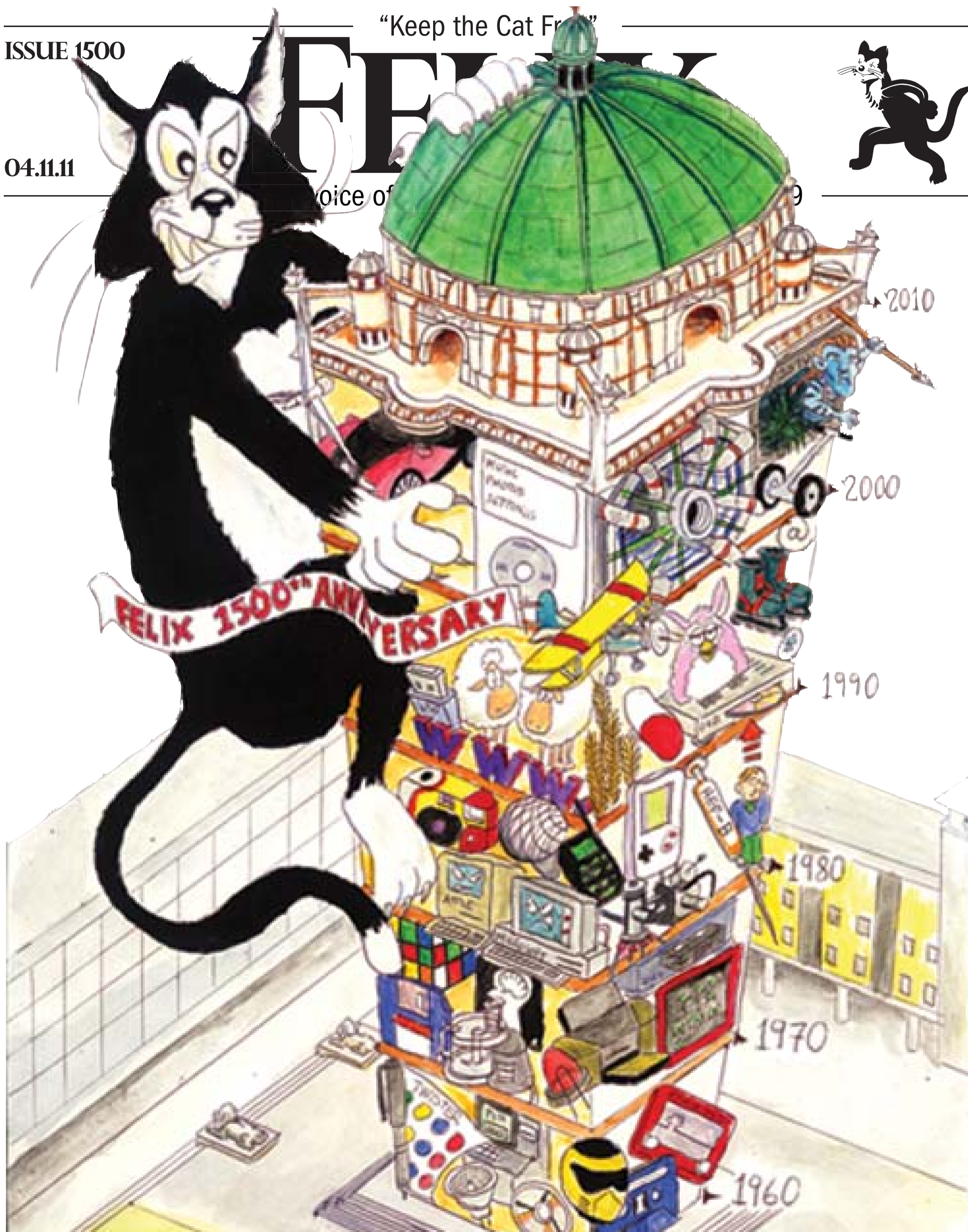


"Keep the Cat Fr..."

ISSUE 1500

04.11.11

voice of



# HIGHLIGHTS

Front Cover by Hamish Muir

## What's on

### Friends of Imperial College Lecture

Professor David Phillips OBE, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry and once Head of the Department of Chemistry at Imperial discusses the role of chemistry in tackling global problems.

**Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building  
November 8 19:00**

## Competition

WKD Purple is here to stay! Yep, apparently you loved WKD's Limited Edition 'purple one' so much it's going to stick around – who knew?

By Purpler demand (geez, we're meant to be edging away from puns that bad – Ed) WKD Purple will be joining Iron Brew, Blue and Red as a permanent member of the WKD squad.

WKD are offering you the opportunity to win a case of WKD Purple to enjoy with your mates and this competition question will put your brains to the ultimate test.

#### What colour is WKD Purple?

And what better way to celebrate our 1500th issue than by massively insulting your intelligence?

Email the answer to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) by Wednesday 9 November at 23:59 to be in with a chance of winning. The winner will be randomly selected from all valid entries after the competition closes and will be announced in next week's issue.

Get cracking guys!

[www.facebook.com/WKD](http://www.facebook.com/WKD)

#### Last week's Bad Teacher DVD winners:

Hannah Huang

Vijitra Luang-In

Congratulations – I'll be in touch!



# FELIX 1500

I don't think words can quite do justice to how I feel, but I'll give it a go. Having the privilege of editing Issue 1500 of this publication is something that I hugely appreciate and can't quite comprehend.

Taking a look through the Felix Issue Archive (do go and have a look at it via the Felix website – it's well worth it) it hit me how, in its own inimitable way, the newspaper hasn't really changed over the past 62 years. We still aim to entertain at the same time as providing you with the latest news from around college and the world.

I feel that the most appropriate way of celebrating such a milestone is to go flat out with what makes Felix so special, and provide an extended issue – a real demonstration of the dedication of the students who work so, so hard every week to bring this to you. Here's to them.

**Editor**

## CLASSIFIEDS

Jakobs Café (20 Gloucester Road) are still looking for enthusiastic students with good English and presentation skills to serve their customers on a part time basis. Shifts: 12pm to 3pm or 6pm to 9pm (Monday to Sunday) Salary: £7/hour + food. To apply, send your CV to [vidhulvinodh@gmail.com](mailto:vidhulvinodh@gmail.com), or phone **07466632915**

*Just so we're clear, Felix accepts no responsibility for services bought or sold, capiche? Good.*

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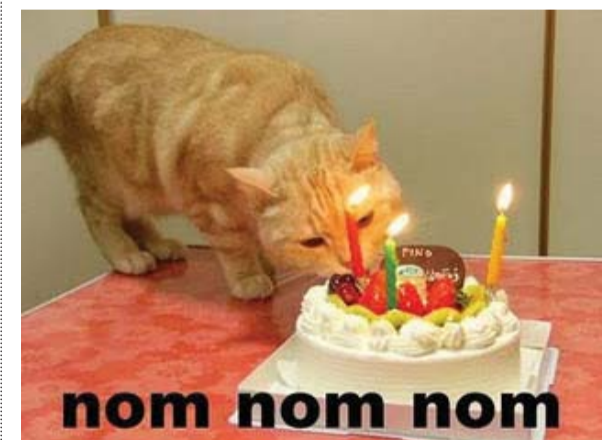
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## Lolcat of teh 1500



# FELIX

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# NEWS

## IC Radio in exposé shutdown

### Complainant objects to alleged defamation of character

**Sophia David**

IC Radio was shut down last Friday after the college received a serious complaint following a show in which the presenters discussed the “dirty little secrets” of an unnamed student organisation. The complaint is thought to have been from a former or current committee member of the organisation who stated that their primary objection to the programme was “defamation of character”. The show, which aired on Sunday 23 October, has since been removed from the IC Radio website.

**“It haunts me that [this organisation] isn’t registered as a charity”**

Hamza Shaikh, a fourth year Imperial student, and Ibad Rizvi, a student at UCL, who hosted the controversial show later told Felix that they felt an “obligation to expose the corruption of the organisation and protect students.”

During the show, Shaikh described

how “charity money [raised by the organisation] that was supposed to be used to support flood victims in Pakistan was used to fund business class tickets to fly friends from Pakistan to London, and that total cost was around £16,000.” Rizvi later told Felix, “It still haunts me that [this organisation] isn’t registered as a charity, but they still do charity events. Where does all the money go?”

Shaikh and Rizvi also stated that there is a lack of democracy within the organisation, using one example of the events manager being promoted to the position of manager with no elections. Shaikh exclaimed, “Talk about democracy, shall we?” He went on to say that the organisation “is not backed by anyone, students assign each other roles, there is no merit involved, no competence.”

Meanwhile, Shaikh and Rizvi feel that they were well within their rights to have such a discussion, stating: “It’s free media and we were expressing our opinions. And anyway, we don’t have anything personal against these people. We’re just saying what other people say.”

The pair is adamant not to let any complaints put them off doing similar shows in the future. Shaikh told Felix that, “I really like to use radio in a

productive way. If we hear of corruption again, we will talk about it.” Rizvi added, “There are a lot of people who want to expose [this organisation], but not everyone has the opportunity.”

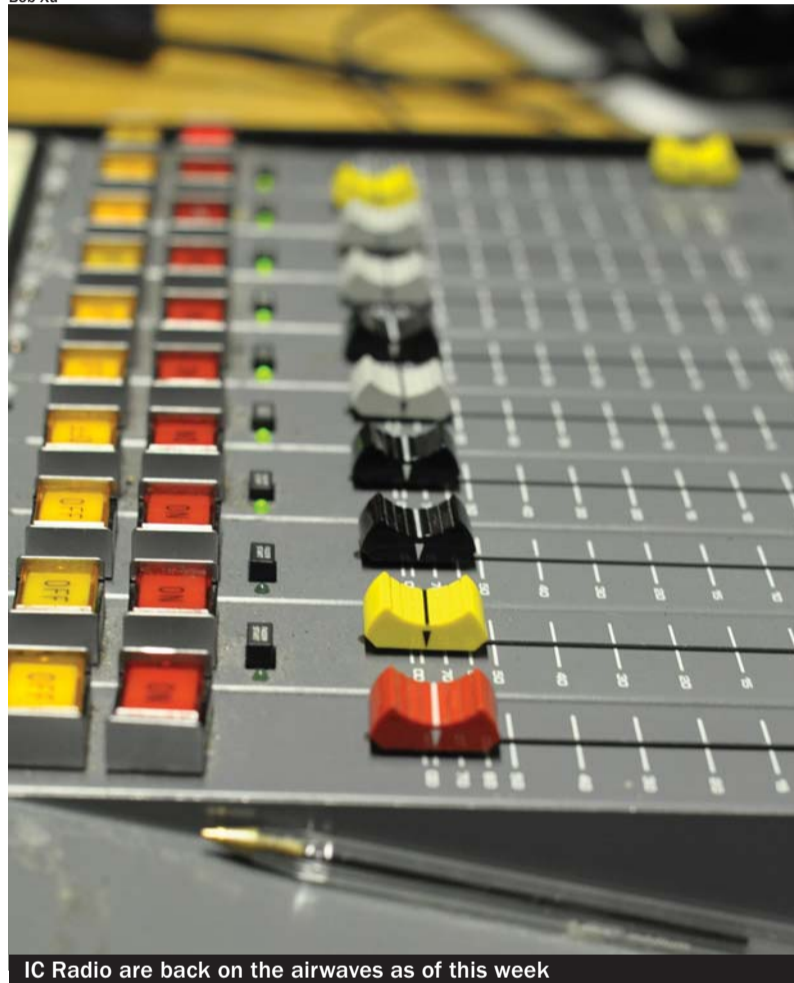
This marks the second shutdown in a year following a similar event last February following a complaint made to the Rector regarding the use of racially offensive language during a broadcast.

**“If we hear of corruption again, we will talk about it.”**

The Station Manager at IC radio, Aislinn Hayes, has reminded all society members that they are responsible for what they (or anyone else on their show) say on air. She added that, “Something like this could really hurt the reputation of the establishment, so IC Radio will always help in these situations.”

Hayes also told the members of IC Radio to keep having “lots of fun” and “don’t let something like this scare you off doing your banterous shows.”

Bob Xu



IC Radio are back on the airwaves as of this week

## Records broken at annual bike auction

**Indy Leclercq**

This Monday saw the Union conduct a bike auction in Beit Quad, raising over £7000 for RAG; a new record. 106 bikes and one scooter were up for sale, having been left chained to railings and bike racks around campus, presumably abandoned by their owners.

This year, Sport Imperial had a hand in the proceedings, with head Neil Mosley acting as auctioneer. Armed with a megaphone, he ran a competitive auction, driving the prices up. There were a fair amount of decent bikes on offer, the star of the show being a Trek road bike going for £355. Two other bikes were also sold for over £300, and a quirky lime-green Fixie bike was sold for just under £200.

The auction was well attended by

both staff and students, with attendance in Beit Quad reaching a peak at 12:30, when the best bikes were being sold. It wasn’t just shiny, barely used merchandise on offer though; some bargains were had towards the end of the auction, with a couple of mountain bikes going for barely £50. The cheapest item sold was a frame, for a mere £6.

The final total, in excess of £7000 (RAG were unable to give an exact number, as not all the money had been collected at the time of printing), is the highest ever for a bike auction and more than was raised by the whole of RAG in the 2008-09 academic year.

RAG would like to thank everyone who came along, as well as security and Union staff for their help. To the successful bidders: enjoy your new bike!

Indy Leclercq



Deputy President (Welfare) Nicolas Massie shows his goods

Sponsored Editorial

## More student cuts

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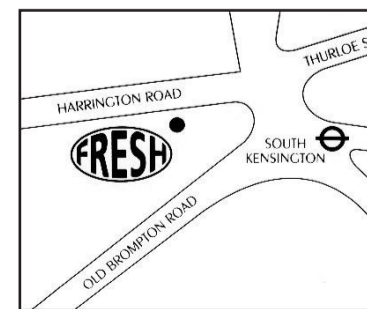
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# NEWS

## In Brief

### Right To Play for RAG

Every year, over one hundred charities apply to be a nominated charity for Imperial College Union Raising and Giving (RAG). Each have their own goals and methodology and each, in their own right, are fully worthy and deserving of RAG's support. This year Right to Play was chosen as the main nominated charity following an intense deliberation period from the RAG committee. Several other supporting charities were chosen, including Barnardo's, the Royal British Legion and the Mines Advisory Group.

Right to Play operates in the developing world, using sport and play to help and teach children important life lessons, such as using a stuck-in-the-mud style game to educate about Malaria prevention. Their approach is as much about having fun as getting a serious message across. It has been supported by a number of major corporations and movements, such as BUCS (British University and College Sport, the league in which we cream UCL on a weekly basis) and the College itself, with Sport Imperial working in a partnership with them over the last few years.

The first event to be run this year was the bike auction on Monday lunchtime (with a repair expert in attendance so any niggling problems could be fixed).

It's both an excellent and worthy cause that we at Imperial and RAG can only hope to do our best for, and here's to a great year full of fun events, incredible amounts raised and us all doing the best we can for them.

**Jack Hewitt – RAG Chair**

### Flashmob for charity in the Queen's Tower Rooms

Friday 28 October saw Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WSET) take part in a flashmob to raise awareness for the charity Breast Cancer Care. Held in the Queen's Tower Rooms at lunchtime, WSET received assistance from Funkology, a society that studies and specialises in streetdance and hiphop forms. WSET aims to promote SET careers amongst women at Imperial, while enhancing the flow of women amongst SET departments.

You can donate to WSET's campaign for Breast Cancer Care at [www.justgiving.com/wset1](http://www.justgiving.com/wset1)

**Matthew Colvin**

Jonathan Peek



# Council talk Balls and bars

## Independent Summer Ball investigation to be launched

**Alexander Karapetian  
Maciej Matuszewski  
Navid Nabijou**

Imperial College Union held its second Council meeting of the term on Monday 31 October, with all full members of Council attending for the first time. A variety of papers revolving around ongoing issues were brought forward with resolution reached for some.

### Summer Ball Debrief

Serious issues about the planning of last year's Summer Ball, which made a loss of over £100 000, were raised at this Monday's meeting of the Union Council. In his Summer Ball 2011 Debrief, requested by last year's council, current Deputy President (Finance and Services) (DPFS) Michael Foster outlined how he believes that the "main reason for the large loss incurred ... was a wholly unrealistic prediction of attendance."

Despite a steady drop in turnout over previous years "the budget predicted an attendance of almost 4000 students ... more than double [what was achieved] in any of the previous three years". In Foster's mind, such an overestimate was "irresponsible". The main reason for this inflated estimate were the changes to the Ball, in particular inviting students from Goldsmiths' and King's to attend, adding the Prince's Gardens Stage and starting the acts earlier. It was hoped that the last of these changes would attract more Life Sciences students, who might otherwise not have been able to attend as a result of having exams in the same period.

It was pointed out from the Council floor, however, that advertising at the other institutions was not as good as it could have been. Foster's report also admitted that, according to the post-Ball survey, "many people weren't happy with the change in format to what was seen as a festival". The report did, however, explain that that the formal dinner was axed because attendance "had fallen from 650 in 2007 to 150 in 2010" and that "the black tie dress code was removed, as it was thought to be unreasonable to expect students to stay in formal dress from noon to midnight".

Foster rejected "the claim from last year's Council saying there was not enough transparency and consultation" on these changes. He reminded those present that all format changes were approved by "the Summer Ball working group" formed of the elected Ents Committee; that the Council was kept up to date with the progress in the Ball's preparations; and that the budget was approved by the Executive Committee. Issues were raised from the floor, however, over how much influence the Council had on the Ball, given that it was only dealt with in last year's DPFS' regular reports rather than a separate paper. Heather Jones, last year's Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) and current CAG Chair, also pointed out that by the time the budget was presented to the Ex-

Alexander Karapetian



Council – not only three hours of serious debate, but three hours of arm exercise too

ecutive Committee there was not enough time to significantly alter it even if the Committee had wanted to.

A separate paper was also put forward by Chris Darby, asking the Council "to petition the [Union] Court to carry out an independent inquiry in to exactly how much has been lost ... and how this compares to previous years". The paper cited incomplete information regarding the loss and the need for an "independent opinion". Despite objections from Union President Scott Heath, who said that a further investigation by himself and the Trustee Board would suffice, the motion was carried by the Council.

### Alcohol Policy passed

Deputy President (Finance & Services) Michael Foster presented a paper regarding the much debated responsible retailing of alcohol.

The paper outlined a procedural policy to be used in the bars as guidelines for retailing alcohol. It includes the banning of initiation ceremonies and "dirty pints" as reported on previously by Felix. Amendments were proposed by Henry Abbot, ACC Chair, to change a variety of points including one regarding the mobile bar, frequently used on the second floor of the union for clubs, limiting it to diluting spirits containing an alcohol content above 38% which were sold. The council members voted on the proposed amendments one by one and the paper was eventually passed.

The original policy outlined a limit of free drinks available as part of ticket costs to be six to eight. An amendment was to define it as the upper limit of eight specifically. Although this passed, it was noted that the change had already been made and that the policy for which it was proposed was an outdated document. Council imposed a fifteen minute guillotine for the discussions regarding this paper, and minor issues arose when a discrepancy in the law was brought up regarding the downing limit and the yard glass, a traditional piece of English heritage. Much of the discussion, however, was focused around the use of Imperial ID cards to identify those under 18 who shouldn't be sold drinks.

The members conferred on a point which sought to allow students with a red box on their ID card (indicating they were seventeen

and therefore below the legal drinking age threshold) onto the union premises during events but to refuse them service at the bar. ID cards are not currently a valid form of identification due to not being capable of proving age. Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Monya Zard explained the matter to Felix, noting that they "have discussed the issue with police, who were happy to use IDs if the date of birth were displayed, unfortunately registry was not willing to do that for data protection reasons, therefore college IDs could not be accepted as valid proof of age despite the red box on the card".

At present, students with a red box are typically allowed onto premises but refused service as expected, but for some events they can be refused entry. This proposed amendment was rejected by council, following controversy with those who believed that passing this would result in a breach of the law.

### Honorary Life Membership

One of the most hotly debate issues was that of Honorary Life Memberships (HLMs). These lifetime memberships of the Union are traditionally awarded to Sabbatical Officers at the end of their terms in office. Last summer, however, Union Council narrowly voted against awarding HLM to the then Deputy President (Finance & Services), Ravi Pall.

This decision was later quashed, on the grounds that the Sabbatical Officers had been – unconstitutionally – barred from taking part in the vote (although this is a longstanding convention).

This Monday the vote was taken again; none of the now former Sabbatical Officers were present during the discussion. The vote itself was carried out by secret ballot, meaning that a two-thirds majority was required in each case.

The decision was the same as that of last year, with Council deciding against awarding HLM to the former DPFS (with 12 votes for versus 14 against). Much of the debate centred on the handling of the Summer Ball, as well as more general issues concerning Pall's handling of his role. All other Sabbatical Officers from last year received HLM.

News Editors: **Sophia David**  
**Alex Nowbar**

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# FEATURE

## Interview: William Lane Craig

Sam Horti talks to the renowned Christian philosopher about his work

**F**irstly, Dr Craig, thanks very much for coming along to speak to us, we appreciate you taking the time to enrich the Imperial College students.

Dr Craig: My pleasure.

**I just want to get a little of your personal background and ask: when did you first become interested in Philosophy?**

I think my interest in Philosophy developed during my University years, I took some courses in Christian Theology and then Philosophy, and courses in literature as well. That really sparked my interest in questions that were philosophical in nature: What is truth? How do we discover truth? What is the truth in the Christian world-view? It was during those upper years of university study.

**Was religion always the focus of your philosophy?**

Of my philosophy, yes, but it wasn't always the focus of my life; I wasn't raised in a Christian home or even in a church going family, but my interest in religious affairs preceded my interest in Philosophy. I'm a philosopher because I'm a Christian, my philosophy flows out of my Christian faith.

**When did you decide that you wanted to make your philosophy, and your religion, the focus of your career?**

Well, I think this emerged gradually in the course of my university and postgraduate studies. I saw that these deep philosophical questions needed to be addressed in

order to commend the gospel to thinking men and women today. In an increasingly secular culture, people have questions about the truth of the Christian world-view, and to ignore or turn aside questions of that nature would be irresponsible. It seemed to me that it was a natural thing to do: to explore the philosophical foundations of and justification for my own Christian faith.

**Moving on to your current UK tour, let me ask you: why did you decide to come to UK and deliver talks such as this one (at the Bethinking National Apologetics day conference)?**

Well you have to understand that for a long time, I've been an Anglophile. I love this country; when my wife and I married, we honeymooned in London, and we always come back whenever we can. When I did my doctoral work in Philosophy I came to the university of Birmingham, so we lived and I studied here. Since then

**"Hitchens' lack of familiarity with the issues was astonishing."**

we've come back on sabbatical to do research, so when we got an invitation to do a university speaking tour in the UK we jumped at the chance.

**With the UK being a more secular society than the US, do you notice a difference in the way that you're taken in by the public here, and do you get a different reaction in the UK than you would**

Joseph Letts



William Lane Craig lectured at Imperial College earlier in October

**in the US?**

I don't think that I see a difference personally, because the people that come to our meetings are very interested. We've been speaking to packed houses, and so I don't see the indifferent, apathetic person who doesn't care about these things. By the very nature of the case, the people that come to see my speak are interested even if they're sceptical or agnostic or atheistic. There's a kind of self selection that goes on and so I recognise, in that sense that we're not seeing the broader British public, but those who do care about these issues.

**In a recent lecture at Imperial College London you cited 7 pieces of rational evidence that would lead us to the conclusion that the Christian God exists. Why do you think that some people who are learned in the subject, including people you've debated such as Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens, don't accept these pieces of evidence as sound and correct?**

With reference to the two examples you've named, with all due respect, I don't think they do know a lot about the subject. I have debated both of these gentlemen in public forums and at universities, and Christopher Hitchens' lack of familiarity with the issues was astonishing. Similarly with Sam Harris, he was just impotent even to defend his view against criticism.

I think that so often, these folks are so deeply embedded in a secular world view, and interact so rarely with people with a different perspective, that they're utterly unaware of the literature. They don't read people like me, they don't participate in conferences with people

like me, they don't invite people like me to share a platform with them as I do when I invite them. There really is a tremendous ignorance; many of these folk rejected the Christian faith as young people (11 or 12 years of age) and they've never studied it since.

Having said that, there certainly are many who are philosophically informed and have a different take on the issue, and I would say a difference of opinion is possible on these deep questions. I have no desire to insult the rationality of atheists or others who disagree with me. I respectfully disagree with them and I present my arguments and evidence and it's up to people, with an open mind, to accept or reject them.

**Your view that it is a rational conclusion to accept that God exists would lead me to the conclusion that there is no room for faith in the Christian belief system. Do you think that there is a need for faith?**

I think it absolutely does leave room for faith. In the new testament the concept of faith is not a way of knowing something, it is a way of trusting in something, of committing to something. For example, several years ago I had corneal surgery on my eyes.

As you can imagine, before I let myself go under the knife, we carefully investigated who was the finest corneal surgeon in the US, and then based on that evidence, I trusted him to make the cut on my eyes. Similarly, when someone comes to the conclusion that God exists, then the decision of faith arises. Am I going to commit my life to this person and trust him? The evidence can actually bring you to the decision of faith.

**In a hypothetical situation in which your rational pieces of evidence could be refuted to a level with which you were satisfied, and were able to recognise that they were refuted, would you still have your beliefs or would it be the case that it would become irrational for you to believe in God?**

I would still have my belief, because my belief in God is not based on these arguments. These arguments are confirmatory of my belief in God. I think my faith in God is based on the inner witness of God's spirit to my own heart. I have a personal relationship with him, his spirit lives within me, and while there are good arguments and evidence to confirm that, my faith is not based upon them.

I think this is a wonderful thing because most people in the history of the human race have had neither the time, nor the education, nor the library resources to investigate the philosophical arguments for God's existence or the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus, and so they would be condemned to unbelief if this were the only way of knowing God. But God, in his mercy, has provided an interior way of knowing that he exists which is open to all persons everywhere regardless of their education, their time or their resources. For those of us who have the luxury of leisure time, university education, and fantastic library resources, we have a double advocate.

In addition to this interior way we have these exterior arguments which support it. What's also good about this is that I can hold these arguments lightly. If a refutation comes along, I don't have to go to the wall to defend these arguments, I can give them up easily. This helps me to be more, rather than less, objective about the validity and soundness of these arguments.

**If you were faced with an atheist, and you were trying to convince him that God exists, do you think it would be more effective to address it from the rational standpoint, or do you think trying to convince him from this internal standpoint that you mentioned would be more effective?**

I don't think it has to be either/or. I think it can be both/and. I would share with my atheist friend these arguments and pieces of evidence that I find compelling but I would also remind him that the search for God is not some sort of disinterested academic discussion like adding another piece of furniture to your view of the universe. This is a deeply existential and personal quest that needs to be pursued in humility and with openness of heart and

Vanity Fair



Christopher Hitchens "doesn't know a lot about the subject" says Dr. Craig

Joseph Letts



Dr Craig will not respond to Richard Dawkins

## “The Christian worldview comes out intellectually head and shoulders above its competitors.”

openness to god. I would encourage the atheist to pray, for example, that if God is there, he would reveal himself. I see it as a both/and.

**You’ve debated some of the most well known atheists in the world, the likes of Dan Dennet, A.C. Grayling, as well as Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens as I’ve mentioned before. When you take part in these debates, what do you intend to get out of them? Is it your aim to convert atheists that are watching, or is your aim to simply get your views across?**

The purpose of these events is to illustrate to the university communities, in which these debates are typically held, that the Christian faith is a viable option for thinking men and women today. So often university students have been told that it is irrational to be a Christian, that Christianity is for old ladies and little children but no thinking adult can be an intelligent believer. That is so patently false and these debates help to illustrate that.

I could come on to a campus, as I did at Imperial, and give a lecture myself, unchallenged, but I think it’s far more effective and credible when an atheist shares the platform with me, is given equal time and even the last word; and yet students still see that the Christian worldview comes out intellectually head and shoulders above its competitors. I welcome the open dialogue with atheists about this.

**In contrast to a university event, if you are speaking at a predominantly Christian event, is your aim to affirm the faith of those present or do you have another motive?**

It isn’t just to affirm the faith of those persons, although it certainly is in part. Contrary to what atheists say, Christians are actually pretty open minded and many struggle with real doubts. They hear the objections from the new atheists for example, and they trouble them and think about them. Christians are not the brain dead people that atheists sometimes portray. Hearing that there are good reasons to believe as well as good answers to these objections can affirm their faith.

But there is a further reason why I will sometimes speak to Christian audiences, and this is to equip them. If Christians can be trained to give good reasons for what we believe and good answers to unbelievers questions, they will be more effective in sharing with their friends and family members the good news of the gospel. And so I’m interested in equipping Christians to be good witnesses to the truth of the Christian faith

**As well as doing debates you do a lot of writing. Firstly, what do you enjoy more? And secondly, what do you think is a more convincing form of argument?**

This is a really good question; I enjoy them both so much. When I’m at home in my study writing I often think: “Gosh, I wish I could be out on the road speaking or debating.” When I’m travelling and debating I often think: “I wish I could be in my study, writing in peace and quiet.” They’re both really wonderful opportunities and I enjoy both and do both equally.

In terms of which is more effective, I once would’ve said, and I’m still inclined to think, that the writing and

research is more effective at reaching people because my circumference of personal contacts is so limited compared to the written work; my books get into university libraries, where they will be for generations. My goal as a writer is to leave a legacy that outlives myself.

However, since the development of the internet and YouTube, it turns out that those who see me live, such as at Imperial College, turns out to be a tiny minority. There will be tens of thousands of people who will watch that YouTube video. I have never put a video on YouTube, but other people pirate them and put them up, and I recently saw a Google statistic that these Dr Craig video sites have had over 4 million views.

That is far more than I’ve sold in terms of books; so it may well be that the public speaking will actually reach more people because it too is archived in this way, and reaches far more people than I do in the actual live audience.

**Just two more questions before we finish; the first is about Richard Dawkins. There’s been a lot of back and forth between yourself and Professor Dawkins, and I was just wondering if you’ve read his recent article in the *Guardian*?**

I have read it but I just want to say that there hasn’t been a back and forth between me and Richard Dawkins; I have not responded to any of this. All of this is generated by other people who invite him and me to be in these debates, who have started this bus campaign in Oxford, who have made these YouTube videos. I don’t have anything to do with that. I have preferred to stay out of this and watch as an amused bystander. So yes I have read the article, but I’m not going to respond.

**Lastly, I just want to get your thoughts on the future of the atheist-theist debate. What do you think the questions we’ll be asking in, say, 100 years time will be? Do you think we will be asking the same questions that we’re asking now?**

I do, these are perennial questions; I think the problem of suffering and evil, and the hidden nature of God will always be the primary reason for doubt about God’s existence. I think modern science will continue to discover facts about nature and the world we live in that point beyond itself to a transcendent creator and designer of the universe.

The moral argument will always be with us because we will always be asking: what is the foundation for moral values and duties? Do they even exist objectively or is everything relative? These I think are perennial questions which will be with us in a hundred years time.

**Once again, thank you very much for agreeing to speak to us, we appreciate you taking the time, and good luck on the rest of your UK tour.**

Certainly, thank you.

## Commentary

**D**r Craig, as I expected, was an extremely charismatic man, and it is easy to see why so many are taken with his ideas. This charisma, along with his general intelligence, makes him an extremely skilled debater. As with many skilled debaters, however, he often (in my opinion) seems to rely on style rather than substance to win debates. His capacity as an orator introduces extraneous information which seems to hide some of the frailties of his arguments. There are countless responses to Dr Craig’s main arguments to be found on the internet (Google is your friend), so, for now, I am only going to critique the main points that Dr Craig presents during this particular interview.

I can’t resist a comment on Dr Craig’s views on both Christopher Hitchens and Sam Harris. All I can say is that if these two men haven’t studied religious philosophy since the age of 11 or 12, then, judging by the countless books they have written on the subject, they must have been the two smartest children that have ever lived. I’m sure Dr Craig knows that these two men have taken part in countless debates and discussion with religious apologists, and have spent a great deal of their life dedicated to the study of the subject, and so I find his comments at best, curious, and at worst, facetious and unnecessarily spiteful.

I would now like to look at Dr Craig’s views on the distinction between faith and evidence. “Religious faith” always causes huge problems in debates such as the ones in which Dr Craig participates, because it is such an ill-defined term. Dr Craig, in this interview, clearly advocates a system by which faith is gained only when belief is achieved. Although not all religious people will agree with this, as “faith” is seen by some as the only justification needed for belief, it does seem to make sense to me. I think if every religious person adopted this same system, then it would make rational debate and argument much more fruitful.

Dr Craig’s view that only evidence should light the path to belief means that, presumably, if his evidence were to be refuted, then his belief in God would be lost. But it’s not quite that simple. He has, as he says a “double advocate”. He has the external evidence, which he concentrates on in debates, and “internal” evidence which is, in his own words, the “inner witness of God’s spirit to my own heart”. Lets see if we can’t examine both these sets of evidence in turn and find out if they are sound.

As I said in my introduction, I’m not here to offer refutations to Dr Craig’s pieces of “external” evidence, both because it would need a lot more words

than I have at my disposal, and because there are countless refutations available on the internet if you are interested. However, it seems to me that these pieces of evidence are made completely redundant by the fact that they are simply afterthoughts. It is the “internal” evidence that has led Dr Craig to believe, not the arguments that he so often professes (as he admits in this interview), and so he therefore can hold these arguments “lightly”. They therefore seem rather pointless, as they didn’t even convince him in the first place; he has essentially started from a base of belief and then gone searching for evidence that may back his viewpoint up, which is undoubtedly going to cloud his judgement. It is like someone travelling up to Scotland already believing in the Loch Ness monster, and then getting excited after days of searching when they finally see the tip of a rock poking out of the water.

Although the internal advocate that Dr Craig bases his beliefs upon is beyond examination, it does certainly bring up what I think is a major problem with religious belief, in that it is only made possible by the unflinching solipsism of man. What I mean by this is that we erroneously tend to rely on our own feelings while negating the feelings of others without any real justification other than that these feelings belong to us. If you asked a hundred different religious people about what they feel about God, you would get one hundred different answers. And yet every single one of them will value their own “internal” evidence above that of the other 99.

What will Dr Craig say, for example, about a Muslim who knows, through his own internal advocate, that Allah is the one true God? Why is this person’s internal evidence not equally as compelling to Dr Craig as his own? Furthermore, what would Dr Craig say about the “internal evidence” of someone who strongly felt that they had been abducted by aliens? Or had psychic powers? I have no doubt that Dr Craig would cast these aside as ridiculous cases, and yet he has complete confidence in his internal feelings. This is, in my opinion, one of the great failings with religious belief. Too much emphasis is placed on what we “feel” rather than what the evidence points to.

I could speak at a lot greater length about Dr Craig, but unfortunately I have to stop, a little abruptly, here. I would encourage those of you who are interested to watch one of the many youtube videos that Dr Craig mentions in the interview to see him in action and hear some rebuttals to his main arguments. Let me thank the organisers of the interview too for giving me the opportunity to conduct this interview, and, of course, Dr Craig for giving up his time.

# SCIENCE

Science Editors: **Kelly Oakes**  
**Alexander Karapetian**

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## Women in science

In his Commemoration Day address this year, the Rector, Sir Keith O’Nions, recalled a conversation he had with an alumnus of Imperial. The alumnus, who graduated in 1966, told him that in her time here only 180 of the 3500 students were women. Sir Keith told those of us gathered at the Royal Albert Hall that he had looked up the statistics and this had been, in fact, a slight overestimate. He used this as an example of the “massive changes” that have taken place at the college over recent years.

A jump in the number of female students of the college from around 5% in the 1960s to nearly 35% today is a substantial one, and is indicative of a general change in the number of women pursuing degrees and careers in the sciences. However, there is still a long way left to go before we achieve an equal number of women and men in science.

A study published in the journal *Psychological Science* recently found that the sexism of individuals in a society leads to gender inequality in the society as a whole. This is not a surprising result, but the study is noteworthy because of its size: it covered 57 countries. The conclusion is clear — if increased equality is the goal, then individual attitudes must change.

In 1966, only 22 college accommodation rooms were available to women. Women were not allowed into the Union bar until 1972. Today, this same discrimination does not exist, but there still exist gender stereotypes could damage women’s chances of a career in science.

