned-cotching. On streaming endless movies, watching 24 box-sets in real time or playing *COD* until we are the leanest, meanest button-presser-to-ever-press-a-button-to-pretend-to-kill-a-completely-digital-person-on-screen.

Let's instead pretend that we are balanced individuals who work, play sport, contribute to the community and help old ladies and the occasional chicken across the road. Individuals who have satisfied their Good Human quota and have a few hours a week to spend on a hobby. Even in that (improbable) case, would games be a good use of time, when we could watch a film, or read a book, or tinker with model trains or something?

The smart readers will have already spotted the fundamental flaw in the previous sentence: that it was retarded. You know that feeling you get when you really fancy watching a horror film, but then decide that you'll just read Bridget Jones instead? No, nor me.

Games are great because they are as different to film as books are. As playing guitar is to collecting stamps. They are games, and only they can satisfy that itch for a headshot or a pixel-perfect jump. No, they are not some geek's substitute for real life. No one sticks on *FIFA* when they fancy a game of footy in the park. They play *FIFA* when they fancy pressing some buttons and waggle a couple of sticks until a screen pronounces them better at doing it than their mate. They stick *FIFA* on when they fancy a game of *FIFA*. And if I fancy exploring a hazy, sun-dappled world of surrealist melancholy I'll play *Ico* and not just admire a De Chirico painting.

Should people try to balance their life so they don't spend massive chunks of it in front of a screen? Should they ensure they don't sacrifice social contact, going out, keeping healthy, working hard and all that in the name of raising digital digits in a digital world? Yes, probably.

But can people really dismiss a whole medium as a waste of time any more than another? I agree with Laurence on one point: maybe people should feel guilty about spending too much time on pure sedentary entertainment, on the pursuit of its own pleasure. But not specifically games. They've taught me as much as other, 'worthier' art forms, and given me plenty of things the others never could.

FOOD

Gastronomical Musings

Vicky says:

Summer is here and the skirts and sunglasses are out. Well for us girls at least, sorry boys – unless that's your kind of thing, no judgement here). It also heralds the return of Pimms, ice lollies and the all important Frappuccino. Life is good. If pesky exams do have to take over your life then let it be now, when large icy glasses of Fruli in the pub and Twister Lollies in the park are acceptable revision breaks. Well, sort of. I think that's how other people feel.

I won't lie and pretend all this sun is my thing. Everything in moderation and all that. The excuse to eat enormous amounts of gelato is appreciated and a sneaky trip to **Oddono's** in South Kensington is a must for me. Two-for-one on waffles with ice cream and sauce, all for the same price as one scoop; bargain! I'm all for making the most out of what there is on offer even while mourning the loss of my scarf and the need for hot cups of tea. If gelato is the only way, then so be it.

Summer food lacks the utter comfort that winter grub intrinsically has but the abundance of colour and variety makes the whole thing a far cheerier experience. Salads, quiche, and the odd Eton mess certainly ease the pain of the passing of parsnip chips until the end of the year. As does Pimms – oh wonderful ruby red Pimms, with your perfect timing and leaves of mint.

Of course the ultimate in summer cuisine is the meal that is an event in its self: the barbecue. BBQ and all it's accompaniments make the next couple of months exciting what with all the worry and drama over the potential for rain and the possibility of meat being set on fire due to the drunken chef at the grill, while hosting a lot of hungry people.

It's the only meal that never really starts when you get there but never seems to end; with lunch turning into supper and the neighbour's angry yelling ending the night. I have yet to attend one this year that has been successfully held outside but as someone who is allergic to everything outdoors I can't say I've been unhappy at this state of affairs. Don't even get me started on picnics. Ants and grass and often a frisbee aimed at your head. Joy.

Before all of you label me the summer curmudgeon (a sort of ice queen scrooge-like figure if you will) I remind you that it is my duty as a British person to complain about the weather and all the annoyances it throws up. Can you imagine what I'd have to say if I hadn't caught any sun today? Welcome summer.

flickr/darcie



Dinner at Heston's

Laura Huckins visits the fabled new restaurant sensation

flickr/laissez faire



The mighty meat fruit. A strange beast it is true but tasty and succulent and orange. We welcome it to our table. Hello

Heston Blumenthal: the molecular gastronomist, the chef or perhaps the genius? Having burst onto our screens only a few years ago, he has fascinated us with his original recipe ideas which come complete with their own crazy experiences; birds flying out of a pie being one memorable highlight. A self-taught chef, Heston's original restaurant 'The Fat Duck' boasts three Michelin stars, is consistently ranked one of the world's best places to dine, and is afforded the luxury of unregulated prices. His most recent addition to the family, 'Dinner' in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, ignited a frenzy amongst food critics months before its opening in January this year, taking 6,000 bookings within its first day of opening the phone lines. Laura Huckins was lucky enough to visit.

Long before I enter Dinner, I have done my research. After four years at Imperial I am an engineer worth my salt: alongside my Lit Review I have menus and quotes, and the date pencilled into Outlook three months in advance. Less than two weeks before we are due to go, Dinner opens and the reviews come streaming in: Giles calls it "the best restaurant in the world". AA Gill is in raptures. Suddenly, with two days to go, our reservations are worth more than that week's rent: a few hours later, a pair of reservations are selling for £300. Luckily, it does not occur to us to sell them despite the fact that we may not make rent this month, or that we only have two aubergines and some rice left. I cannot say I will ever regret it.

We told ourselves, to begin with, that we would stick to the set menu: three courses, cooked by Heston (who had chief residency for the first two weeks after opening): how

could we go wrong?. And then. Giles Coren had the meat fruit. There are photos. Chicken liver parfaits, wrapped in mandarin flavoured jelly. It even has a leaf... we are not, I realise, sticking to the set menu. We are going to have the meat fruit, and the spit-roasted pineapple. There are photos, snippets, read and re-read: the meat fruit becomes, for the next few days, our Bettie Page, our Gypsy Rose Lee, our pin-up.

I have however never peeled the soft outer layer of a pin-up before, or bit in to find her sharp, soft, firm. We removed the leaf first and spread, gently almost, the sweet pate: every bite superb, a revelation. The boyfriend, I realise, is in love, and is not sharing. Good job then that as well as this, we order the Salamagundy. Described as 'Chicken Oysters, Bone Marrow and Horseradish Cream', it strikes me as fuller, less coquettish, than meat dressed as a mandarin. It arrives, tiny melting slivers of meat with strong, fruity marrow and the perfectly complementing oh-so-fashionable puree/cream. We are, in short, enchanted, so much so that we barely notice Heston himself to our left, chatting to two men we recognise but cannot name. He has new glasses, tortoise-shell, rather Victorian-deep-sea-diver-esque, and makes me wish that I had worn my own labcoat to match.

At this point we pause, take in the scenery. We recline, smile; starters over, we believe the hype, and begin appreciating the surroundings. To the left, the kitchen, with its glass walls and gently spit-roasting pineapples: it puts one in mind of a more benign, charismatic Henry VIII setting. Cog-like mobiles hang from the ceiling and avoid any accidental forays into the twee: the decor is sleek and reserved, no mock-tudor lamps or plush rugs depicting

hunting dogs; the history of English food is in every aspect of this restaurant, so is its present, and undoubtedly its future.

Our mains arrive. I have the Roast Turbot, a revelation, and the boyfriend has the Spiced Pigeon: both amply exceed our expectations. We eat in contented half-sentences, punctuated with morsels on forks proffered across the table and with whole explosions, every flavour in one bite, consumed slowly. The Roast Turbot is served with cockle ketchup and leaf chicory and makes me think of holidays, the sea, the English countryside. It is firm but embraces the tongue. As for the chicory and cockle ketchup, it hardly seems fair to describe these as "accompanying" the roast turbot, or to demote them to "served with". On his menu, Blumenthal avoids these words: initially this seems to be for minimalist, aesthetic reasons, but it seems clear that in fact, these are not sides, or flavours: the dish is composed of all three and may not miss a note.

Dessert is Tipsy Cake, a sort of soufflé-bread pudding concoction, served with the infamous roast pineapple, which is caramelised and adds a boozy edge to the fluffy cake, as well as Taffety Tart, served with rose, fennel, lemon and blackcurrant sorbet, with a crispy caramelised top. Again, it is perfectly balanced, perfectly complemented, perfectly Dinner.