When a stereotype — for example, “girls can’t do maths” — is reiterated, it can do more damage than you might expect. One study showed that when telling a group of students that an exam was designed to test what makes some students better at maths than others, girls did worse than when they were told that both genders generally perform equally on the test. This is because of an effect known as “stereotype threat”. Stereotype threat has also been seen when women simply had to record their gender at the start of an exam, or were in the minority during the exam.

A report published by the UKRC in 2010 found that, of the 5.5 million people working in science, engineering and technology occupations in the UK, only 12.3% were women. The gender pay gap for science and technology professionals was 11%. The loss to the UK economy by qualified women scientists, technologists and engineers working below their level of qualification or being unemployed was estimated to be £2 billion.

Sexism does not need to be overt to be damaging. Small things — an offhand comment, a stupid joke — can add up over time to make a big difference. The sooner we become aware of this, the sooner we will see equal numbers of men and women doing science. And that will benefit all of us.

**Kelly Oakes**  
**Science Editor**

## “Science is a wonderful thing...

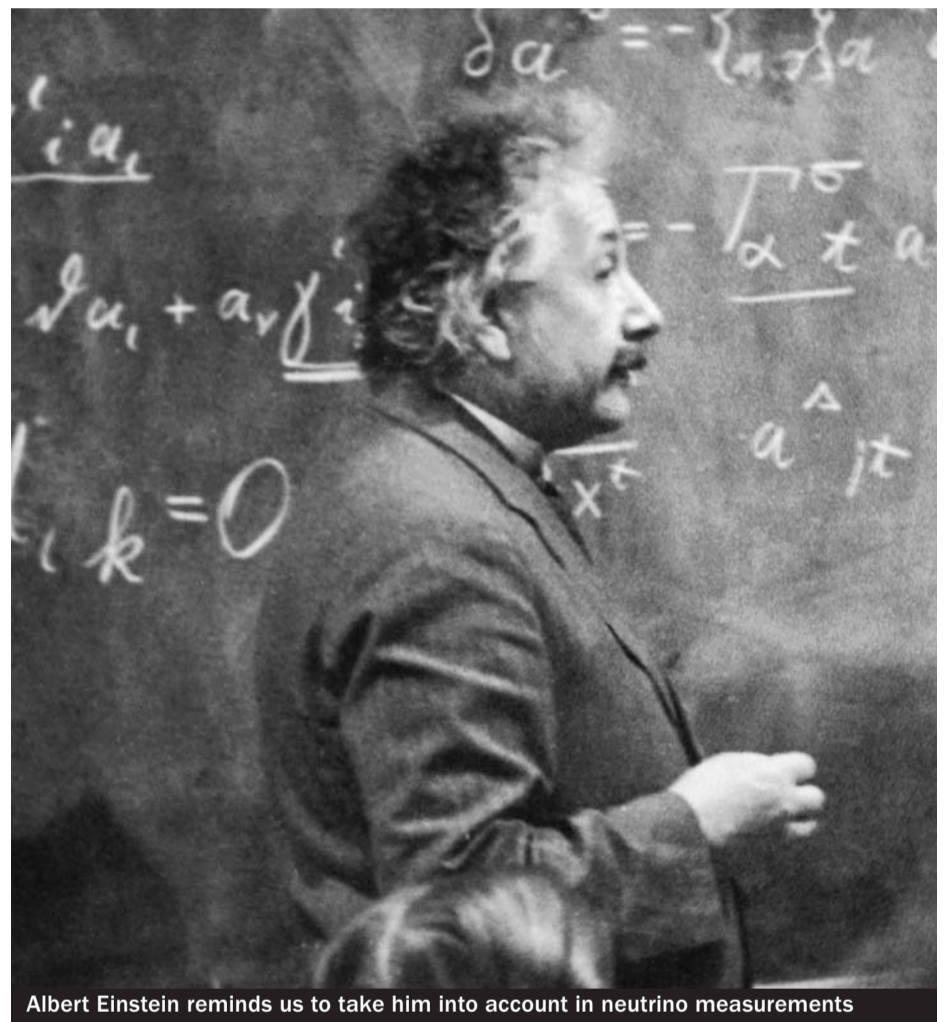
...if one does not have to earn one’s living at it”. Carys Cook discusses some of the difficulties facing early career scientists

**E**ven Albert Einstein was versed in the difficulties facing those who want a career in academic research. Those brave fools that, even in the face of riches proffered by industry, love research so much they are willing to attempt to climb the precipitous and slippery ladder that is UK academic science career progression.

A recent campaign by ‘Science is Vital’, a national group of concerned academics from professors to PhD students, last month created a consultation report that was presented to the Rt Hon David Willets, Minister for Universities and Science, highlighting their concerns about the UK science career system, that many fear is near breaking point. They recognised that obstacles are many, sacrifices plentiful and morale low, in a system that rewards the lucky few and stifles creativity and initiative, yet survives almost exclusively on the back-breaking work of early career scientists.

The bleak reality is, in a time of austerity, research councils and funding bodies are obsessed with short term, low risk projects with fast turnovers, meaning post-doctoral positions are brief, and poorly paid relative to other sectors, with extreme competition for the very few positions available. Some early career scientists may consequently seek international positions, resulting in a loss of intellect and skills in the UK. This forced mobility, combined with the quick turnover of contracts, means the chance of a normal life outside of work is slim, and those who want families and stability in their lives, especially women, face a very difficult time. Take a break from your career, and suffer the consequences — worst of all, those unable to gain a position within a few years of graduating from their PhD will find their experience useless and investment pointless, and pity the poor soul whose first post-doctoral project doesn’t produce any results. ‘Publications, publications, publications!’ is a mantra we are all very familiar with, and is a result of a system that rewards those who are lucky enough to find a PhD or post-doctoral project guaranteed with lots of high profile papers. Early career scientists are left bereft by a system that prevents them from pursuing their own research ideas, with research councils responding to current fiscal pressure from government by redirecting money away from early career scientist grants.

There are an ever increasing number of PhD students and post-docs who want to become research group leaders and laboratory managers, but never will do so due to static number of senior positions available in research institutions. Whilst this means cheap labour for current PIs, huge amounts of money and effort is wasted on training, and there is currently very little provision of positions suitable for those who do not want to write their own grants, but want to stay in research nonetheless. Shockingly, there is an 80% loss of all trained, skilled and enthusiastic



Albert Einstein reminds us to take him into account in neutrino measurements

people at each step of the career ladder, a level of attrition that is far from sustainable. There is additionally little provision of professional training for preparedness and skills relevant to alternative career paths in science but outside of the academic realm, due to the short-term nature of most contracts. Of course, there is little impetus to change a system that for senior scientists has worked and produces cheap labour, and the UK system, despite its foibles, is one of the most productive in the world.

Early career scientists are not idiots, and are, for the most part, aware of the risks associated with pursuing a career path fraught with this many obstacles. However, as recognised by ‘Science is Vital’, and indeed many academics, changes are required to restructure the system constructively. One solution could be the implementation of teaching fellowships at post-doctoral level with one or two years of teaching and outreach on top of research time, with external funding subsidised by university departments. This would increase contract length and stability, develop skills that would prepare individuals for other options in science related positions, and make them more employable in lectureship posts. A similar program for PhD students could result in longer programs over 4 or 5 years, with less PhD student numbers

overall. The lack of international experience would be seen as detrimental if more post-docs stayed in the UK, but this could be countered by the development of more active mentoring and short-term career development opportunities with international institutions and collaborators. For example, the Worldwide University Trust serves as one such platform, but pro-active membership nationally is currently lacking. Other organisations such as the National Research Staff Association are taking active roles in reassessing the current research council funding system, with the recognition that more long term funded projects and more funding for early career scientists are required. Ultimately, grants should be based on a proposal’s scientific merit and not just the employment status or publication record of the early career scientist who wrote it.

Take home message time: for all you early career scientists, it’s a beautiful thing you do and wonderfully rewarding personally, but you have the power to help change the system that does not adequately recognise your hard work! Get involved in organisations such as ‘Science is Vital’, write to your local MP to express your concerns, and make active decisions to prepare yourself just in case it all goes wrong...



# Dwarf planet Eris is Pluto's twin

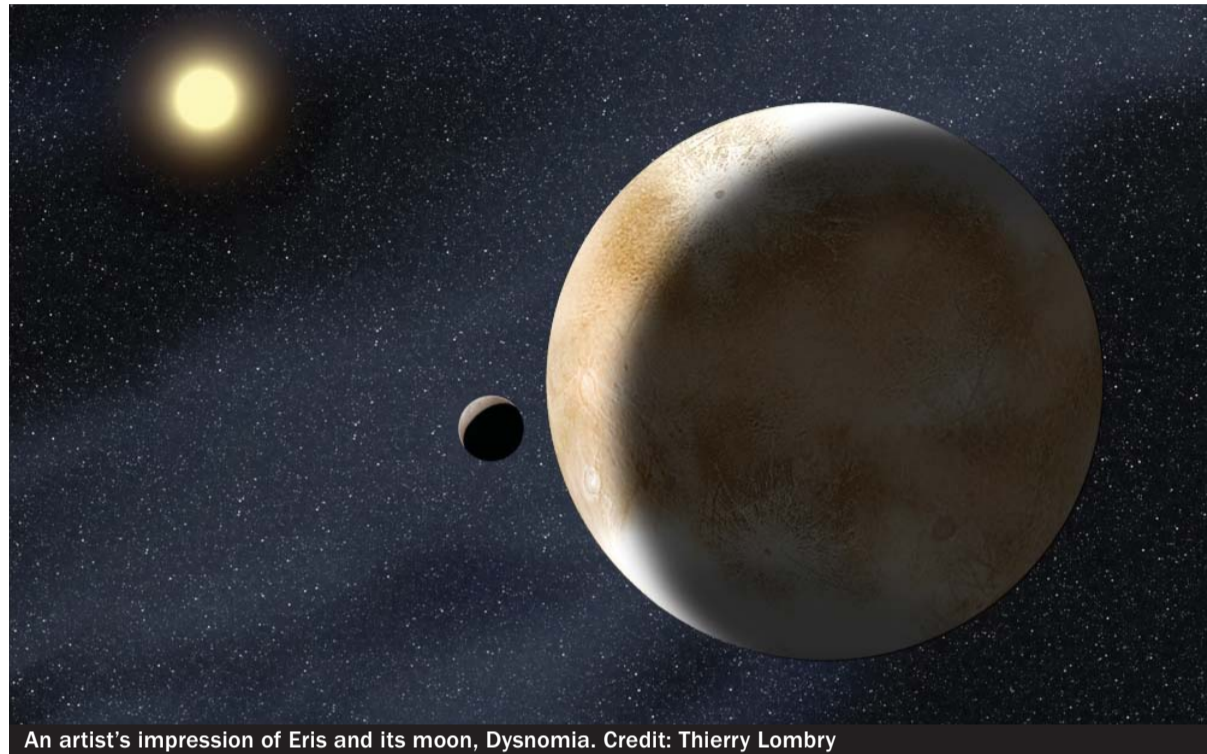
Nicola Guttridge

Ever since Pluto's demotion from planetary status, astronomers have been on the lookout for other similarly-sized and located dwarf planets. The region beginning from the orbit of Neptune and extending away from us is known as the Kuiper belt, inhabited by rocks, dust, debris and large numbers of small planetesimals and dwarf planets. Since its discovery in 1992, the known population of the Kuiper belt has increased to over 1000 objects, one of these being the small dwarf planet Eris.

Discovered in 2005, it is thought to have similar characteristics to Pluto and played a role in its re-classification as a smaller 'dwarf planet'. Astronomers have been keen to observe Eris and its small satellite Dysnomia in greater detail, but have thus far struggled due to its great distance from us — at 95.7 AU, it is approximately 3 times further from the Sun than Pluto (1 AU being the Earth-Sun distance).

New research performed by scientists at Pierre et Marie Curie University and Observatory of Paris made use of a rare astronomical event — a stellar occultation — to gather detailed data about the size, atmospheric composition and orbit of Eris. A stellar occultation is when a planetary body passes in front of a background star, observable due to the resulting dip in stellar intensity. For Eris, this happened on 6 November 2010, and analysis of the gathered observations has led to unexpected results.

Previous methods making use of surface reflectivity and attempted direct imaging had provided conflicting results about Eris's size. Dysnomia's movements revealed Eris's mass to be around 27% greater than that of Pluto while their radii are approximately the



An artist's impression of Eris and its moon, Dysnomia. Credit: Thierry Lombry

same, making the two planetary twins — at least in size.

Considering its great distance, scientists had expected Eris to be much larger than Pluto as the two are approximately as bright in the sky. As this was shown not to be the case, the value for Eris's albedo became more important in consolidating the results. Albedo, a measure of the reflectivity of the planetary surface, can range from 0 to 1, where 1 represents a white surface that reflects all the light that falls upon it and 0 a black, non-reflective body. The observable brightness of Eris led scientists to expect a high visible albedo, confirmed through this study to be approximately 0.96.

"This unusually bright surface is dif-

icult to reconcile with the idea that objects in the outer Solar System become darkened by cosmic rays and micrometeorite impacts over time," says Amanda Gulbis, a visiting scientist in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). "The new observations could thus support a long-standing theory that, as a large, icy, Kuiper-belt object approaches the Sun during its orbit, a putative atmosphere could sublime and then condense out as the object moves farther away."

This supposed atmosphere was a main target of the study; stellar occultations provide ideal conditions under which to measure planetary atmospheres, as the

stellar light travels through the cloud of gases surrounding the transiting body. The atmosphere of Eris was shown to be barely-there — it is thought that Eris's "bright surface [is] possibly caused by a collapsed atmosphere, owing to its cold environment", as barely-there amounts of nitrogen, argon and methane and a low surface pressure suggest an extremely tenuous Pluto-like atmosphere.

Planetary exploration studies such as this one are essential to discover more about the most unreachable areas of our solar system, and to learn more about planetary formation, evolution and composition. The full research is published in *Nature*.

DOI: 10.1038/nature10550

## The Magic of Reality

One of the most important roles of scientists is to communicate with the public and explain the results of their research. However, not many people have exceptional talent in science together with excellent transferable skills. An example of a person who does is Professor Richard Dawkins, who recently gave a lecture at the Royal Albert Hall.

The main discussion topic of the lecture was his new book, "The Magic of Reality". One book was offered to each ticket-holder of the event, though it is aimed primarily at children and young adults.

For the unenlightened, Richard Dawkins, is a British ethologist, evolutionary biologist, author of *The Selfish Gene* and *The God Delusion* and the University of Oxford's Professor for Public Understanding of Science from 1995 until 2008.

Professor Dawkins started his lecture by explaining what kind of magic he is talking about in his book. It is not the magic of fairytales or Harry Potter. It is the magic of the scientific results that explain the world.

He said that we should be sceptical when "supernatural miracles" happen and he was sarcastic with the mythical answers that people have used to explain them during the centuries; "Although science is not able to explain everything yet, the supernatural can't explain anything. Everything we can't explain is just a new science challenge. We can't understand it yet, but we are working on it". Each chapter of the book starts with one or two mythical answers about a philosophical and scientific topic and then the scientific proof is presented, which according to Dawkins is much more stunning.

The highlight of the lecture was the answer he gave to the question "Who was the very first person?". The audience was surprised when he showed a picture of a fish, saying that this was what the first "man" looked like. But then he explained that humans came about by a process called natural selection, without the need for a designer. Although each generation of the human beings looks like the previous generation, if you take two pictures that represent humans with a chronological difference of thousands of millions years, then you will clearly see the difference between them.

And that happened to all organisms that have ever lived on earth. A minor step from one generation to the following one may not be noticeable, but it contributes to a great change after millions of years.

By the end of the event, Dawkins was inspiring, saying: "Science is hard, but sometimes you need to work hard to learn the truth. We need people to appreciate science; you don't have to play an instrument to appreciate music". Personally, I believe that the "Magic of Reality" can indeed help you appreciate science and learn something more.

Anastasia Eleftheriou

# Why we allow fear to take control

Maya Kaushik

It was a dark, misty, eerie night this Halloween. I was walking alone through a deserted, narrow street in London. The sound of footsteps behind me made me start. I stopped and listened. The noise stopped. I carried on walking. The footsteps started again. All my senses were heightened. I began to wonder if someone was in the dark behind me. The footsteps got nearer. My heart started racing, palms started sweating. The footsteps got louder. Fear took over and I started looking for somewhere to run, to hide, to get away.

What I was experiencing at this moment is fear related to an unusual exter-

nal event. This is also known as 'phobic anxiety'. Phobic anxiety developed in us as prey animals, as a means to respond to predators in the vicinity that may be threatening our lives.

The neurobiology behind phobic anxiety is complex. Studies in rats have shown that exposure to the odour of a cat, which generates a phobic anxiety response, causes various changes in the rat's physiology. Corticosterone (analogous to human cortisol) levels increase and turnover rates of dopamine, serotonin, noradrenaline and GABA in various brain regions are altered. The anxiety created by exposure to cat odour (for a rat), or exposure to the eerie stranger that may have been following me above, comes in the form of a sudden fear and

sudden arousal of the nervous system. This phobic anxiety developed in us to allow us to respond to a sudden change in our environment.

Now most people can understand feeling anxious when walking down a dark alley alone and hearing footsteps behind you. On the other hand, some people are constant worriers. I have friends who constantly stress and worry about everything: whether they offended their neighbour in halls, whether they have enough money on their oyster card, whether they've done enough reading for tomorrow's lecture. This form of anxiety can be termed 'generalised anxiety'. Again neurotransmitters and hormones such as corticosteroids, dopamine, serotonin, noradrenaline

and GABA are involved; however with this form of anxiety their patterns of release and uptake are different. Generalised anxiety has a slightly different evolutionary purpose. In prey animals, it stops them from entering unfamiliar, open spaces, where they might be likely to encounter a predator. It stops them from feeding on foods that may be toxic. Generalised anxiety is often something which doesn't change too much within the individual over time — you're either generally a worrier or you're generally pretty chilled out.

So next time you're worrying about life, or clutching your pillow watching 'Scream', just remember that there are some pretty interesting evolutionary reasons behind what you're feeling.

**In brief****Flood tolerant crops may be closer than we think**

Identification of the genetic control mechanism by which plants detect low oxygen levels could lead to the production of flood tolerant crops.

A team at Nottingham University have discovered the genetic pathway governing how plants respond to waterlogging. This pathway controls key proteins which become more stable as oxygen levels drop. Michael Holdsworth, Professor of Crop Science explains: "their stability results in changes in gene expression and metabolism that enhance survival in low oxygen conditions".

It is hoped that genetic engineering can be used to manipulate this pathway, improving plants ability to cope with waterlogging.

With climate change predicting an increase in the frequency of flooding, genetic engineering is likely to become a key player in ensuring global food security.

Lucy van Dorp



Flooding is bad news for crops

**Confused by DOIs?**

DOI stands for digital object identifier. A DOI will help you find the journal article a science news story is based on.

Just type <http://dx.doi.org/> into the URL bar and add the DOI to the end. For example: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1038/nature10550> will take you straight to the Nature letter about the dwarf planet Eris. Alternatively go to <http://dx.doi.org/> and put the DOI into the search box on that site.

Or, if you're feeling lazy, Googling the DOI usually works too...

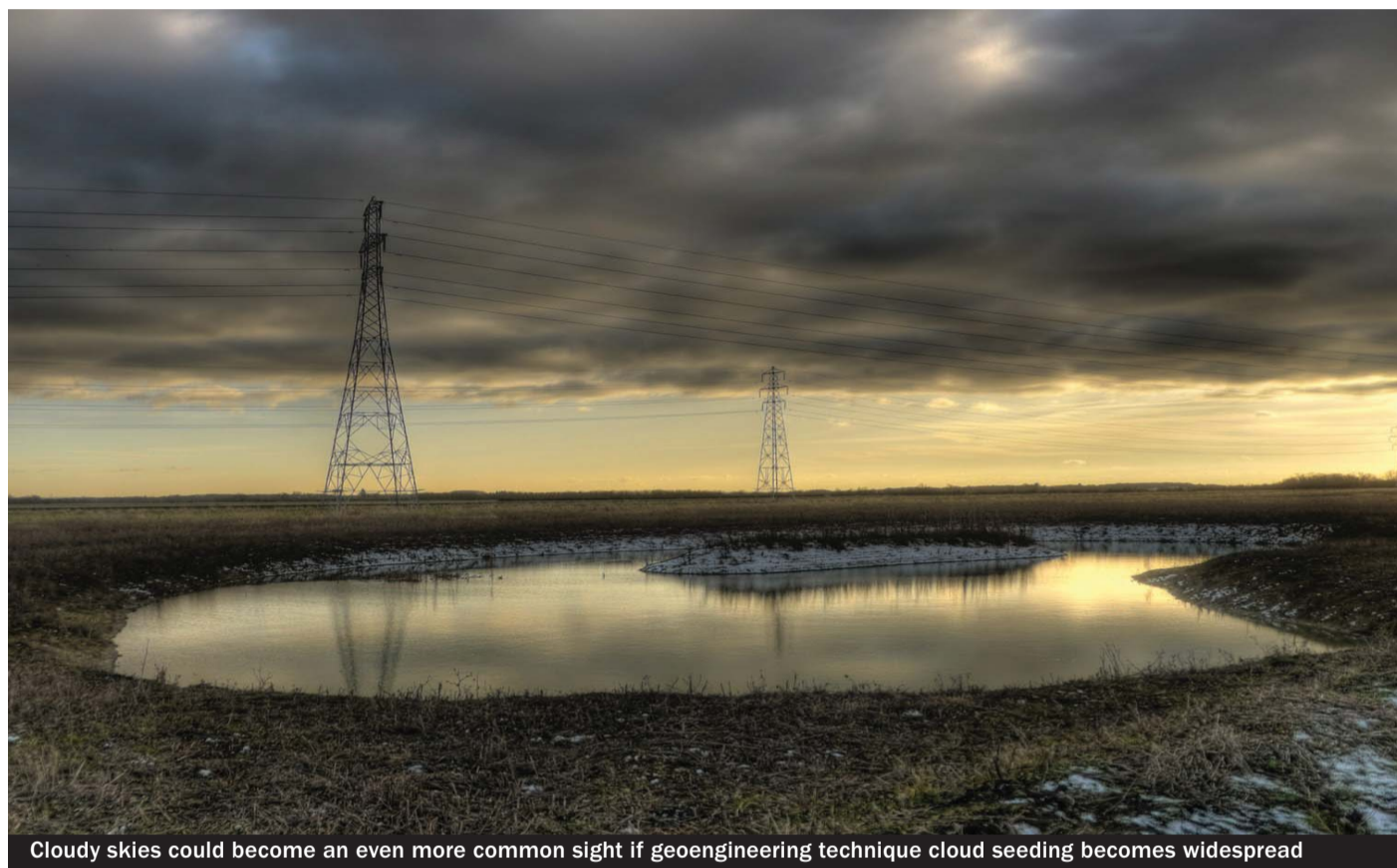
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**Do the public trust scientists?**

Antonio Torrasi reports on a study of attitudes towards geoengineering



Cloudy skies could become an even more common sight if geoengineering technique cloud seeding becomes widespread

On the 14th of September of this year, at the British Science Festival in the University of Bradford, was presented the seemingly awkward project called SPICE (Stratospheric Particle Injection for Climate Engineering) led by UK scientists. The basic idea is to suspend a huge balloon one kilometre up in the stratosphere which would then pump out tap water out to produce artificial rain. This would lead to an abatement of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere and reduce the effects of global warming.

The project is an example of research by the developing discipline called 'geo-engineering' or 'climate engineering', in which technologies, such as 'cloud seeding' or solar radiation management (SRM) would be used to counteract the effect of global warming on the planet.

Dr Matt Watson from the University of Bristol, leading the SPICE project said: "This is a controversial and potentially alarming subject". The word "alarming" implicitly refers to public perception, but this time it seems that not all of the scientists' usual assumptions are 'elementary, my dear Watson'.

An international survey conducted in November and December 2010 by the University of Calgary, Simon Fraser University (Canada) and Harvard University (US) found that the public's understanding of the field of climate engineering is unexpectedly high and that there is significant support from the public to explore the potential of SRM technologies in grappling with global warming. The

internet-based survey involved about 3,000 people from different cultural and economical background in Canada, US and UK. The results were published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*.

People answered 18 questions grouped into five sections which, respectively, aimed to assess their knowledge of: "geo-engineering" or "climate engineering" terms, the indices of global warming belief and technological optimism, the technical information about SRM, the perception about its potential use to reduce global warming and to understand the geographical provenience and cultural background of the participants. The questionnaire was first performed without allowing the public to obtain any information about geo-engineering, and was repeated a second time after providing as neutral as possible technical information about the subject.

Interestingly, the survey revealed that while there is general confusion about the term 'geo-engineering' (only 8% of participants could correctly defined it, the others often mistakenly associating it to geotechnical and environmental engineering) the public understanding of 'climate engineering' is generally much higher (45%).

Regarding the controversy about the potential use of SRM technologies in combating global warming, two distinct groups, supporters (about 29%) and detractors (20%), appeared together with a considerable number of the uncertain participants (25%).

The supporters strongly believed that global warming is an ongoing serious issue and trust the scientists studying and applying

SRM techniques to tackle the problem. After a more detailed explanation of the potential risks of SRM techniques, such as slow recovery of ozone layer, the number of supporters in favor of its immediate use decreased, but they still supported the study of the technology for future applications. On the contrary, detractors were much more skeptical that global warming was an issue and believed that humans should not manipulate nature in this way.

While the percentage of supporters were equally distributed among the three countries, detractors appear to be more present in US. Ideological and political views do not seem to determine into which group a participant falls. Environmentalists and political conservatives were equally distributed in two groups.

It is noteworthy that all participants said we should rely more on future information about benefits and risks coming from scientists at research centers and academics, rather than from federal governments.

"I think this is the first in line of many studies that will show that SRM intersects with people's political and environmental attitudes in surprising ways" says Ashley Mercer, lead author of the study.

The perception of risk will likely play a central role in the debate about the use of SRM to reduce global warming, but this survey shows that the public are aware of what scientists are doing and support them more than the scientists might expect.

# Malaria vaccine enters phase III trials

Sophia David

A malaria vaccine candidate called RTS,S has been raising a stir within the health industry since the pharmaceutical giant, Glaxo-Smith Kline, announced highly promising results in its on-going phase III trials in Africa. Whilst it is unwise to declare success too soon, it is hoped that these early results may mark the beginning of the greatest breakthrough in malarial control yet.

Malaria represents one of the world's most pressing public health problems, killing nearly 800,000 people every year, mostly children in Africa, and development of a vaccine is an urgent need. After decades of failed vaccine attempts, it is seeming increasingly likely that RTS,S will become our first approved vaccine against this debilitating, parasitic disease.

The first results from the on-going trial, in which over 15,000 children are enrolled, show that RTS,S reduces the risk of malaria by half in children aged five to seventeen months. Crucially, the vaccine showed no significant side-effects and can be administered safely along with other childhood vaccines. However, information regarding the longer-term protective effects of the vaccine will not be available until the end of

2014, 30 months after the children have received their third dose of the vaccine.

A vaccine is an essential tool in reducing the burden of malaria since the causative agent, a protozoan parasite called *Falciparum*, regularly develops resistance to drugs, making some cases untreatable. Antimalarial drugs are also very expensive and often unavailable in many developing African countries. Mosquitoes similarly develop resistance to insecticides, decreasing the efficacy of bednets and indoor spraying. Throughout history, vaccines have also proven to be highly cost-effective and powerful ways of preventing morbidity and mortality from disease, allowing for the eradication of smallpox and very near-eradication of poliomyelitis. It is likely that even a modestly efficacious malaria vaccine would prevent hundreds of thousands of cases of the disease every year.

Contrary to many vaccines such as those for the polio and influenza viruses, which were relatively simple to develop and available many decades ago, the development of a malaria vaccine has been a long and tortuous process.

The most significant challenge that scientists face is a lack of understanding of the immune responses associated with protection against the disease. Since the function of a vaccine is to

elicit a long-lasting, protective immune response against a specific pathogen, it does not help in this case that scientists do not know what type of response they should be aiming for.

RTS,S is designed to trigger the immune system to defend against *Plasmodium*, the parasite that causes malaria, when it first enters the human host's bloodstream (after a mosquito bite) and when the parasite infects liver cells. It aims to prevent the parasite from infecting, maturing and multiplying in the liver, as well as from re-entering the bloodstream and infecting red blood cells, at which point the affected person, normally, would begin to show symptoms.

For now, the scientific community is waiting on edge for these late-stage safety and efficacy trials to be completed, but the World Health Organisation has indicated that a policy recommendation for the RTS,S vaccine is possible as early as 2015. However, there are concerns about the affordability of the vaccine and some health experts point out that RTS,S is not as effective as other common vaccines. Nevertheless, there are many reasons to be optimistic about the advent of such an important weapon to fight malaria and hopeful that this disease may be eradicated in the not so distant future.



I'm afraid there were no cute pictures of mosquitoes...

# Gene therapy could be cure for blindness

Farhan Abdullah

A clinical trial involving an incurable type of blindness has been carried out by a collaboration of researchers from Imperial College London and Oxford University. At the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, Jonathan Wyatt, 63, from Bristol became the first person to receive gene therapy for blindness.

He and the other 11 patients who were involved in the clinical trial, were all sufferers of Choroideremia, a type of disease, which causes progressive loss of vision and eventually blindness. It is a rare inherited disease caused by a deficiency of the REP-1 gene on the X chromosome, making it more common in men than women. Estimates suggest 100,000 people worldwide are affected with this disease.

People who are diagnosed with Choroideremia usually suffer from loss of vision, acuity, colour and depth perception, as well as severe night blindness as the disease progresses throughout their life. The first symptom is usually night



A virus carrying modified DNA is injected into the patient's eye - luckily for you, we don't have a picture of that

blindness noticed during childhood. As time goes by, the sufferer's retina falls apart and eventually blindness takes over. The clinical trial could restore hope in all Choroideremia sufferers.

The gene therapy was designed to restore the missing gene on the X chromosome to stop the retina from deteriorat-

ing. The treatment comes in the form of a virus that carries the DNA with the missing gene. It is injected into the eye of the patient and is engineered to target the photoreceptor in the retina. At this site, the gene will be delivered, switched on and activated. It is thought that the gene can reside in the retinal

cells indefinitely once it has been delivered, hopefully making it permanent.

Professor Miguel Seabra of the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College, who was involved in the trial, expressed his gratitude towards the individuals that have had a big influence on the development of the treatment. He

said that this trial only became possible when some of the affected families and private charities raised funds for the research.

Professor Seabra and Dr Tanya Tolmachova of Imperial lead much of the preclinical work. They identified the gene that caused Choroideremia and built a mouse model to gain preclinical data necessary for the trial to be carried out.

The 12 patients involved will undergo surgery in order for the gene to be delivered through the virus. Only one eye will be involved in the gene therapy, as the other eye will be used as the control to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatments.

However, the researchers said that they would repeat the treatment with the second eye if it is shown to be effective. It is estimated that it will take up to 2 years to assess the effectiveness of the treatment.

If it is proven to be successful, then this will be the first-ever treatment for the disease.

# TECHNOLOGY

## Tips & Hacks

### Booming sound in your pocket



Scosche's boomCAN is a small, portable speaker that promises big sound at a low price. It certainly does deliver booming sound – this thing gets loud. Even with your music on a quiet volume the boomCAN packs quite a punch. The price tag meets requirements too, as it costs only £20. It's a well-built little thing too – the build quality seems good – and you get a travel pouch to protect the aluminium body. The internal battery is meant to last up to seven hours of playback, so it should last for a trip out – which is where I see this speaker being used. The only problem is with the quality at higher volumes – at the end of the day this is a cheap speaker, and you can tell when you turn it up. You can buy a second boomCAN to get proper stereo sound, but at £40 you can probably get something of slightly higher quality. However, for a budget speaker that turns it up to 11, the boomCAN is recommended.

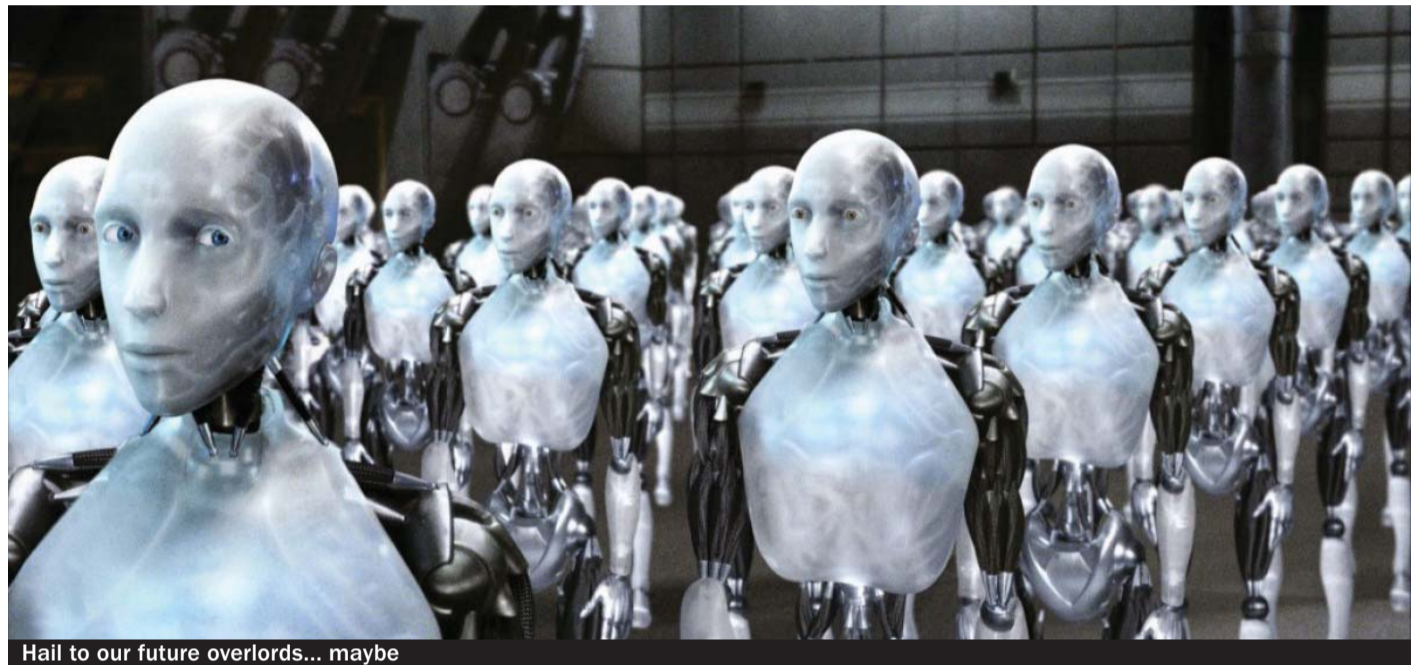


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# What does the future hold?

Chris Bowers tells of his predictions for fifty years' time



Hail to our future overlords... maybe

**A**h, Issue 1500 is here. While some of my fellow editors may be getting nostalgic, technology and history don't seem to get along. Technology and the future, on the other hand? Well, everyone sees them as going hand-in-hand. So we've decided to jump 1500 issues into the future – approximately fifty years – and look at what the world of computers, gadgets and electronics might look like in Issue 3000 of Felix.

Of course, when we think of technology in the future, some questions immediately spring to mind – will robots rule the world? Will we be able to teleport instantly from one place to another? Probably not. While that's quite a shame for the latter, a lot can happen in technology in fifty years. If we went back in time just a decade and told them what technology was like today, they probably wouldn't believe us. That's the sort of growth we're looking at. So what do I think we might be talking about in these very pages half a century from now?

**“Some questions spring to mind - will robots rule the world?”**

I want to see the digital home. Let me paint you a picture: you get to your front door, grab the handle and it unlocks. Forget keys, forget swipe cards, forget even retina scanners; your door unlocks based on instant DNA analysis. Just inside, a notification on a touchscreen lets you know you got post today. Individually, you can read each item of post, delete it, or even send it off to the computer in some other room. Then you can deal with that item

of post when and where you're ready.

That sort of interconnectivity should be present in everybody's homes. Say you're sitting at your desk and you suddenly remember you need milk. You'd simply access the fridge from your computer and tell it you need milk – then the fridge will automatically add it to your next food shop. Even more than that, let's say while you've been out you've worked on some files on your phone or laptop. As your device enters your personal Wi-Fi network, those files will automatically be distributed to all your home devices. The whole house should be connected so you can work on anything, anywhere.

Perhaps we can even go a step further than that, and remove the need for multiple devices altogether. If we can really harness the potential of graphene, I'd love to see a true all-in-one device. Somewhat akin to a recent Sky advert, imagine an edge-to-edge touchscreen phone. But when you sit down on the train, you literally unfold your device into a tablet with twice or even four times the screen space. At its most unfolded it could be used with a wireless keyboard and mouse to create a desktop, or even just attached to the wall to act as a television. That would be truly mobile computing.

Moving slightly away from the world of devices, I would like to see augmented reality a part of everyday life in fifty years. The technology will hopefully have moved out of ugly goggles and outstretched smartphones and into contact lenses or our everyday glasses. With that accessibility issue sorted, and the inevitable processing power increases that will enable all these gadgets, augmented reality can really prosper.

More than just overlaying buildings with their names, we should be looking at personal and contextual information. Our augmented reality gear should interact with our calendars,

our smartphones, and even have a degree of intelligence. Consider my earlier example of the digital home – if you marked your milk as an urgent purchase, your gear will be alerted of this. When you leave the house, a computer in your house will have found out which local shop has your preferred milk for the cheapest price, and you'll have the option of being led to it, overlaid on your vision.

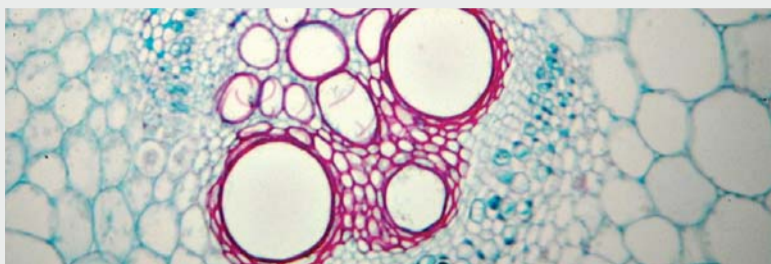
Perhaps though, you left home to attend an important meeting, and are following the visual guides to get you there instead. On the way back your route could be altered slightly to get your milk, and perhaps your eyepiece will even recommend a new restaurant for dinner based on where you've previously eaten. As long as all of this is helpful and done unobtrusively, there are so many possibilities for augmented reality, especially given fifty years of development.

In fact, helpful and unobtrusive need to apply to all our future technologies. As technology inevitably becomes more and more ingrained in our everyday lives, the last thing we want is for it to get in the way. Technology should be and needs to be a convenience. With that in mind, we will hopefully be seeing huge advances in the next fifty years in new technologies that make our everyday lives that much easier, and hopefully more enjoyable.

This does beg the question, though, of whether or not everything I've described in this article can happen in the timespan of half a century. Based on the history of technology, and how quickly the field has burst through innovation after innovation – I don't see why not. Of course, only time will tell. But as we are being speculative, one person's thoughts and predictions aren't enough. So, take a look across the page, where some other people look at what they think we might be seeing in Issue 3000 of Felix...

# TECHNOLOGY

## Douglas Heaven sees programmable cells, not silicon chips



Is this what we'll be coding for in the future?

There's a lot of speculation about where the future of computing lies. Quantum computers and qubits promise to open up computational problems that are unfeasible using bits alone; nanotech materials

such as graphene look set to change the fundamentals of computer hardware, replacing silicon as the basis for chip design; and electrons might give way to photons as we strive for higher speeds and bandwidth via optical pro-

cessors. But perhaps strangest of all is the future envisioned by the fledgling field of computational biology, which aims to make computational devices out of living cells.

Studying how cells process information could help with understanding life itself. Last year, the genome entrepreneur, Craig Venter, famously made the first synthetic cell by copying the genetic code of one species of bacteria and inserting it into another – prompting many questions, quite literally, about the meaning of life. However, swapping around an existing DNA sequence – or biological program – only goes so far. What if we

were to specify arbitrary functionality for cells – or, in other words, write our own biological programs?

That's just what ex-Imperial student Andrew Phillips is working on. Phillips, who now heads the Biological Computation group at Microsoft Research Cambridge, was recently named one of the world's top innovators under the age of 35 by Technology Review for his research into programming biology. Typically, synthetic biology involves low-level tinkering and the manipulation of DNA strands directly. By developing a programming language that compiles to DNA sequences instead of machine

code, Phillips allows cell behaviour to be specified at a high level of abstraction, making it easier to design biological programs from scratch.

According to Phillips, through collaboration with experts in programming languages, biologists, neuroscientists, and even ecologists, his group at Microsoft Research has “the scope to research and develop what might become the key technologies of the next decade or the decade after that. It's possible that programming biology may one day surpass the world of programming silicon”.

## Smartphones must improve, says Abhimanyu Chugh

Have you ever had your phone die when you least expected it? Have you ever forgotten to charge your phone the night before only to find out later you forgot to take your charger with you? Or realised you can't use your phone for its primary purpose after too much Angry Birds or surfing on the tube? I know I have. This is one thing that I really hope smartphones overcome in the future. Personally, I am tired of having to charge my phone every night, sometimes even multiple times in a day. It's about time we saw some innovation in the battery

department.

Another feature I would love to see in future smartphones is seamless integration with other technology. The devices should follow same international standards across all platforms, not their own proprietary rubbish. This has the benefit of multiple devices cooperating effortlessly with the touch of a few buttons, without worrying about compatibility.

Additionally, smartphones could improve on their form factor. It's difficult to find a phone that truly suits you, or one that adapts to user's needs. Wouldn't it be cool to have a foldable smartphone, which can

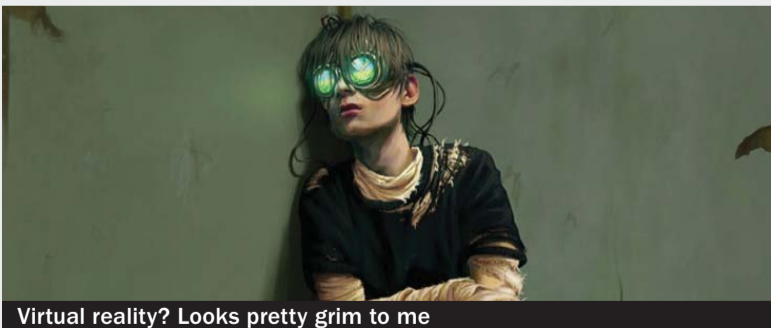
be expanded for a perfect browsing experience or compacted to facilitate calling, a smartphone/tablet hybrid? Perhaps even a hidden keyboard to make typing even easier, without having to use the on-screen keyboard and having your messages autocorrected to the point where they make no sense?

Finally, the possibility of waterproof smartphones is something I'm sure we could all appreciate. Having experienced the porosity of smartphones first hand, I know the anguish that follows the constant failed attempts at reviving your precious phone.



Folding might be the way forward. Design by Christian Ulrich Larsen

## Simon Worthington thinks virtual reality is the next game-changer



Virtual reality? Looks pretty grim to me

One technology that always seems so tantalisingly close and yet simultaneously so far is virtual reality – where a computer-generated environment can be walked

around in and interacted with as if it were real. I'm waiting for one better than that; namely, *total immersion*.

Think 'The Matrix' – people don't just stand in a booth with some funny goggles on, rather the signals to their brain are controlled directly by the computer to simulate sight, sound and the other senses to boot.

Although this may sound like some eyebrow-raising science fiction, medical scientists are in fact already getting stuck into to messing with the brain's electronic signals, in the form of devices known as “brain-computer interfaces”. As recently as last year doctors at Tuebingen University in Germany were able to restore the sight of a blind man by implanting a vision chip (like

in a digital camera) into his eye and feeding the electric signals directly into his brain. The lucky guy went from no vision to be able to tell apart objects at the flick of a switch. It won't be long before this sort of (hopefully less Frankenstein-esque) technology might be able to provide simulated senses, instead of restoring them.

But when it does happen, virtual reality raises ethical problems on a grand scale. Questions about whether it's wrong to allow computers to simulate pain through these methods, whether it's okay to give up your life in the real world to live

almost fully in the virtual one (imagine a virtual reality that lets you do what you want whenever you want – would there be any point living in the real world when a place like that exists), and what the implications are for privacy and mind-control all need to be answered before humanity is ready for life in a virtual world.

But before that happens, total immersion virtual reality should be frickin' sweet, with video games and computer interfaces taken to their ultimate goal. *Call of Duty 10: Virtual Warfare*, anyone?

# TECHNOLOGY

## Tips & Hacks

### IBM simulates cat cortex



Only slightly colder than the average cat

Researchers at IBM's Amalden Research Center in California have managed to simulate elements of biological cognition on a scale that exceeds a cat cortex, a step which they claim will mark 'the dawn of a new era in the scale of cortical simulations'. The work, which was carried out on a state-of-the-art Blue Gene supercomputer sporting 147,456 processors and 144TB of memory, only a few orders of magnitude away from the scope of a human cortex. This doesn't mean that IBM is only a few years away from simulating a human brain, however – while the simulation will provide an excellent insight into the dependence between various elements of the brain, it is still nowhere close to simulating the interactions between them. That is not to take anything away from the efforts of the scientists, however, as the research should provide a novel way for neuroscientists to study the brain from its building blocks.

### Be.ez LE Reporter



The Be.ez LE Reporter is a sturdy little waterproof bag, with a robust feel to it. The bag contains a decent assortment of pockets in both the main compartment and the front section to hold your peripherals and papers, and is padded well to shield them from any knocks. Despite the waterproofing, the bag doesn't zip shut, so you might want to be careful in heavy rain - it's not exactly designed for the rainforest holiday you may have had in mind. Coming in two colours (the black/orange combo pictured above or grWey/blue) the bag isn't exactly a great looker but not too much of a slouch either. Priced at circa £57 on Amazon, it's a bit more expensive than your average laptop carrier case.



## Engineering tomorrow's humanity

### Feroz Salam on the interdependence of man and machine

Every week in here at Technology, we try and peek a few weeks into the future, to tell you what might be the best new technology of the coming season or the device that you're going to be saving up for. The far future is often best left to science fiction; technological predictions about the future have a hairy way of coming back to bite you.

Despite this, looking into the future offers a tantalising glimpse into the world that we would like to see. More than ever, science is pushing the boundaries of what we thought was achievable – our relationship with the devices we have built grows ever more symbiotic, and rudimentary though the technology may be, electronics and biology can now communicate with each other. It's this combination of factors that's leading to a growing discussion of the concept of an 'augmented humanity', a Deus Ex-egsue combination of the benefits of human creative thought and raw mechanical power. Exciting and scary, definitely. Yet how real is this vision, and where are we on the road towards it? More importantly, what sort of implications does it have for us as a species? Finally, will Felix 3000 be written by cyborgs?

### Engineering our bodies

A cornerstone of this symbiosis will lie in bioengineering: getting computers to work seamlessly with our intelligence. This would mean that the distinction between man growing ever more blurry, our dependence on them and their dependence on us making any differentiation pointless. Considering how much electronics drive our everyday lives even today, it's hard not to see this happening.

Despite this, we still see computers around us as disparate objects, subordinates regardless of our keen dependence on them to maintain our living standards. Bioengineering might change that dynamic, should its current breakneck rate of progress continue (bioengi-

neering research is currently one of the fastest growing scientific fields, with CNN ranking it the number one field for job growth in the next ten years). One key focus of bioengineering research revolves around human biological enhancement and brain-computer interfacing, two topics that were until recently the preserve of science fiction.

Brain-computer interfacing is defined as a direct pathway between the brain and an external device (using invasive surgery, MRI or EEG). Given the complexity of the work they carry out, the progress made by bioengineering labs over the last twenty years is truly amazing. Cochlear implants (a surgically implanted device that can give a sense of sound to the profoundly deaf) have a history almost as old as the field, and have shrunk from being bulky, painful and risky to being 'totally implantable' devices that interact with the brain without the help of any external interface.

In addition, work being done on replacement prostheses for those who have lost limbs has garnered a lot of attention in the media due to the remarkable dexterity that they offer wearers; those who have lost entire hands are suddenly able to manipulate individual bionic fingers simply by the power of thought. Making this work is a complicated dance of the sciences – materials that have to be lightweight and durable, electronics that have to be miniaturised without losing reliability and complex machine learning algorithms that have to work on a processor that's probably your mobile phone's poorer cousin.

### From the lab to our hands

Moving from the current state of affairs to the imagined state of singularity of man and machine, however, means taking these devices to an entirely new level of functionality. Most of today's implants are rough around the edges and largely dependent on bulky external power sources. A truly augmented humanity is a long way away – where will we be in 50 years

time? If current research is any indication, not too far away from the vision. Recently, a study by Berkeley researchers showed that patterns generated by monitoring brain activity of people watching videos could be used to create a fairly accurate reconstruction of what they were watching (think dream-recording). The potential for this technology, when improved, is massive. Storing your thoughts right from source could prove the best dictaphone imaginable, and could allow us to tap into and transfer images from the most realistic cameras we have: our eyes.

From the intangible back to the firmly physical, further research in materials and optimizations to existing prosthetics is slowly bringing us commercial 'exoskeletons', mechanical frameworks that can be worn over the body and provide incredible amounts of extra power, essentially an Iron Man suit for the real world. First practical trials of these skeletons in the American military are expected in 5-10 years. 50 years will probably see these devices coming out for the mass-market, helping us with everyday lifting, moving and general endurance.

Looking towards the past is always a fairly good indicator of what we can expect from the future. 50 years ago saw the first prototype of what we would come to call the internet and the first demonstration of the computer mouse. This decade has seen the first practical demonstrations of brain-computer interfaces and mightily powerful prosthetics that can extend the reach and power of both the human mind and the body. Most predictions expect singularity in the 21st century, and this doesn't seem too idealistic. If you are still in doubt, take a look at the world around you. In a world where we have to debate whether a disabled runner with a prosthetic leg has too much of an advantage over able-bodied sprinters, the boundaries between man and machine are far smaller than you would imagine. Felix 3000 won't see the rise of the machines, but it will probably see us forgetting that we feared them in the first place.

## TECHNOLOGY

# The next iteration of Android's future

Adam Forsyth looks in-depth at Ice Cream Sandwich and its new flagship device

A fortnight ago saw Google team up with Samsung for the much anticipated launch of the latest iteration of Android, its popular smartphone OS, alongside the Galaxy Nexus, the latest and greatest Google branded hardware to run it on. Held in Hong Kong, the keynote swiftly began with Samsung taking to the stage to discuss the Galaxy Nexus. It's not the first time the two companies have partnered together to release a smartphone, as last year they unveiled the Nexus S.

## The hardware

With new, improving Android phones hitting the market all the time alongside fierce competition from Apple, this left us wondering what new features Google and Samsung had up their sleeves. Unlike Apple, they've opted for a slight redesign for their new device. Also, keeping in line with the trends in Android phones, they have increased the screen size to a whopping 4.65". Unfortunately, the display is only a Super AMOLED screen, instead of Super AMOLED plus. This essentially means that – despite what Samsung say – its colour rendition and effective pixel density are not as good as other phones on the market. For example, Samsung's very own Galaxy S II and Apple's iPhone both have better displays.

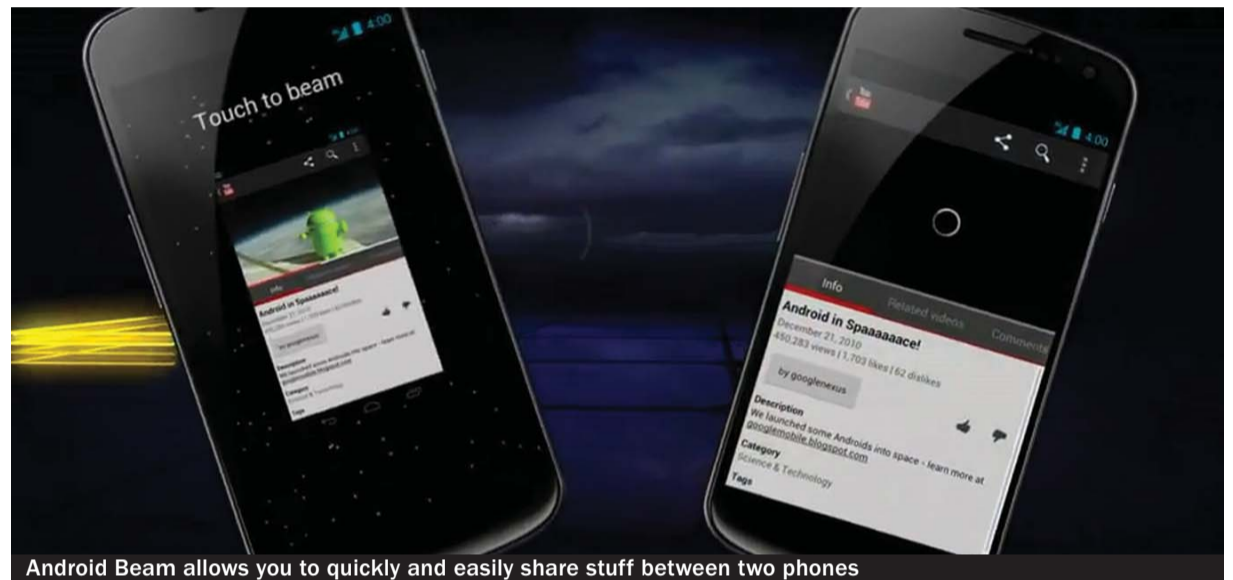
Whilst this may disappoint some, the colour distortion is only minor, and since it occurs across the whole screen it isn't particularly noticeable. Furthermore, as it has long been a known prob-

lem for screens of this type, it is often corrected to a certain degree on the software end. Another issue however, is that some people may think the screen size will make the phone too big. To sidestep this, Samsung have decreased the bezel surrounding the screen such that the increase in dimensions is not major when compared to its predecessor. Another plus is the decrease in thickness, and overall the phone is still quite light at 135 grams (only 5 grams heavier than the Nexus S).

Among the most impressive features of the Galaxy Nexus is the increase in performance. Featuring a 1.2GHz dual-core processor alongside 1GB of RAM, this super-phone is more than capable of handling anything Google have thrown at it with ICS. Another improvement is a larger battery, although this may not lead to longer battery life due to the increased power consumption of the larger screen and new processor. Whilst the camera may be criticised by many for lacking megapixels compared to the current market, Samsung have promised a better sensor enabling 1080p video recording, ensuring that every one of those five million pixels counts.

## The software

In the true style of any good meal, after Samsung had finished discussing the hardware that was the main course, Google took to the stage for the sweet dessert. This was exciting stuff, as Ice Cream Sandwich has been hotly anticipated as the release that will integrate the two separate streams of the OS for



Android Beam allows you to quickly and easily share stuff between two phones

smartphones and tablets. Right at the core of the update is a UI overhaul. Citing the all too familiar words that user friendliness is key in any phone OS, Google went on to explain their motivations behind some of the changes.

Essentially, they've gone for a futuristic style theme, rather than making parts of the UI resemble real materials, like wood. At the heart of this is 'Roboto', a new font that has been designed to make reading much easier on a screen. Interestingly, the inspiration for this change comes from the way that text appears in magazines. Indeed, this style is also apparent in the layout of content, with more emphasis on widgets, that are not only easier to find but can now also be re-sized.

After Apple borrowed a feature or two from Android when it comes to notifications, it seems Google are returning the favour, as the whole notifications bar can also be accessed from the lock screen. This means users can unlock straight to their app and dismiss notifications individually using an intuitive swipe gesture. This gesture is also used in the new multi-tasking interface that allows users to review and dismiss currently running apps they don't need anymore. Further to additional control over applications, Google also seem to be pushing for transparency with users now able to view rich graphs detailing data usage for each application in settings. This will be a welcome feature for many, especially those who have a usage cap on their data allowance and are concerned about how much of their precious data apps are using.

Keeping in line with the changes brought in for Honeycomb (the previous version of Android exclusively for tablets), Ice Cream Sandwich provides

support software buttons for home, back, etc. that rotate with the phone's orientation. This is well suited to many of the latest Android phones given their larger screens, however it may be a drawback on the cheaper devices with much smaller screens.

## Brand new features

Anyone who uses their phone to take a lot of pictures will be impressed with the improvements to the camera app in ICS. Like in iOS 5, it can be accessed directly from the lock screen and is capable of taking photos instantaneously. A drawback of this is that photos can be unfocused. However, that should be a worthy trade-off if it means capturing those unmissable moments. Also new is the new panorama feature, enabling rich widescreen shots that will be enormously useful when on holiday, sightseeing those gorgeous landscapes.

A hardware feature that the Galaxy Nexus shares with its predecessor is a Near Field Communications (NFC) chip. However, when the Nexus S was released, there wasn't much to use it with, and we haven't even got Google Wallet – their contactless payment system – over here yet. In ICS though, is Android Beam, a feature that enables content sharing phone-to-phone using NFC. Whilst sharing items has long been available to phones, via Bluetooth or other means, Android Beam does make it a lot easier, with users simply needing to touch their phones. They will then be offered the opportunity to 'Beam' their item across, be it a URL or a map location, to name just two.

Requiring a passcode or a drawable pattern to unlock your phone has long

been a feature in Android. Whether it be to protect personal data or prevent a sneaky friend from messing around on your phone, it's a useful feature. However there has always been a concern that someone looking over your shoulder could see you type your passcode or draw your pattern, not to mention the additional hassle it adds. Google have identified a way to side-step these issues by using the front facing camera and facial recognition software to identify who you are. Appropriately called Face Unlock, this new feature is, so far, exclusive to Android and certainly a USP. Critics may question both how effective it is in recognising your face and how secure it is (i.e. whether or not it will unlock the phone to anyone who looks similar). However, these will not be concerns for any users who just want a light level of security that allows them quick and easy access to their phone.

## Wrap-up

All in all, the changes ICS brings to Android are welcome and do offer a competitive alternative to consumers from other platforms in the smartphone industry. Whilst the Galaxy Nexus may not be the best Android phone on the hardware front, one distinct advantage is that it runs an unaltered version of ICS. Essentially this means that it will always be easier to update the phone with the latest software, soon after it is released by Google. No more dependence on the whim of the phone's manufacturer, whenever they are able to integrate the update with their skinned version of Android. Together, the marriage of hardware and software makes the phone one mean machine.



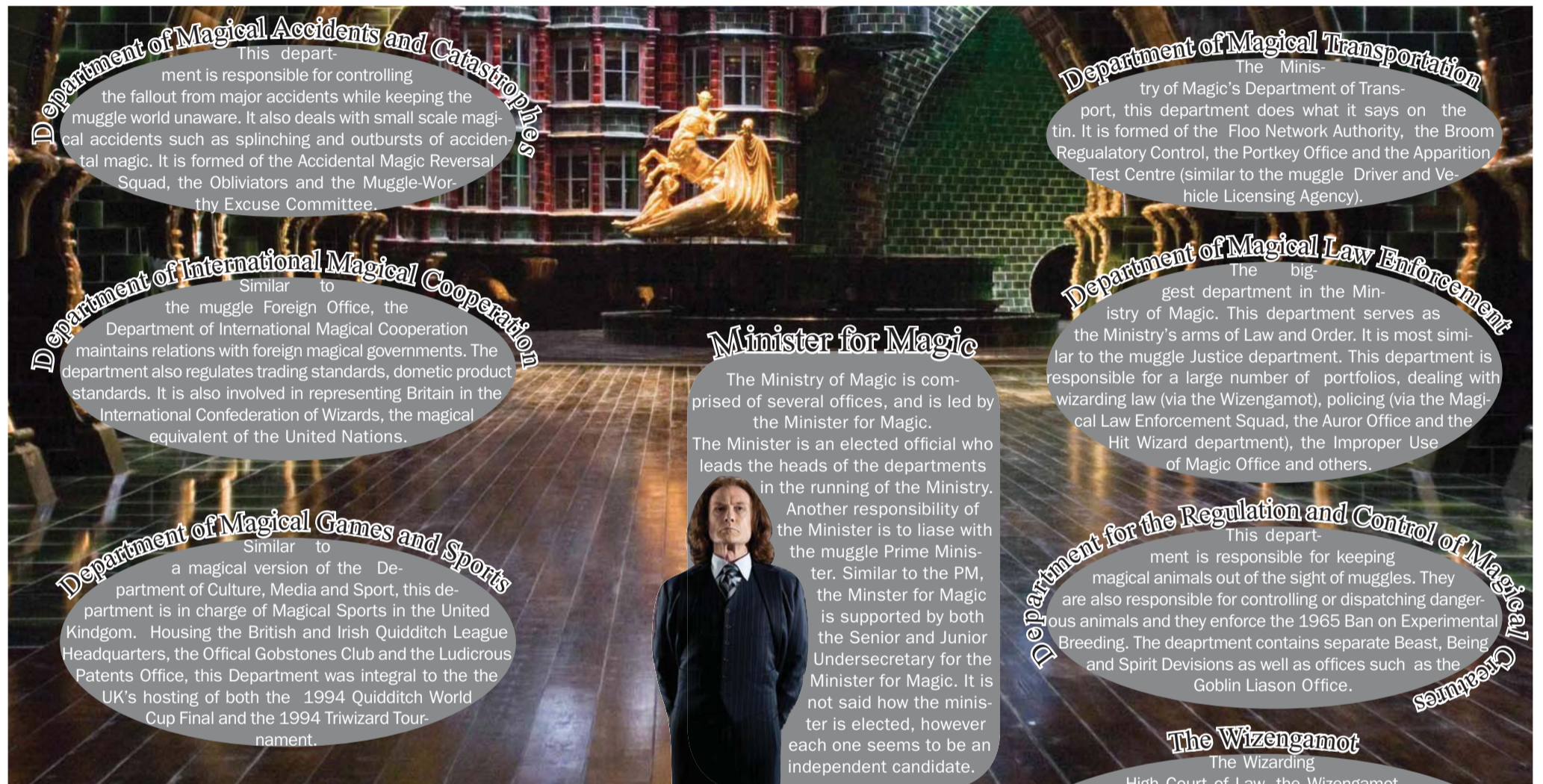
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# POLITICS

## The Politics behind the wand

Joseph Letts welcomes you to the Ministry of Magic...



With Halloween having passed uneventfully last week, in the absence of reports about legions of zombies laying waste to our towns and cities, we present you the Felix Politics Guide to the Ministry of Magic from the Harry Potter Series.

### The Ministry of Magic

The British Ministry of Magic is the government responsible for every magical being in the UK. It is led by an elected Minister for Magic who is served by several heads of department. The Ministry seems to be much smaller than the muggle government, with the departments sharing 10 floors in the building.

In the books, the Ministry is presented in various lights. We meet some Ministry employees who seem to be very competent, like the incumbent Minister for Magic Kingsley Shacklebolt, who we first meet as a distinguished Auror and member of the Order of the Phoenix. We also meet Arthur Weasley, a humble hard working civil servant who has been

assigned to the small and little respected Misuse of Muggle Artefacts Office. He represents a man who is above scheming and office politics, yet suffers with a lack of career progression. Finally we meet characters such as former Minister Cornelius Fudge, a man who seems to have to sole ambition to stay in power at all costs. The Ministry of Magic is generally seen as corrupt, often using it's strong Berlusconi-esque influence on the *Daily Prophet* (Britain's most popular wizarding newspaper) to spread propaganda or discredit it's opponents.

The Ministry has suffered from several scandals in recent years, including poor security with its most secure department being easily broken into by six schoolchildren and also several terrorists. Also, under the reign of Cornelius Fudge the Ministry of Magic instigated a draconian crackdown on the staff and students of Hogwarts School with Fudge fearing that the school's Headmaster was after his job. Incompetence and little regard for evidence also leads to the Ministry falsely imprisoning several people, from Sirius Black, a man sent to Azkaban prison without a trial, to Stan Shunpike who was imprisoned during the second war against Voldemort to inspire

confidence in the Ministry by the public.

### The Minister for Magic

In the Harry Potter Universe we meet several Ministers for Magic with different traits. We first meet Minister Cornelius Fudge, a man most concerned with keeping the public happy, often at the cost of the truth. He happily uses his power as Minister for Magic to discredit both Harry Potter and Headmaster Albus Dumbledore who claim that Dark Lord Voldemort and his terrorist group the Death Eaters have returned to destabilize society. Fearing the truth he uses his influence over the media and political power to slander them, while also removing Dumbledore's official positions. He is also happy to accept bribes and suggestions from rich socialite Lucius Malfoy, a man whose influence in the Ministry of Magic resembles the power of Rupert Murdoch. The second Minister we meet is Minister Rufus Scrimgeour, a former head of the Auror Office. Minister Scrimgeour also misled the public, using the media to pretend the Ministry was making significant progress in the war against Voldemort.

He is not morally corrupt, however his appeasing of the people and lack of strategic decision-making allowed the Death Eaters to infiltrate and take over the government, ending with his assassination.

The third Minister we meet is Minister Kingsley Shacklebolt, a supporter of Harry Potter and a man seeming unentangled with corruption or desperation. He is elected at the end of the war against Voldemort and signifies change in government and an end to corruption with more success than President Obama.

### Conclusion

It is somewhat reassuring or alarming to see that whether in fiction or the real world, we can still be confident that some things stay the same. There are many further issues in the Harry Potter series to discuss, including racial segregation (wizards vs. animals, wizards vs. muggles), discrimination (pure-bloods vs. muggleborns) and the media to name but a few, but I do hope that this small article has brought a happy end to a slightly scary week.



# The Privatisation of Universities

## How the coalition plans to change higher education

**Luke Sheldon**

Even though neither of the two parties in power mentioned drastic transformation of our higher education system in their manifestos the white paper published this summer, 'Higher Education: Putting students at the Heart of the System', proposes this. The raising of tuition fees, which also held no voter mandate, and the 80% cut in central education funding has given the government an opportunity to cause drastic changes to the ethic at the heart of our education system. As the funding for higher education will now mainly be coming from student debt, not the debt of the government (a simple treasury trick to reduce the deficit), the white paper uses this to turn students into consumers and privatise our education.

The white paper mentions the fees increase as being an opportunity to introduce competition into the higher education. This competition is treated as a necessity as the white paper implies that universities are inefficient and therefore they need to be whipped into shape by cutting their "dependency on the government". Due to the cuts to the central funding

only fees above £7,500-£8,000 will hope to re-coup the current funding per student, which is why nearly every university started requesting to charge the full £9,000 cap; a parliamentary committee found this would have significantly increased the cost of higher education. As the whole idea was to save money the white paper proposes an incentive to keep fees low for some universities, which is done by student place allocation.

The government wants to set up a core of student places, which are guaranteed, and then marginal places which universities compete over. As the overall amount of places will stay the same this opens the potential for universities to not only have different numbers of students each year, causing difficulties in the finance of institutions, but also to go bankrupt; a consequence the white paper is particularly relaxed about but could have devastating effects on students. Over half the marginal places will be given to AAB students, this means the elite universities will have no issue maintaining, or expanding, their numbers to the detriment of other top universities. The rest of the marginal places are for universities charging

less than £7,500. Now universities will be even more intent on getting more students, with less resources per student, just to stay open, reducing the quality of the education. Currently each student, at whatever university, has the same block grant. However, with these changes, there will be disparity between what can be afforded at each institution. As the participation of young disadvantaged people is concentrated in middle and lower tariff universities we will further socially segregate our society as the poorer are given lower quality university education. The National Student Survey showed that at the moment the difference in ranking between universities is small and not statistically significant; this is because

**"Now universities will be even more intent on getting more students, with less resources per student..."**

grants per student are the same. With these changes we will rapidly increase the difference in the higher education you are entitled to due to your social background.

This reform also places the student in a consumer role. Universities will need to attract us, otherwise they will not receive enough in fees to stay solvent. The white paper places a lot of emphasis on the salary and job that the degree can provide the student with, although this financial service a degree provides should surely only be secondary. The role of a university is to carry out research and then exchange and debate this knowledge with students, not to prepare students for the work place. Stefan Collini highlights how this is worrying as a degree should enable a student to learn independently and critically through hard work and graft, but as a consumer the student will purely want to be provided with a service that achieves a high salary afterwards. He summarises that the student should not be a consumer, as we do not always know what is best for us.

Finally, the white paper does not only force competition into higher education which will not only open

social divides and devalue our education but opens the way for rapid privatisation of the whole sector. It aims to reduce the regulation on the status of a "university" to allow private providers to come in and undercut universities to obtain places from the under £7500 marginal allocation. They will provide low cost education, but will do this through distance learning and larger class sizes to maintain profits to pay boards and executive pay (though obviously current vice-chancellors are not particularly cheap). Furthermore they want to allow current public universities to become private (as Oxford are currently considering), which enables the huge wealth accrued through public money to quickly fall into private hands; as we have seen in countless privatisations of public bodies the benefit is never to the public but to the owners who strip the considerable assets. These reforms do not put the student at the heart of the system as the white paper says, but instead places corporate profit at the heart. This is why thousands of students and lecturers will march next Wednesday (9/11) to the city of London and walk out of lectures on November 30.

# The Conservatives in Europe

## David Cameron is still feeling blue about events on the continent

**Rajat Jain**

Last week was a particularly brutal one for David Cameron and his policy on Europe. First the French president Nicholas Sarkozy told him to "shut up" over unhelpful criticisms over the Euro. To make matters worse, on his return, Mr Cameron faced an 81 member backbench rebellion over a proposed referendum on whether Britain should remain in the EU, withdraw, or take certain powers back from Brussels. This rebellion came despite a three line whip.

Britain and France have rarely seen eye to eye when it comes to long term EU strategies, and it has historically been a divisive issue within the Conservative Party. This, however, places Dave in a far worse position than he could've imagined.

Telling another world leader to shut up is a diplomatic rarity,

particularly between two centre-right European leaders who have collaborated closely on defence deals to cut spending, and the invasion of another country (Libya). Tensions are clearly rising over the Euro crisis and with their hopes pinned on the laughable Berlusconi and dismal election prospects for Sarkozy next year, Cameron's 'told you so' attitude over the Euro is not winning him any friends.

Unfortunately for the Prime Minister, he is also losing the support of Eurosceptics at home. He hardly had a cosy relationship with the backbenchers since he took power. Many blame him for failing to win the election outright. His first move was a power sharing deal with the liberal-left; anathema to many grassroots Conservatives. His second, a deal to increase frontbench influence in the backbenchers' 1922 Committee, lost

him most of their trust.

This, however, goes beyond fractured political relationships- it reflects the Prime Minister's failure to take any decisive policy in Europe. While New Labour's policy largely involved taking a greater role in leading Europe, the Conservative's manifesto was about bringing powers back to Britain and reducing involvement in Europe. The manifesto stated "In future, the British people must have their say on any transfer of powers to the European Union ... any proposed future treaty that transferred areas of power, or competences, would be subject to a

**"Britain and France have rarely seen eye to eye..."**

referendum." Mr Cameron, before being elected, had stated that it is not right to use the whip against non-manifesto issues; MPs stood for the party with the understanding that they support the manifesto, but otherwise are independent representatives for their constituents. Not only has Mr Cameron broken this rule, but he has instructed MPs to vote against something which, in spirit, was supported by the manifesto.