When we leave, it is with the certainty that this is the best place we have ever eaten. As Heston himself says, "If nothing else, I hope it's easy to remember". He was talking about the name, but he couldn't have been more right.

Dinner by Heston Blumenthal, Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, 66 Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7LA

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Vicky Jeyaprakash

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If you're going to buy the rights to *The Big C*, then damn well advertise it! Omg, I just argued for more advertising... Kill me, kill me now

My plea to Channel 4: stop ruining good TV

Scott Heath

All terrestrial TV networks have their unique strengths: the BBC makes stunning period-dramas and unique shows like **Dr Who**. When it airs other networks' productions they are often stolen by Rupert Murdoch e.g. Sky 1 acquiring **24** after its second season. When we look at ITV the word "soaps" must be used whilst Channel 5 is the land of **CIS**, **NICS** and any-other-letters-IS. But when we get to Channel 4 it's a fun mix of originals, adaptations and great American shows that they seem intent on killing.

It seems that when C4 adapts an American show, they do well. Sure with **Deal or No Deal** they took off the 26 leggy models holding suitcases in small dresses and replaced them with the general public and boxes (sorry guys) but it still worked.

They can even come up with good ideas like **The Million Pound Drop**, a game show where people bet £1million cash on what they feel is the right answer. It makes good TV, although the contestants' choices do make you scream at the TV – someone put £375,000 on Karaoke not being a Japanese word when I last saw it.

But the issue I have the C4 is its long-standing habit of buying some of the finest TV shows from the US and giving them a thoroughly undeserved UK TV death.

The best example of this is **The Big C**, a comedy with the tag line 'Grab life by the balls' that wanted to make cancer funny. Now I know what your thinking, comedy and cancer sounds like the field of **South Park** and **Family Guy**, but this non-animated piece of televisual gold worked staggeringly well.

It follows a run-of-the-middle suburban wife and mother who discovers she has terminal cancer and decides to live life to the max. She withdraws her pension and goes on wild and fun ex-

periences, doing the things she always wanted to do. Never before has a show managed to make me laugh so much about so serious an issue. The icing on the cake came from the final episode of the where the show crossed that famously difficult boundary of any comedy: seriousness. I suspect no person who watched it had a dry eye when the credits rolled; even I struggled!

What C4 did with this show instead was their standard 'this could be a really good show' strategy: Air it for a bit of C4 at a weird time (11pm); use minimal advertising; then shove it onto More4 when the ratings are low. Now More4 is still easily accessible, so you may question why I actually care. But firstly this strategy has been an annoying part of C4 for years and secondly the Americans have a habit of switching off amazing shows, we don't need the Brits doing it too. I am sure with enough UK pressure we wouldn't have lost **Arrested Development**.

So who else has suffered from Channel 4's touch of death? The list is most definitely long: Aaron Sorkin has doubly felt it with both **The West Wing** and **Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip**; ABC's **Brothers and Sisters** may have won 10 awards but it apparently doesn't deserve any prime time slots; HBO's **Curb your Enthusiasm** is a solid More4 fixture and I think its fair to say the magic of **Friends** has gone after non-stop showings on E4.

So what do I think Channel 4 should do? Clearly its strength is not in showing good American shows and the audience doesn't expect them to provide them. Maybe they should allow ITV, which needs as much help as it can possibly get, to take a few or at least rebrand More4 to 4USA (US4 would work too). Either way they need to stop preventing people from seeing shows like *The Big C* otherwise the world of TV lovers, myself included, will never forgive them.

TELEVISION

Mildred Pierce

John Park reviews the latest adaptation of James A. Cain's novel, this time by HBO

Adapted once again from James A. Cain's celebrated novel, this time as a 5-part HBO mini-series, **Mildred Pierce** must have been a tricky one to map out. Its first adaptation in 1945 won Joan Crawford her much-deserved Oscar and was furthermore nominated for Best Picture. So naturally the pressure is on, both for the director and cast, especially Kate Winslet who takes on the title role, but the film's restrained, patient approach is more than satisfying to warrant a seal of approval on this remake. Todd Haynes (director) follows the book more closely as it portrays almost every single aspect of the book in sequence, and can afford to take its time. After all, Haynes has over five hours to spread around.

Mildred Pierce (Winslet) is the traditional 30s middle-class housewife whose sole job is to please her family, in this case, her husband and two young daughters. When her cheating husband takes it a step too far though, she feels enough is enough. After kicking him out of the house, she feels the financial restraint The Great Depression has brought about. Struggling to balance her desire for a job and her pride that doesn't let her work in what she considers a demeaning profession, she finally lands a job as a waitress. Under the tough guidance of Ida (Marcia Wintringham), the head waitress, Mildred finds her life's calling and decides to properly enter the restaurant business. And so "Mildred's Chicken and Waffles" opens, to overwhelmingly good reception. Soon she expands all over Los Angeles and it appears things are starting to look up. But this is until her eldest daughter Veda starts causing trouble. A materialist sociopath, Veda's evil nature surfaces even when she's a small child. Her angelic looks are devilishly deceptive, as her own ambitions for an extravagant lifestyle take over.

So why should we pay attention for five hours? The presence of Winslet is a good enough reason. From the moment she appears, she commands your attention and her intense performance is difficult to ignore. That she can so effortlessly slip into the role of a struggling housewife is impressive enough, but throughout the five separate parts her character is forced to evolve, and is hit with unthinkable challenges. All these changes are captured brilliantly by Winslet, whose relentless energy shines through with dialogue and is just as effective in the many silent close-ups.

In the equally challenging role of Veda, the two actresses, both younger



Nothing like a summer road trip with a man who, if you squint hard enough, looks like Johnny Depp

"Veda instantly becomes someone whose head you want to put through a wall."

and older (Morgan Turner and Evan Rachel Wood respectively) are terrifyingly monstrous in every scene. Watching the young Turner slap her own mother so proudly and naturally is one of the film's biggest shockers. She seems sweet and obedient at times, but this is all a part of her act. Filled with greed and hatred, their performances are disturbingly real, and the character of Veda instantly becomes someone whose head you want to put through a wall.

Mildred doesn't have many friends, as she is so distracted by focusing on becoming the perfect mother, as well as a successful businesswoman. But the two reliable women she can always count on her Ida and Lucy (Melissa Leo), her neighbour. Ida is the more straight-talking, professional working woman, whereas Lucy provides a warm voice and a shoulder for Mildred to cry on. Both supporting stars, mature and polished in their craft, deliver finely tuned performances that fit in convincingly with the period mood.

Love does seem to find Mildred again, with Monty Beragon (Guy Pearce), a rich, lazy burn-out being the main can-

didate. But the Depression is affecting his business, and soon Mildred finds that his material needs are also being covered by her. Pearce is an effectively boozy, aimless boyfriend whose pride is severely hurt by how Mildred starts treating him as a dependant. Being a man, his ego is a sizable and it becomes more and more difficult for him to accept that he is not the millionaire he used to be.

The technical accomplishments are also worth mentioning – the set, costumes and music all perfectly evoke the 30s grim but hopeful mood of a struggling but slowly recovering America. Like its core plot development, the music is never overdone nor does it ever feel manipulative. Careful attention is also given to the wardrobe, as Mildred's financial status constantly changes from episode to episode. The extravagance of its various supporting characters gives Haynes the chance to splash some bright colours and shiny dresses on screen, providing a clear, noticeable contrast from its usual restricted use of darker tones.

Has HBO's gamble paid off? It certainly wasn't a ratings grabber, but will the quality behind this masterful work be recognised come September when the Emmys announce their winners? Granted, five hours is not easy to sit through in one go, but *Mildred Pierce* is a quietly absorbing drama with many effective touching moments that carefully treats its fiery emotional scenes so as to not make them overly melodramatic.

Travel Editor: Chris Richardson

TRAVEL

Wishing you were here



'Fireworks over Mount Herzl' by Menahem Kahana

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

Travel on your doorstep



Get there: Northern line, to Camden Town
See: The markets (and the lock!)
Eat: Street food
Cost: £2-5 for a meal

A true mecca of cheap T-shirts and genuine Roy Bons, Camden is well worth a day trip. Grab a frosty drink in a rooftop garden overlooking the lock, then head to one of the countless clubs for some evening entertainment. The drunken Boris bike home is optional but certainly advised. (Except for the drunk bit).

Planning a trip? Want some quick advice from experienced travellers? Have a travelling tale to share with Imperial?

Drop us an email at travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk, or send us a tweet using #FelixTravel

Some Santiagan satisfaction

Priya Garg

After finally recovering from my bout of food poisoning, we ventured out of the suburbs of Santiago and up through the drastically arid bush to the national park. Here we were able to see the Santiagans relaxing and socialising in typical South American fashion – as always, every day and night is a party.

Avoiding two wild horses careering through the park we went to relax beside the stream. There were numerous Chilean families parked up beside it with barbeques and cooler boxes, blasting English rock music. Apparently this afternoon piss-up was an after-party of a wedding the night before. As is customary, every person we met greeted us with an affectionate kiss on the cheek and a handshake.

We also wandered through the quiet streets of Bellavista, home of the late Chilean poet Neruda. Despite not appearing on any Chilean banknotes on account of his radical communist views, he is on posters and pictures all over

"As always, every day and night is a party"

Santiago. He often wrote of love and desperation, highly appealing to his audience – Chileans love ‘love’, and everywhere you walk you will see couples intertwined.

The next day we were taken to Valparaiso, a place young Chileans love, a city of huge French inspired chateaus, grand naval buildings, big statues and the centre of the Chilean judicial system. Bohemian heaven is just a stone’s throw through some windy passageways. An unstable wooden elevator took us up to a cobbled street with brightly painted tin houses and carved balconies overlooking the beach and the sea. We wandered down the streets, lost in the broken myriad of rainbow colours.

From our Chilean friends we found out about the strong Chilean admiration for fighting for what you believe in, through tales of their na-

Ricardo Baeza-Yates

See, there's always a party. Umm, if you squint really hard and look *really* closely...

tional figurehead Arturo Prat. He was a naval officer who died rather than let his Chilean ship surrender to its enemies and now is lauded everywhere as the inspiration for such phrases as “never give up”. His statue stands proud in Valparaiso’s grandest plaza.

Our last day was spent in the sprawling metropolitan city centre of Santiago. As you move out from the skyscrapers and rows of little houses, you eventually reach hills with the most incredible views. The heart of the city is in the Plaza D’Armis, modern glass buildings reflecting the archaic imposing monuments and luscious old buildings (even if one does just house a rather peculiar event of a table tennis competition for elderly men).

You are constantly surrounded by noise and people, whether it be nut sellers, dried wheat and peach juice vendors, or protestors being scrambled into police vans. The men in our group yearned to be taken to the infamous ‘coffee with legs’ cafés, where customers are treated to coffee served by beautiful women bearing endlessly long legs. In some Santiagan versions of this shop, the managers pick a ‘happy minute’ where music blasts, shutters roll down, and waitresses climb onto tables and strip for the patrons. Then the minute ends, the shutters roll up and business continues as usual.

Rather than joining the crowd at the ‘café with legs,’ we joined the crowds outside the grand palace of the President, where schoolchildren running amok were singing and chanting “Chi Chi Chi-le!”, as TV cameras tried to capture the image. In the centre of all this was a large white capsule with the Chilean flag upon it. The red stands for the blood of the people, blue for the clear (ish – Santiago has a lot of smog) skies, white for the snow-peaked mountains of the Andes, and the star for the hearts of the Chilean people.

At that moment, the hearts of the Chilean people were singing with joy for the release of the miners and the crowds were baying for sight of these heroes. The white capsule outside the presidential palace was the very one which had released the miners from the darkness down below the earth to the light of the Santiagan sun, and we were honoured to be able to see it.

The main lesson learnt here was to ‘do it the Chilean way’. Do what you believe in with all of your might and all of your heart, just like Arturo Prat. Do it like a prat.



Ah! There's the party! I knew we'd find it!



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UNION AWARDS 2011

Do you know someone who has done an outstanding job as a representative? A club or society member? someone involved in welfare support? or a really good events organiser? The Union awards outstanding individuals each year; any student can nominate someone and we are accepting nominations from now until May 24. There are thousands of volunteers working in all parts of the Union from clubs and societies to representation and we believe those who have gone over and above what is expected of them should be recognised. The awards are:

Union Colour

The Union Colour should be awarded to those individuals who have given significant and repeated outstanding contributions to the student experience at Imperial and the life of the Union throughout the year.

Outstanding Service Award

The Outstanding Service Award should be awarded to those individuals who have, in

addition to the requirements for a Union Colour, gone above and beyond their role, repeatedly, to enhance the student experience and life of the Union across a broad spectrum of areas during the year.

Imperial College Union Fellowship

The Imperial College Union Fellowship shall only be awarded to those individuals who have continuously served the Union and/or enhanced the student experience in an exceptional manner, usually over a number of years. Each individual, so awarded, will be granted Honorary Life Membership of the Union, and given a pin and pewter tankard with the year engraved.

Imperial College Union Fellowship with Distinction

The Imperial College Union Fellowship with Distinction shall only be awarded to those individuals who have exceeded the criteria of the Union Fellowship of longevity and excellence of service to the Union. They should additionally achieve being a significant party in making an



innovative development to the work of the Union such as to leave a positive legacy that will make a lasting impression for future members. Each individual, so awarded will be granted Honorary Life Membership of the Union, and given a pin and pewter tankard with the year engraved.

For someone to win an award they have to be nominated by any Full member of

the Union (any student at Imperial) and then the Colours Committee considers the nominations. Nominations will close on 24 May so make sure you get yours in early!

To nominate someone for an award, you need to fill in the form available online.

Help us make your Union better!

We are currently in the process of finding out what you want your Union to do for you. The Union's Strategic Review is our chance to make the Union better and set our agenda for the next five years. We have already hosted focus groups with all different types of students whatever their course, campus, year of study, type of study or nationality. We have also conducted our largest survey to date. Both with the purpose of finding out what issues you face as Imperial students and how the Union can help; as well as what you think your Union should be doing.

Together with our research company we have spent lots of time analysing all our findings and looking at the main areas that we need to focus on. Now it is your turn again to let us know what you think!

Ideas Day

Next Friday 20 May we will be holding an Ideas Day. Between 11am and 4pm we will be setting ourselves up on the Queen's Lawn Terrace (or in Sherfield if the weather is bad!) with a stand presenting some of the ideas and themes that we want you to tell us your opinions. We will also be welcoming some of your new ideas of what you think your Union should be doing for you.

Why get involved? Well, we are setting our plan for the next five years, your ideas and feedback will help us shape that plan. Our aim is to make your time at Imperial even better. Plus there will be some free food and drink!

**your union,
only better...**

Imperial College Union **Strategic Review 2011**

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Finally, some fun!

Students from all over London come together to bring Fusion, York University's hugely successful music, fashion, and dance show, to the capital

Charles Betts

What kind of city do we live in? The London social calendar is full of awfully pretentious events charging ludicrous amounts of dosh for a very ordinary experience whilst managing to be incredibly vile and unwelcoming about it at the same time. Events where the lighting has that weird, trendy glow that occasionally reveals the semen-ink words 'reclusive wanker' on the trousers of the dismally self-important clientele. Events where the barman claims to make the best Bellini cocktail in the world outside of Venice, with all the pomp and disillusionment Nick Griffin that uses to claim he's the best guy to deal with immigration. Events that are cynical, tacky, dunderheaded, and decadent.

Equally, at the other end of the lifestyle spectrum, you can blub your eyes out watching – for the price of a TV licence – a Frenchman make it through to the next round of Britain's Got Talent. Which is really, really tragic. I could pontificate on what is the biggest contradiction in terms since Britney Spears released her Greatest Hits album, but frankly life's too short. It's basically a show that pays no more attention to real aptitude than the Pakistani intelligence services do to detail.

So that's the problem, the Bin Laden gulf in al-Qaeda, if you will. London needs an affordable variety show that is fun and laid-back. A show that buoys everybody's mood, that embraces the love of friends, and the eternal, undying passion for brilliantly honest entertainment. Enter stage left, Fusion. A music, fashion, and dance show that originates from York University, where it attracts an audience of over 4000 people every year and high-profile sponsors such as KPMG and Hugo Boss. Fusion is to now be launched in London for the first time, offering the advantages of a big city and the collaborative involvement of students from Imperial College, Queen Mary University, Kings College, and UCL.