He gives two main reasons for this- the situation has changed because they are now in coalition with the Liberal Democrats and the referendum would be a distraction at a time when they should be dealing with the Euro Crisis. Neither of these is particularly convincing. The coalition agreement would not prevent MPs voting independently. After all, they are in service to their constituency not the party. If their

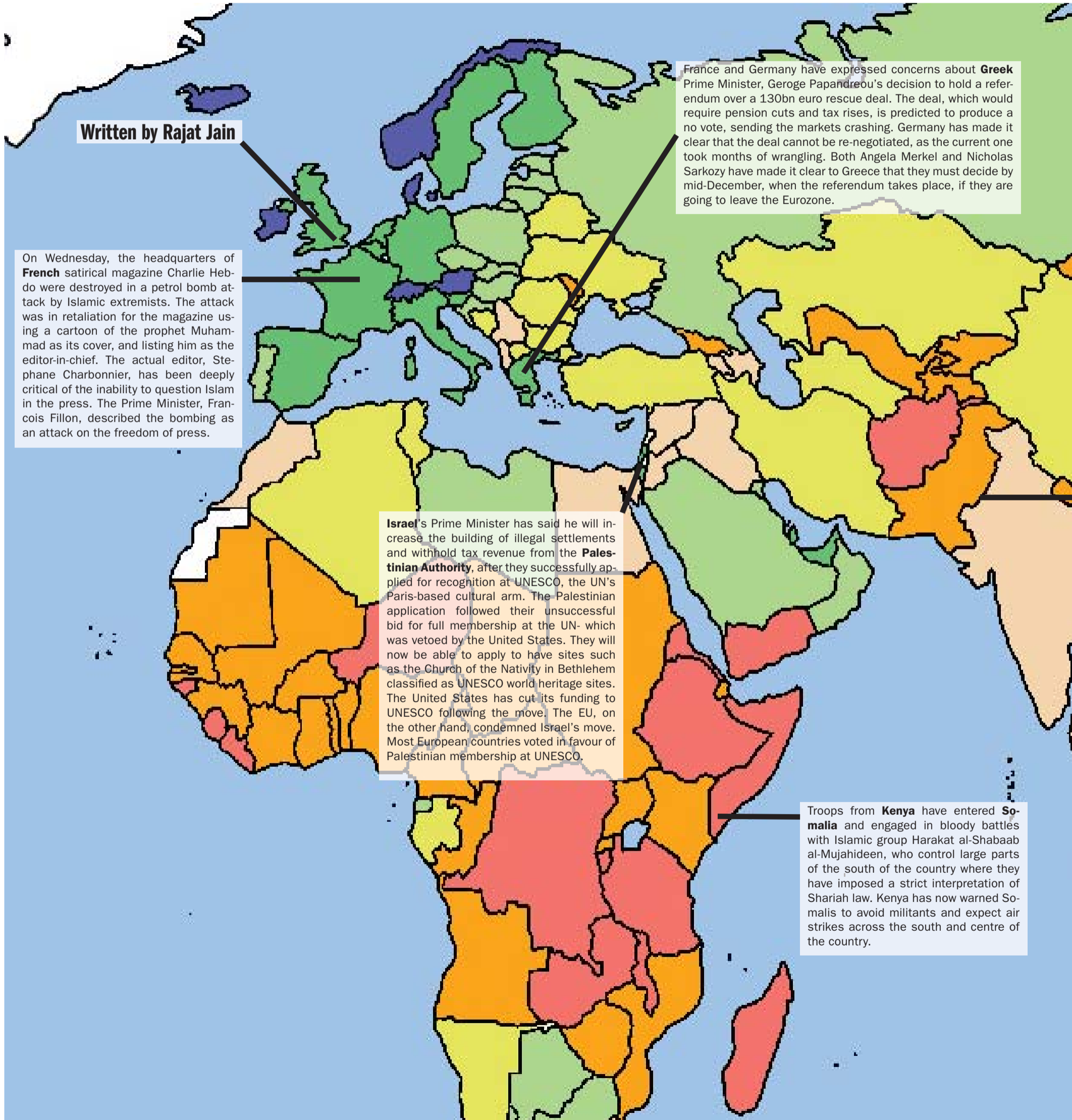
constituents voted for them due to their Euro-sceptic platform, they owe it to them to support the referendum. The Prime Minister may oppose the motion, but using a three line whip (which could have them removed from the party), puts them in a very unfair position. The fact that they did not have a majority meant it was unlikely to pass anyway, making the whip a stupid political move, as it would never be able to become a 'distraction'. In any case, Cameron's policy over the Euro Crisis- pointing fingers without making any helpful suggestions- means Britain is fast becoming irrelevant to the Euro Crisis in the eyes of many European leaders.

Thanks to the Prime Minister's policy (or lack thereof), Britain is now in a position where it is losing greater power to Brussels while becoming an increasingly peripheral and unimportant member of the union.

Politics Editors: **Rajat Jain**  
**Joseph Letts**

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# POLITICS



Written by **Rajat Jain**

On Wednesday, the headquarters of **French** satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo were destroyed in a petrol bomb attack by Islamic extremists. The attack was in retaliation for the magazine using a cartoon of the prophet Muhammad as its cover, and listing him as the editor-in-chief. The actual editor, Stephane Charbonnier, has been deeply critical of the inability to question Islam in the press. The Prime Minister, Francois Fillon, described the bombing as an attack on the freedom of press.

France and Germany have expressed concerns about **Greek** Prime Minister, George Papandreou's decision to hold a referendum over a 130bn euro rescue deal. The deal, which would require pension cuts and tax rises, is predicted to produce a no vote, sending the markets crashing. Germany has made it clear that the deal cannot be re-negotiated, as the current one took months of wrangling. Both Angela Merkel and Nicholas Sarkozy have made it clear to Greece that they must decide by mid-December, when the referendum takes place, if they are going to leave the Eurozone.

**Israel's** Prime Minister has said he will increase the building of illegal settlements and withhold tax revenue from the **Palestinian Authority**, after they successfully applied for recognition at UNESCO, the UN's Paris-based cultural arm. The Palestinian application followed their unsuccessful bid for full membership at the UN- which was vetoed by the United States. They will now be able to apply to have sites such as the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem classified as UNESCO world heritage sites. The United States has cut its funding to UNESCO following the move. The EU, on the other hand, condemned Israel's move. Most European countries voted in favour of Palestinian membership at UNESCO.

Troops from **Kenya** have entered **Somalia** and engaged in bloody battles with Islamic group Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen, who control large parts of the south of the country where they have imposed a strict interpretation of Shariah law. Kenya has now warned Somalis to avoid militants and expect air strikes across the south and centre of the country.

# POLITICS



**Pakistan** has reciprocated **India's** move from 1996 and granted its arch-rival Most Favoured Nation status. This allows for more free trade between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, who have fought four wars against each other since their independence in 1947. Pakistan had hesitated in making the move due to pressure from its powerful military which has controlled the country for most of its history. However, with the military failing to control terror in Pakistan while the Indian economy booms, pressure grew to introduce the deal. Political commentators have had mixed reactions as to whether it will actually help the long term peace process.

## A Guide To the American 2012 Presidential Election Campaign

On the 17th December 2012, the next President of the United States of America will be formally elected. While the incumbent President, Barack Obama is the main candidate for the Democratic party, the Republican Party candidates are still battling for selection as their party's nominee.

So, the question is – who's who?

### President Barack Obama

President Barack Obama is the main Democratic candidate for the Presidential Elections. As the incumbent President, Mr. Obama has experience on his side, however failure to make promised changes due to resistance in Congress from the Republican Party, high unemployment and an insistence on bipartisan politics might be stumbling blocks as he campaigns for a second term in office.



### Herman Cain

As a former CEO of restaurant chain Godfather's Pizza and a former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, although he has little political experience Herman Cain is current seen as the most popular Republican candidate. His 9-9-9 federal tax plan to aims to simplify tax collection to 9% taxes on business, personal income and sales. However recent allegations of illegal campaign funding and past sexual harassment may leave Mr. Cain's dreams in tatters.



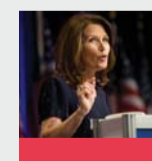
### Mitt Romney

Second in the Republican nomination race according to recent nationwide polls, Mitt Romney, a former candidate for the 2008 Presidential Campaign, is keen to convince voters that he is their champion. As a former governor as Massachusetts he has some experience in politics, however his Mormon faith may deter some conservative Christian voters from supporting his cause. He also faces some confusion regarding his opposition to the President's healthcare bill, despite implementing a similar scheme while in Massachusetts.

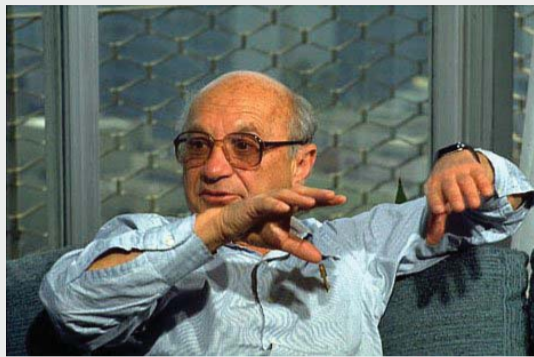


### Michele Bachmann

As a Republican member of the House of Representatives and the founder of the House's Tea Party Caucus, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann is no stranger to the political arena. Keen to remove federal minimum wage and firmly against President Obama's healthcare bill she paints a picture of a fierce political warrior. However, mistakes in several speeches and her husband's homophobic public comments haven't helped Mrs. Bachmann to rise in popularity.



Joseph Letts



## Letter from an Editor

In a brilliant piece of journalism, this summer, BBC economics editor and Newsnight correspondent Paul Mason traveled from Oklahoma to California, retracing the footsteps of the fictional Joad family in Steinbeck's epic *The Grapes of Wrath*. The state of the US economy may not have hit the lows of the Great Depression, but in this modern-day journey there were enough parallels to Steinbeck's story of the plight of migrant workers to prompt serious concerns over where the country's economy is heading.

As well as being a cornerstone of American Literature Steinbeck's novel is a go-to text during times of economic recession. After the economic boom of the 1980s came 'Black Monday', October 1987. The Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted by 22.6% and, while the stock market recovered quickly, the crash triggered a savings and loans crisis in the US that was to last in to the next decade. Commentators turned to *Grapes*, and in an astonishing piece of comedy and social narration, Fox broadcast a Simpsons episode titled *The Crepes of Wrath*.

The story follows Bart, who, after a pulling a prank in school, is signed on to a cultural exchange program as a punishment. He is sent to France, to the dilapidated "Château Maison", where under the watchful eyes of two crooks he is forced to take over the back-breaking duties of Maurice the donkey. At the same time an exchange student from Albania arrives in the Simpsons household. Adil is the perfect houseguest, engaging in conversation with Lisa over politics, praising Homer, and offering Marge help with the dishes – "Mrs. Simpson, you have been oppressed enough today".

In drawing current parallels with *Grapes* and the Great Depression Paul Mason framed the seriousness of the problems faced by western economies. The Occupy movement that has been sweeping through the financial centres of the western world presents itself as a yet another symptom of ailments in our culture. Following the suggestion of Matt Groening et al. we may now look for a cultural exchange.

The question over the state of capitalism is being visited with increasing frequency in op-eds. Now, in this 1500th issue of Felix, and in the mischievous, propagandist, spirit of the 5th of November, we don our Anonymous masks, and present you the largest dichotomy of opinions on capitalism we could think of. Drawing on quotations lifted directly from *Crepes* we present discussions on both Occupy, and a subject that never fails to inspire heated debate – that of the welfare state. Enjoy.

– A Business Editor

# Fight for Freedom!

A land of opportunity, "where people can think and act and worship any way they want"

## There is no fair in Welfare

### Mr Poppadom

The welfare state: we are told it exists to create equality in the country, to make it a fairer country. This is a lie! The welfare state is so profoundly unfair it is ridiculous! Those who work hard to earn a living have to sacrifice a large proportion of their pay to tax to "benefit society". However there are some people who do not want to work, cannot be bothered to work, some even who can't work(!), and still get some free money every week off the state – how on God's green earth is that fair?!

People in this country have become far too dependent on the state. Forecasted government spending in 2012 is £703bn, with £111bn on welfare and £124bn on healthcare. That works out at about £3,500 per person, and that's what each of us should receive in a fair and equal system. Unbelievably, not everyone gets access to that though. The man who works hard every day to pay his way in

life won't see a penny, but the man who sits on his sofa all day long watching daytime TV will get some few pennies more than his fair share.

Have we become a society of entitlement? It seems we have begun to believe we should all have access to the same things, the same quality of life, no matter what we do to benefit society and our country. In the past, the reward for working hard was being able to have the luxuries in life – owning your own house, your own car, going on holiday and buying the latest technologies. But now it seems it has almost become a human right to have these things. In the past, any spare money that didn't need spending on the bare necessities would be saved, so when something out of the ordinary was required or when times were tough, you would be able to make ends meet. Those who sit around on benefits don't have to save, don't have to think about the future; benefits become pure disposable income. It's no wonder that some

of these same people living off benefits have the latest phones, the biggest televisions, and go on numerous holidays a year – they can afford to because they know even if they spend all their money, next week or month, the next payment of benefits will come in.

**"There was a time when ... your job depended on who your father was – what a wonderful system!"**

All we need to do is look to the past to see where we are going wrong. This country was at its greatest at the end of the 19th Century under good old Queen Victoria. During the industrial revolution the economy grew by leaps and bounds, and the Empire was at full strength. This was a time when you had what you could afford, when what you could afford depended on your job, and your job depended on who your father was – what a wonderful system! Those of us who could afford the luxuries in life would be guaranteed a standard of life for generations to come, and those who couldn't, worked in factories or as servants. There would have been no riots this summer if such an employment system still existed, where you had to toil to reap the rewards of life...

Just imagine the possibilities if we could scrap the welfare state. Think what we could do with that £111bn. We could offer tax breaks to the rich, the people who so valiantly shoulder such a large chunk of the tax burden; we could reduce inheritance tax, so those of us who have family estates do not have to bare such excessive financial costs when passing on our fortunes from one generation to the next.

So why should everyone deserve the same standards of life, and why should everyone be able to afford the same things? Surely the fairest economy and society is one where you are rewarded for working hard, having rich parents, and punished for not pulling your weight? We shouldn't become a nation where we depend on hand-outs from the state; we should be encouraging people to work hard to strengthen the economy! And if they do not want to, they should lose their "human rights" to televisions, and be forced to work in a Victorian-esque manner like this woman on the left. In these times of austerity and rising taxes, welfare is an unfair and unnecessary financial burden, and should be scrapped ASAP if we are to put the Great back into Great Britain.





# You there, make way for liberty!

“Quand je sens que ma foi dans les forces suprêmes faiblit, je pense toujours au miracle de l’anti-freeze”

**Ninotchka Vodanoj**

This weekend Manhattan saw the earliest snowfall since the American Civil War. It fell on the Jack-o'-lanterns left outside for Halloween, over the tents in Zuccotti Park, and, too, on the falling faces of the Occupy Wall Street protesters. But the snow in New York, and falling temperatures elsewhere, are not the only threats the movement faces.

Footage taken with thermal imaging cameras of the camp outside St. Paul's has shown a number of unoccupied tents, and there are stories, not least from the protesters themselves, of abandonment. Robin Smith, a one-time Conservative councillor, now part-time Occupier, explained to the Mail “There are lots of middle-class people turning up and helping but they have to go back home ... they've got jobs and a family to keep. I go home every two or three nights to get cleaned up and then return to my tent.” Over the pond Chris Goldsten, Occupier of Wall St., told Time Magazine how bad weather sends him back to his New Jersey home at nights. “I occupied a puddle,” he said.

While protestors have refuted claims that only one in 10 tents are in use, calling on reports from external experts that question the accuracy of the technology, such stories, regardless of their accuracy, only enhance the widespread perception of a lack of seriousness among Occupiers.

Behind closed doors bankers dismiss the protesters. “It's not a middle-class uprising,” the NYTimes quotes one banker, “It's fringe groups. It's people who have the time to do this”. It is the nature of popular movements to begin at the fringes before taking hold of popular support, but even vocal supporters of past social movements are on the fence with this one. In an interview with The Republican's Kevin O'Hare, Joan Baez, folk singer and participant in the civil and human rights movements, as well as the anti-Vietnam war protests, states “I'll be convinced when it develops a real direction ... So far it's hard to tell”.

As Occupy stretches on the increasing disin-

terest of the media in its coverage has led the sector towards criticism of the movement. Unable to report progress against a litany of such abstract demands as “Not to be shoehorned into a convenient narrative by defining ourselves” and “[To gain] a cultural foothold and evolve into something much bigger”, they disparage the Occupy movement's lack of definition, inquiring as to the seeming lack of direction or agenda, and questioning the future of the 99 per cent if they refuse to define themselves more traditionally. Similarly to Baez, they call for a figurehead and for concrete demands.

Such sentiments are echoed in Wall St. and the City where this lack of direction is understood as representative of an ill-informed community. “Financial services are one of the last things we do in this country and [we] do it well. Let's embrace it,” says one Wall St. money-manager to the NYTimes. This money-man complains too

of a lack of comprehension among congress. Of Senator Charles E. Schumer he states, “They need to understand who their constituency is,” referring to the power of funding in influencing political campaigns.

Though these protests are directed at bankers, they represent a wider discontent and a growing distrust in politicians and the economy. The links between money and policy, as Schumer was reminded, may be one of the reasons the Occupiers are unwilling to push paper through the houses of parliament and congress. Whether or not this movement can survive without following a more classical, more well-defined path remains to be seen. First, it will have to survive the cold. Seizing the bout of bad weather as an opportunity to prove his dedication to the cause, Eric, an unemployed carpenter, offers a hand: “I've been going around tents today trying to weatherise them,” he says, abstractly.



Temperatures plummet in Zuccotti park, and a full-time Occupier warms his hands while pondering which of the empty tents to inhabit for the night

## Give me Liberty, or give me Death!



Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859). What a lad!

When the US democracy was in its teens, a frenchman, **Alexis de Tocqueville** (1805-1859) visited the country. He had been commissioned by the July Monarchy to examine the prisons in the USA, but his real intentions were to study american society as an example of freedom, equality and democracy. He published his conclusions in one of the most brilliant essays ever written: “Democracy in America”.

Coming from an aristocratic and conservative background, Tocqueville's family had suffered during the French Revolution, but rather than persist in his feudal attitudes as many of his fellow noblemen had done, Alexis had acknowledged the fading luck of aristocracy. In his magnum opus, Tocqueville argues that the democratisation of society was an inevitable process that had been going on for the last 700 years. However melancholic, he embraced the consequences of such a process, and took the USA as a case study of how democracy can work.

One of the features that struck him most was that of freedom and equality in America. Indeed, he devotes most of his book to explain and analyse the balance that exists between liberty and equality; between individuality and community. **Isaiah Berlin** (1909-1997) quite clearly explained this fact: equality and liberty are opposed ideals. The utopia in which both come true at the same time is an intellectual fallacy. For liberty is the unimpeded fulfilment of our true nature, and each of us being different in our abilities and aptitudes, it follows that upon letting us free some will prevail over others: the strong will overcome the weak; the cunning over idiots. But if equality is to be enforced, then our liberty will be constrained to ensure no one prevails.

Tocqueville acknowledged this conflict. He saw that equality “impels the weak to want to bring the strong down to their level, and reduces men to preferring equality in servitude to inequality in freedom.” These weaklings would lack of any incentive to progress, though. Tocqueville quite clearly saw that inequality was the incentive for the poor to become rich, and that full equality would lead to a Roman decadence and stagnation.

Indeed, the so-called equality that was practiced in the socialist countries during the 20th Century shows that individuals with no freedom to follow their whims, will simply become more and more reliant on what the state can provide, and less so on their own abilities. In no time, a dormant society will appear, one in which “it becomes difficult for citizens to defend their independence against the aggressions of power.” Equality leads to tyranny.

**Bernhardt Kreuzweg-Burgheim**

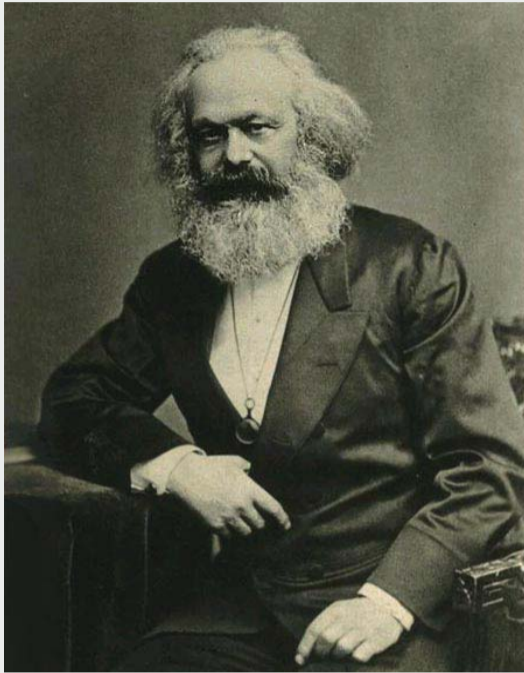
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# BUSINESS



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## Letter from an Editor

Dear Comrades,

Since none of you are going to read this letter, I have taken the liberty of writing the following list, that enshrines those words that, for some reason or another, I find especially amusing or interesting and therefore call, with your permission, my favourite English words:

Preposterous, absurd, ridiculous – that's a nice lexical loop; antediluvian, rethoric, hoary and immemorial; behemoth, apocalypse, leviathan; irreverent, acatalectic, discourse; perfidious, villain, pussillanimity; dialectic, peripatetic, obnoxious; ghastly, gargantuan; lethargy, sardonic, libertarian; spectre, abyss, culpability; lugubrious, doleful, funereal – that's another lexical loop, and I shall write something more here as I have just realised I may have problems to fill the whole column with words without repeating one or two or leaving a blank space at the bottom; for my good taste can be eclipsed by my bad memory.

Galore, abundance, fellowship, girdle; abatement, abbe, cessation; impede, thwart, delve, dwell; forestall, oblivion, obviate, abet, speculative; flee, forestay, mainmast, yawl, abaft; nautical, shaft, aft, astern; bashful, disinclined, timid; tranquility, intricate, labyrinth; dominion, supremacy, sway; utter, distinct, vacuum; hearken, herald, nemesis; requital, papism, romance; amendment, charter, odd; extravagant, eccentric, heliocentric, anthropocentric, lattice; gathering, reactor, substance; ingrain, yeoman, seafare; landlubber, timorous, whim, herein, hereafter, wherein, whereupon; rustling, rust, rotten; hearsay, clamor, tumult, mob.

And that completes the list! But alas, I still have some space to fill – something, I must say, I already predicted above: that my list is short and the column long. Hence, I will conclude with what Dr Johnson once said:

“As it is necessary not to invite robbery by supineness, so it is our duty not to suppress tenderness by suspicion; it is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.”

– A Business Editor

# Comrades, unite!

“The machinery of capitalism is oiled with the blood of the workers”

## Dependence is not decadence

**Dimitri Raphaelovich**

When German foreign minister Guido Westerwelle accused recipients of welfare of living in ‘late roman decadence’ and expecting to gain ‘effortless prosperity’ in February, it caused quite a stir in the German media.

Westerwelle, then head of the German Free Democrat Party (FDP), faced criticism from politicians all across the political spectrum. The popularity of the man who had won his party a record breaking 15% of votes in the previous general election went into a rapid decline. Ultimately, Westerwelle's attack on the German welfare state cost him the leadership of his party when he was replaced by Philipp Roesler in May.

Traditionally, the FDP has always been the strongest proponent of the free market in the German political spectrum and Westerwelle, an experienced opposition leader of his party, has always enjoyed provoking his political opponents with controversial statements. With the popularity of his party constantly falling ever since it formed a coalition government with Angela Merkel's CDU, Westerwelle's comments could just be dismissed as a desperate attempt to regain popularity with his (mainly upper-class) voters.

However, while Westerwelle is one of the few politicians in Europe to express his opinions on state-sponsored welfare programs in such a radical manner, he is not alone with his ideas. Hidden behind his statements is the belief, shared by many radical free market proponents, that ultimately, poor people deserve to be poor.

The intellectual foundation of the free market ideology can be derived from an economic principle called the ‘efficient-market hypothesis’. Named the ‘Chicago school of thought’ after the University of its origin in the 1960's it asserts that stocks are always priced right and that markets behave fundamentally rational.

Traditionally, the efficient-market hypothesis exists in a number of different strengths, with proponents of the strongest formulation believing that any government intervention is fundamentally harmful to the economy and that the free, unregulated market is perfect in creating wealth.

In this strong formulation, everything from stock prizes to the worth of labor is priced perfectly and neither recessions nor unemployment exist. If you are unemployed, then, according to radical free market proponents, it is because you choose to be unemployed. Since the economy is a perfect interplay between

supply and demand, you being poor means that you are less willing and less able than someone earning more money than you. Therefore, you deserve to earn less.

From this ideological point of view, Westerwelle's attack on the German welfare state only seems rational. Why should the majority of the country provide for a minority that is seemingly less willing to work than the majority? In a free market society, where everyone has the same opportunities of becoming rich, why should those who made use of their opportunities pay for those who did not?

To see the flaws in this line of thought, one has to look at a few statistics. In general, income is correlated to the level of education a person has. In the UK, 20% of people from the poorest backgrounds go to university, compared to 57% from the richest. However, at Oxford, 89% of students are from an upper or middle class background. For people like David Cameron, an Oxbridge education is a birthright.

In Germany in 2009, the chances of you going to university were 73% if your parents had a university degree themselves and 23% if they were from the working class. Furthermore, only 0.5% of leading positions in major German companies are held by people coming from a working class background. Even working class children beating the odds stacked against them to be awarded a PhD earn significantly less on average than equally qualified people from richer backgrounds.

The evidence suggests then, that in a modern capitalist society, the class system is still very much in existence. It also suggests that the notion that the amount of money people earn is correlated to their abilities and their willingness to work hard is fundamentally flawed. On average, a person in Germany with earnings in the highest income tax class is rich because he or she was born into the right social class. In this light, the self-righteousness with which some free market proponents promote their ideology of a perfect market seems somewhat ill-placed.

It seems to be the case that, contrary to the premise of proponents of the free market, hard work and determination are not likely to be rewarded in a capitalist system if you come from a poor background. Thus, government intervention is needed to reduce social injustice and change the odds of succeeding in life for children from poorer backgrounds.

Admittedly, the welfare state brings its own number of problems into the equation. There is a legitimate debate about how much benefits can be given to the unemployed without taking away the incentive to work. However, the next time people like Westerwelle launch an attack on the welfare state, one can but hope they pause for a second and ask themselves how much of their current social standing is due to their own achievements and how much is due to them being lucky enough to be born into the right family.



M&M's Red is actually a soviet double agent, who intends to destroy capitalism from within



# Every man a king!

“How can you defend a country where 5% of the people control 95% of the wealth?”

## Comrade Juggernautx

Dear middle class voter, my words are addressed to you, dear friends:

Two hundred and thirty-five years ago, when our fellow Englishman Adam Smith published his book titled “The Wealth of Nations”, he promised that we would be far better off living in a capitalist economy than any of the alternatives.

Capitalism promised that every family would be able to afford the home they lived in, that every family would have a car, that every family would be able to enjoy eating out when they wanted to, that every family would be able to send their children to daycare and to early education centres, to school and to the university. In short, everyone who worked hard, who made enough sacrifices would be enjoying a better and happy life!

But look around! What is our current state now? Few of us can afford to buy a house, the City Council asks us to travel on Barclays bicycles instead of cars, what we will cook tonight depends on what item got discounted at Sainsbury’s or Tesco today, while the

government is scrapping the child-care tax credit accusing we are too rich, while they allow universities to charge “as much as they need” for our children’s higher education!

So, what went wrong? Aren’t we still taxed for the National Health Service as before, if not more? Aren’t we still paying tax for the justice and police corps as before? Aren’t we paying the council tax? Aren’t we continuously told that our society is richer and more prosperous than it was in the 1960s? Then, how come all of the welfare system, all we have fought so hard for, be questioned today? How can the healthcare system not be sustainable anymore, when it was in the 1950s? Why is Higher Education more expensive than ever?

Comrades, we have been cheated! Still nowadays, every worker in this country pays 40-50% of his income to the government. And if that is not enough, it must be because someone else has managed to avoid paying what he should. Indeed, ever since the reaganomics kicked in during the early 1980s, banks, companies and the rich have seen how their tax bills decreased as their incomes skyrocketed.

They told us that by doing that, everyone would profit. But where is that profit, if we live no better than our parents, if we see all they fought for be destroyed or menaced?

Thus, why shouldn’t the bankers in London, who are but leeches that build their wealth simply by moving money around, be taxed more? Why shouldn’t the bankers, who caused the global financial meltdown in 2008, rescued by taxpayer money, and paying out huge bonus, be taxed more? Furthermore, when health care industries make a mistake, they apologise! When engineering industry causes trouble, they apologise! When construction industry causes an accident, they apologise! Then, how come the financial industry, which caused the global financial meltdown and, thus, many of our sufferings, do not even apologise for their reckless behaviour?

And instead, they ask for help from the central bank, for the government to bail them out, for the taxpayers who they despise to pay for their own stupidity. They claimed that if we didn’t help them, the Great Depression would happen again; those



A random comrade with a Guy Fawkes mask (ironically, Guy Fawkes was a Catholic reactionary), occupying a City Hall somewhere

words came from the same ones not so long ago claimed economic cycles had disappeared! And us, poor idiots, just agreed to help them. And so we have to face huge inflation as a consequence of our help, and while our money becomes less worthy as time passed by, they still maintain their bonuses and outrageous earnings as if nothing had happened!

Why, my middle class friends, do we have to stand for such arrogance, such villainy, such depravation? How can

we defend any longer a country where 1% of the population controls 99% of the wealth? Why do our own leaders kneel down in front of the City? Something is rotten! Something is wrong! That is why, my dear friends, I urge you to stand up, say no, and go and occupy Wall Street, go and occupy St Paul’s Cathedral, go and occupy the Washington monument! Go and occupy and protest, before each and every one of us disappears one by one.



This guy has obviously been silenced by a 1 dollar bill. Quite a bit cheap, really. The author of these lines wouldn’t have sold himself for less than \$1 million or, on second thoughts, for less than \$1 mole

## Timeline

### Occupy Wall Street

- **15 December 2010 - present.** *The Arab Spring.* A series of revolutions, demonstrations and protests in the arab world motivated by the corruption and economic decline of their countries.
- **15 May, 2011.** *The 15-M Spanish Movement.* Motivated by the devastating economic crisis and the indifference of its politicians, the spanish people celebrate massive and peaceful demonstrations, occupying Puerta del Sol square in central Madrid for weeks.
- **17 September, 2011.** *Occupy Wall Street begins.* Social inequality, corporate greed, politic collusion, and corruption trigger this ongoing movement, occupying the Zuccoti park near the seat of the New York Stock Exchange –Wall Street.
- **15 October, 2011.** *Occupy London.* The Occupy Wall Street movement spreads worldwide. In London, protesters camp in St Paul’s Square, next to the seat of the London Stock Exchange.
- **26 October, 2011.** *The Bishop of London and the City of London Corporation collude to expell the protesters.* However, members of the Church of England, including the Dean of St Paul, resign in protest against such a move, and the Bishop steps back.

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# COMMENT

## FELIX

### Do we need an independent enquiry?

Five months on from the Summer Ball, the wounds of such a financial loss are still fresh to see. Despite an official 'debrief' from Deputy President (Finance & Services) Michael Foster taking place at Monday's Union Council meeting, areas of ambiguity still remain as to the exact loss that the Ball made, and how such a loss may be avoided in the future. It is for these reasons that Felix supports an independent inquiry into the Summer Ball, as passed by Council on Monday.

The passed proposal to launch such an inquiry made mention of the belief that 'Felix should always strive to provide accurate information', alongside the claim that Felix reported incorrect information. Felix would like to clarify that, throughout its reporting of the Summer Ball over the summer months, we did indeed strive to provide students with the correct information, and used information entirely provided by the Union which has since transpired to be incorrect. It has also recently come to light that the full financial report detailing the losses has still not been presented to either the Union President or the Union's Trustee Board.

If the Union itself has not made available the full figures to its own Trustee Board (the governing body and most powerful committee of Imperial College Union) even after a 'debrief', then an independent inquiry must indeed be welcomed despite any protestations that Union officers may have. In the five months since the event itself, surely there must have been official figures produced, especially in the face of such a loss?

It is not enough to simply state that an attendance of three times as many people was 'expected', nor that a resulting over exaggerated budget was the reason behind a (as yet undetermined) loss. Opinions are valuable, but when it comes to a situation dealing in financial viability, facts and figures are just as, if not more, important.

It must be in the best interest of everybody concerned to see more concrete figures in order to determine what went wrong, from those in charge of organising next year's Summer Ball (if it is indeed to be continued in its current form) to the students themselves. The Union must be open to full and frank criticism from the student body when it makes mistakes, especially mistakes in the region of £100,000. If an independent inquiry is what it takes to achieve this, then Felix fully reiterates its support for such a course of action.

# Avoid haemorrhoids... and make magazines



## Omar Hafeez-Bore

I had a health scare the other day. In an otherwise innocuous tutorial about job applications, a renowned doctor casually joked that we shouldn't spend too long on the toilet for fear of haemorrhoids. Everyone laughed. I froze.

Woah woah woah, hang on a sec (I said in my head) – has this been verified? As in, by scientists and stuff? Why had no one warned me?

Why had no one seen the huge pile of reading material tucked away next to the bath and thought: 'Egad! This is surely a man whose overly dedicated toilet efforts put him at risk of bum-based discomfort'? And now I'm worrying: Is it too late?

I've always read on the toilet and, as articles aren't always short, I don't always make it out quickly. But to me, going to the loo without reading material is like brushing my teeth without paste. Whilst staying in Dundee's University halls for a stint, I would sneakily stuff *The Times* down the leg of my baggy joggers when strolling down the corridor to the W.C. I doubt people would have minded all that much, but actually getting seen taking the offending (and soon to be offensive) item is like that dreaded silence when two people are in adjacent lavatories and try to quietly attend to nature whilst willing their splashes to sound casual and un-awkward. You both know that you know, but don't want to actually publicly acknowledge it.

But in the comfort of my flat I can pile away, stacking magazines and newspapers in my lavatorial library. And you'd be surprised at how many houses I've been to that do the same. I've read all sorts, from *Cosmopolitan* to *Muscle and Fitness*. I once read *Of Mice and Men* whilst on the porcelain throne. It was good.

But more than any other type of publication, I have re-read, pored over and often skimmed through my towering collection of magazines about video games. Now, before you drop the newspaper in disgust - suddenly feeling that you can't possibly relate

to someone so cool he erects pillars of gaming literature in his room – first look at my picture up there and let it dawn upon you: it's difficult to relate to someone as attractive as me anyway.

The point is that I've almost certainly read more about gaming than I've actually played. It's partly because I have no choice now: I have to keep up to speed on my specialist topic in case I ever get on to *Mastermind*.

But more than that, reading games magazines is a personal pleasure. Like a monthly concert of great bands playing new renditions of songs you love. Or for me, a 12-times-a-year fix of great writers finding new ways to pin-down with words the adventures played through my fingers.

It's why I used to eagerly anticipate every new issue of *N64* magazine, and was part-raised on its diet of oddball humour and passionate writing. Now I play much less but still look forward to the new issue of *Edge* magazine (for the discerning gamer), and throughout last week I excitedly told several uninterested people why it was so amazing that the new *Zelda* game got given a fabled *Edge* [10].

They didn't understand, really. And probably wouldn't understand why I supplemented my childhood explorations around Birmingham with adventures in Hyrule to save a pixelated princess. They wouldn't really understand why every time a new *Zelda* game came out I'd fish out old issues of *N64*, *NGC* and *Edge* magazine to re-read their pieces on old *Zelda* games, to remember through print what I'd forgotten in memory.

And now? My mental bank bursting at the seams with magazine-sentences, tethered to my experience as much as any game characters or stories. Like when *Edge* gave the stunning *Half-Life 2* [10], saying that its developer Valve had 'hit the high note no other developer could reach'.

I've read that sentence many times in the loo, because magazines aren't like web-pages. They don't disappear with a click or float pristine on a screen. They lose their crispness, and become well-thumbed. They crinkle, crease and crumple. But importantly they remain, piled up with pride at being complete and self-contained. They aren't tied to the infinity of clickable choices on the internet, but lay out their choice wares on their pages for you to peruse and dip into; tempting you with articles you'd never bother clicking on whilst browsing the internet. But unlike newspapers (bar the illustrious *Felix* of course) they are not one-day-

Got something to say, but shouting your opinions at strangers in the library is getting you weird looks? Then go to: [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)



stands of news and jokes, but a spine-bound, page-wrapped gift of writing to be opened again and again.

And opened again is exactly what I did a few weeks ago to Imperial College's late games magazine *Another Castle*, after excavating it at random from a paper pile in my bathroom.

And thanks to that random inspirational blast from the past I'm now working with *Felix Games* to make a new games magazine this year, one beautifully designed and packed with interesting, funny contributions by Imperial College's game-playing community, whether you're a casual fan of *Snake* or a hardcore *CoD* veteran. I want it to be a magazine that hits the high notes no commercial publication could reach.

But most of all, I want to make a magazine worth getting haemorrhoids for.

Get in touch to find out more!



**This is a public service announcement to all gamers/writers/people at Imperial. We are looking for budding writers! Your idea can be one-sentence or a whole feature. Wait, that's not all, we're also looking for artists and designers. If you're willing to help us direct, produce, research (play games), collate and design the magazine then we want you. Email: [omar.hafeez-bore08@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:omar.hafeez-bore08@imperial.ac.uk) [games.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:games.felix@imperial.ac.uk)**



I know you heard it on the grapevine, but we should tell you here.  
The views expressed are the opinions of the authors, not Felix.