Fusion is a totally authentic way of hosting a variety performance. It's a creative amalgamation of artistic skills ranging from choreography, to music compilation, to graphics and web design. It is a show entirely organised and performed by students. A show that typ-

Matt Grum



Take Me Out has become quite fancy of late

Help make Fusion a success

The following Fusion committee positions are still available.

Secretary
Treasurer
Creative Directors (x2)
Music director/coordinator
Head Choreographers (x2)
Fashion and Beauty (Clothes, Hair & Makeup)
Charities, Events & Fundraising Coordinators (x2)
Sponsorship & Advertising (x2)
Press & Publicity (x2)
Technical Directors (x2)
Stage Manager

Contact Angela Udemba on a.udemba09@imperial.ac.uk for more information on duties involved and a simple application form. The application deadline is the 30th of May 2011.

ically takes a year to organise, involving a cast of at least 100 students and a committee of 16-18 students. A show that has managed to become renowned for being an outstanding event with a high professional standard and whose

Matt Grum



"Get off! I don't date men from the 19th century..."



3... 2... 1... cramp!

primary aim is to raise as much money as possible for charity.

It's an old French cliché that youth is wasted on the young – this show goes to prove otherwise. For the passionate and driven individuals who want to make a difference and contribute to this unique event, this is their chance to join the committee. For those involved, being a committee member of an such an event in its first year would be hard work but would also prove a great way of making new friends, having fun, trying something new and gaining confidence.

Reclusive geniuses coming out of their shells perhaps, reclusive wankers definitely not.

For those watching, the show offers a perfectly decent night out and the chance to say on a Monday morning, in answer to the question "What did you do on your Saturday night?" something other than "I stayed in and watched ITV" or "I went to a bar that was trying a contemporary, nouveau-rustique terrorist bunker-come-brothel theme, but it only just about managed to muster the finesse of a cluster bomb."

A call for recipes



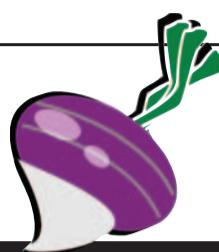
Did you know that 30% of all food in the UK is wasted?

Five Imperial College students are trying to help prevent this by developing a Smartphone Application and they need YOUR help. The App, called Morph My Food, will allow users to enter leftover ingredients from their fridge /cupboards and will then generate a selection of recipes. A simple idea that could help reduce food waste globally!!

You can help by submitting any simple, creative and fun recipes that can be created from typical leftover ingredients in your own fridge at on Facebook (search 'Morph My Food'). Or submit via email at morphmyfood@gmail.com

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



Blunder in Maths department

Wrong colour paint used

An investigation is currently underway to determine how and why the walls of the Huxley building were recently repainted with green paint when the colour scheme explicitly called for lilac, or lavender at a push. The project is estimated to have cost the College about £500 given current market prices for aesthetic opinions and Dulux, but the exact figure is not yet certain, since mass spectrometry of wall scrapings suggests that B&Q's own brand may have been used.

Renovations of the department were carried out over the Easter break, after a group of hoodlums sprayed bogus proofs to the 'P versus NP' all over the walls on level three; redecoration was scheduled for completion by mid-April but was delayed until boffins in the department could examine and ultimately disprove the proofs.

The interior designer leading the project commissioned the use of green paint, but had "no idea where the purple stuff came from, nor why anyone would think purple goes well with the drab



grey carpets because they totally clash". He added: "One of my guys has trouble working out what flavour his skittles are before eating them. Whoever did this could've been colour-blind. Quid pro quo, or whatever those mathemati-

cians say."

Whether or not Imperial College will foot part of the bill to re-redecorate remains to be seen; until plans are redrawn, wallpapering is being considered to prevent a re-occurrence.



DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

OMG! They have one of those bunk-beds with the desk beneath it!!! I always wanted one of those when I was a kid, but my room was too big and I had to be content with a desk beside my massive king-sized bed...

Horoscopes

Aries

This week, there is no Twatter. Literally tens of students across Imperial feel slightly disappointed. A national emergency is declared and David Cameron tells news reporters, "this is worse than that time I was caught fingering Clegg in cabinet..."

Gemini

This week, you're running. Running away from a pack of rabid dogs. You don't know how you arrived at this point in time. All you know is that wall ahead looks awful high. Will you make it over? You'll never know, you trip and fall... and yes some things are worse than exams...

Leo

This week, you're distracted in exams by the hot guy next to you. His soft hair. His stern expression. The way his arm tenses when he does calculus. With five minutes to go, you realise you've answered every question with "You can bash on my calculator any day".

Libra

This week, you're walking through a market in India, complaining loudly about those exams you did a few weeks ago. A young Indian boy stops you and says "Sir I would gladly take a thousand rupees!" You offer him 100 rupees to do a handstand. Oh wealth...

Sagittarius

This week, you walk into a bar with someone from Haiti, Japan, Spain, Alabama, Libya, and Osama bin Laden's compound...

I'll be honest, I got nothing that can live up to that set up...

Aquarius

This week, you oversleep for your exams. Luckily it was just a dream. Unfortunately that realisation was also a dream. A dream within a dream. You wake up. 7am, thank god! You begin to suspect you're still dreaming when Leonardo diCaprio serves you breakfast. You can't. The notes don't help. FAIL.

Taurus

This week, you're pretending to pay attention to NHS reforms in cabinet while secretly fingering Nick Clegg. Chris Huhne notices and says loudly, "what are you doing?" "Nothing" you quickly say. Sniffing your finger gives you away. Damn lack of self-control.

Cancer

This week, you finish your exams. Joy! The sun is shining, the summer stretches into the distance ahead of you, and hey, that girl is totally checking you out. Nothing could ruin this moment. You check the news on your phone. Aliens have invaded. DAMMIT!

Virgo

This week, you fall asleep on the Queens Lawn. The heat is too much and you can't keep your eyes open. When you wake up ten minutes later, you're at a conference, wearing a suit with a lanyard around your neck. Damn they've got good at putting the marquee up.

Scorpio

This week, you're all up in some chav's 'grill' 'chatting shit' and all dat 'bruv'. He doesn't appreciate the inverted commas and bitchslaps you. You cower on the pavement when suddenly the 'po po' turn up and 'save your bacon'. Chavs say that right?

Capricorn

This week, you're sitting on your balcony (yeah bitches) late at night, looking up at the stars when they start moving. Holy shit. They slowly arrange themselves into some sort of shape... oh it's a penis. You win this time, God *shakes fist.

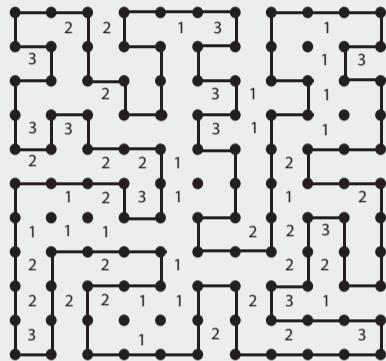
Pisces

This week, you lay your hands on the questions to tomorrow morning's exam. Shit fucking yeah bitches! 100%. BOO-YAH! This is going to be the easiest exam of your life. You sit down and try to figure out the answers in preparation. You can't. The notes don't help. FAIL.

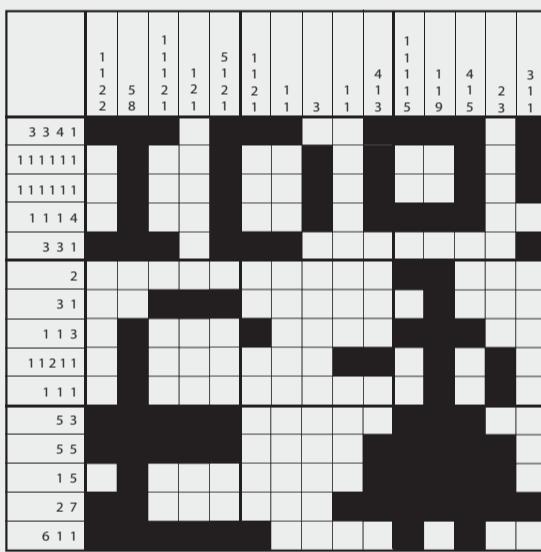
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

Slitherlink



Nonogram



Crossword

QUICK

Across 1. Spark Off 5. Lizard 9. Ballpark 10. Apathy 12. English Setter 15. Shrugs 16. Food-stuff 17. Overshoot 19. Congo 20. Short-Tempered 22. Snappy 23. Reabsorb 25. Oregon 26. Steerage

Down 1. Submersion 2. Ail 3. Kipling 4. Firth of Forth 6. Impetus 7. Afterburner 8. Days 11. Below The Belt 13. Garden State 14. Affordable 18. Scorpio 19. Capable 21. Oslo 22. Ova

CRYPTIC

Across 1. Squash 4. Asteroid 9. Neighs 10. Dominion 12. Eros 13. Cowls 14. Here 17. Nymphomaniac 20. Bounty Hunter 23. Opus 24. Peers 25. Firm 28. Disraeli 29. Pastel 30. Red Light 31. Stayed

Down 1. Singeing 2. Uniforms 3. Soho 5. Scotland Yard 6. Emit 7. Olives 8. Donkey 11. Commonwealth 15. Chaos 16. Value 18. Strictly 19. Trampled 21. Condor 22. Pursed 26. Mali 27. Vast

Crossword

Across

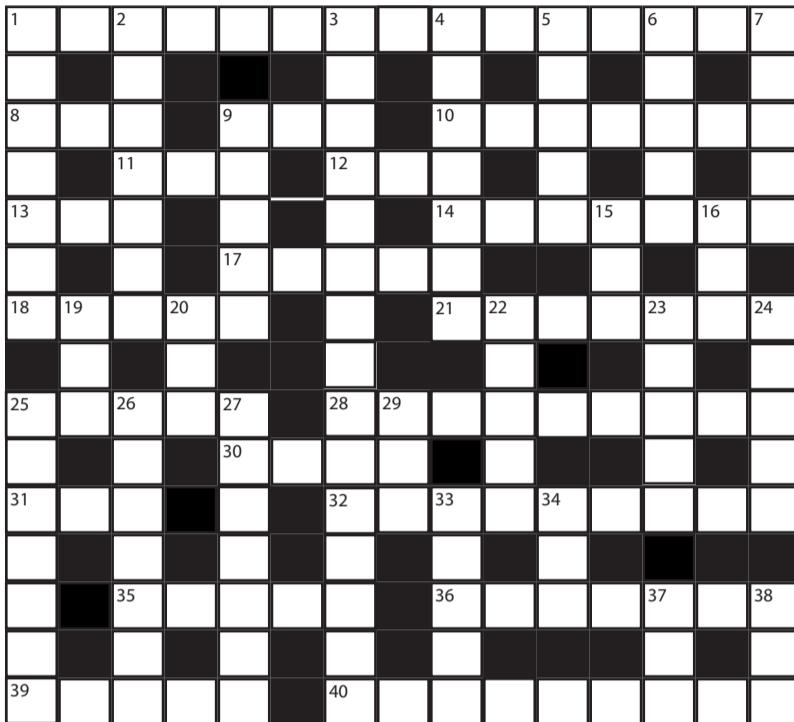
1. Common phrase meaning something is an "axiomatic truth" (5,3,7)
8. A metal (3)
9. A species of the hymenoptera order (3)
10. A grammatical term (7)
11. A serious infection of the brain or spinal cords (3)
12. Verb: to free from (3)
13. To lower and raise one's head in assent (3)
14. One whose occupation is to set piece of wood, metal, etc. (7)
17. --- Of Fire, film about dragons (5)
18. To have directed a weapon towards an intended target (5)
21. The set of structural rules that defines the composition of clauses (7)
25. Urban dictionary: wads of tobacco inserted into the bottom lip to extract the juices (5)
28. Of, or relating to, the voice box (9)
30. A West End musical (4)
31. Another name for God as spoken in Arabic (3)
32. The act of giving someone a blow job (9)
35. A small Hawaiian tree (5)
36. A brand of hot sauce (7)

39. A natural talent, aptitude or ability (5)
40. An avocado based dip (9)

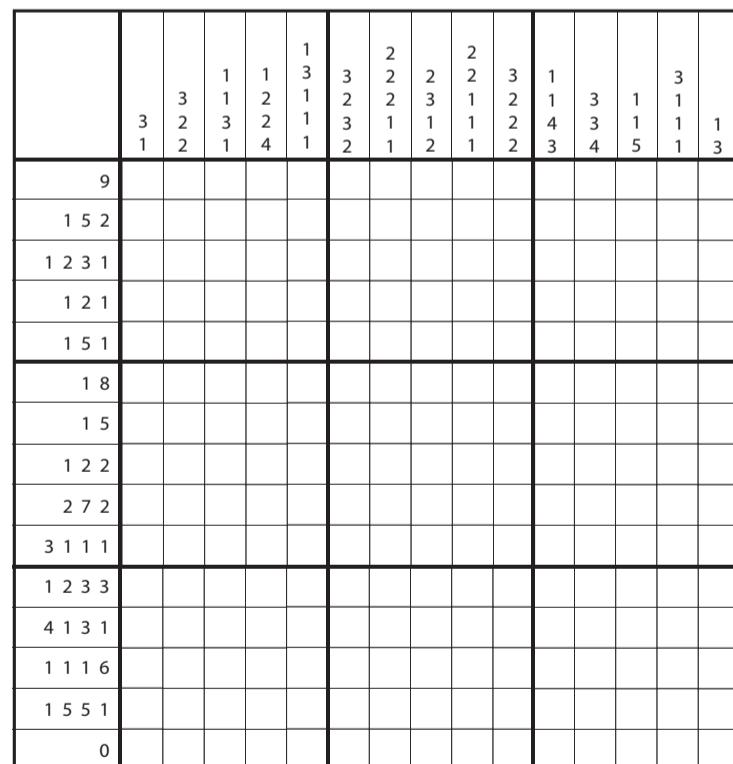
Down

1. The queen of the fairies in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (7)
2. A sovereign state (7)
3. Action: to make something so much less complicated that its meaning is distorted (15)
4. Action: to assign a mark to exam papers (7)
5. A 'weapon' of the Acme Corporation (5)
6. To delay (5)
7. The part of the grinder that holds the coffee (5)
9. Facial hair (5)
15. A limb (3)
16. A period of time (3)
19. Family, class or kind (3)
20. A flowing backward (3)
22. --- blue, a bright and dark shade of azure blue (5)
23. Urban dictionary: one who 'reinvents' but does not legally change their given name to get attention (5)
24. Another spelling of renegue (5)
25. A member of an Arab princely family (7)
26. A prefecture of Japan (7)
27. A worker who removes the protective outer cases of molluscs

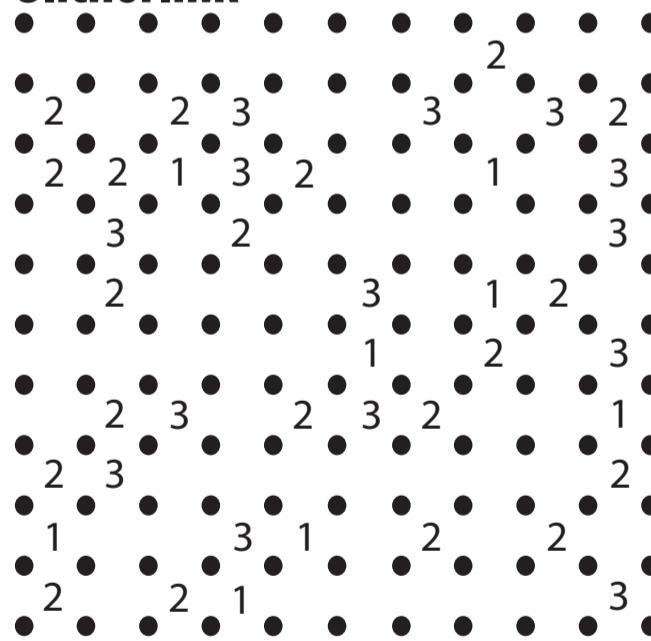
- or crustaceans (7)
29. A metric unit of measure equal to 100 square metres (3)
33. A band of cartilage lying along the underside of the tongue of dogs (5)
34. An acronym used to describe certain topics in meetings (1,1,1)
37. --- Lat, a city of Terry Pratchett's Discworld (3)
38. A material from which a metal or valuable mineral can be profitably extracted (3)