# COMMENT

## Religious tolerance is oatso simple



### Angry Geek

If people start trying to pour cornflakes into my bowl, I might be urged into action.

I've started eating porridge. I waited and waited for the weather to get colder, but at some point it becomes obvious that I'm going to lose the staring contest with BBC Weather and I just break out the oats and jam. All year, I'm just waiting for winter to come around. So now I'm eating porridge every morning, I've committed to that for the next few months.

Now, I want you to feel at ease with your choice of breakfast treat. Despite the fact that I'm fairly certain there is no finer way to kick off a miserable day of trudging through South Kensington than a warm bowl of gloopy oats, I don't want to preach about it. You want to continue eating Shreddies? That is absolutely fine with me. Similarly, I don't feel like I'm missing out. Yes, there are other cereals available. More pressingly, there are those that opt not to have cereals at all. But that's alright, because I've made a choice for personal reasons, and it's the right one for me. I'm Angry Geek, and I start my November mornings with porridge.

If we were to, say, replace porridge with 'atheism' (bear with me here) and cereals with religion (I have no idea what muffins/crumpets represent here, you can continue the analogy as you

wish) we have an entirely different discussion. I have decided not to believe in any god or gods, and I'm comfortable with that decision. Admittedly, there are some mornings when my spiritual porridge has too little milk in and it goes all stodgy, but I manage to push on and stay true to my decision without trying to justify it to every motherfucker who braves the cereal aisle in Sainsbury's.

Others seem less capable of doing this. I found myself last week in an extraordinarily overlong conversation with several staunch atheists about whether or not it made sense to choose one religion over any other. They delighted in laughing at Christians in general for this reason ("Why not Judaism? Why not Islam?"), and when I suggested that perhaps many people felt modern-day religions all expressed the same basic truths, this was entirely unacceptable. Why? Fuck knows. Everyone involved in the conversation had porridge for breakfast... I mean, was an atheist. Whatever. Maybe both – I never enquired as to their morning preferences.

We were all atheists, yet for some reason we had to debate this meaningless detail of an alternative lifestyle, as if the mere existence of Christians in our immediate vicinity represented some kind of flaw in our own reasoning.



Tastes just like salvation. Well, that, and sugar

Why is Crunchy Nut still on the shelves if porridge is so obviously right? What is the purpose of marmite in this period of rolled oats and preserved fruit? For some reason these weren't just idle topics of discussion, but fierce points of contention.

It was a couple of weeks ago in Felix that Sam Horti mulled over the question of an afterlife. Surely in hell we would feel no pain, he mused. How would we experience pleasure in heaven without nerve endings and a hypothalamus? Ho ho ho.

The only answer I can offer is that I don't know. I don't know how much milk you should put on your Weetabix to avoid complete loss of structural integrity. Maybe hell is, as I'm often told by religious friends, an expression of being absent from God. An infinite stretch of

time where you are devoid of the hope of a saviour. Maybe you just put the milk on in little bursts and wait for it to be soaked up before adding more.

I don't know. But it means nothing to me anyway, because I am having porridge for breakfast tomorrow, and will continue to do so. If people start trying to pour cornflakes into my bowl, I might be urged into action. But in the meantime I think, as porridge eaters, we promote our preference for warm, tasty breakfasts in a far more responsible and reasonable way by allowing other cereal choices to coexist alongside our own.

Next week - why same-sex marriages are a human right, explained through comparison with chocolate bars. Feeling hungry? Email me with your culinary preferences: [anangrygeek@gmail.com](mailto:anangrygeek@gmail.com).

## The Portrait of the Cook as a Young Man



### Rhys Davies

There is a time for beans on toast and a time for Moroccan lamb tagine followed by raspberry compote.

Looking back with the aged eyes of a fourth year, I can reflect on my experiences here and devise a pattern, common to all who pass through these halls. As a child, food was just food. Food was also delicious. In university, food is still delicious but it is suddenly so much more complicated. For the first time in my life, I am responsible for my own sustenance. With a few mistakes made along the way, I am somehow still alive. There seem to be several distinct stages that a student will pass through during their time here.

The first stage involves a strong affinity with tin cans. The fresher student, unlearned in the ways of the kitchen, subsists on a diet of things that he or she can liberate from their tinned prisons. It has its analogies with the dawn of civilisation, when early man made proficient tools. Such tools obviously included the can-opener. This proto-stage of culinary evolution lasts generally for a term, maybe less, and ends violently with the realisation that the bargain curry in a can was not actually

fit for human consumption.

This is followed by the second stage, where outrage at chowing down on Shergar drives the student to learn to cook. Nothing too complicated at first but with experience comes imagination. The tenets of this stage are that the food is simple, filling, and definitely came from an identifiable animal. Pastas and curries prevail in this phase.

The third stage is a natural progression of the second. It will start with the cheeky addition of herbs and spices to an otherwise-pedestrian Bolognese, and will grow into three-course meals cooked from scratch. Cookery programmes and cookbooks, presents from well-meaning and concerned relatives which, untouched until now, are devoured with enthusiasm. This stage is a culinary renaissance for the student, as ancient wisdom is rediscovered and adapted for the modern table.

This comes to an abrupt, explosive end. The palate may cry for Waitrose's finest virgin olive oil and saffron, but the wallet and the body cry for rest. Exhaustive in time and money, this stage collapses under the strain of its own

excess. Replaced by a stage epitomised by food requiring a minimal amount of effort, time and money. This is age of the take-away and vegging out in front of season box-sets of Grey's Anatomy and The Wire. This stage teaches the student valuable lessons about making food last longer (often several days) and the sagacity of vouchers and coupons, and gives them greater appreciation for distant cultures. Mainly Italy and China.

The death knell of this stage is sounded when the student spends a little too long looking in the mirror, and does not like what they find there. A rejuvenation occurs, passion rekindles, interest in the kitchen blossoms again. Wise from the lessons of the previous stages, the student is enlightened. Everything in moderation. There is a time for beans on toast and a time for Moroccan lamb tagine followed by raspberry compote. There is a time for a hearty bowl of spaghetti and time for a Dominos thick crust special. Usually on Tuesdays. Now, the student has become the master of the kitchen, Lord over his domain. Finally prepared, perhaps, for

the eventual life beyond college walls. Like a fine wine: mature.

This history is by no means complete. I have neglected the lunchtime experiments with various college cafes, the 3am craving for Mars bars and the hypnotic attraction of the fridge light, or the expansion of the role of cereal to all three meals of the day, with or without milk. Though you will find it in no prospectus, this culinary education, a gastronomical evolution, the portrait of a cook as a young man, is one of the finest lessons you will ever learn at university.

Want to tell us about your own culinary adventures? No? Well, send us something anyway. Go on, it can be anything you like. You know you want to. Email us at: [comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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# COMMENT

## A response to all of the critics



**George Barnett**

I must say; I was rather taken aback by the hullabaloo caused by my (somewhat overemphasised) opinions when I reviewed the Jeremy Kyle show a few weeks ago, and for that, I extend my apologies to anyone who was offended by it. I have never professed to be any good at this writing malarkey – evidently my tongue-in-cheek style and exaggeration were not recognised by some people. Oh well!

For those of you unaware, in short, my article said that the point of the Jeremy Kyle show is to make you laugh at the participants (this is patently obvious from every single camera shot of the audience). It also highlighted the fact that it elevates the viewer's ego. I may have also vaguely mentioned my opinion that not many participants are actually good, decent, hardworking people (it really was very subtle, I'd be surprised if you noticed it).

As expected there was some negative feedback online... slightly more than anticipated but nevertheless, these things happen! I think my favourite comment was as follows: "[I] hope to never see such awful dehumanisation and hideous treatment of fellow humans in Felix again". Other commentators generally flocked towards this opinion and thus a prevailing hypothesis was formed; that I, George Barnett, am entirely to blame for the way in which guests on the Jeremy Kyle show are portrayed, treated and "dehumanised".

If, by enjoying the show for the merits in which the producers expect it to be enjoyed, I am dehumanising the guests, then what on Earth are Jeremy Kyle and the ITV production crew doing to them? Helping them? No, that's not it. Well not entirely anyway. Bait-

ing them to provide entertainment for others? Oh, there we go! Even 'Angry Geek' pointed out that "the production team heavily cherrypick their guests to maximise whatever effect they're going for that week". It seems then, that we, the blissfully ignorant viewer, have fallen into ITV's cunning programming trap! Oh, damn and blast!

Many of the negative comments on my article pointed the finger at me – fair enough, I wasn't exactly polite about the guests – but they didn't point the finger at anyone else who watches the Jeremy Kyle show. Surely they are as much to blame as I am? Okay maybe not quite as much... Nevertheless, here is a question for those people: how many of you have written to ITV to complain about how The Jeremy Kyle Show dehumanises, mistreats and generally makes a mockery of its guests? It would be much to my surprise if any of you had even thought about doing such.

It's all well and good telling me that I'm in the wrong for the tone I used, or how "vile and hateful" my review was, but what use is that? It may dissuade me, or even someone else, from writing articles of a similar ilk for the next few months. But what's the point if people continue to watch the show for what it is – "human bear baiting"? Too many people are willing to point the finger and condemn the actions of others solely for the purpose of occupying what they perceive to be the moral high ground. If you negative commentators really believe in what you said, then all I ask of you is to write to ITV and complain about the show.

I have to say, it was much to my delight when the following week, a certain apoplectic nerd took it upon themselves to write an article which was



Get a magnifying glass and tilt your head to read the offending article

in essence a personal attack aimed directly at me. Which is fine, because it was much more interesting than the usual shit churned out by aforementioned author (sorry, but I don't think I'm the only one with this opinion). So if my article was condemned for being offensive...then why was it okay for the cowardly Angry Geek to write an offensive article directly aimed at me behind the refuge of their cheap nom de plume?

Angry Geek "hates us all" (this is supposedly a "baseline") – surely there's reason for this hate? Do we not share your opinions about something, Mr. Angry? I'm guessing not. That's why you hate us, because we don't agree with you, right? Are we not worthy of being your equals oh esteemed angry one?

You'll have to bear with me for the rest of this paragraph, I fear that some of you may not agree... right – here goes. The way I see it is that, by hat-

ing everyone (for whatever reason it may be), you segregate yourself from everyone else, which by default creates a divide. Now, whether you consider yourself above, below or even aside from everyone else, you are still separated from them. Still with me? Good. So saying that I promote inequality is a bit sanctimonious and hypocritical, isn't it?

My conclusion is two-fold. To those negative commentators: if you're going to do something, then do something worthwhile. Don't write personal comments or attacks from your perceived moral high ground. Take action against the root of the problem, ITV, not the intermediary. And to Angry Geek, I put it to you to join us, stop being a coward and reveal your identity! Enlighten us. Come on, it'll be fun! You know you want to! We can have a proper debate about what really annoys us instead of communicating like monkeys with typewriters.

How many of you have written to ITV to complain?

## Float like a social butterfly...



**Alexander Karapetian**

You may notice a story I ran in the Science section last week regarding a study which linked the amount of Facebook friends to the size of an individual's grey matter. It is interesting to note that there have been many studies which have correlated changing brain structures to internet usage. Although we must not misinterpret correlation as causation in any case, we can discuss the potential implications.

I guess you could call me a bit of a social butterfly. I try to maintain various social circles and keep up with friends.

My Facebook profile? Similar story. I tend to add friends of friends who I meet in Real Life, I guess I'm a bit trigger happy with the add button. As a result, my news feed is an amalgamation of approximately 830 people from college and beyond.

I used to be strictly opposed to joining Facebook (classing it the same as MySpace). I decided to give it a go and noticed myself adopting new traits.

Often, when I check the news feed, I feel compelled to scroll down to the point at which I last checked it. If I happen to see anything particularly interesting, I bring it up to the relevant friendship group offline. One could

argue an internal schema of a friend's online presence is built in memory, and although one may see their friends in the real world often, the online presence is somewhat loosely attached and adds another dimension to the interaction structure.

It's this extra dimension on top of basic interaction which provides the basis for my suggestion that if our brain structures are being modified slowly by internet usage, then this could very well be the next stage of evolution for man. We often can't quite put our finger on the various underlying assumptions we make when detecting emotion during online chat, and how our brains

are being affected is uncertain.

The ever-increasing barrage of information we consume from a wide gamut of devices presents a challenge for all of our minds. Our episodic memory is essentially extended to virtual happenings and we potentially remember more than we thought we could. Ultimately, adding 500 people to your Facebook profile tomorrow isn't going to boost your memory, but keeping track of their activities might help make it more fluid over time. Let's hope a future generation, which may look back to our collective online consciousness, can see it as an advancement rather than a great waste of time.

## COMMENT

## There's probably no Dawkins...



Joshua Fountain

In 2006, with the publication of Richard Dawkins' "The God Delusion", modern atheism found a new vigour. The book has sold over 2 million copies worldwide and is highly regarded by many as being a powerful rational argument against belief in God. Dawkins, described by many as being "evangelistic" or even "militant", has come to be seen as one of the leaders of "New Atheism" and regards himself as being a patron of intelligent thought, one who follows the evidence to the conclusion that God does not exist.

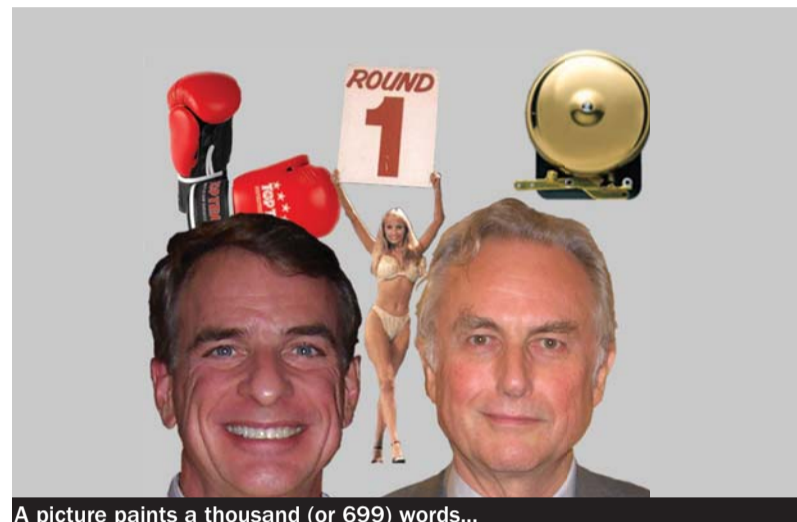
Interestingly, for someone who argues so passionately for the position of rationality and evidence in belief, "The God Delusion" only contains one chapter on the evidence opposing Dawkins' atheistic belief. He quickly dismisses any rationality behind belief in God with his "Ultimate Boeing 747" argument (which curiously only claims to refute one of the arguments for the existence of God listed in his previous chapters). Dawkins titled this chapter: "Why there almost certainly isn't a God", a very assertive title and one that he has defended before in public debate with academics such as John Lennox and Alistair McGrath.

So why does Dawkins constantly refuse to debate American philosopher William Lane Craig? William Lane Craig has written over 30 books and hundreds of academic articles, he is widely viewed as one of the most competent defenders of belief in God and has debated many reputable

atheists including Peter Atkins, Christopher Hitchens and Daniel Dennett. Yet despite several invitations to debate from the British Humanist Association as well as Oxford and Cambridge Christian unions, Dawkins has flatly refused, prompting the question of why someone so dedicated to reason and evidence would refuse an opportunity for debate on this important issue.

In the past, Dawkins has said that he would only debate with "at least a Bishop", though interestingly he has previously debated academics, and has even sat on a panel with Craig before. Another excuse for turning down the chance to debate Craig is that Dawkins doesn't debate Creationists, except that Professor Craig is not a Creationist and has never advocated Creationism. More recently, Dawkins has suggested that his refusal to debate is due to Craig's defence of the Old Testament (which begs the question of whether Dawkins will only debate those he agrees with).

All this has led Dr. Daniel Came, an atheist philosopher at Oxford University, to write a letter to Professor Dawkins saying: "The absence of a debate with the foremost apologist for Christian theism is a glaring omission on your CV and is of course apt to be interpreted as cowardice on your part." Craig is one of the many philosophers to have written critiques of "The God Delusion" and an especially powerful rebuttal to the "Ultimate Boeing 747" argument (one which Dawkins has



A picture paints a thousand (or 699) words...

yet to address).

Dawkins has been criticised by the academic community for his refusal to debate with Dr. Craig, with many believing that his turning down the debate is a sign that Dawkins does not feel that he can engage in such a debate successfully. The Oxford CU has set up an open debate between Craig and Dawkins in the Sheldonian Theatre on the 25th of October, where the opportunity was left open to Dawkins to show up at the last minute, and when he didn't Craig debated an empty chair. A parody bus campaign was set up to advertise the 'debate' using the slogan: "There's probably no Dawkins, Now stop worrying and enjoy October 25th at the

Sheldonian."

As part of Craig's UK tour he also delivered a lecture on Tuesday the 18th of October. The lecture was attended by over 250 people who listened to Craig expand on some of the arguments Dawkins presents in "The God Delusion", as well as presenting more that Dawkins does not seem to address. For anyone wishing to examine the evidence (as Dawkins presumably would encourage us all to do) the video of Craig's lecture is not to be missed. It has already had over 4000 views on YouTube in the last few days; suggesting that the question of God's existence is still a hot topic and one that is still very much open for debate.

Despite several invitations to debate ... Dawkins has flatly refused

## Should climate change be labelled?



Eoghan J. Totten

I read over my last article and it seemed a bit too esoteric... and we're all scientists after all, so I'll try and keep to the facts this time.

There is a multitude of stigma attached to climate change. Some say we're still on a positive temperature trend in the wake of an Ice Age ten millennia ago, others say it would prove fruitless to tackle a problem of such a large order and others, moreover, believe the human race is the sole source of the problem and that a time will come when the Pennines are swept away by a massive tsunami...

I, for one, believe it to be derived from a plethora of factors, including many listed above. This is the cusp of the matter: by recognising it as an all-consuming phenomenon we negate the fact that the only way to tackle climate change is through meeting the plurality of minutiae that make up the bigger picture. The sceptics are right: it is too big to solve alone. Our only viable op-

tion is to delve deeper into our vocations and focus on our own chosen aspects of the crisis. This way, we waste less time on conversation and negotiation about what should be done and instead invest our thought in righteous and thorough action.

It would thus seem from the above that we should rid climate change of its label. It should be integrated into everything we do, where it no longer becomes a question of a rat-race to save the planet but an ethical task to ensure righteous action, sustainability and the expansion of scientific boundaries. This dawned on me after conversing with a German friend in the kitchen, who succinctly stated, "Look around you. The central heating's on, yet the windows are open. People will not consider these things until they are gone and, in some cases, irreplaceable."

Face facts. If the West cuts its emissions of carbon dioxide and vastly reduces consumption of finite resources,

it will be cancelled by the growth of Brazil, India, and China, who hold astronomical potential for growth. They have a right to do so. After all, many parts of the West have had 150 years of industrial boom. We are in no position to criticise. Looking closer, these developing countries are doing what they must to serve their population. We have exhausted industrialisation. We have exhausted our instantaneous, risk-taking economic system. Both follow future paths that lead to a fiery end. If we integrate the two, we might just miss the flames. Maybe a 'Green Market' is just what the West and especially the United Kingdom needs (and of course Ireland ;)).

I look out my window from Evelyn Gardens and watch the traffic... Ferrari, Lamborghini, Mercedes AMG, Bentley. There's some wealth about South Kensington. Contrast that with the phenomenal statistic that one of the sole employers in the UK (500,000) is Tesco. Quite a lot of those 500,000 roles involve me-

nial administration for the sake of creating jobs. I find it debasing and frankly horrific. Bring back the glory days of the industrial towns.

Believe it or not, the foundations may have been unintentionally laid already: Carbon fibre Airbus wings to be made in Flintshire, wind turbines at Harland & Wolff, Belfast. Imagine it on a grand scale: a biofuel plant in Plymouth, a Hydrogen Synthesis centre in Salford, fruit and vegetables grown on every roof in London, Nodding Duck tidal generators on multiple sites on the North Sea coast. There would be work for all, economic growth, national pride, strong Government, all that people look for...

Why aren't we there yet? Two words... stigma and indifference. In conclusion, it's time for change. Let's push towards the future, Imperial College. In the meantime, the monotony of routine, the parties, go on. Some of us even wake up in Shepherd's Bush the following morning.

We should rid climate change of its label. It should be integrated into everything we do

## ARTS

## The Poet's Column

Time  
by Pavitar Devgon

The clock sits ticking on the wall  
I turn away and forget the fall  
I drum a rhythm to stay the beat  
But nearing soon comes the meet

I move away and light the night  
And never look down from the height  
For when I see, it beckons me  
And leads to the land of three

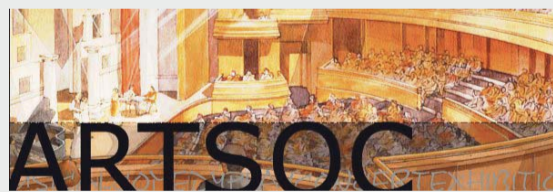
Here I make a spade to dig  
A key to lock, a knife well hid.  
For time will come and rest a while  
No longer will the tick resound  
Time will stop and stay its style  
Its journey never homeward

It never works; it never stops  
It runs on far ahead  
It sees my plight but laughs and sighs  
And counts in rhymes then jumps and flies

I'm lead on further and fear grows deeper  
Unmasked by pain and loss

And when the light is iridescent, I know the time has won.  
I gladly concede the long race is over  
And that I'm not the only one.

**Felix Arts is constantly looking for new poets. If you want to see your work appearing here, do get in touch. Additionally, those interested in joining Poetry Society, contact Osas, at osamudien.omoigiade@imperial.ac.uk.**



A warm welcome back from ARTSOCIETY! We have the pleasure to present you all with very special offers of discounted musical tickets!

21st Nov	<b>Wicked</b>	£30.00
24th Nov	<b>Blood Brothers</b>	£15.00

Tickets of the shows above will be sold in the first ARTSOCIETY meeting.

Date: 9 November 2011 (Wednesday)  
Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm  
Venue: G65 SAF Building

# Nothing stormy about Trevor Nunn's *Tempest*

Eva Rosenthal

Despite evidence pointing to the contrary, the name Ralph Fiennes is not synonymous with that of Lord Voldemort. Fiennes, who made his name at the Royal Shakespeare Company, is in fact a seasoned Shakespeare actor and proves his worth playing Prospero in Trevor Nunn's production of *The Tempest*.

In an earlier time the Duke of Milan, Prospero is now confined to an island with his daughter Miranda. Bringing to the island his enemies by means of a tempest, Prospero schemes, with the help of sprites and spirits, to give his daughter in marriage to the King of Naples' son, whilst plotting revenge on his usurping brother. In the end, everything is forgiven, although perhaps not forgotten.

*The Tempest*, comical though it may be, is also light and ethereal and melancholic. The magical creatures populating the play are beings whose presence should lull the audience into a state of wonder. Prospero's final monologues articulate the mind of a man whose life is perhaps not over, but is certainly close to the beginning of its end. With this, as well as the beauty of the text in mind, one would think *The Tempest* sturdy enough to survive almost any production. And yet, it can barely lift its head under the drudgery and vulgarity of Nunn's production.

Music is vital to any staging of *The Tempest*, driving much of the action and present in many of the scenes. Of no recognisable style, Nunn's choice of music can only be described as kitsch in the worst sense of the word. Costumes belonging to human characters were simply boring; anyone expecting any magic from the sprites was to be sorely disappointed by their garish garments. Even the slave-sprite Ariel, played with passion, albeit rather squeakily, by Tom Byam Shaw, was grounded, metaphorically speaking of course –



Four days in and Ralph was already sick of people asking for Movember donations

there was copious flying involved – by his shiny turquoise outfit.

There was plenty of magic, swordfights and love affairs taking place on stage, but somehow the actors struggled to find, and maintain a pace, crucial to the successful outcome of any play. Fiennes in particular, was disappointing in the first act; he was rarely able to relate to his co-actors and appeared somewhat lost, for want of a better word. His second act thus came as a pleasant surprise. Perhaps borrowing from Prospero's powers,

**“One must thank Fiennes for the lift... that he gives to this production”**

Fiennes delivered his monologues with a sombre aplomb and tragic nuances, his powerful voice rising and falling smoothly. The rest of the cast were as good as the directing permitted. Nicholas Lyndhurst as a very lanky Trinculo was particularly hilarious in his drunken scenes with Clive Wood, who played an equally drunk Stephano. They provided comic relief from a boredom that was felt too often.

*The Tempest* has now reached the end of a successful run at the Theatre Royal – and one must thank Fiennes for the lift, both on stage and off, that he gives to this production. Although this leaves us without the chance to watch yet another famous actor on the West End stage, it will hopefully make way for something better.

The *Tempest* has since finished

## From Hustler then to Hustler now

Ranulf Kinloch-Jones

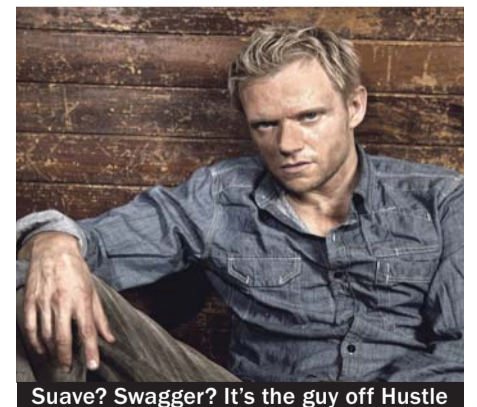
Any production of *Cool Hand Luke* is going to be compared with the 1967 Paul Newman film. It perhaps shouldn't be this way but it can't be helped. I would love to treat it as just another play but it is truly in the shadow of an icon. So when casting the leading man, you're in for a tough job from the start. A quiet but confident leader of men with a hint of cheekiness and swagger coming out of his arse. Enter Marc Warren.

This guy rose to fame as the suave but cocky Danny Blue in *Hustle* and he's a large reason why the show was such a success. He is a brilliant actor and since then has even managed to convince Virgin TV to adopt his bravado. But I've never seen him on stage before and was a bit apprehensive as he's known for his incredibly expressive eyes, something that will only come across on film. I was disappointed to

find out that my initial fears were somewhat correct. On paper he should be great. He does 'play it cool' all the time, but somehow it's just a bit flat. He lacks a certain cheekiness or twinkle that makes the audience invest in the character. This mixed with surprisingly poor stage fighting and general effects (for instance no sign of blood when someone gets shot) makes the eventual climax kind of a bit empty.

Having said this there are redeeming features that make it watchable. Lee Boardman's performance as Dragline (Luke's best friend) is awesome. He paces a mixture of comedy and sincerity perfectly throughout the play and to be honest steals the show because of it. The set design was also fantastic with slick changes adding to the atmosphere.

In summary, it's not the best thing you'll ever see but is definitely watchable. It holds your attention for its short running time of about 1



Suave? Swagger? It's the guy off *Hustle*

hour 40 minutes but won't stay with you for any longer than that. It was an impossible act to follow the film, and it was a valiant effort.

*Cool Hand Luke* runs at Aldwych Theater until November 19

# Minotaur de force

Old Vic Tunnels makes for a modern day take of the mythical labyrinth – complete with bistro

Christopher Dean

Greek mythology is normally pretty messed up, but the tale of the Minotaur takes it to a new level. Born after King Minos' wife got knocked up by a Bull sent from the Gods, the half human half beast was locked in a labyrinth and fed on human sacrifice. This reign of terror ended when Theseus killed the beast with the help of Ariane, who he then left marooned on an island whilst bugging off with her sister, and consequently caused his father to accidentally commit suicide.

This tale of woe has provided the ideal cornerstone to a new, experimental, exhibition for the Lazarides art group in combination with Pret A Diner. Set in the vaults of the Old Vic Tunnels beneath Waterloo station, the idea is to merge the world of art with that of fine dining to create a unique all encompassing experience under the theme of the Minotaur myth. However, if you're a student and your budget doesn't really stretch to Michelin Star food, the exhibition is fully accessible minus the meal.

Even before entering the, the mood was already well set. Upon approach, the only clue to its whereabouts is a solitary sign pointing towards a non-descript door covered in graffiti, hidden in a back alley. Inside, you are given a map, and proceed

through a black curtain to enter the first room. The atmosphere within the tunnels is incredible – it feels damp, disused and eerie, with smoke hanging thick in the air, and lighting obscured by rusting metal objects. This is accentuated on the first piece that you arrive at: a mess of hanging metal and whirring fans hanging from the ceiling. It's uncomfortable viewing for reasons you cannot quite fathom.

This theme of unease is carried out through the whole exhibit, where the setting itself acts like a maze of art. It is such an unusual feeling to walk through a darkened doorway to be physically surprised at what you encounter. The

**"It's the perfect embodiment of art at its most uncomfortable"**

most shocking examples of this come in the form of David Falconer's incredible sculptures formed from hundreds of bodies of rats, or the mournful crucified Minotaur by Atma, covered in nails and surrounded by candles.

However, the real heart of the exhibi-

tion is Stanley Donwood's corrugated iron labyrinth, nestled at the centre of the tunnels. Radiohead's official artist, Donwood is the perfect embodiment of art at its most uncomfortable, and this piece is no different. A twisting and turbulent structure that you are forced to enter, it embodies claustrophobia, driving you forward through its tightly turning tunnels. Combined with blood red paint daubed over the posters plastered on the walls, and splashes of fluids only seen in occasional UV lighting, this creates a truly haunting experience, hinting at an unseen terror.

Minotaur is one of the few times that I've found the location has proven as interesting as the art itself, in some cases possibly overshadowing the more contemporary pieces, such as the work on the perfect form and genetics. It also could be said that whilst the idea of combining the experience with a restaurant was novel, it could also prove to be distracting: drunk and laughing guests remove some of the intended oppressive atmosphere. However, these are small detractions from an exhibit that truly sets itself in an entirely different league to most galleries.

The Minotaur has since finished at the Old Vic Tunnels



Few people know he was actually half-man-half-bull-half-butcher



Creepy bird thing

# Riverside Studios serve up a slice of the Deep South

Tennessee Williams (and Horton Foote) come to Hammersmith

Will Prince

In the absence of any culinary skills, I've found that eating one's dinner whilst watching MasterChef, can often make the experience a little more palatable. Through years of pretending that my toast was a main of spider crab thermidor accompanied with mussels, foraged sea vegetables and a side of chips, Gregg Wallace has hammered into me an appreciation of the infamous notion of 'flavour combinations.'

This month, Riverside Studios serve up two plays that on paper might seem to perfectly compliment each other, but in truth, would probably raise even Michel Roux's eyebrows. America's Deep South forms the backdrop to both *Blind Date* and *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*, the former being a tongue-in-cheek vignette that looks at a teenager's resistance to her prissy aunt's efforts to find her a date and the latter a somewhat brutal tale of two rivals in the cotton industry.

Horton Foote's *Blind Date* lampoons

the traditionally strained teenager/parent dynamic with a cast of staple characters that are immediately familiar even through a Tennessee drawl. Centred around a farcical date between the surly Sarah Nancy and her aunt's proposed suitor, Felix, we see the tensions that arise when family members' aspirations for each other don't wed together. Despite a mundane text, the cast breath real comedy into the piece: Sebastian Knapp's delivery of the gawky and obtuse Felix opposite the unimpressed Sarah Nancy sticks in the mind as a highlight. The performances of Francesca Fenech and Louise Templeton, as Sarah Nancy and aunt Dolores respectively, strike a tender balance between both being victim and aggressor.

As the evening outside grows darker, the second half inside follows suit. Tennessee Williams' *27 Wagons Full of Cotton* shares the more sombre story of cotton mill owner Jake's sabotage of a competitor's mill and the subsequent revenge exacted upon him after his wife

spills the beans. The emotional tussles between man, wife and rival form the fabric of the piece, typical of Williams' better-known works, and despite using the same cast in an identical setting, the performance doesn't suffer from oversimilarity. Ross Ericson portrays Jake with a gruff machismo, all the while striking a uncanny resemblance to Andy Parry (to those who that means anything to), and Sebastian Knapp impressively metamorphoses from his pre-interval Felix to give a slick performance as the slimy Viccaro.

It's clear to see the why at first sight these two plays would make suitable bedfellows. Both analyse the damage that springs from a lack of compassion, ranging from the niggling frictions of daily life seen in *Blind Date* to the earth-shattering single events that change life irreversibly in *27*. But the two go about it in very different ways. The first has a levity that seems at odds with the grave tone of the second, to the degree that you feel a noticeable shift in atmosphere right from



The Chaps soon regretted getting the stripper in on the cheap

the start of the second half. Individually the two halves are well-formed entities and, whilst I admit they would be too insubstantial to stand alone, together they seem somewhat incongruous. Cocoa and partridge ravioli served with demi-glace and beurre noisette may not go down too

well with pan-fried fillet of gurnard and octopus peaase pudding but it sure beats a Milkybar yoghurt in front of BBC Two.

*Blind Date/27 Wagons Full of Cotton* runs at the Riverside Studios until November 13

## Useful Websites and Great Deals for Students!

Living in London is seen as expensive by most people. So I thought I'd put together a blog listing how you can maintain a high standard of living, but on the cheap as a student in London!

Just to note, even though Imperial College Union isn't part of the NUS (long story, for a brief history of Imperial and the NUS read the Imperial College Union page on Wikipedia) there are still loads of deals and more effective ways to save money in London.

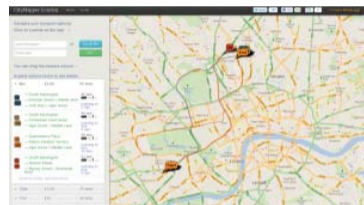
There are too many to list here in Felix so I have put them on my blog at [imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs). But here are a few of the best ones!



**The IMAX and the Science Museum is free for Imperial Students.**



**20% discount for Imperial students at Toni & Guy Gloucester Road.**



**City mapper is a seriously impressive transport website for London that makes the TFL website look like Lycos search vs Google. Just put in where you want to go and where from (or click "Locate Me") and it'll calculate times, costs, distance covered and even how many calories you could burn using different modes of transport.**

[www.citymapper.co.uk](http://www.citymapper.co.uk)



**A student only deal that offers Office Professional Academic 2010 for a MASSIVE discount. From software from students you can also buy both Windows 7 and Office Professional 2010 for just £64.99.**

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**your SABBATICALS**

**Jason Pamar**  
 Deputy President (Education)  
[deducation@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:deducation@imperial.ac.uk)

Keep up-to-date with your Sabbaticals at:  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/sabbs](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/sabbs)

## The Advice Centre

During the freshers period of joining University it is often easy to get caught up with the freedom of it all and as there is not much studying at this time to think that University is great and one of the most enjoyable experiences of your lives and for most people it will be.

So now, four weeks into term what can you do if it's all not going to plan? If you are struggling to settle in, unhappy with your course, struggling to make friends, unhappy with the standard of accommodation in halls, what can you do?

Imperial College Union offers a totally independent service called The Advice Centre which can help you with these problems and more during your time as a student. The service is staffed by a professional Student Adviser called Nigel Cooke and he is trained to deal with the following issues:

- Housing rights
- Academic appeals and complaints
- Employment rights
- Consumer rights
- Drugs and alcohol
- Debt advice
- International student issues
- Personal safety
- Disciplinary issues

The Advice Centre is here to offer you free confidential, Impartial and independent advice on all the issues mentioned and also to offer you welfare support during your time studying at Imperial.

The centre has close links with College services and local community welfare agencies, so if the centre can't help then they are sure to find an agency that can. The centre is a full member of Advice UK which is the UK'S largest network of advice giving services so the centre is sure to find someone who can help.

The Advice Centre can also act on your behalf with any issue you do not feel you can adequately solve yourself. For example if you are in dispute with a landlord or the college we can email, write letters or speak to them on your behalf with your permission.

The centre also has a large supply of condoms and personal attack alarms that are available free to students. The centre is based on the mezzanine level of the Union building in the Student Activities Centre and works on both a drop-in and appointment basis, which means you can just turn up and if the adviser is available, you will be seen straight away.

So if something has gone wrong or you just need some information on the College or local area please do not hesitate to contact us, let The Advice Centre find the answers to your questions.