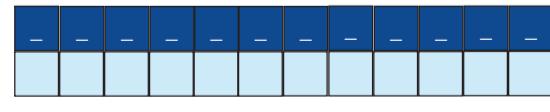
Nonogram - Superinjunction



Slitherlink



Going Underground



= 148

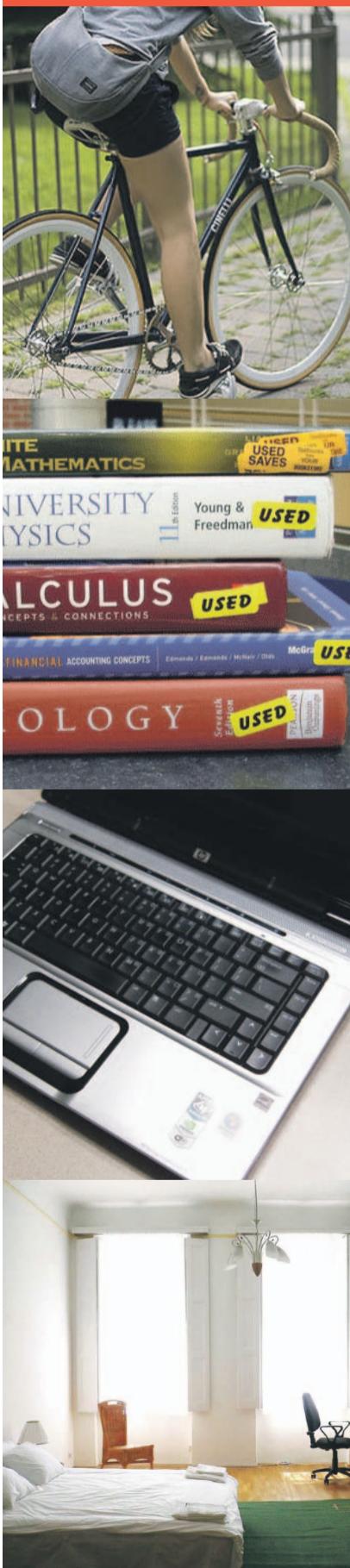
Scribble Box



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Available 1st July – 31st August.
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£130pw (negotiable).
Email Hui at hqt08@ic.ac.uk

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Flatmate wanted for furnished double bedroom in two bedroom flat near Shepherds Bush station.
£140pw inclus. of heating.
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MISC

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Email vishnucharan99@gmail.com

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3rd year Physics obsessive looking for online form creator extraordinaire to fix the 4th year options form and start a family. If interested, choose the Biophysics module...

Women seeking Women

Avid Pitchfork reader looking for similarly minded music enthusiast to spend late nights discussing the merits of Jamie XX's collaboration with Gil Scott-Heron. If interested, meet at Rough Trade East with your ten favourite vinyls.

Men Seeking Men

Self-loathing exam failure looking for Jean Claude Van Damme lookalike to make me feel better about all that pot I smoked. If interested, roundhouse kick the Queens Tower to the ground.

Men seeking Women

PS3 gamer and electronics nerd seeking 'Girl with Dragon Tattoo'-style hacker femme fatale. Must be into short men and strong odours. If interested, you already have my email and password.

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iConnect

SPORT

Felix Sports League

sponsored by



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing W1	9	9	0	0	1210	607	603	5.00
2 Fencing M1	10	10	0	0	1229	919	310	5.00
3 Table Tennis M2	11	11	0	0	156	31	125	5.00
4 Water Polo W1	8	7	1	0	102	24	78	4.63
5 Volleyball M1	11	10	0	1	22	4	18	4.18
6 Volleyball W1	11	10	0	1	21	4	17	4.18
7 Basketball M1	12	10	0	2	917	735	182	3.50
8 ICSM Netball W1	12	10	0	2	493	312	181	3.50
9 Lacrosse M1	11	9	0	2	154	85	69	3.36
10 Tennis M1	12	9	1	2	84	60	24	3.25
11 Table Tennis M1	12	9	1	2	84	60	14	3.25
12 Basketball W1	9	7	0	2	464	348	116	3.00
13 Netball W1	13	10	0	3	546	367	179	2.92
14 Squash W1	11	8	0	3	31	12	19	2.55
15 Hockey M1	12	8	1	3	46	25	21	2.50
16 Rugby M1	14	10	0	4	344	191	153	2.43
17 Hockey W1	13	9	0	4	67	24	43	2.23
18 Lacrosse W1	9	6	0	3	110	64	46	2.00
19 Table Tennis W1	6	4	0	2	20	10	10	2.00
20 ICSM Football M1	9	5	1	3	28	18	10	1.67
21 ICSM Hockey W1	20	10	3	7	54	48	6	1.40
22 ICSM Rugby M3	10	6	0	4	252	266	-14	1.40
23 Football M1	13	7	1	5	34	20	14	1.31
24 Badminton W1	13	7	1	5	44	60	-16	1.31
25 Hockey M2	12	5	3	4	22	26	-4	1.25
26 Football W1	7	4	0	3	19	19	0	1.14
27 Tennis W1	7	4	0	3	42	42	0	1.14
28 ICSM Hockey M3	7	4	0	3	11	27	-16	1.14
29 Netball W3	9	5	0	4	291	217	74	1.00
30 Hockey M3	11	4	3	4	17	13	4	0.91
31 Badminton M1	11	4	3	4	44	44	0	0.91
32 Fencing M2	10	5	0	4	1122	1128	-6	0.90
33 ICSM Hockey M1	10	5	0	5	25	20	5	0.50
34 Netball W2	12	6	0	6	445	483	-38	0.50
35 Badminton M2	10	4	1	5	43	37	6	0.20
36 ICSM Hockey M2	11	3	3	5	19	29	-10	0.09
37 ICSM Netball W2	11	5	0	6	341	360	-19	0.09
38 Squash M4	6	2	1	3	8	7	1	0.00
39 Ice Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
40 ICSM Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
41 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
42 ICSM Football M2	5	2	0	3	14	16	-2	-0.40
43 Fencing W2	10	4	0	6	1142	1170	-28	-0.40
44 Fencing M3	10	4	0	6	1146	1201	-55	-0.40
45 Football M3	11	3	2	6	22	30	-8	-0.45
46 ICSM Badminton W1	9	2	2	5	32	46	-14	-0.67
47 ICSM Badminton M1	10	3	1	6	24	56	-32	-0.70
48 Squash M3	9	3	0	6	17	26	-9	-1.00
49 Tennis M2	10	2	2	6	40	79	-39	-1.00
50 Hockey W2	12	3	1	8	13	41	-28	-1.25
51 ICSM Rugby M1	11	2	1	8	144	427	-283	-1.82
52 Water Polo M1	3	0	1	2	23	30	-7	-2.00
53 ICSM Rugby M2	12	2	1	9	200	438	-238	-2.00
54 Rugby M2	14	3	0	11	194	356	-162	-2.07
55 ICSM Hockey W3	5	1	0	4	4	17	-13	-2.20
56 ICSM Hockey W2	10	2	0	8	21	42	-21	-2.20
57 Rugby M3	10	2	0	8	71	357	-286	-2.20
58 Hockey M4	11	2	0	9	15	32	-17	-2.36
59 ICSM Badminton M2	6	1	0	5	16	32	-16	-2.50
60 Squash M2	12	2	0	10	16	44	-28	-2.50
61 Rugby M4	8	1	0	7	59	325	-266	-2.88
62 Football M2	12	1	0	11	14	36	-22	-3.25
63 Squash M1	7	0	0	7	5	30	-25	-4.00
64 ICSM Netball W3	9	0	0	9	186	352	-166	-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

Sports Editors: Jovan Nedic

David Wilson

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ICU Riding and Polo heads to the Arena Polo Nationals

Ed Phillips Images



"Henry [...] was finally able to stop worrying about the beast between his legs"

...Continued from back page
were all hoping that Henry and the team could really build on this first result and start working together as a three. However, although the team did manage to play better in the second chukka, Exeter were an extremely strong team (actually they narrowly missed out in the final) and were just too much for the lads. Still, all in all a 50% record wasn't a bad first day for the novices and after a long wait while the novices got a headstart on the beer the Lower Intermediate team had their first match, sending Nottingham packing with a sound 5-1 thrashing: Thijis putting away one lovely shot under his ponies neck and two textbook taps along the wall while Alex got two lucky shots from range, one from around the halfway line. Jon came out with a duck but had been playing a great game linking up with both other players and interfering with the opposition's offensive.