# The Advice Centre

**Contact:**

**Nigel Cooke**

Student Adviser

Second-floor Mezzanine, Beit Quad

t: 020 7594 8067

e: [advice@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:advice@imperial.ac.uk)

[imperialcollegeunion.org/advice](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/advice)

# FELIX 1500

ade of Felix – from those



A lone Imperial College student was the only protestor outside the Albert Hall last Thursday evening. Michael Newman appeared with his banner, reading 'Down with the Stereotype Female/Male', just as the rich connoisseurs of the Miss World competition were leaving. Some interest was shown in his banner, but the main comments were advising him not to get too cold. After a small protest march in front of the Albert Hall Mr Newman sat down opposite the hall and was joined by a friendly policeman. The two chatted amicably, both of them explaining to enquirers the meaning of the slogan. There was an unusually large police contingent for the competition this year as a group of Falklands' Heroes had been invited. Due to high media attention it was feared that they might be a target for terrorists.

## 80s



## 90s



An increase in the length of the College day to start at 9am and finish at 6pm, and staggered lunch break, has been recommended by a Working Party. There will be a student referendum on the proposal, during the voting for the non-sabbatical Felix Editor, on the 3rd and 4th of December. As well as starting lectures on the hour, the change would introduce a staggered lunch break, splitting the college in two. One section starting at 12pm and one at 1pm. Paul Shanley, Union President, said that the split may be made by department with, for example, all of Guilds taking lunch at 1pm. He said that this would not mean four hours of lectures as the mornings would be broken up with tutorials and seminars.



## 00s

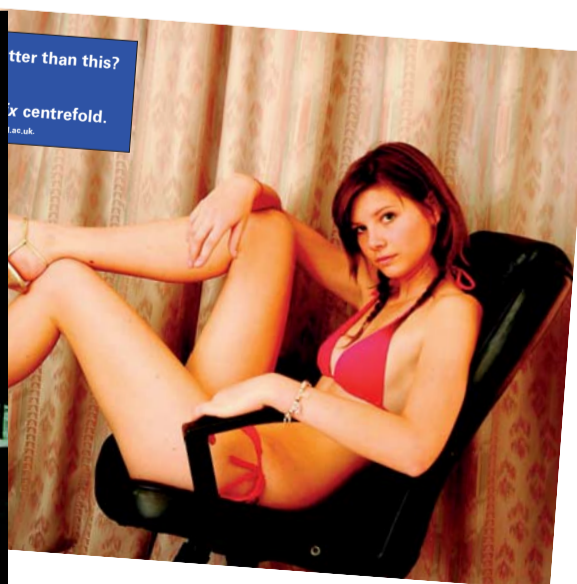


### NAKED AMBITION – THE ORIGINS OF THE FELIX CENTREFOLD

It wasn't always this way, you know.

Perennial Felix favourite – the Centrefold – originally began as 'Page 3'. From humble beginnings the page emerged in September 2005 under the editorship of Rupert Neate. For the first issue of the academic year, a fearless member of 'Imperial's number one band' (at the time) ventured onto Queen's Lawn rocking nothing but a guitar, all in the name of Jazz and Rock Society. These brave heroics paved the way for countless individuals and societies to strut their stuff in the name of self-promotion and charity. Page 3 continued for the following four issues, until it was moved to the centre of the paper. Following that, the page has more or less continued in the centre constantly, evolving into what we now lovingly call Centrefolds.

Obviously, this whole exercise wasn't an excuse to trawl through the archives in search of our favourite centrefolds. Obviously.



**HAPPY ISS**

**FROM IC CHEE**



If you're interested in doing a centrefold (clubs, groups or individuals!), email [centrefolds](mailto:centrefolds@iccheer.com)



**SUE 1500!**

**ERLEADING**



[s@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:s@imperial.ac.uk)

# FROM 1949 TO NOW...

We take a trawl through the archives to bring you some of the top stories from each decade relevant even now to the downright bizarre. Illustrations by **Lizzy Griffiths**.

## 50s



It was with surprise and regret that we heard the decision of the Refectory Committee to dispense with the services of our butler, Mr. Sellars. The decision was made, of course, in the interests of economy, but this will in fact be small, since another person will have to be employed to take over his duties "behind the scenes", such as store-keeping.

He was the person whom people usually cited when they criticised the Refectory for being overstaffed, apparently believing that he did nothing but stand and look like a butler.

In pandering to these critics, and to achieve what is really a trifling economy, the Committee have lost us the services of one who, at the least, lent an air of dignity to the Dining Hall and provided one of the differences between Imperial College and other less august colleges.

We must not, however, be unfair to the Committee, for although there are many who will feel a pang of regret that Mr. Sellars has been sacrificed, at least it shows that the Committee are prepared to take any steps that may be necessary to put its finances in order.



## 60s



IMPERIAL COLLEGE IS TO HAVE ITS OWN IBM 7090 COMPUTER, TO BE INSTALLED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, AND TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

This was announced by the Rector, Sir Patrick Linstead, at a joint Press Conference with Mr. T. C. Hudson (Managing Director of IBM (UK) Ltd. ), on Wednesday, last week. The unit which would cost on the open market about one million pounds, is to be made available to the College free of charge with a further grant of £18,000 a year for five years. This grant will be used to create fellowships and generally to support the work being done at the centre.

Check out even more stories in our online Issue Archive!  
Head to [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)...



## 70s



The lavatory/shower/bathroom complexes in the first floor of newly integrated Beit Hall, New Hostel are unsure of their identity. The doors of the loos each have a word and a neatly nailed cartoon figure of a man or a woman on them. However due to a technical oversight, or an impish sense of humour, the female diagram is stuck over the word MEN and vice versa. Still incinerators apart, no doubt they will soon settle down to be used by both sexes like they always were.

*Patrol*



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**FELIX MUSIC NIGHTS**  
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**N I C E B E R G**

**S M B**

DEEP HOUSE

## MUSIC

Music Editors: **Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**  
**Stephen Smith**

music.felix@gmail.com

## Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



**Balam Acab**  
*Wander/Wonder*  
Tri Angle  
2011

You know those music writers who twist meaningless metaphor around meaningless metaphor in a futile attempt to recreate the music on paper? *Wander/Wonder* is basically that kind of reviewer's wet dream. But it also a bear-trap for anyone who thinks they're going to slide along without using the word "arrangements" – dammit Pitchfork, wtf does that even mean?!? So I'm going to try my best not to fall into douchebaggery and be completely straightforward about this intensely beautiful album.

**Balam Acab** (Harry Potter spell? Really nasty skin problem? Name of a Somali Pirate King?) is a 20-year-old producer who's managed to express himself emotionally in more ways than I'll be able to when I have grandchildren. Alec Koone's (lol) music is 100% abstract electronica; he floats somewhere between instrumental hip-hop producers like Clams Casino and the R&B-infused rhythms of How to Dress Well. (As you might expect from most 'intelligent' electronic music, his songs are awash with stretched out, ethereal vocals.)

All right, I can't hold it any longer; I'm bringing in the over-extended metaphors. If **Bon Iver's** *For Emma, Forever Ago* brought with it the sounds of a lonely log-cabin, Balam Acab takes you to a dark secluded cave and tells you not to come back until you've gazed at the stars, stubbornly resisted the morning sunlight, and thoroughly indulged every nostalgic fibre in your body.

If you know what Pitchfork writers are talking about when they say "arrangements", tweet me @kadhimshubber. If you're similarly dumbfounded, tweet something irritating and boorish @pitchforkmedia. Better still, tweet @thebalamacab and say "thanks for the sweet album, bro!"

## Be sure not to miss...

### NegativWobblyLand

**Cafe Oto, Dalston Kingsland**  
Wednesday 9, November

San Francisco cut/paste sound collage pioneers **NegativLand** team up with fellow Fog City resident **Wobbly** for an evening of home made electronics. The collaboration is centred around the exploitation of *The Booper*, a fully analogue device put together from salvaged radio and amplifier parts, creating an unpredictable beast whose temperament is as mysterious as the racket it generates.

Support comes from prolific Argentinian noiser **Alan Courtis** and **Evol's** "computer music for hooligans."  
**Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**

# Top fifteen: the best a

To celebrate our 1500th issue Stephen Smith names the 15 be

**L**ists such as this are always controversial. Why no Beatles or Radiohead albums? Why no Jazz, Classical or Electronic music? This is simply a list of the fifteen albums which I have found to be the most rewarding after repeated listens. It is not a list of the most influential, original or well-executed groups of songs.

Whether or not you agree with my choices, why not share your favourite 15 albums by emailing us at [music.felix@gmail.com](mailto:music.felix@gmail.com)?

### Belle & Sebastian

*Tigermilk*  
Electric Honey  
1996



Often criticised for being extremely twee, the only Scottish entry here is an album of acoustic pop songs: gentle and understated, and dripping with irony.

**Belle & Sebastian's** excellent debut - heavily influenced by **Nick Drake** and **The Smiths** - is a tour of the imagination of a sexually confused, introverted, bookish schoolgirl.

Opening with the impossibly soothing and surreal 'The State I Am In,' and ending with the beautifully melancholy chamber pop of 'Mary Jo,' *Tigermilk* is a call out to shy and eccentric teenagers the world over: ignore normal people and follow your dreams when you're young, or you'll end up a lonely, gin-drinking, cigarette-smoking failure.

**Best tracks:** 'The State I Am In'  
'Expectations'

### Richard Hawley

*Truelove's Gutter*  
Mute  
2009



If I said this album was a mixture of Pop and Rock n' Roll with a hint of Country, you would be justified in questioning how it made it onto this list. But *Truelove's Gutter* really is the pinnacle of what **Elvis-style** Rock can achieve. Extremely moving, at times tear-inducingly so, this is an album of pain and despair.

But don't let that put you off! Hawley, invoking the vocal style of **Scott Walker**, channels his depression into an artwork of immense beauty.

But it would probably be best to skip track 3: it is the definition of an anomalous point.

**Best Tracks:** 'Open Up Your Door'  
'Soldier On'

### Joni Mitchell

*For The Roses*  
Asylum  
1972



Sandwiched as it is between her two most successful albums, *Blue* and *Court and Spark*, many people approach **Joni Mitchell's** *For The Roses* wondering why it is so lacking in popularity. After listening, the answer is abundantly clear: the album is *extremely* complex lyrically and musically.

Tackling issues like the dichotomy between rural isolation and freedom, and the subtleties of romantic competition, this album takes at least 20 listens to "get". But the experience is a rewarding one.

Mitchell writes songs like poems, paying no attention to accessibility or radio-friendliness. In fact, track 9, 'You Turn Me On, I'm a Radio,' is her ironic attempt to get airplay.

**Best tracks:** 'Lesson in Survival'  
'Let the Wind Carry Me'

### Mystery Jets

*Making Dens*  
679 Recordings  
2006



Who would've guessed that the **Mystery Jets**, famous for incredibly dull pop songs like 'Young Love' and 'Two Doors Down,' actually made some very good music before falling for the evil mistress that is commercial success?

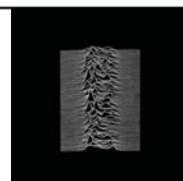
Their remarkable debut, *Making Dens*, is perhaps best described as an extremely worthwhile musical experience. Clearly influenced by **Kate Bush** and early **Pink Floyd**, the album is certainly psychedelic, or maybe it's prog-rock. Or maybe space-rock.

Who knows? The point is, this is a weird and wonderful collection of great songs. It's a shame about their later albums though...

**Best tracks:** 'Zoo Time'  
'Making Dens'

### Joy Division

*Unknown Pleasures*  
Factory  
1979



'Love Will Tear Us Apart' is not all there is to **Joy Division**. In fact, the rest of their songs are rather different, and, I think, rather better.

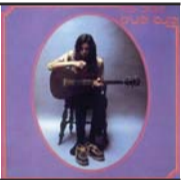
Dark, bleak, grim dance-rock is what awaits the first-time listener to *Unknown Pleasures*, a slow trudge through the troubled mind of soon-to-die Ian Curtis.

From the upbeat opener 'Disorder' to the lethargic and challenging 'I Remember Nothing,' this album puts listeners into a trance of beautiful musical depression.

**Best Tracks:** 'Disorder'  
'Shadowplay'

### Nick Drake

*Bryter Layter*  
Island  
1970



*Bryter Layter* is deceptively upbeat. Sunny, smile-inducing folk-pop tunes accompany **Nick Drake's** lovely, gentle voice; yet the truth is in the lyrics: "Nobody knows/ How cold it grows/ Nobody sees/ How shaky my knees," sings Drake on 'Poor Boy'.

Like **Ian Curtis** (above), Drake was a couple of years away from suicide when this was recorded. But even without the "troubled genius" tag which accompanies such artists, he stands out as a writer of great folk songs and a remarkable guitarist.

Listen out for the future sound of **Belle & Sebastian** in 'Hazy Jane II'.

**Best tracks:** 'Hazy Jane II'  
'Northern Sky'

### The Decemberists

*The Hazards of Love*  
Rough Trade  
2009



The first and only rock opera to feature here, and one almost universally hated by critics, *The Hazards of Love* follows the rather peculiar story of a woman who falls in love with a forest boy.

But the album excels in spite of the ridiculous and unlikely story line. With its sea of epic (in the Homeric sense) songs, the album brings a whole new meaning to folk-rock.

With heavily amplified guitars replacing the gentle acoustics of their previous albums, the only recognisable **Decemberists** feature here is singer Colin Meloy's distinctive voice.

It is, nonetheless, essential listening for folk and rock fans alike, a great example of what rock anthems should be.

**Best tracks:** 'The Hazards of Love 2'  
'Isn't it a Lovely Night'

# Albums since 1949

Best pop and rock albums since Felix's beginning

## Grateful Dead

Live at the Cow Palace  
Rhino  
1976



Live albums don't usually make lists like this, but *Live at the Cow Palace* really deserves a special mention. Certainly the most musically accomplished band on this list, and probably the best rock band ever, **The Grateful Dead** spend around four fifths of this 3-hour-long live album jamming on stage, and it's just brilliant.

**Best tracks:** 'Eyes of the World'  
'Wharf Rat'

## Björk

Post  
One Little Indian  
1995



I feel a bit guilty choosing this of all of Björk's albums, especially given that *Homogenic* and *Vespertine* are clearly better musically, but for some reason it is nearly always *Post* that I choose to listen to when I can.

Everyone knows 'It's Oh So Quiet', and while that song has (a few) good qualities, it is really everything else that makes this album. Split into two conceptual halves, *Post* starts off fast and angry but ends up in a calm meditative state with the remarkably good trip-hop experiment 'Headphones'.

**Best tracks:** 'Possibly Maybe'  
'Headphones'

## Beth Gibbons & Rustin Man

Out of Season  
Sanctuary  
2002



**Beth Gibbons** of trip-hop royalty **Portishead** has a voice more suited to creepy folk music than any other singer I've come across, which is partly why this strange folk-jazz creation sounds so great.

Very autumnal and rural in style, *Out of Season* would not be out of place as backing music to *The Wicker Man* (the 1973 version, obviously).

Not for fans of the accessible, this is an album of subtlety and terrifying quietness.

**Best tracks:** 'Mysteries'  
'Sand River'

## Joanna Newsom

Have One on Me  
Drag City  
2010



All criticism of *Have One on Me* focusses on one thing: this album is *long*. Very long. It is a triple album of over 2 hours of completely uncategorisable music. It's easy to understand why some people are put off.

But if you put in the effort and listen to the whole thing, it's more than rewarding. The first third of the album is the "accessible" bit (but it is highly inaccessible by most standards).

After that, *Have One on Me* is a dense thicket of difficult ambient folk music and verbose and obscure lyrics. It took me about 20 listens before I actually enjoyed the whole album, but it really does just get better and better. I strongly recommend you do the same.

**Best tracks:** 'In California'  
'Go Long'

## Anaïs Mitchell

Hadestown  
Righteous Babe  
2010



If *Hazards of Love* was a rock opera, then *Hadestown* is a folk opera. Unlike the **Decemberists'** album, the story here is brilliant. It is a reworking of the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, except here Hades, no longer the God of the Underworld, owns a mine in gold-rush era America.

Few things can sound more pretentious than a folk opera about a Greek myth, but, surprisingly, *Hadestown* utterly succeeds without a hint of arrogance.

Accompanied by Justin Vernon (of **Bon Iver**) and a whole host of musicians famous in the American folk world, Mitchell's *Hadestown* really is essential listening.

**Best tracks:** 'Wedding Song'  
'Flowers'

## Nick Drake

Pink Moon  
Island  
1972



*Bryter Layter* was recorded a few years before Drake's suicide, but *Pink Moon* was created even closer to his death, and you can tell.

Completely stripped down to the bare bones of guitar and voice, Drake's music has lost both the extravagant accompaniment and veneer of normality which accompanied his previous album.

His voice weak and ghostly, his guitar playing pained and purposeful, *Pink Moon* sounds exactly like the musical equivalent of a life nearing its end.

**Best tracks:** 'Harvest Breed'  
'From the Morning'

## Joni Mitchell

Blue  
Reprise  
1971



Unlike *For The Roses*, **Joni Mitchell's** *Blue* is musically simple and lyrically clear. Its greatness lies in its openness and authenticity. Effectively an exploration of sadness in all its forms (predominantly love and loss) Mitchell sings completely from her own experience of pain.

This album is surprisingly accessible for one dealing with such difficult themes. Indeed, songs like 'Carey' and 'In California' have the illusion of joy, but, as in *Bryter Layter*, the music disguises the grim reality of the lyrics.

*Blue* frequently tops 'Greatest Albums Ever' polls and for good reason, it is the best musical expression of depression out there.

**Best tracks:** 'Blue'  
'A Case of You'

## Joanna Newsom

Ys  
Drag City  
2006



No album has ever held my attention for as many repeated listens as this one. In true Newsom style, the five-song album has an average song length of over 11 minutes, with the longest track coming to nearly 17.

But enough statistics. *Ys* features Newsom on harp, accompanied by full orchestra. Her impossibly high-pitched voice jumps octaves at a time to accommodate the complexity of the lyrics, while the orchestra swells and sinks to follow her.

Even after about 100 listens, I still have no idea what any of the songs are really about, so cryptic are the lyrics. This one album could give a lifetime of listening.

**Best tracks:** 'Emily'  
'Only Skin'

## Punk Planet by Douglas Heaven

This week: **Pairs**



With the Eurozone gone to the dogs and its leaders making gold-digger eyes at China, it's probably a good time to check out the best of Shanghai's eclectic punk scene. Sure, there's a whole Beijing vs Shanghai thing, but what Beijing has in the way of a distinct and cohesive sound, Shanghai more than makes up for in its DIY ethic.

Andy Best – one-time Scouser turned champion of the Shanghai scene and founder of the local Qu record label – says "It's only since I came to Shanghai in 2001 that I found a music scene I liked again, one based around DIY culture and not sending tapes to A&R men". But then, as he also points out, "people are in it for the love and not the money (there's no choice)".

Also holding the scene together is Shanghai's mainstay venue, Yuyintang, and a lo-fi, stripped down aesthetic, to which western ears are most partial. It's this that probably first got **Pairs** noticed by the likes of MTV and BBC Radio's Tom Ravenscroft.

Taking the common line-up of just guitar and drums – this generation's power-trio – drummer Rhys squawk-shouts along to F's raucous and hurried guitar-chord melodies – fuzzy, happy melodies that bring on a smile like a **Sonic Youth** pop song.

Interviewed by *We Live In Beijing*, Rhys explained: "Our music just comes from our lack of talent, our inability to play up strokes on the guitar and from our personalities. We tried to write some slower songs, but I think we just got too excited and they sped up overtime. Maybe if we had a metronome we would be a totally different band."

But in spite of this they still won Best New Band at the 2010 Shanghai Grammys, with one of the judges sensibly observing "[Pairs] are a lot of noise, but I like their noise, and they make sense ... They kind of invaded us during summer, and I'm happy they are there". Andy Best hopes they "kickstart a bunch of similar bands who just go for it and don't try to be polished genre acts".

*Pairs* put out their first, self-titled album with the Qu label in 2010 and released their second *Summer Sweat* (2011) themselves. *Pairs* want you to stream both of them from [pairs.bandcamp.com](http://pairs.bandcamp.com).

## MUSIC

Music Editors: **Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto**  
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# Mikill Pane does not exist... survived by hate of hip-hop

Kadhim Shubber interrogates *KABLAAM* headliner on physics, metaphysics and physicality



**Kadhim Shubber:** Your website says you're "non-existent"; what happened, can we help?

**Mikill Pane:** I'm just a figment of Justin Smith Uzomba's vivid imagination and nope, you can't help. I've got all the assistance I need, thanks. Unless you know anyone who's letting go of a better body than the one I'm currently housed in. I'd quite like to be a sex symbol and Justin's physique doesn't quite cut it.

**KS:** What's your story? How did you come to be (or not to be)?

**MP:** Justin unwittingly created me as

a nemesis for a former alter ego that we won't speak about for legal reasons.

**KS:** Why is pronouncing your name "Mickill" so horrendously wrong?

**MP:** Paedophilia is horrendously wrong. Pronouncing my name in such a manner is simply wrong. Just don't do it and we won't have any problems.

**KS:** What's wrong with modern hip-hop, and what can Imperial students do to fix it?

**MP:** I don't like most modern hip-hop because I'm rarely interested by any of the subject matter of the tracks I hear. Imperial students can't do much unless they're willing to give up their studies and start a mass rap career.

**KS:** You seem to shun the whole rapping about "guns and bitches" area of hip-hop; what's wrong with "guns and bitches"?

**MP:** I'll pretend you didn't ask that...

**KS:** What's worth and not worth rapping about?

**MP:** Rap about anything you like as

long as you're interested in it.

**KS:** You wrote some dark and depressing rhymes on the track you did with Ed Sheeran, 'Little Lady'. What recess of your mind did the 13-year-old prostitute idea come from?

**MP:** 'Little Lady' was written by Justin's old alter ego. He's gone now and he won't need lyrics wherever he is, so I stole the song. Sue me.

**KS:** You're pretty inked up, tell us a bit about your tattoos.

**MP:** There're way too many. I can tell you that they are, in essence, pigmentation beneath my skin... I hope that info suffices.

**KS:** Imperial is a science-only university, so we're going to end with a short quiz: E equals?

**MP:** MC<sup>2</sup>, but what does Mariah Carey's eleventh album have to do with science?

**KS:** People who believe in creationism are?

**MP:** Let's not make sweeping generalisations.



Never hide. Don't need to. Don't exist

Mikill Pane manifests for an evening of lyrical swerves and pelvic gyrations, next Saturday evening in Metric for this term's biggest party, Felix Music Night the third, *KABLAAM*.

Catch him after the bands, before the after-party rips in.

"A non-existent, modern hip-hop hating MC with a penchant for buying sneakers and mentioning U.F.O. town. Some of you might be able to relate." - The Internet

## Music Tech warm up *KABLAAM* & boil after-party

Iñigo Martínez de Rituerto on the glorification of the vibe selector and Imperial's musical exploits

When I first encountered Music Tech, I thought I had seen the light. Finally some people were playing (and making) good music to go out to. No longer had I excuses to swallow inane "party party" muzak, when such an alternative was close at hand. My first evening with the lot was driven by a hazy concoction of deep bass music and liberal liquefaction of my mind and body, to the extent of internal heamorrhaging. I hope next Saturday's appearance at *KABLAAM* will prove equally enthralling and ear opening for some as it did for me.

The usual glorification of the vibe selector, aka, the DJs, will run throughout, setting up an ad hoc sauna operated by

"...between psychoacoustic stimulus and sensual disembodiment."

the sweaty vibes of the finest cuts of Imperial's sweetest jockeys. First up, Imperial graduate and PhD candidate in the Dept. of EEE, *SMB* will light up the floor with a luscious fusion of deep house and nouveau disco, throwing low-swinged beats into old school grooves to get your body moving and put your mind

in the right place. Beyond caressing the turntables, he also serves up a regular podcast titled *In At The Deep End* which can be enjoyed at [blog.djsmb.co.uk](http://blog.djsmb.co.uk).

Taking inspiration from his academic pursuits, he seeks to incorporate elements of AI into his deep house grooves.

A bipolar performance from the author's double alias, *lo. batt. / Algo Ritmico* will open the minds in your ears with an unorthodox approach to the electric guitar, melted into a transmission of live electronic improvisation. The former was the result of a 4-pack of blank cassettes left in my sock by Santa one fateful Christmas Day, from which all manner of musical experimentation emerged.

The latter responds to the urge to explore the outer limits of music, lying somewhere between psychoacoustic stimulus and sensual disembodiment.

Following the scandalous explosions of *Operation Midnight Climax*, the indie swells and scatters of *Black Sands* and the literary loopholes of *Mikill Pane*, the evening's panorama takes a turn from the stage back to the dance floor, as the heat and headiness of the live performances gives way to a scorching exploitation of Metric's concrete foundations and ridiculous sound system.

Inaugurating the after party's excesses, enter *Monsk*, host of IC Radio's electronic dance music broadcasts *Peer Pres-*

*sure* and *The Wave Asylum* (co-hosted with ex-Felix Editor Kadhim Shubber). *Monsk*'s fluid stylings feature dubs from the front of new bass music, served with a sweet slop of honey and milk, as you perspire through your best shirt and hormonal scents flag across the room.

*Niceberg* concludes the double dessert with frantic bass wallops cracking up a brainstorm fuelled by chipstep, dark d&b and obscene low end.

Metastatic vibrations will sweep from your ears, through your skeletal and nervous systems to automate your kicks on the concrete, as the beats pound into the night after an evening through Imperial's deepest underground.

## MUSIC

## Op. 00:00 Climax still climax

Seymour Dicks catches up with Operation Midnight Climax's personal butler ahead of their reappearance at *KABLAAM*

A lot has been said over the years about **Operation Midnight Climax**. Some have called them the saviours of rock music, others have called them evil space demons hell-bent on destroying humanity. I would say there is truth in both those statements.

As I pulled up to Velux Sombrito, OMC's labyrinthian studio-cum-disco palace, I can feel an overwhelming sense of dread coming over me. "Must be the tacos," I thought to myself. I was greeted at the door by Mister Pippensworth, OMC's butler (officially) and spokesman (unofficially). I am told that none of the members of OMC will attend the interview, not because they have forgotten, but simply – as Mister Pippensworth put it – because they "couldn't give a flying fuck". I started to wonder whether it was worth staying at all. Pippensworth sat me down on a derelict, silver-stained sofa and left the room. The place was wretched, but also kind of sweet. Pippensworth arrived back with a suspicious-looking purple mojito, stirring it with a rusty spoon. He handed the drink to me. Before I could even taste it, I smelt it. The stench filled my nostrils and I vomited all over my brand new slacks. "Sorry, I had tacos on the way here" I mumbled through my crusty goatee. Pippensworth started to laugh maniacally, and so the interview began.

**Mister Pippensworth:** They're not real you know.

**Seymour Dicks:** I'm sorry?

**MP:** Operation Midnight Climax. They're a concept. An ideal. A groove. Not a band.

**SD:** I see... Tell me more about the groove.

**MP:** Years ago the plates shifted: this lead to increased magnetism over key hotspots in the Atlantic Ocean. The plan was to use these to re-route the Earth's inner melody...

**SD:** "The Earth's inner melody"? What the hell are you talking about?

**MP:** It's everything really. It's a key. If you can play just the right frequency at the right moment in time, you can literally blow people's minds.

**SD:** ... And this is what OMC is trying to do?

(Silence)

**MP:** No, OMC just plays catchy progressive ska. Explosive rock some call it. Personally I think it's shit.

**SD:** Don't be so hard on them, they're

musical geniuses.

**MP:** You try being their butler for a day, see how much you like it. They did things to me. Horrible, horrible things.

**SD:** Let's get back to the topic at hand... OMC have a gig coming up on the 12th November...

**MP:** Let me interrupt you right there...

**SD:** No.

**MP:** Let me interrupt you right there...

**SD:** Okay.

**MP:** They prefer the term "séance".

**SD:** What?

**MP:** OMC's next "séance" is on the 12th November.

**SD:** Right, yes. At Metric then.

**MP:** Yes, an age-old favourite. A mature, strong scent. Something vicious.

**SD:** What do you foresee?

**MP:** So, so many heads. All of them blown. Like the jackhammer to your watermelon.

**SD:** That's hot.

As I spoke the words, my head tilted backwards and my eyes slowly wrapped upon themselves. I woke up the next day in my bed, covered in blood, surrounded by what appeared to be goat entrails. Or genitals. As I searched for the source of the bleeding, I realised the initials O.M.C had been carved into my chest. I brought my right hand closer to my face: I was holding a blood-splattered rusty spoon. "Damn," I thought. "They're good".



Operation Midnight Climax getting BONED at the last Felix Music Night in June

A preliminary time scale for the evening...

7:00 - 7:40  
**SMB**

7:50 - 8:30  
**lo. batt. / Algo Ritmico**

8:50 - 9:30  
**Black Sands**

9:50 - 10:30  
**Operation Midnight Climax**

10:45 - 11:30  
**Mikill Pane**

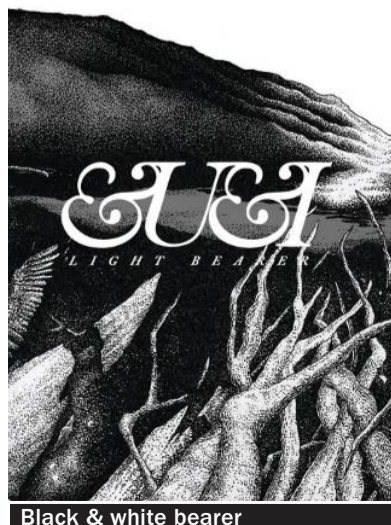
11:30 - 12:10  
**Monsk**

12:10 - 1:00  
**Niceberg**

**Not Indigo** will keep things cozy between the sets

## Something brilliant from the terrible Midlands

George Jeffrey on the fruits of UK hardcore



Black & white bearer

Anyone familiar with the UK independent hardcore scene will know of the untimely demise of the mighty **Blakfish** two years ago. This crippling shot to the nuts did however have one positive; the birth of Brummie trio **&U&I** (not like an actual weird birth of three fully grown, bearded men at the same time, just like... shut up, you know what I mean).

Constructed from the 3 remaining members of **Blakfish**, their sound is just as raw while remaining strangely catchy and comforting. *Light Bearer* is their debut full-length release and a jolly good one at that. The album, released on 21st October 2011 on **ondryland records** has been labelled with many genres from indie to mathcore but all you need to know

is that it's super fucking sweet. Everyone knows hardcore bands are awesome. It's just a fact, and while this band may not be strictly hardcore, this fact definitely applies to them.

Buy this album, whack it in the old walkman and put on your headphones, after a short intro you will start to feel a funny sensation. It doesn't take long to realise that this is your face being punched in so hard that it's pulled off of your skull and melted with a massive fucking piece of fire. Or something. Then just while you're in the midst of this ridiculous onslaught of grinding riffs and irregular time signatures, you hit the centre-piece of the album, the eye of the storm, a track entitled 'Super Five'.

The chilling softness of the song allows you to recuperate slightly and relax your pummelled eardrums. However this sense of security is short lived as you are yet again propelled into the sheer chaos that is 'Light Bearer'.

The album has you reaching for the repeat button as it continues to amaze until the very end of the climactic final number 'Above the Abyss' with **Adebisi Shank** guitarist Lar Kaye chipping in for good measure. While the album does have a hardcore vibe running throughout, almost every track has gentle, angular guitar parts and memorable vocal melodies intertwined. The construction of conflicting sounds makes this release an absolute must-have for anyone. If you have been

at all interested by this incredibly poorly constructed piece of written information (thanks science) then buy this album now (either on iTunes or **andyandi.net**). Think of it this way, you can either buy this album or continue to spend your student loan on vast amounts of cheap beer, cheap porn and cheap food. Do you literally want to become a mega drunkard masturbating lardman? Yes? That's sick, and something else sick is that you can often find &U&I doing shows in London and if you happen to see one advertised then go, the shows are even better than the album. Seriously, buy this album, go to a show, if you don't love it then at least you can be safe in the knowledge that you are dead inside. Every cloud, eh.

Television Editors: **Matt Allinson**  
**James Simpson**

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# TELEVISION

## Pick of the week

### Watch 'em, yo



**Friday | 2100 - 2130 | BBC3**

#### **Him & Her**

Series two of BBC3's most popular sitcom ever continues.

**Saturday | 2000 - 2030 | BBC2**

#### **Dad's Army**

Pike tempts fate by taking his girlfriend Sylvia out to the cinema in Mainwaring's new staff car – which promptly breaks down, leaving them stranded miles from anywhere. Classic comedy.

**Sunday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC2**

#### **Will it Snow?**

Kate Humble, Adam Rutherford and Alys Fowler assess what Britain's weather will be like this winter, following the high levels of snow that caused chaos across the nation in 2010.

**Monday | 2100 - 2200 | ITV1**

#### **The Jury**

The lives of 12 people are turned upside down when they are summoned for jury duty in a controversial murder retrial. New series starring Julie Walters.

**Tuesday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC1**

#### **Death in Paradise**

A voodoo priestess who predicted her own murder is found dead in the local school - and while the team thinks her prophecy has come true, Richard is more inclined to believe it is simply a good old-fashioned killing

**Wednesday | 2100 - 2200 | BBC2**

#### **Peter Jones: How We Made Our Millions**

The entrepreneur explores the world of high-end business, interviewing the Innocent smoothie company co-founder Richard Reed, and Michelle Mone, the woman behind the multi-million pound Ultimo lingerie brand.

**Thursday | 2100 - 2130 | BBC2**

#### **Rev**

Adam is acclaimed as a hero for thwarting a mugging, but when he begins to revel in the recognition he receives an unexpected visit from the high levels of the clergy. Comedy, guest starring Ralph Fiennes.



## Thought the Government were in trouble?

Well, they're in *The Thick of It* now...

**Marie-Laure Hicks**

After three different Waterstones (ironically, nobody could find the single copy supposedly in stock) and two failed Amazon deliveries, I finally got my hands on the book: "The Thick of It: The Missing DoSAC Files". Bringing to the paper Armando Iannucci's BAFTA-winning comedy, this brilliant set of documents has provided me with enough entertainment for another decade (or at least until the next series).

The Thick of It is the BBC's modern day Yes, Prime Minister. Taking place in the fictional Department of Social Affairs and Citizenship (DoSAC), the show is a dark humoured, satirical portrayal of the machinations and workings of Blair and Brown's Labour government. During the first two series, Hugh Abbot (Chris Langham) is the depressed and sarcastic minister, trying his best to make himself into someone of importance but plagued by the press about his second flat in central London. Sadly enough for his brilliant character, Langham was then arrested on charges related to child pornography. The rest of the cast remained for the third series with a new addition and replacement minister: the slightly insane and incapable Nicola Murray (Rebecca Front). Other cast members include James Smith, Joanna Scanlan, Roger Allam and Chris Addison, who is thankfully a better actor than comedian.

The characters are built on every cliché you can think of, then even more and better ones. The civil service is incompetent, smug and lazy but often called to save the minister from his/her blunders. The political advisers are either completely powerless or overly arrogant and useless. The ministers themselves are gaffe-prone, incompetent and press targets. The country is quite simply being ruled by a bunch of lunatics, a fairly good reflection of the reality to be honest.

The pure genius of the series and the script writers however resides in Malcolm Tucker.



Constipation has become a serious issue in 2012's government

Malcolm Tucker, the director of communications for the government, the Labour party spin doctor, the man who effectively runs the place is, in my opinion, one of the greatest creations of British comedy. Played by Peter Capaldi, the swearing Scotsman always gets what he wants, and by any means, morally acceptable or not. He has some of the best swearing abilities in the country and quite simply walks around Whitehall ready to shout at and bully anybody into submission. He is the guy who gets a cake from the Prime Minister saying "happy birthday c\*nt" (a clear sign of love), is nicknamed Hamish MacDeath and who will compare you to being "as much use as a marzipan dildo" or "a sweaty octopus trying to unhook a bra". In the Christmas specials, Tucker has to deal with the change in leadership and as the power sways from one candidate to another, he succeeds in getting into a food fight, destroying the hopes and dreams of a young MP and making himself indispensable to all potential prime ministers. The third series see the swearing genius slowly losing grip, but no worries, he is The Man and somehow always ends up pulling the strings to his advantage. If you haven't had enough of him, Jamie MacDonald, No.10's press officer, is equally qualified in abusive language, bullying and manipulation.

The fast pace of the show, wittiness of the dialogue and hand-held camera work give The Thick of It a realistic documentary style. The plot is also often based on actual events, as are the characters with Campbell and Mandelson being the main sources of inspiration for Tucker. The Christmas special is focused on the power struggle following the resignation and appointment of a new prime minister, as took place in 2007. Opposition characters were introduced in the specials and the third series, leading to its culmination at the pending election in May 2010. When the results came out, Iannucci went on to thank Nick Clegg "for completely destroying our plans for the next series". And effectively, they are a couple years late, with filming starting in March 2012. The new series will picture the coalition government in power with its inner tensions and Malcolm Tucker in the opposition.

The series have also led to a couple of spin-offs: the film *In the Loop* received an Oscar nomination for best adapted screenplay. In addition, *Veep*, HBO's Americanisation of the show is soon to be aired. Unique in its style, the show even has a swearing consultant. This brilliantly funny, smart and well written comedy picturing the dysfunctional government with a cast of excellent actors comes highly recommended.

## Wilfred - bizarre humour has a new leash of life

**George Barnett**

A hapless ex-lawyer (Elijah Wood) wakes up after trying to commit suicide the night before. Clearly a fruitless attempt – damn you sugar pills! Ryan is confronted by his neighbour, Jenna, asking him to look after her dog, the eponymous Wilfred (played superbly by Jason Gann, and no, I hadn't heard of him either). Ryan's opinion of Jenna is fairly self evident – she's pretty hot – so he obliges.

Enter Wilfred – a dirty grey mongrel – but to Ryan, Wilfred is not a dog, but a bearded Aussie in a dog costume. An audacious dog at that, one who drinks beer, smokes pot and attempts to nuzzle in the breasts of any reasonably looking girl. Understandable, I suppose.

The writers manage to create a quirky but strangely realistic synergy between Wilfred and Ryan (who ends up looking after him in-

definitely). Ryan's feelings for Jenna are apparent to Wilfred – and as the saying goes 'a dog is a man's best friend' – ergo Ryan is a target. This is actually the very concept which gave rise to the original Australian version of the show. The main difference to reality is obviously we are treated to Wilfred's outlook on things. As the series progresses we learn Jenna has a boyfriend (bet you didn't see that one coming), he's also one of those typically American sporting stereotypes (read: dick). Did somebody say cliché?

Whilst making you laugh Wilfred also manages to make you think. The whole show is based around perception; Ryan and the viewer get to understand, amongst other things, what life as a dog is like. The first time you truly get an idea of this arises when Ryan takes Wilfred to the beach – a "No Dogs Allowed" sort of beach. Of course Wilfred has his way

by guilt tripping Ryan and get's to go in the ocean. There's something quite heartwarming and charming when Wilfred is excitedly shouting "Ryan! I'm in the ocean! Oh Ryan watch this! Ryan! It's a Pelican! It's a Pelican!" in his magnanimous Australian accent.

Each episode centres around the theme of an opening quotation; Ryan is thrown by Wilfred (usually by means of trickery or guilt) into a chaotic situation involving that theme. We see him, amongst other things, defecating into his neighbour's boot, as you do. Something positive arises and a lesson is learnt about aforementioned theme, be it trust, happiness, fear, acceptance or something else. From this Ryan slowly begins to live a fulfilled life. Thankfully this is pulled off in such a way that for once you aren't left feeling that little bit sick about all the 'this is how to live your life' advocacy. Wilfred is clever, amusing and above all unique.



## TELEVISION

## Brilliant shows you've never heard of

## Tim Arbabdazah

Last week, I wrote a column about how much I love *Arrested Development*. It was in this obscure student publication called *Felix*, you probably haven't heard of it. Inspired by this, I decided to write about other, slightly obscure, TV shows that I love. Mainly, because I want more people to talk to (read: quote incessantly at) about them. So, put your eyes roughly 5mm below, and you can see some hidden TV gems. Okay, you can't see them, but you can see my writing about them...

## Archer

I put this first as it's by the same people who made *Arrested Development*. This is evident in some of the humour involved and a few of the voices.

The show centres around Stirling Archer, a super-spy at ISIS, and the rest of

the office. The first thing you'll notice is that it's a cartoon. But wait, don't turn your head and snort in disgust at me – I'll admit there is some stigma attached to cartoons, people almost seem to think that they cannot possibly match a live action show. To those I say, that's your opinion and you're entitled to it. I then point them to *Futurama*, a show that makes you cry like a man who's just been dumped by a girl, while she is simultaneously squeezing lemons and onions in his eye.

The show is just so cleverly done, and the way Archer basically has a conversation while he is on a mission always gets me. Then there are the one-liners that you can quote to your hearts content (yeah, weird, I also thought that expression was 'till your heart's content' but apparently it's not). My favourite being: "I don't know if the grade sand, but, course", said by Archer to his long-suffering servant Woodhouse when or-

dering him to buy sand, that will later be used to punish him (not in that way).

All of the characters are voiced well and developed. The plots are all brilliantly done, with the humour dropped in and not feeling forced; by that I mean, the irritating way that suggests they came up with a joke then worked a plot around it.

It's currently in its 3rd season, all being worth a look. Once you start, you'll end up in the danger zone, trust me. You'll also get that reference!

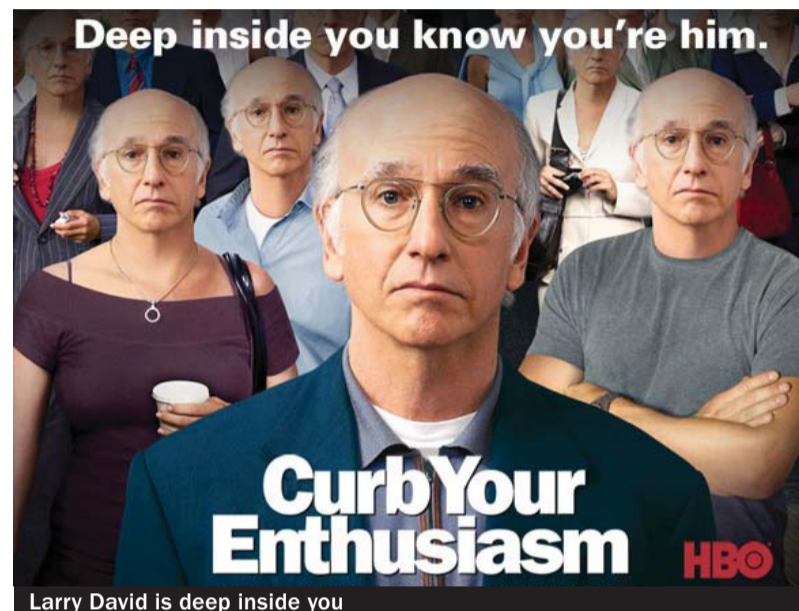
## The Life and Times of Tim

Another cartoon for you, don't worry, the next will be live-action I swear.

This really is a great hidden gem of a show. I'm not just saying that because the main protagonist shares my name (and maybe looks a bit like a cartoon version of me?).

Tim, from the show, is a mild-mannered Imperial student. No, wait, sorry, that's me. The other Tim, is a mild-mannered worker with a desk job at Omnicorp. He always seems to manage to get himself into horrible situations, which usually end up badly for him. People in the show are always misinterpreting what he says, or just misquoting him, making you want to shout at the screen in anger at his mistreatment.

The other characters are all interesting. The Boss (not Rick Ross) is definitely my favourite character. He just always comes out with something funny. Such as the time he called Tim into his office to test him by seeing how he copes under pressure. Rather than a public speaking challenge, he decided to proposition Tim. Rivalling The Boss for favourite character is Tim's friend Stu. His highlights include convincing



Tim that fighting an old man counts as charity as "rather than building a bridge, you'll be breaking the bridge of an old man's nose".

The episodes are split into two different segments. You'll also notice that the graphics are much cruder than Archer, or other cartoons for that matter. I think that's what makes it so appealing, in a way. It's got a sense of home-made fun. It looks and feels like it's being made by a bunch of people who are doing it because they love making funny sketches, not because they want to make money. With only two seasons to catch up on, before the third comes along, and no exams in sight, you have zero excuses to not watch this show.

## Curb Your Enthusiasm

Okay, I know, it's not the most obscure

show ever, but it's definitely not as famous and popular as it should be. It's from the creator of *Seinfeld*, Larry David. The show centres around a fictionalised version of Larry David and his general trials and tribulations; for Larry, they are a lot, as he can't help but stick his foot in his mouth.

*Curb Your Enthusiasm* is typified by featuring one big arc per season that is beautifully woven into the individual stand-alone episode. These episodes feature several plots that all somehow intertwine and join up in a way that will make you howl with laughter.

There are also plenty of seasons to catch up on, so it's perfect procrastination material. If you want a starting point, episode 8 of season 3, 'Krazy-Eyez Killah', where Larry befriends a rap artist, is my personal favourite episode.



The name's Archer, Stirling Archer

## The Food Hospital is better than hospital food

## Helen Wilkes

Channel 4's latest culinary offering is a scientific blend of classics such as don't-watch-it-with-your-parents *Embarrassing Bodies* and *Supersize vs Superskinny*. All three programmes feature C4's basic ingredients of Grand Design-esque houses and arty long shots, grisly bodily close ups when you least expect them and celebrity doctors who seem to spend far too much time on TV and no time on the skiing holidays my GP frequently enjoys.

Where *The Food Hospital* differs is that its scientific content is (on the whole) well researched, rational and unsensational. While the makers of the

programme did use the phrase 'food as medicine' perhaps a few too many times for my liking – you wonder how many viewers with the not uncommon diseases featured will now recklessly, if optimistically, throw out their medication and start stuffing their faces with vegetables and food replacement shakes, there were a lot of good messages and sensible science put across.

Most pertinent was the scene in which a breast cancer sufferer was offered advice on the recent changes she had made to her diet in the hope of preventing her cancer recurring. Perhaps Channel 4 have been rebuked over the advice given in the past by 'Dr' Gillian McKeith, but they managed to

sensitively handle the emotive issue of breast cancer and also firmly remind viewers that 'We can't cure cancer with food. We can't.' A number of subtly-inserted phrases such as 'best evidence suggests' were not used as caveats but instead as reasoning behind the opinions the panel of experts suggested, while a series-long randomized trial involving viewers gives the promise of an insight into a 'real' scientific study.

Following the public response to the programme via the ever-ubiquitous Twitter hashtag revealed a mainly positive viewer response, with many Tweeters were praising the considered opinions and calm tone of the hour-long programme, while others seemed

disappointed that food wasn't actually a replacement for conventional medicine.

Apart from the visual impact of diabetic phimosis in high defenition (I wouldn't Google it), my only grievance with *The Food Hospital* was the clunkily engineered happy ending, involving a doctor using a small child's drawings as a rudimentary pain scale. While 'more research is needed' is a forbidden phrase in the publishing world, I would definitely like to see the results of these nutritional remedies over a longer time period. I'd also like to see if *The Food Hospital* keeps up the good work in terms of sensible non-sensationalist science broadcasting.



# TELEVISION

Television Editors: **Matt Allinson**  
**James Simpson**

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## This week on Twitter

### Some top tweets from Felix TV's followers and followees



**@FelixTelevision**

@TheNatFantastic I do consider other people, and, as someone who maintains a Twitter account for their own vagina, I consider you eccentric.



**@TheNatFantastic**

Can't help but think that posh boys are having a go because I've committed the cardinal sin of Being In Possession Of An Opinion & A Vagina.



**@LuciaPodhorska**

reviewing my absolute favourite TV show of all time for the 1500th issue of the Felix = PRESSURE!!



**@rimmer152**

'prostitutes are rough in Amsterdam, one of 'em got me to wash my old man in the sink' 'you took your dad?'



**@FelixTelevision**

@TheNatFantastic I think you are posher than a Posh Cheddar Cheese and Pickle Baguette, but are in denial, because you don't like sandwiches

(I don't suppose you'll have a couple more TV-related tweets in the future? – Ed)

## Buffy – a cultural phenomenon

**Lucia Podhorska**

There are shows you watch for mindless entertainment. There are shows you get hooked to, ones you simply need to watch every week. And then there are shows that come to define so many aspects of your life. For me, Buffy the Vampire Slayer is just that show.

In 1992, a man called Joss Whedon had a unique idea: what if, instead of the silly little blonde girl who walks into an alley and gets killed in every horror movie, that same girl turns around and beats the crap out of her attacker? It was an idea that would result in a cultural phenomenon.

Starring Sarah Michelle Gellar as Buffy Summers, the first episode introduces audiences not only to the main characters of the show, but also to the mythology of vampires and magic - "In every generation there is a chosen one. She alone will stand against the vampires, the demons and the forces of darkness. She is the Slayer." Every Slayer has a Watcher, whose purpose is to guide and train the Slayer. In Buffy, this job falls to Rupert Giles, played by Anthony Stewart Head, the stuffy librarian at Sunnydale High School. Very early on, Buffy is joined in her mission by Willow (Alyson Hannigan) and Xander (Nicholas Brendon), together forming 'the Scooby Gang.' Season One of BTVS is told in a 'monster/mystery-of-the-week' format which worked well in the initial stages, but it quickly became apparent that audiences were more interested in the relationships between the characters and not so much the scary demons.

Long before Edward and Bella there was Buffy and Angel. Stephanie Meyer can eat her heart out, the love between Buffy and Angel is the ultimate human/vampire romance and one that all future relationships will be compared to and, inevitably, fall short of. This is passion and heartbreak the way it's meant to be and the



"A vampire in love with a Slayer! It's rather poetic...in a maudlin way"

evolution of their relationship is the real driving force behind Season Two. Seth Green joins the cast as Oz, while vampires Spike and Drusilla become the Big Bad of the season.

Amongst other things, BTVS is a prime example of a show with consistently improved writing. After a very rocky start in Season One, by the time high school is over and Season Four comes around, there is really very little to criticize. This is also the point where Whedon's creative genius becomes even more apparent and garners him his first Emmy nomination for "Hush," the truly creepy episode with no dialogue. The following seasons feature more complex storylines and the writers continue to show us that life doesn't stop being painful after high school, it just develops into a different kind of pain. The Season Five episode "The Body" offers viewers an hour of television unlike any I have seen before or since (incidentally, it recently won an Emmy in the Drama Category for Television's Most Memorable Moment), whereas "Once More, With Feeling" allowed Joss Whedon to realise his dream of producing a musical. Full of engaging characters, amazing acting and witty dialogue, Buffy is one of the few shows that is unafraid to take risks

with character development and by the end, the Scoobies barely resemble the insecure teenagers we met in Season One. Everyone has shades of grey, but do bear in mind that nobody is safe in Whedon's world...

In its seven year run Buffy the Vampire Slayer cleverly used its supernatural elements as metaphors for real-life issues – high school resting on the mouth of hell, anyone? It was never a show that shied away from tackling controversial topics ranging from addiction, grief, sexual orientation, attempted rape and murder to feelings of alienation, teenage rebellion, atonement, death, love and all the things in between that define us. At times comedy, at times horror, but mostly a dramatic portrayal of life, the show gathered a cult following that lives on today. Not only that, Buffy is also notable for attracting attention from academics and is often studied in Popular Culture Studies, as well as being the first show in U.S. television history to feature a long-term lesbian relationship among the core characters. Most importantly though, it managed to do what it originally set out to do – empower women. It showed the industry that it is possible to have strong female leads without objectifying them, as was the case with for example Xena – Warrior Princess.

If you're a fan of vampires, magic and all things mystical then I do recommend you watch this. Buffy is the show that brought vampires back from the dead (pun completely intended, sorry) and made them cool. If you do watch it and find yourself enjoying it, then never fear, Buffy lives on. There was a spin-off series 'Angel', which ran for five seasons, and both shows are being continued in comic book form. Linked to REM's 'Everybody Hurts', Buffy came into my life over a decade ago and has become a permanent fixture. As clichéd as it may sound, it helped me through some tough times and for that, I will be forever grateful.

## An extraterrestrial plan to destroy Earth

**Maciej Matuszewski**

What can I say FLCL (pronounced fooly cooly or furi kuri)? Produced by anime powerhouses Gainax and I.G. Production, it's certainly one of the craziest pieces of fiction that I've ever seen.

The show opens the young Naota being run over by the Vespa riding Haruko Haruhara, a tall pink haired woman claiming to be a member of the Galactic Space Police Brotherhood. She then proceeds to hit him with her guitar, which opens up a portal in his head which allows various alien robots to pass through. As the series progresses this is revealed to be part of an extraterrestrial plan to destroy the Earth, with only the Japanese Immigration Department standing in the alien's way. Like I said this is a strange show: a show set in a universe in which people don't find it strange that a 'company' called Medical Mechanical has built a giant steam iron shaped 'factory' in the middle of their town; where scooters can be used as spaceships and where guitars are the most powerful weapons in existence.

The plot isn't actually that difficult to understand, at least if you watch the show a couple of times. It's certainly infinitely more comprehensible than another of Gainax and I.G. Production's collaborations: End of Evangelion. At its core the story is mix of standard coming of age and space opera elements, albeit with a very touching ending.

The real draw here is the humour. The surreal nature of the show is perfectly complemented by Haruko's general insanity. There's also the inten-

tional comically inconsistent art style, with a short but hilarious South Park parody in episode 5. This is one example of numerous references to, and jokes about, other anime, rock music and popular culture in general. Gainax clearly wasn't afraid of a bit self parody: in the second episode when Naoto's otaku father begins spouting pretentious nonsense about philosophy Naota explains to Haruko that he "once wrote a book about the deep mysteries of Eva".

I would also be remiss not mention the music, performed by Japanese band 'The Pillows' considered by many to be the best part of the show. I usually have no interest at all in music and so for me to notice it must truly be exceptional. The songs used are fast paced, fun and really fit the show, with the closing theme being particularly good.

This is the very good series. While it might take one or two episodes to get accustomed to the surreal and silly nature if you stick with it you're sure to be rewarded. At six episodes it's also very short, so there's really no excuse for not seeing it.



Do you brandish your sword at me old chap?

# MEET SHELL



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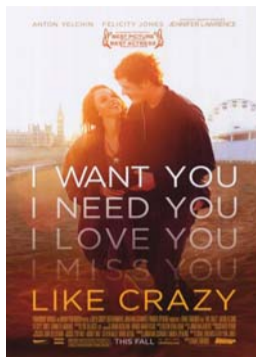
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# FILM

Film Editors: **John Park**  
**Lucy Wiles**

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## Like Crazy

**Pros:** This year's Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, this refreshingly honest modern Romeo and Juliet adaptation (this time the couple is separated by immigration laws, as an English student is not allowed into the States) is touching and mature, much like the impressive performances its leads give.

**Cons:** It's a teen love story, and there is nothing so dramatic and impactful that would qualify this for serious consideration. Sure it's sweet, often heart-breaking and an accurate depiction of long-term, long-distance relationships, but it's too low-key to be a massive hit.



## The Help

**Pros:** A film that took America by surprise (the box-office receipts stand at \$170 million, against its modest \$25 million budget), the well-acted, stirring and surprisingly hilarious portrayal of African-American maids in 1960s Mississippi was an instant hit with the audience, turning into the most feel-good, crowd-pleaser of year.

**Cons:** The general public embraced it, but several critics remain sceptical. Too much detail is glossed over, and for the serious subject matter that still stands to be a controversial issue even to this day, the light-hearted approach and several clichéd characterisations weren't so well received.



## Hugo

**Pros:** Directed by Martin Scorsese – enough said.

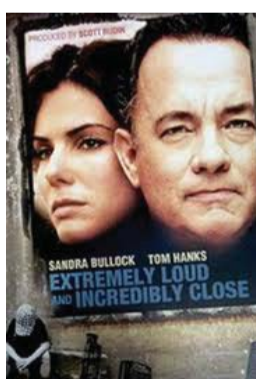
**Cons:** It would appear Scorsese has sold out to the 3D craze. Now we need someone like Woody Allen to convert his films into 3D to know for sure that this extra dimension is here to stay. But seriously, *Hugo* is a major departure of genre from the man who gave us some classics such as *Goodfellas*, *Raging Bull*, and *Taxi Driver*. Instead, *Hugo* is a kid's adventure film full of visual effects. It's a tough genre to compete with in the Oscars, and Scorsese really needs to break some new ground to be even considered.



## We Bought a Zoo

**Pros:** Despite its odd title, there is a reason why Cameron Crowe's latest is in the running. Matt Damon lands a strong role as a single father trying to raise his two distant children whilst keeping up with his household work that includes looking after a zoo. And the theme of an inexperienced father reconnecting with his children whilst finding new love (Scarlett Johansson, that lucky bastard) is a formula that has gone down well in the past.

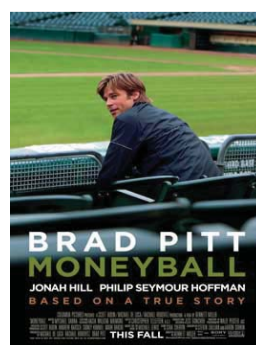
**Cons:** It looks like a good Christmas film for the whole family, which means the Oscars may not quite warm to it come decision time. After all, family friendly films hardly ever manage to win.



## Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

**Pros:** How we deal with grief is a popular theme during the Oscar season. A young boy (Thomas Horn) loses his father (Tom Hanks) on 9/11 and he must rebuild his life with his mother (Sandra Bullock). It's an uplifting story, backed by a range of fantastic supporting actors, with Bullock already generating awards buzz for her performance.

**Cons:** Is the world ready to be reminded of the 9/11 tragedy? Watching the terrorist act recreated on screen is quite another experience to go through altogether. And a lot hangs in the balance of newcomer Horn. If he screws up, the rest of the film can forget about winning any awards.



## Moneyball

**Pros:** Uplifting sports dramas are always popular with the Academy and *Moneyball* is no different from many of its genre greats. A lone baseball coach (Brad Pitt) tries to achieve the impossible with his sinking team, whilst those around him think he's crazy. Heard this somewhere before? Yes, this is how every single sports coach-related sports film's plotline reads.

**Cons:** Shown all across America in late September, *Moneyball* was given its wide release a little too early to be considered seriously as a front-runner. Most strong pictures are kept in the dark until late November to December. Will the voters remember the film in January 2012? Only time will tell.



# Academy Award Anticipation

The Film Editors look ahead to potential 2012 Oscar Best Film nominations...

## 50/50

**Pros:** An uplifting tale of friendship, love and survival, this tale of a young man diagnosed with a rare form of spinal cancer was a hysterical surprise. Written by a first-time screenwriter, Will Reiser's screenplay has that clever balance of humour and genuinely heart-wrenching moments.

**Cons:** It's pleasant enough viewing, but is it too sugary sweet for the Academy's tastes?



## Carnage

**Pros:** All four leads are incredible in their portrayals of such fascinating characters. Based on an award-winning play, Roman Polanski recreates this intimate and explosive dramatic feature with confidence and a cracking script.

**Cons:** Relying on its actors who stay in one apartment throughout the entire film, there is no denying that this doesn't quite have the grandeur most Best Picture winners have.



## Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

**Pros:** Already being hailed as the best British film of the year, Tomas Alfredson's smart spy thriller is truly one of a kind, with an award-worthy turn from the usually highly underrated Gary Oldman.

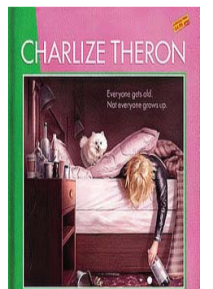
**Cons:** It's not your usual, explosive spy thriller, but a more slow-burning one that requires concentration and patience. However, this must be a small drawback for sure.



## Young Adult

**Pros:** Jason Reitman is reunited with screenwriter Diablo Cody, and the duo who made the excellent, charming *Juno* have produced *Young Adult*. Charlize Theron is surprisingly good at pulling off a funny bitch, although an emotional punch towards the end is more than guaranteed with a group as good as this.

**Cons:** Is this too light-hearted for the Academy? Also, comparisons between *Juno* will be the film's biggest downfall.



## The Ides of March

**Pros:** Who doesn't love a solid, controversial political thriller full of schemes and duplicitous characters? Backed by an all-round ensemble cast, George Clooney's latest directorial effort is a gripping one, despite familiar themes.

**Cons:** It's not ground-breaking or distinctive enough, which will be trouble if stronger candidates appear later in the year.



# FILM



## Albert Nobbs

**Pros:** Playing a woman who dresses up as a man to work as a butler in 19th Century Ireland, the five-time Oscar nominated Glenn Close is simply incredible and is definitely one of the front-runners for the Best Actress award. There is also plenty of warmth and touching scenes generated as Close begins to fall for a young woman.

**Cons:** Critics are pointing out how this period piece is nothing more than a ploy to get Close that Oscar. It has also been mentioned that Close doesn't look enough like a man to have hidden her secret for so long.



## Drive

**Pros:** This was the surprise critical hit of this year – making a nice mix of arty cinema and brutal action. Sure, for that idiot who was expecting *Fast & Furious* and eventually sued, *Drive* was not the film for her, but that shouldn't stop the rest of us from enjoying its powerful visual style, Ryan Gosling's remarkable performance and some kick-ass action.

**Cons:** Too mainstream for the Oscars? But not mainstream enough to count on its popularity to score a Best Picture nomination. The box-office returns have been relatively disappointing, without lasting effect.



## Shame

**Pros:** Michael Fassbender gives a compelling performance as he bares all (both physically and mentally) to play a successful single male struggling with sex addiction. It's a tricky subject matter, but paired again with *Hunger* director Steve McQueen, *Shame* is one of this year's most provocative pictures, one that commands your attention.

**Cons:** Slapped on with an NC-17 rating, the highest age restriction that can be placed, this will prevent a whole lot of people from watching. The subject matter of sex addiction, as well as its numerous explicit scenes, is not a great selling point, which will make it hard for the studio to generate an effective campaign.



## The Artist

**Pros:** Ever since its debut at Cannes, reviews have been staggering, praising Jean Dujardin's performance, as well as its magical technical accomplishments. 'Utterly delightful' and 'wonderfully inventive' are some of the terms that have been used to describe the artistic mastery.

**Cons:** It's been a while since a foreign language film landed a Best Picture nomination. To make matters worse, this is a black-and-white silent film. Will the Academy go for something so old-fashioned?



## The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

**Pros:** Based on the massively successful trilogy of books that spawned three huge films, this has the advantage of having a rock-solid material to work from. David Fincher (*Se7en*, *Fight Club*) is certainly someone who can turn this into the thriller of the decade.

**Cons:** The pressure is on, and the audience won't be so kind when comparing every single aspect of the book, and the original film, to this one. Remakes are never popular to begin with, and this could work as a major disadvantage.



## War Horse

**Pros:** Based on a Tony Award winning play, directed by Steven Spielberg – no film comes with a bigger package than this. Even without starring any internationally acclaimed actors, this has enough going for it to generate sufficient buzz.

**Cons:** A lot is riding (no pun intended) on the newcomer Jeremy Irvine, who nabbed the leading role after beating many more well-known British talents. He has the heavy task of single-handedly selling the film, which is tough, especially for a Spielberg film that is bound to be a grand spectacle.

## The Descendants

**Pros:** George Clooney is on his career-best form as a clueless father trying to connect with his daughters after an unfortunate accident leaves his wife in a coma. As a family drama, *The Descendants* adds much wit as well as genuinely heart-warming scenes. Director Alexander Payne's previous works *About Schmidt* and *Sideways* were both heavily praised.

**Cons:** If you love Payne, then it's easy to keep loving him. But if his low-key, subtle humour isn't to your liking, Payne isn't someone who will change. He is unique, but that means he has his share of critics who aren't fans of his work.



## J. Edgar

**Pros:** Directed by Clint Eastwood, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, this film has Oscars written all over it. Based on the compelling true story of the controversial man who ran the FBI utilising several questionable methods in the name of justice, the plot itself couldn't be more exciting. Plus, DiCaprio has been tapped for months to be the front-runner for Best Actor.

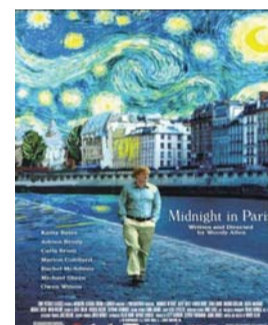
**Cons:** When there is this much hype resting on one film, if there is even one single misstep, there will be cries of disappointment from audience members who were expecting great things.



## Midnight in Paris

**Pros:** Critics hailed the return to form of Woody Allen, with his newest romantic comedy set in the French capital. The nostalgic, easy-going, pleasantly-paced journey was one of this year's most romantic, embracing films, and Allen (acting as both director and writer) certainly deserves a lot of credit for that.

**Cons:** Allen's films haven't made the Best Picture list in decades. It would take an all-out masterpiece to break this curse, but is *Midnight in Paris* that film? Probably not.



## The Iron Lady

**Pros:** Starring Meryl Streep playing a strong, determined, independent, much celebrated real-life woman (Margaret Thatcher), you would have to seriously screw it up to not get any awards buzz around this. This could well turn into this year's *The Queen*, given how it's expected that Streep scores her ridiculously overdue third Oscar with this one.

**Cons:** *The Iron Lady* has been absent from all the major festival circuits this year (Venice, Toronto, London, New York), making us slightly worried about the studio's faith in the film.



## My Week with Marilyn

**Pros:** Michelle Williams' uncanny resemblance and remarkably close portrayal of Marilyn Monroe is already generating strong buzz. With a supporting cast including some of Britain's finest (the legendary Kenneth Branagh, national treasure Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi, Dominic Cooper, Emma Watson and UK's rapid rising star Eddie Redmayne), *My Week with Marilyn* certainly shows promise as a fun autobiographical romp.

**Cons:** Initial reviews have been mixed, with several reviewers accusing the film of being nothing more than a shameless Oscar vehicle for Williams. Aside from Williams' masterful performance, the rest of the film has been described as "flimsy" and only "sporadically entertaining."



## Take Shelter

**Pros:** A haunting disaster film showing, more often than not, that great performances can terrify you more than tons of computer graphics. *Take Shelter* is certainly one of the more deserving candidates in the race. Featuring Michael Shannon on his most magnetic form as a family man who is plagued with visions of the apocalypse, this carefully nuanced, thematically brilliant film is an unforgettably intense ride.

**Cons:** Being a disaster film it is no doubt a massive downer, which will heavily affect its box-office intake. Very few people might end up seeing this, and will struggle to build momentum all the way towards February.



# FILM

Film Editors: **John Park**  
**Lucy Wiles**

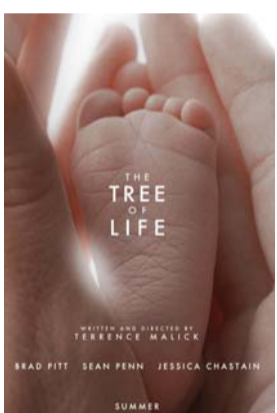
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Melancholia

**Pros:** Kirsten Dunst was awarded the Best Actress Award at Cannes this year, and Lars von Trier's stylish look at the end of the world is a sensational, thrilling ride, even with its long running time. Dunst and Charlotte Gainsbourg are both outstanding in their roles, and von Trier's usual invasive, perceptive direction is, as always, breathtaking.

**Cons:** von Trier is famous for attracting controversy and this cannot work as a positive factor. And like most von Trier films, critics were polarised in their opinions, which will do the same to the voters. It's a demanding picture, and therefore will create problems to make some real enthusiasts.



## The Tree of Life

**Pros:** Already awarded the top gong at the Cannes Film Festival, Terrence Malick's carefully directed, visually impressive film was one of the most critically praised films of the year. It also managed to secure more than adequate business for an art-house film, even over the summer when it faced stiff competition from popular superhero films.

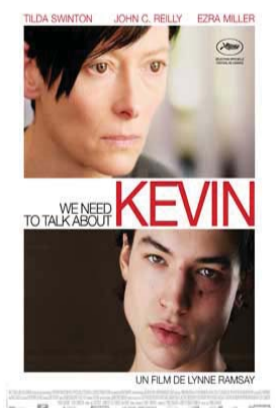
**Cons:** Malick isn't everyone's cup of tea, as evidence by his 1999 defeat with *The Thin Red Line* to a much inferior *Saving Private Ryan*. Being a press-shy director, any promotional work will have to come from its cast and producers which might not be enough.



## A Dangerous Method

**Pros:** A fascinating account of how two of the greatest minds in the 20th Century gave birth to psychoanalysis, David Cronenberg's highly sensual biopic drama is as intense as it is entertaining, with three leads giving it all in their challenging roles. Michael Fassbender gives yet another fantastic performance as Sigmund Freud, and Viggo Mortensen, in his third collaboration with Cronenberg, may score a second Oscar nomination under the same director, with his strong, balanced supporting turn as Carl Jung.

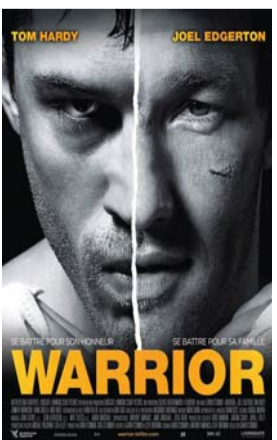
**Cons:** Psychosexual dramas are hard to advertise for, despite the impressive, loud, dramatic trailer that has already been released, the subject matter in itself, will be immediately repulsive to many.



## We Need to Talk About Kevin

**Pros:** With critics worldwide praising its lead actress Tilda Swinton, this dark and twisted family drama is one to watch. Already a Best Picture winner at the BFI London Film Festival, if this positive momentum keeps going, it could well end up in the final few films running for this year's top prize.

**Cons:** Oddly, many of Swinton's films are brushed off during awards seasons, no matter what kind of a brave performance she wonderfully tackles. Most notable was last year's *I Am Love*, that was completely ignored. Her choice in films is unusual for sure, and perhaps the boundless unique twists her films present are too much to handle.



## Warrior

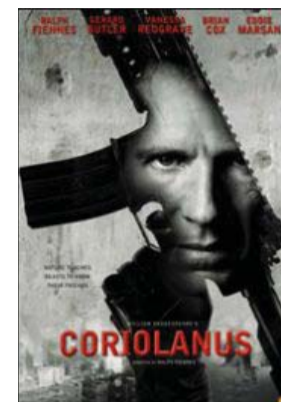
**Pros:** Triumphant boxing dramas are always an Academy favourite. Throw in some sibling rivalry and a monstrous parent then you've got last year's *The Fighter*, that made the top ten. What you also get with that same formula (except without boxing, this time it's mixed martial arts) is *Warrior*, a powerful, stirring sports drama. Sure it had its share of clichés, but word is, everyone loved the final showdown between the two brothers.

**Cons:** It's too obvious as a choice, which may act against the film. Tom Hardy and Joel Edgerton are no Christian Bale and Mark Wahlberg. Whereas Nick Nolte may not be as hot a favourite as Melissa Leo was. It looks like a watered down version of *The Fighter* in terms of quality, which is why this may not make the cut.

## Coriolanus

**Pros:** Ever since it premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in February, Ralph Fiennes' directorial debut was met with praise, particularly for adapting one of the Shakespeare's less well-known plays and making it accessible to the audience with guns, no less. The critics are also loving Vanessa Redgrave's role as Volumnia, the ambitious, ruthless mother of Coriolanus.

**Cons:** The film has been around for a while, and now the only substantial buzz that still exists is around Redgrave, with no mention of how the film itself will play out in bigger awards. So will the studio invest time and money in backing the film? Probably not, and instead will focus on Redgrave.



## The Deep Blue Sea

**Pros:** Terrence Davis returns to direct once more and the British veteran director adapts Terrence Rattigan's play about love, its complications and the concept of life and death. It's a small, yet highly dense film with emotions flying high as the love triangle between a woman (Rachel Weisz), her older husband (Simon Russell Beale), and her young lover (Tom Hiddleston) starts to reach its climax. Weisz gives a finely tuned performance, whilst the two males she acts against provide firm support.

**Cons:** It's slow, highly depressing and despite the phenomenal cast's sturdy effort, the film doesn't quite have the emotional pay-off we were all anticipating during its lengthy set-up. It may be too subtle to absolutely grasp everyone's attention, with the gloomy atmosphere not helping with its advertising.



## The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn

**Pros:** Another highly-anticipated Steven Spielberg film out this year, this time a fun, family adventure aimed for a large Christmas audience. Spielberg gave birth to Indiana Jones and Peter Jackson acting as the film's producer is a great sign. It features some state of the art computer graphics as well as exhilarating action scenes that serve perfectly as end-of-year treat for families worldwide.

**Cons:** Faces the same problem Martin Scorsese's "Hugo" does. Films like this don't usually get acknowledged in the Best Picture category, and will probably stand a better chance in Best Animated Film.



## Contagion

**Pros:** With a promising director, an array of stars, and a tightly plotted script, Steven Soderbergh presents one heck of a realistic, get-under-your-skin disaster film that clings on to you with plenty to feel afraid about. It's a chilling, effective disaster film, with a remarkably consistent director who knows how to keep the tension running.