Pretty happy with ourselves those of us that weren't getting our shouting fix or (in Huey the Hedgehog's case) hibernating headed to the pub for another night of socialising. Again, a huge crowd managed to congregate at a local pub (with proper West Country cider) for a few pints and it wasn't long until we'd blagged ourselves an invite down to have dinner with the Exeter lot who turned out to be quite an amiable bunch after beating us. I'm not sure any of us realised that we would be heading basically all the way to Exeter for the meal but free sausage and mash is free sausage and mash so none of us were complaining. Well, not until Henry got sucked into a game of fives and ended up having to down two glasses of wine in a row. The usually quite sensible Henry earned the title of 'English Drunkard' that evening, which was further reinforced by his unsuccessful attempt to jump into bed upon our eventual return to the hotel. Unfortunately his double vision meant he jumped at the wrong bed and got some pretty impressive carpet burn the following morning. As it turns out, polo is a dangerous sport.

With another early start and rumours of a tactical chunder by one of the Novices that morning I don't think anyone was in quite the right frame of mind for their chukka against Nottingham and the girls in green took full advantage of our slight greenness around the gills hitting home a bit of revenge after their lower intermediate teams trouncing. Our Lower Intermediate team, with somewhat longer to recover, were well up for our traditional grudge match against ULU that afternoon and the relatively amicable relationship we'd had with them on Thursday night was put on hold until the end of our chukka. This was one of the closest matches I've played and we were perhaps a little lucky to squeeze out a 2-1 lead after a couple of fouls were committed against us and then hold it under a lot of pressure until the buzzer went leaving us progressing to the two chukka final against our new friends Exeter.

With an old friend arriving that day to play in the alumni tournament we had a pretty decent crowd when it came to the party that eve-

ning. All of us gathered in one hotel room for drinks and dinner before heading away, with Huey (presumably stocking up for winter) managing to have dinner once before leaving the polo ground and then a huge lamb shank in our room as well! The party is always amusing and with several hundred students there the bouncy castle generally doesn't manage to last that long, however the inflatable assault course and bungee run provided much amusement and the beat-boxing, acoustic trio on stage were surprisingly good for an event organised by a club.

Sunday saw the Novices first up once again with a battle to regain some pride on their hands and to win their last chukka. A final change of horse left Henry with one last chance to find his perfect steed, though with Sverre claiming he thought he was going to vom off the side of his mount I have to say I wasn't confident the guys would play at their best. Still, I was very glad to be proved wrong and the team played the best polo I've ever seen from them. Henry finally found his confidence and, without speeding up a great deal, was finally able to stop worrying about the beast between his legs (*snigger*) and start concentrating on the playing the ball (*snigger more*), getting several impressive runs down the wall. Huey

again played the most physical game I've ever seen from the normally quiet player and Sverre managed to overcome his nausea to cover the gaps between the two players both in attack and defence. Overall they dominated the girls from Harper Adams and came away with a good victory to top off their weekend.

Then it was down to the Lower Intermediate team. Could we pull off the biggest victory ICU Riding and Polo have seen to date or would Exeter continue to storm ahead to victory as they had done in the previous rounds. Things didn't look good in the first few minutes as Exeter got off to an early lead while we took a while to really get motoring. Their best player, Francois, really seemed to have us pegged at the beginning but we managed to claw our way back into things toward the end of the first half. With only a short break before the second we stayed on or close to our horses and chatted about how to try to counter their play realising that we needed to be better at maintaining possession and being quicker on the turn both in support of each other and to get the defensive plays working better. In the second half we really hung in there, never really managing to get ahead but not falling further behind either. A few fouls not spotted by the umpire might have helped us close the gap but when the buzzer went we couldn't be disappointed at losing to such a strong team and, despite being about ready to collapse we were the first to congratulate Exeter on a tournament well won with a loud call for three cheers.

All in all this February was the best tournament I've been to yet and we were all happy to bring home a little glassware for Riding and Polo. Even if it did say 'Runners Up' on it.

SPORT

Lacrosse bested by Leeds in final

BUCS success for Imperial Judo yet again

Adam Elwood

...Continued from back page
to capitalise on their early man-up plays but took the lead as Imperial were slow to start. The reply was quick in coming however and the inevitable nerves seemed to settle afterwards. The first quarter was fairly even and the teams reached the end of the first quarter level.

The start of the second quarter saw a multitude of penalties from both sides but unfortunately more from Imperial. This resulted in Leeds dominating possession for the remainder of the quarter and they scored a number of goals in quick succession. Imperial were struggling to regain the ball and went into half time significantly behind.

Following the ten minute break Imperial came back out fighting, forcing Leeds into making mistakes and this quarter it was to be them who spent more time in the penalty box. Imperial managed to get some goals back through Captain Jeremy Webb and the formidable crease man Tomas Bym who would eventually finish top scorer. Leeds were not helping themselves by arguing with each other and the referees, and even though Imperial's defence was down to just four men at one point they held strong and went into the last quarter just one goal behind.

After the restart both teams were clearly tiring resulting in sloppy mistakes and the play became end-to-end. The teams were alternating scoring until Imperial's Ian Hunt scored three beautiful goals; one brushing the post and bar on its way into the top corner. This gave Imperial the lead going into the final five minutes but when they should have held possession they pushed for the killer goal which resulted in a turnover of possession to Leeds who levelled the game again. Imperial pushed for the winner in the dying minutes but a number of dropped passes let Leeds score their 11th and 12th goals and time eventually ran out for Imperial with the match finishing 12-10 to Leeds.

It was Imperial's best performance against the strongest opposition they had faced in the three short years the Men's team has existed, but it was Leeds' ability to hold the ball when a man down and their efficiency in converting when a man up that was the difference between the sides in the end. Although disappointed in letting the game slip away at the end, Imperial should look back and be proud at what they have achieved in such a short time, and think about how far they have come since the 20-0 defeat to Birmingham in their first season.

On Friday the 18th of March Imperial College judo sent their elite squad of Judoka to fight in the British University Championships. On the journey up to Sheffield there were many hungry and thirsty players in the minibus, hoping to make their weight for the upcoming weekend. Thankfully, everyone made it and could relax after a long slog up the country and a rather large meal.

The tournament kicked on Saturday with the Individual's Event, Imperial entered 4 Dan grades (black and brown belts) and six Kyu grades (green and blue belts). Despite the stiff competition, Tomasz Zamacinski (Kyu -81kg) fought incredibly well to bring home a gold medal winning a total of six fights. Alice Mitchell (Kyu -57kg) and Jake Woods (Kyu -66kg) also did well in their categories both earning Bronze medals. In the Kyu grades, missing out on the medals, were Adam Elwood, James Gutsell (both -81kg) and Phillip Rudden (-66kg). The Dan grades had an even tougher day but Marie de Parseval (-63kg) pulled out all the stops and beat off some of the country's best female fighters to achieve a bronze medal. Matthew Scales (-66kg), Bronwyn Dawson (-57kg) and Eduoard Desclaux (-73kg) all fought courageously but missed out on medals in the huge Dan grade pools.

Testaments to the quality of university judo were several international competitors in the Dan grade categories. Ed lost out on the Bronze medal to a Latvian international after winning five of his six previous fights.

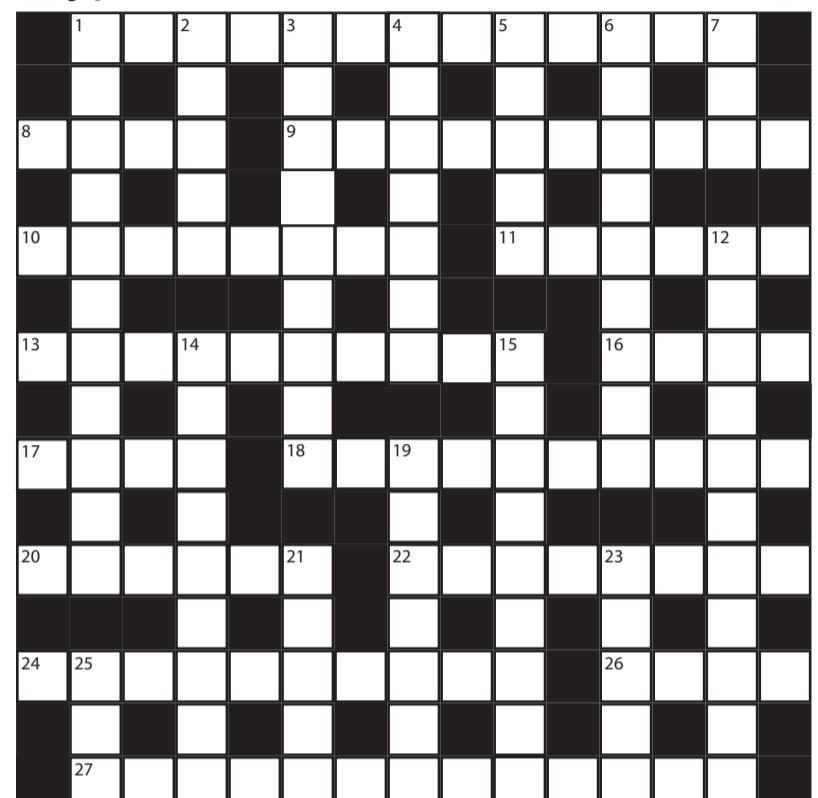
The following day the team competitions ensued. Karl Brune (-90kg) and Silvère Lucquin (-73kg) joined

the men's team along with Ed, Matt and Tom. The team fought well in the pool, comfortably beating Manchester, Nottingham and Strathclyde and only losing to the gold medal winning Anglia Ruskin. Unluckily, we were drawn against Plymouth, eventual bronze medallists, in the first knockout round and lost a close set of fights. Imperial were boosted later, however, with the success of the women's team. Alice, Bronwyn and Marie convincingly beat Cambridge and Glasgow to secure a Bronze medal. This was an excellent performance considering Bronwyn's shoulder injury and the other teams mainly consisting of Dan grades. They were unfortunately beaten at the semi final by some big ladies from Bath.

Throughout the weekend we had great support and guidance from the club coach Smudge and a big Irish fellow, Derek. With their guidance from the sidelines the great performances were made possible. A special congratulation is in order to Jake for winning his bet, forcing Smudge to wear the Sport Imperial Lion costume throughout Sunday. The weekend was topped off with a relaxed regional competition, where we banded together with Judoka from ULU and Middlesex as the London Team. We beat the North and South West, only losing out to Scotland to achieve a silver medal.

After much revelry and eating the Judo squad headed back to London battered and bruised but with pride intact. A great effort was made by everyone who fought and some great results, despite the team being plagued with injury. Imperial Judo is looking strong as ever, training starts now for BUCS next year!

Cryptic Crossword 1,488



Across

- Everywhere you look, it's not ok. A direct current took head off grandma (4,3,6)
- Cell initially overly vicious, under maintained (4)
- I make animals on Irish street do one round, two rounds! (10)
- Bravo! Go naked, perhaps, on road surface (8)
- Employees on a Scottish island (6)
- Fell on spawn of one being poached (7,3)
- White last, move to front of black (4)
- Unique person on hospital (4)
- Blues, approaching depression, any time of year (10)
- Lustful people not getting English suckers (6)
- Instrumental composition shown openly, you're hearing (8)
- Logger cutting down head of sequoia? Strangely, he's pro ninja! (4,6)
- Friend in inescapable trap (4)
- Holy tailor? (3,2,3,5)

Down

- After adjustment, gonna reveal fruit within a fruit (5,6)
- Ancient civilisation to patrol Mecca, not entirely (5)
- Judge carelessly arrests, captures, bisexual (9)
- Pass down by inheritance from the Spanish church recess (7)
- Spaces for kangaroo with multiple sclerosis (5)
- Peerless, not average, 'e's on 49! (9)
- See with them, but not at first? Indeed! (3)
- Start from the beginning after F-drive damage (4,7)
- Leave chick beside temple (9)
- George I/II may go clubbing here, decorated with odd shapes (9)
- Ban and muscle out professional, one from Warsaw (7)
- Cloth covering cut on female (5)
- Part time work for nothing at pace (5)
- Oh my! Endless resistance (3)



New Energia Gym opens at St Mary's

The official unveiling of the refurbished Energia Gym run by Sport Imperial, located St Mary's hospital took place on Wednesday 6th April.

The gym, which had been run by St Mary's hospital, was closed for a short period of time during which it underwent redecoration and refurbishment together with the introduction of new equipment.

As well as improved gym equipment

members of the gym will now be eligible to use the swimming pool in the Imperial Medical School, located opposite the gym.

The gym is located in the basement of the Cambridge Building at St Mary's hospital. For information regarding membership why not go down there or call on 020 3312 1288 alternatively you can email Hayley.osborn@imperial.ac.uk.

SPORT

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Sticks, balls, and deepest darkest Bristol

Alex Savell

Riding and Polo

Arena Polo Nationals

The problem with starting a tournament on a Thursday during reading week is that we don't get a reading week. As such it was a somewhat slapdash crew that converged on Clevedon for the University Polo Nationals. Despite what might charitably be described as an exuberant driving style from one of our players we all made it to the rural side of Bristol more or less intact, though one of our two train goers got a bit of a dent to his wallet when he realised that booking his tickets in advance would have been four times cheaper.

With, as it turned out, neither of our teams set to play until Friday morning all of us set about making the most of our free time. All, that is, except Jon 'there's a snake in ma boots' Matthews who had managed to get himself a job doing what he loves best... shouting at people. The rest of us were more interested in booze, polo and the rapidly

growing number of people planning on coming to dinner with us.

As play continued into the night (not set to finish till about 10pm!) we eventually managed to bundle everyone in the car and high tail it back to the hotel for dinner. There, I suspect, the hotel staff weren't best pleased to see a group of close to fifty hungry students swarm shortly before shifts were supposed to end and the kitchen was supposed to close. It's not often you get that many students from half a dozen different universities congregating and socialising round a table and we were all pretty impressed that Thijs had managed to get so many people there. Actually he was developing something of a rep by then though dubbing him 'the Dutch Sleaze' was probably a bit harsh, still it was definitely not the worst nickname coined for the first time that weekend.

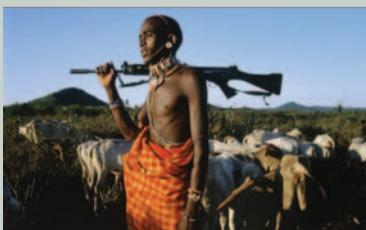
Everyone, well everyone from Imperial, was pretty sedate that night, probably due to the Novices having their first two matches at 9 and 10 the following morning against Reading and then Exeter. The Reading game came and went in a bit of a blur, horses the guys were meeting for the first time were something of a worry and we were pretty lucky that two out of three really got on well with their allotted mounts. In any equestrian sport the horse beneath you is just as important as the rider on top and the lack of a good partnership unfortunately made for a frustrating game for Henry unable to quite make his presence felt on the pitch. However, a lot of positives came out of that match, not least the fact that the guys managed to get a victory and Sverré and Huey really showed how you can step up your game when the pressure is on.

With a change of horse for his second chukka we
...Continued on Page 30

Ed Phillips Images



POLITICS



Deaths as tribal conflict sparks in Kenya: [Page 10](#)

COMMENT



"The political equivalent of a cockslap": [Page 12](#)

FILM



Another superhero film, how 'original': [Page 19](#)

TELEVISION



Dammit Channel 4, stop ruining TV! [Page 23](#)

TRAVEL



Partying with Priya in Santiago: [Page 24](#)



Men's Lacrosse narrowly miss out on first silverware

David Thompson

BUCS Lacrosse Trophy Final

Imperial 10 - 12 Leeds Met

previously, Imperial knew that this would be the most difficult match of the season. However, in the two years since that crushing defeat the team has improved vastly and confidence was high on the long trip up North.

The pre-match talk was focused on avoiding penalties as there were to be four officials rather than the usual one but this did not stop Imperial giving away a number of soft early penalties. Leeds failed

...Continued on Page 31