**Cons:** It's just hard to imagine a semi-blockbuster such as this one being considered. Well respected for its many surprises given its often struggling and predictable sub-genre, but was it loved enough to go far in this race? Very unlikely.



## Rampart

**Pros:** It was recently announced that Woody Harrelson's latest corrupt cop drama would get a limited late November release in North America, presumably leading up to the awards season. This is great news, since this unique, daring tale of a policeman struggling to find peace at his job and home, as well as Harrelson's powerhouse performance need to be seen.

**Cons:** Virtually unknown until quite literally a few days ago, the film needs to make one heck of an impact to break in. There is hardly any hype surrounding this as of now, no matter how much of a diverse, versatile career Harrelson has had over the years.

Honourable mentions: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*, *Beginners*, *The Lady*, *Margin Call*, *Anonymous*, *Super 8*, *Jane Eyre*



# NOVEMBER



## Bonkers UV RAVE

4 November  
20:00 - 02:00  
£3

## Super Quiz

8 November  
20:00 - 23:00  
FREE

## BOOMBOX

9 November  
20:00 - 01:00  
£2.50

## Bonkers Feat BOX BOTTOM

11 November  
20:00 - 02:00  
£3

## We Are Metric Felix Music Night KABLAAM

12 November  
19:00 - 01:00  
£3

## Super Quiz

15 November  
20:00 - 23:00  
FREE

## Bonkers

16 November  
20:00 - 02:00  
£3

## We Are Metric GSA's Got Talent

17 November  
19:00 - 23:00  
£5

## Bonkers Track Suit Party

18 November  
20:00 - 02:00  
£3

## We Are Metric BioMed Soc Gothic Rave

19 November  
19:00 - 01:00

## Super Quiz

22 November  
20:00 - 23:00  
FREE

## BOOMBOX

23 November  
20:00 - 01:00  
£2.50

## We Are Metric String Ensemble - Ceilidhs Night

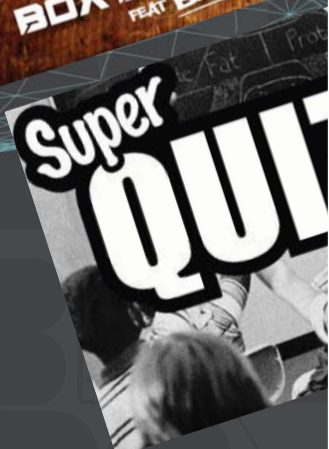
24 November  
19:00 - 23:00

## Bonkers Feat Konan & Krept

25 November  
20:00 - 02:00  
£3

## We Are Metric Music Tech

26 November  
20:00 - 01:00  
£1



Fashion Editors: **Saskia Verhagen**  
**Alice Yang**

[fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# FASHION

# Fashion through the decades, t

Saskia Verhagen and Alice Yang take a look back through fashion history as they reca

## Iconic: Dior's 'New Look'

"In 1947, my first collection was successful beyond my wildest dreams," remarked Christian Dior after he showcased a catwalk so revolutionary that it not only defined the 40s by majorly changing the way women dressed, but is still constantly referred to on catwalks today. In just one show Dior had singlehandedly created a 'New Look', with sweeping skirts filled with netting that hovered at mid calf topped with moulded bodices that accentuated the bust, all pulled together with a tiny wasp waist and elegant satin gloves. It was a completely new shape that was all at once voluptuous and feminine, marking the start of a new war free life and giving hope to luxury and the return to traditional values. -AY



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## Horrific: Zoot Suits

A bad fashion statement from America? How unsurprising. The Jazz Age, undeniably produced some legendary music, but unfortunately this came with the popularisation of the Zoot Suit. The name in itself already says a lot, but for a more visual description, imagine Simon Cowell with his trousers belted at the waist, combined with those old school scallys that wore socks over their trackies, and you just about have the picture. The Zoot Suit: High-waisted trousers with buffering wide legs pegged at the ankles – male harem pants gone terribly wrong, matched with long shapeless coats with wide padded shoulders. A truly ghastly look, how did anyone ever think they could pull it off? -AY



## Iconic: To Catch A Thief

Flawlessly polished and effortlessly elegant, *To Catch A Thief* was the epitome of 50s glamour and sophistication. Cary Grant plays an ex-notorious jewel thief in immaculately fitted suits; dapper sports jackets and sleek tuxedos, whilst Grace Kelly's wardrobe is beyond perfection, having been designed by the acclaimed stylist Edith Head. Kelly's flowing white floor-length dress has now become a timeless wardrobe staple for the affluently stylish around the globe, and her ice blue chiffon gown with a transparent scarf flung oh-so-casually around her shoulders had rich American heiress nailed in a single shot. If you're ever lacking style inspiration, *To Catch A Thief* is your go-to film. -AY



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## Horrific: Poodle Skirts

It's not as much the shape or length of the poodle skirt which emerged in the 50s as the 'casual skirt' that makes it so appalling, more so it is how literal the poodle skirt was. The fashion world is one that appreciates the art of subtlety, yet the poodle skirt is quite literally a skirt, with a poodle on it. Worn as everyday casual wear, starting in America, the poodle skirt took a new generation of young girls and plumped them into large swinging bold coloured felt skirts and ankle length white socks, slowly pushing out the elegance and sophistication of the decade. Admittedly, the skirts gave the impression of a tiny waist, but they were often worn with shirts and matching neckties, something few others bar Olivia Newton John and Co could pull off, and even then, the 'Grease' cast at least had the sense to their poodle-free. -AY



## Iconic: Breakfast at Tiffany's

If ever there was a cinematic fashion moment in history that made it into the record books, it would be a certain Miss Holly Golightly in her little black Givenchy dress, pearls and opera gloves, sipping a coffee and munching a croissant outside the Tiffany's flagship in New York in the opening credits of *Breakfast At Tiffany's*. The black dress (whose iconic status is secured in place by its very own Wikipedia entry) sold for £467,200 at Christie's auctioneers in London in 2006, to an anonymous phone bidder who, no doubt, was intent on recreating the moment herself. -SV



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## Horrific: Tie-dye

Maybe it was that potent cocktail of home-brewed beer, pot, LSD and unwashed hair that set into place a movement that popularised such an obscenity as the tie-dye t-shirt. Emerging in the 1960s along with some of the all-time greatest music ever composed, somehow the level of creativity didn't quite translate to those who listened to it. Those who considered themselves hippies thought themselves better than basic hygiene, good taste, shoes and bras. And so came the tie-dye t-shirt: a psychedelic concoction of every colour in the rainbow on what once was a perfectly good white t-shirt. -SV





## FASHION

# The good and the bad

Up the looks and icons of the past 62 years

## Iconic: Glamorous Rock'n'Roll

A moment that continues to inspire the likes of Kate Moss, Rachel Zoe and Carine Roitfeld was the rock'n'roll glamour of the 1970s. Mick and Bianca Jagger (pictured), one power-couples of the era (along with Jane Birkin and Serge Gainsbourg, and Andy Warhol and his wig) advocated the look du jour, at once both nonchalant and immaculately put together. Such textures as denim, leather, fur, silk and lace were combined with perfect élan. The look was characterised by a heavy dose of accessories – bug-eyed sunglasses, piles of jewellery – sound familiar? -SV



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## Horrific: ABBA

ABBA. The word alone is enough to conjure a nightmare of horrible euro-disco-pop music and primary-coloured, sparkling all-in-ones - the likes of which have now been relegated to the confines of the Strictly Come Dancing wardrobe department. Too many rhinestones, too many metallic touches, and way too much hair. Add to that nauseating picture a pair of knee-high matching platform boots and you've just about got everything that was horrible about the number one Swedish export of the 1970s. Though the flared trouser silhouette has made it into Autumn/Winter 2011, thankfully those men's all-in-ones have remained staunchly in the 1970s. -SV



## Iconic: Michael Jackson

As much the King of Pop as a genius of style, Michael Jackson re-invented his look in the 80s resulting in a slimmer silhouette with a daring dash of added colour. The release of 'Thriller' in his familiar red jacket with sharply sculpted shoulders followed by the crystal-encrusted orange leather jacket embellished with zippers that appeared in 'Beat It', brought to the fashion world a theatrical look that is still envied today. Dazzling sequins, single white gloves and tipped trilbies, along with cropped pants worn over bright white socks and black loafers were so highly integrated by MJ that they have become as iconic as his legendary moonwalk. -AY



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## Horrific: Madonna

There's no denying that Madonna has had some defining fashion moments throughout her never-ending career, however, the 80s were definitely not her peak. Over gelled, unnaturally orange, and with probably a few too many cans of hairspray, Madonna's 80s hair do was, in all honesty, horrendous. In her youth, she experimented with the punk rock look, but unfortunately, it just wasn't meant to be. Wrists overloaded with spikes, oversized hideous crosses pulling down her ears, a black stud piercing over her lip, and a braided dreadlocks matching fishnet tops and far too much flesh on show, Madonna's 80s look was anything but her lucky star. -AY



## Iconic: The Original Supermodels

Long before the days of Arizona Muse, Abbey Lee Kershaw and Freja Beha Erichsen, even before the days of Kate Moss, there once lived the original supermodels, the ones that took the phenomenon of the model off the catwalk, and into the household. Naomi Campbell, Linda Evangelista, Christy Turlington, Tatjana Patitz, Cindy Crawford – bright-eyed and beautiful in the iconic Peter Lindbergh photograph taken for British Vogue in January 1990. These women, along with Helena Christensen, Claudia Schiffer, Gisele Bündchen, Heidi Klum et al became the iconic faces that launched a thousand brands. -SV



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## Horrific: Clueless

Let's just make one thing clear: *Clueless* is one of the all-time greatest movies made, ever. Ever. And even though the fashion moments exhibited through the movie are truthful, that does not make them any less heinous. First we have Cher and Dionne, in their head-to-toe matching mini-sweater mini-skirt ensembles. Then we have Dionne's boyfriend Murray in classic 90s grunge, a full view of plaid boxers on show under low-slung denim cargo jeans. And lastly, a very youthful Paul Rudd as Josh (the love interest – um, DUH) as the slogan tee'd, politically righteous hipster of the 90s. Cliques, fashion, whatever. -SV



Games Editor: **Laurence Pope**

# GAMES

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## ‘When this baby reaches 88 miles per hour...’

With Felix celebrating its 1500th issue it's time to pull out all the stops. With a combination of persuasive power, begging and bribery we've managed to get together three of Gaming section's biggest writers to talk about videogaming through the ages, as well as what they think the future holds in store when Felix 2000 rolls around...

### Felix Issue 500: 1978

**Michael Cook**

It's June 1978, and Felix is celebrating its 500th issue being printed. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, Japanese arcades are playing host to a videogame that will become a monument in the genealogy of the medium – Space Invaders has just been released by Taito. Itself an evolution of the popular Breakout arcade machines, Space Invaders used popular sci-fi themes (the first Star Wars film had been released only a year earlier) and the combination proved a hit with players, to the point where there was a temporary shortage of 100 Yen coins in Japan shortly after its release.

In a far more muted debut, Nakamura Manufacturing Ltd. rename themselves to Namco and release their first game under the new name – Gee Bee. It receives a mixed response compared to Space Invaders, but in less than two years Namco will release Pac-Man, ensuring their place in the next three decades of the games industry.

In the US, a small group of MIT students are hard at work on one of the first interactive fiction titles ever. The first version of their game, Zork, had been finished in 1977 a year earlier, but it will take the four-man team another year to finish the game off completely. It would go on to found a huge genre (now sadly relegated to niche communities by and large) that would lead into adventure games, point-and-click puzzlers and a half-dozen more sub-genres, as well as inspiring a generation of writers and designers to work with videogames.

In terms of hardware, the revolution brought by the Atari 2600 the previous year is still the big talk-

ing point. The machine was one of the first home consoles to use microprocessors in a big way, as well as popularising the cartridge as a means to contain and sell game data. In 1978, the machine was still known as the 'Video Computer System' and came bundled with Atari's Combat. It wasn't much, but the console would become so widespread and popular that Atari would become a word describing a games console in some parts of the world for most of the next decade.

The 2600 cost \$199 on release – expensive, but cheap in comparison to similar machines released before it. This was a time when 8 kilobytes of external memory was considered so extravagant that Atari limited their hardware to just half that. RAM for the entire system was just 128 bytes, mostly because of a fierce push towards small system sizes and limited resource use. But the results paid off – the console was accessible, and once Atari had established themselves with hits like Pac-Man the 2600's position was secured.

The industry is a strange place in the late seventies. Home consoles are beginning to take centre stage from the arcade cabinets, and hardware is slowly beginning to climb the slope of affordability versus power that would lead to explosions in popularity around the time of the NES and, later, the PlayStation. In the same length of time between the launch of World of Warcraft and the present day, gaming went from consoles like the 2600 (whose hardware duplicated the left and right sides of the screen to enable simple arcade games like Pong) to the release of Super Mario Bros. in 1985. While we've certainly seen similar leaps in gaming since World of Warcraft (OnLive being of particular note, perhaps) the technological leaps and bounds being made in the late seventies are unimaginable to the gamers of today.

### Felix Issue 1000: 1994

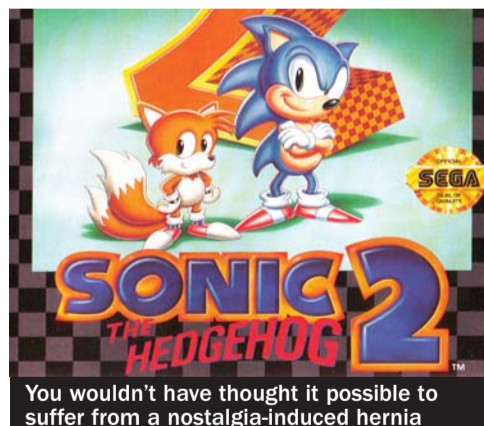
**Omar Hafeez-Bore**

This is the most exciting annual review we've ever written at Felix Games! Not only are we beginning the brand-spanking-new year of 1995, but we seem to be entering into nothing short of a new era of videogame history. Both Sega and Sony have now unleashed unto Japan their state of the art CD-based consoles, whilst Nintendo is still keeping its cards close to its chest. Whether or not the Ultra 64's software cartridges prove sturdy enough to withstand the laser-read edge of the new console CD-format is unimportant; the battle for console supremacy is going to be a spectacular show whatever the result. We wouldn't normally bet on the newcomer Sony and its PlayStation, but the reports from Japan of Tekken's smooth 3D graphics sound almost too good to be true. We only wish there was a way for us to see it in motion sooner.

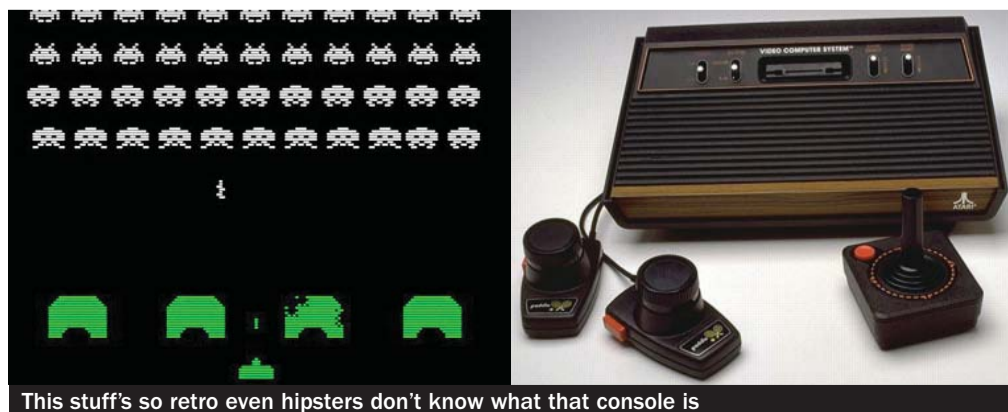
But the two Japanese giants had stiff competition from the west, with even the Macintosh computer getting a look in with an impressive debut title from Bungie called Marathon, a FPS with some interesting innovations that made Bungie one to watch. Over in Texas, id Games released the terrifying Doom II, once again turning PC screens everywhere into portals into Hell.



Ahh, back when gaming was good and I wasn't a cynical husk of a human being



You wouldn't have thought it possible to suffer from a nostalgia-induced hernia



This stuff's so retro even hipsters don't know what that console is

But all this talk of the future has distracted us from the past highlights of the gaming year. Our favourite speed running blue hedgehog (as opposed to the tyre-flattened brown variety we get over here) got his second sequel and proved once again that other platform heroes are still choking on the dust of Sonic's breakneck blockbuster gameplay. Nintendo's star effort this year was the more sedate but no less engrossing Super Metroid, which blew us away with its atmosphere and masterful world design.

But Hell is a far cry from the lush green fields of England, which has proven itself a fertile ground for home-grown game developers. Chelmsford's Sensible Software graced the Amiga with the fantastic Sensible World of Soccer, whilst over in Twycross Rare gave arcade gamers everywhere the brutal Killer Instinct, before proving itself a worthy risk for Nintendo by taking its Donkey Kong licence and producing one of the best looking games we've ever seen; Donkey Kong Country.

Alongside these advances there was also some loss, as Tennis for Two creator William Higinbotham passed away. His little beams of bouncing light were the first glimmers of the giant videogame industry that exists today. He couldn't predict how important a part of entertainment history his oscilloscope experiment would prove to be, any more than we can predict the future of this new gaming era. But we'd like to think that he may look with as much wonder as we do, at how diverse and exciting gaming has become today.

Here's to 1995 folks, and the future of our wonderful hobby.

## GAMES

## Felix Issue 1500: 2011

Simon Worthington

The landscape of gaming has changed a lot since the good old days of the Nintendo 64 and the original PlayStation. Gaming is more popular now than its ever been, with the concept of someone defining themselves as a “gamer” becoming as superfluous as people who likes books calling themselves “readers”. Through the numerous inventions and innovations to gaming technology that pervade the current generation of consoles and games, the medium of video games has been opened up to more people than ever thought possible.

One movement that the 2000’s will probably be remembered for is the rise of the casual gamer. The start of the decade saw web games become the procrastination activity of choice for many, and the world was shocked and awed by quite how addictive virtual cricket with stickmen could be. By the end of the Noughties, with every man and his dog having a Facebook profile, it was only a matter of time before Facebook games got your mum ploughing virtual fields on her virtual farm and your gran serving virtual food in her virtual restaurant. But, like cannabis eventually leads to cocaine, casual games eventually get less and less casual until suddenly your mum is screaming down the microphone whilst playing Call of Duty. Casual games, as well as providing genuine merriment for gamers and non-gamers alike, also serve to introduce people to the medium of gaming.



Sleek and sexy – an apt description for both the Wii and my body

Game developers are always in search of new ways of providing a fresh gaming experience, and at the bleeding edge of gaming technology lies 3D. Cinemas have been pushing 3D as the next big thing for many years, but with the advent of 3D televisions, the prospect of the technology being shoehorned into games is finally something being considered. Some games like Killzone 3 have been the first to feature 3D graphics support, and the recently released Nintendo 3DS is famously the first handheld console to support glasses-free 3D. If the new technology can really improve anything is a dubious issue, but as corporations seem insistent on persuading us to hand over more money to upgrade our kit, it looks like for the immediate future 3D is here to stay.

Another innovation that is very much in its infancy is the “gaming-as-a-service” model, which you might more readily recognise as “OnLive”. This service, which is the first of its kind to experience a mainstream release, takes the game out of your computer and onto the Internet. It’s the gaming equivalent of robotic surgery – all the keyboard buttons you press or mouse movements you make (or even analogue sticks you rotate – OnLive is available as a stand-alone console) are sent to On-

Live’s servers and all you get is the video to display on screen YouTube-style. A few years ago such a concept would have been ludicrous, but with more and more homes switching to ultra-fast broadband gamers can finally experience the highest quality of graphics without needing to shell out the GDP of a small country on a water-cooled gaming levitan. OnLive, although still to prove that it can be a success, has begun to bring big-budget titles to the impoverished masses.

The final revolution of the era has come in the form of motion control. The Wii arrived first and brought the movement-capturing WiiMote to the floor, sparking a revolution that tapped into a previously unmined seam of new gamers in the form of family gaming. The Wii was the first to really be successful in appealing to kids, young adults and parents simultaneously, and so it’s no surprise that every other games console wanted a slice of the action. Now, the market is littered with motion capture devices of questionable quality and use, but their effect of providing a much more intuitive way for gamers to control their games, hence making them much more “pick-uppable” for the casual gamer, is clear.

In moving into the current generation, games have stopped being just the domain of spotty nerds in the basement and have moved into the living room with all the cool and fashionable people. The whole concept of the casual gamer is something new with this generation, and there have been plenty of innovations that have fuelled their rise as a viable market. Now that they finally have a mainstream audience, games have been accepted as big budget entertainment – gaming is becoming, albeit slowly, as common as visiting the cinema or going to the football.



Fuel up on plutonium, 'cos we're heading into the future!

## Felix Issue 2000: 2027

Michael Cook

It’s hard to look at where we came from and try to assess where we might be in even a few years time. How impossible something like OnLive might have seemed before the Internet was even a possibility makes it hard to guess at what technologies might pop out of nowhere in the next decade. Despite this, there seem to be a few things going on in the industry that we’ll look back on in years to come as a sign of impending change.

When Felix 2000 comes around, console manufacturers will probably either have finally opened up their platforms, or died a death to the likes of OnLive. We’re already seeing waves of this – the PlanetSide remake simply isn’t feasible on Xbox LIVE thanks to hardware and infrastructure restrictions, and even things like Portal 2’s free updates or CCP’s forthcoming DUST are only just about possible on the PlayStation 3 – and that’s after some pretty major concessions from Sony.

Platforms will open up because they have to – with the possible exception of Facebook, the games industry of 2027 will hopefully look a lot more like the PC industry today. Full of vibrant indie devel-

opment, flexible pricing models and better connections between developers and players. It’ll give rise to things like the first indie MMO, open APIs for systems like Steam and Origin, and bigger and brighter mod communities as programming skills become basic knowledge for schoolchildren.

We’ll still see echoes of what’s going on today – single player games will be alive and well, and micro-transactions are such a psychologically effective model as to never disappear – but most aspects of gaming will be unrecognisable thanks to a shift towards openness and customisation. If console manufacturers refuse to make the shift towards these areas, they’ll risk becoming fragmented from the gaming mainstream, or die altogether. Technologies like OnLive will offer the same high quality of videogame experience without the needless external faffing of Xbox LIVE or PlayStation Home, and as broadband speeds increase the technology will easily take over from these manufacturers unless they push to offer something better.

## Felix Issue 2000: 2027

Omar Hafeez-Bore

Felix Games has changed a lot since its inception. We know this because for our round-up of the year 2027 we took a look at old issues of the Felix to play a bit of spot the difference.

But we soon lost count. The first thing we noticed is how deep into the paper (we know! quaint, right?) we had to dig before getting to the games section itself. The second is the talk of using different ‘consoles’ for different games, akin it seems to having a different television for different channels.

But the most notable difference is that Felix Games is pretty much limited to, well, games. As in playthings, toys, virtual escapes, button-powered stories or – in a word – entertainment.

How far we’ve come: nowadays gaming devices are an integral part of our modern life, acting as the foundation for learning of every kind. The primary-coloured make-believe of the Guitar Heroes and Rockbands of old are unthinkable in a world in which nearly every child learns to play using digital instruments and its associated training programme (not to mention the most inexplicably popular and insufferably annoying mascot of all the government’s Skillset Schemes: Harmony the Hamster). Similarly the tongue-in-cheek appraisal of an early Cooking Mama game looks a little naïve now that the Japanese megabrand is now the international standard for cooking training, and whose all-speaking-measuring-and-advising digital utensils can now teach everything from Indian Curry to Jamaican Chilli Sauce. And we’d rather chat to Cooking Mama over Harmony the unroad-killable hamster any day.

In a world where jobs are given based on skillset points from completed Skillset Schemes, where even dating matches are made using a comparison of compatibility of Personal Interest points, where any car can be turned to Sim-mode and replicate the bucking and judders of real racing from the comfort of one’s garage, it is hard to imagine a time when scores and levels, friend-challenges and international Cooking Mama tournaments were not part of the background hum of life.

In fact, it was reading through the old issues that first made us realise that a little something may have been lost along the way. We are not saying that we here at Felix don’t like the ability to go outside with our iVisors and learn about the difference between nimbus and cumulus clouds before competing with our friends at differentiating them, or wear the visors in select National Parks where

we can experience our own Nintendo-designed Zelda adventures to find hulking beasts born from apple’s magnificent glasses. Nor are we even arguing against the more left-field devices such as the DelayGasm digital condom which trains unfortunate men to, well, you know (see our anonymously written import review last week).

But reading the old accounts, of curling up with a pad and playing through games using only our suspension of disbelief, it is hard not to feel some nostalgia for this old time of simple escapism. Of using rudimentary graphics and gameplay as a prompt for unlimited, indescribable mental adventures. And of sometimes not wanting to have our points tallied up and our friend’s Skillset Rank compared. Just playing for the sake of play, to share stories and not leader boards. Like toys, virtual escapes, button-powered stories or – in a word – entertainment.

Here’s to 2028 folks, and everything games have been and can be.



It was this picture or one relating to the DelayGasm condom. You're welcome

## Felix Issue 2000: 2027

Simon Worthington

In the far future the feature I’m looking forward to the most is virtual reality, but there are still lots of improvements I can’t wait to see in the next 15 years or so.

Firstly, as computers get more like mobiles and mobiles get more like computers, we’ll start to see the blurring of the boundary between the mobile and PC gaming as well. Soon, we’ll be able to pause our PC game, pick up our mobile tablet and continue playing the same game on the move. With services like OnLive pioneering in this area it won’t be too long before this idea becomes a reality.

Speaking of reality, improvements in 3D detection algorithms and hardware will bring about the latest generation of augmented reality games. They’ll do much more than just fill a space with a box, they’ll be able to understand the 3D environment they are in and interact with it in novel ways. There is actually research being carried out at Imperial that is investigating this very area, and hopefully it will lead to games that use the environment around the player much more. Imagine Counter-Strike played throughout your house!

More Imperial research is also helping to push forward what is possible for character interaction in games. As computers better understand our meaning and emotions so too will the way we interact with stories and people in video games. Soon, we won’t be pushing buttons to choose pre-scripted conversation options but we’ll instead be conversing with characters naturally through speech and facial expression, as if we were having a real conversation.

All this helps to make games more immersive, and while we are a long way off from virtual reality and total immersion, it looks like the boundaries of realism will slowly edge towards it over years to come!

# FOOD

## Celebrating Issue 1500

by Michael Krestas

### 1500 Calorie Food Rockets Breakfast

People say that you must always have a full breakfast to boost you with energy for the day, though I'd wager that nobody would approve of the following:

2 fried eggs / 2 scrambled eggs = 180/200 cal  
4 slices of bacon = 140 cal  
portion of bubble and squeek = 300 cal  
3 sausages = 390 calories  
250g baked beans = 240 cal  
2 tbsp jam = 110 cal  
2-3 slices of toasted bread = 150 cal



### Lunch

You've just had a pretty busy day so far and want to have a quick and healthy snack before your boss calls you back to work. What better than...

140g Roast Duck = 470 cal  
100g Egg fried Rice = 170 cal  
2 Spring Rolls = 120 cal  
5 fried King Prawns = 170 cal  
1 pint of Coke = 240 cal  
Hot Fudge Sundae = 330 cal



### Dinner

Your day was very hectic. Reward yourself!

Calamari Fritti = 450 cal  
250g Rib Eye Steak = 680 cal  
Portion of Potatoes au Gratin = 240 cal  
Bernaise Sauce = 130 cal



Vegetarians, vegans and Gurl with Opinions, excuse me but I have not included any meals for you here, due to the fact that everything I found was so damn healthy and hence had no place here!

# Ready, steady, chat

Ainsley Harriot discusses his life, work and recipes in conversation with Anastasia Eleftheriou

**H**e has hosted the longest running cookery series in the world and has worked as a chef in hotels and restaurants across London after training at Westminster Catering College.

He has worked in the kitchens of Verreys, The Strand Palace, The Dorchester and Browns amongst others, and set up his own catering company.

He is also a No.1 best selling author, he has sold more than two million books worldwide and he is the patron of the independent British-registered charity the Kasiisi Porridge Project, which gives rural schoolchildren living near the Kibale National Park in western Uganda a meal every day. He is Ainsley Harriot.

**What has been more exciting and fulfilling for you, being a TV star, an author, or a chef?**

I love the idea of diversifying – it's lovely to be able to do other things if opportunities arise along the way. I've been very lucky and have to say I love all three. We do get influenced by our parents whether we like it or not and my dad was an international entertainer and my mum was a great cook, so the two careers walk hand in hand to me.

**You have written an enormous amount of unique and delicious recipes. From where do you usually get the inspiration?**

Inspiration comes from my late mum, Graham Kerr (The Galloping Gourmet) and the relationships I have built up with people along the way. Hearing other people's ideas and experiences is really stimulating and can only influence my cooking further.

**Ainsley Harriott products are famous for their taste and quality. What is your personal involvement in their production?**

I work with the development team at Symington's. We take inspiration from all over the world and then test and retest until we're happy with the result. It's a long process but we'd rather take our time and get it right. Every product is tested by me, often several



Presenting Ready Steady Cook



Ainsley Harriot remains involved in the production of a variety of recipes

times, but I also hand them out to a couple of close friends to see what they think of them before I finally sign them off.

**If you had to choose one of your products as being your favourite, which one would it be?**

I love the cous cous – and I'm really excited about the new sauce mixes that you'll see next year. It's a tough question though. I tend to like whatever I'm working on at the time.

**What do you think is the most common pitfall in cooking?**

People not being prepared before they start.

**Imperial College students have a very tight schedule, so many sometimes choose fast food. Do you have any suggestions to en-**

**courage them to lead a healthier life?**

Well obviously my products are pretty fast and they aren't high in fat – so go and buy a risotto! There are loads of speedy recipes out there. There really isn't an excuse to be unhealthy just because you don't have much time.

**What should we expect from Ainsley Harriott in 2012?**

A new chicken recipe book early in the new year, loads of new product launches and a little investigation into the wonders of the British pea.

For more details about Ainsley, recipes, new products and videos, visit his official website:

[www.ainsley-harriott.com](http://www.ainsley-harriott.com)

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Home & Garden Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**  
**Charles Betts**  
**Navid Nabijou**

# HOME & GARDEN

## Lifting the lid

Tim Arbabzadah, Charles Betts and Navid Nabijou decide which toilet seats to respect and which to urinate on

**P**riced at £4.99, the Argos Value Range White Plastic Toilet Seat sits right at the bottom of the posterior comfort range and is a staunch favourite throughout university halls of residence. Wardens have been known to praise its character building qualities. It also demonstrates a strong resilience against all forms of bodily fluids; for those that seem unstraight, the trick is to actually sit on the seat – you’re not going to catch bum herpes.

Made from cheap thermoplastic material, it is susceptible to sun degradation and is therefore limited to indoor use. However, it does come with a 2 year guarantee should you wish to risk taking your daily constitutional *al fresco*, gazing wistfully at the stars or the next door neighbour.

Whilst this product does scrape the bottom of the barrel – but then, you’re buying one of the cheapest items from a pretty cheap catalogue, so you get what you deserve – it does do the job. The seat may be a bit chilly in the morning, so probably best to let your flatmate use it first if you’re of a fragile disposition.

**O**bviously, the John Lewis walnut toilet seat made me feel ‘clarsey’. As we sat down, we almost imagined we were in the Ivy, but we weren’t; we were in the Felix office, with some freshers who had come down to contribute, who were feeling a bit awkward. Perhaps, on second thoughts, it would have been better if we had kept our trousers on and made the experience slightly less realistic.

There’s even a 5 year guarantee, not that any civilised man/woman would keep a toilet seat for that long. However, it beats Argos’ frankly pitiful 2 year warranty.

This is not the bottom of the range. The walnut means that the toilet seat is always temperate, you’re not likely to bum or shiver. The latter being the worst, as we don’t want anyone to stain the bowl while hovering. A clean bowl is a necessity in any home. You wouldn’t want your toilet to be Crapper than your friends? Thomas wouldn’t approve. You may even find yourself lost in your own little world, with people thinking you are attending to a different daily need. As usual, John Lewis delivers, literally and metaphorically.

**O**h, it’s morning. Last night, your sister’s hot friend – the one you’ve been thinking about for weeks – stayed over. You know this is your chance. But she barely knows you. You need a gesture – something bold, shock-breakside up her: “Hey Jennifer, after you’re done with that, fancy watching me defecate in decadence?”

For most, a simple plastic or wooden seat is enough to satisfy their needs. But there are those few who simply demand more. To cater for those rare, singular, distant souls, there is the Upholstered Rhinestone Toilet Seat.

You might well ask: “Why exactly does your toilet seat need to be wrapped in three square feet of gold leather, and then studded with 15 rhinestones?” But then, you’re probably not the sort of chap that likes to sit down when you have a wee. This throne is for those that like to treat themselves, those of a refined, regal taste. Everyone else, go hang with the Argos proles while we play croquet.



## Shower Power

A man’s guide to extending your rail in the shower

Feroz Salam

Moving to a new house, coupled with a housemate’s neurotic obsession for dry floors, meant that we were in the market for a new shower curtain and rail this year. Naturally, I use ‘in the market’ in the very loosest sense of the term – the purchasing philosophy for the house runs along the lines of ‘find the cheapest shit money can buy, and get it delivered free’. This much revered train of student thought led to us buying the ‘140-260 cm Telescopic Shower Curtain Rail - Stainless Steel’ a week ago. Setting us back £12 in total, we weren’t expecting much and the product completely met our expectations.

The shower rail does match the product description. It’s 140-260 cm long and it does in fact telescope. After that it does little else. It separated itself into three parts when we opened the packet, possibly an exciting puzzle, possibly a lesson in the perils of thrift. Once re-assembled, one installs the shower curtain by jamming it against either end of the wall and then hoping it holds. Hope, I find, is a central theme of using this product – much like an alcoholic uncle, one wishes the best for it but really cannot see anything other than pain and destruction in the future.

The ‘140-260 cm Telescopic Shower Curtain Rail - Stainless Steel’ has been built for a world of geometric certainties and square edges, a world I’m afraid our bathroom doesn’t operate in. Trying to jam the rail between two walls that aren’t parallel to one another inevitably results in



Two shower heads? She obviously doesn’t read Home & Garden

the curtain being glued to your arse while washing your front. Although the seductive touch of polyester-on-bum might do it for some people, I’m afraid I’m not one of them.

The shower curtain itself is so thin one could cut oneself on it, and it’s so light that I would compare it to an Elven cloak, except for the fact that it’s shit.

In conclusion, purchase the ‘140-260 cm Telescopic Shower Curtain Rail - Stainless Steel’ if you’re looking for a little bit of excitement in your life. Be it re-assembling the pre-broken curtain rod or showering under the peril of a concussion, there’s wholesome fun to be had here for the entire household.

**Telescopic Shower Curtain Rail – Stainless Steel 140 cm - 260 cm** by Ashley. Available on amazon.co.uk for £12.32

### It took 1500 issues to get there...

After 62 years of students desperately trying to cut their hedges in misguided angst, finally, help is at hand. Whether it’s trimming your bush or acquiring a hoe to work that fertile ground, the **Home & Garden** section will give you the tool to perfecting your house. And we’re not talking about Kevin McCloud. (This section is a joke, right? – Ed)

The Home & Garden team are always a shoulder to cry on, while you sit on our crushed velvet chaise longue. Feel free to email: felix@imperial.ac.uk

Dear Sir,

I hope you may be of assistance. I have been happily dating this cute 3rd year for 1 year and 46 days (yes, I’ve been counting). But on Tuesday, I skipped my stats lecture to return to my Hammersmith bed-sit and surprise my boyfriend with an early evening dinner and cosy winter cuddle. I found him on the bed with a skanky fresher bint. He’d been tossing her around the room, the Ikea cupboard was smashed to pieces. I’m in a complete state, I just don’t know what to do. Please advise.

Yours,  
Janey Ray

Dear Janey,

That’s just awful. I’ve lost a lot of sleep over this problem. It highlights all that is wrong with the European common market. Ikea furniture is cheap for a reason. You’d be far better off kicking those tyres and lighting those fires by spending a bit extra at Habitat on something that will last forever. Furniture should be an investment, don’t hold back! Go wild!

I hope this helps.

Regards,  
Home & Garden team

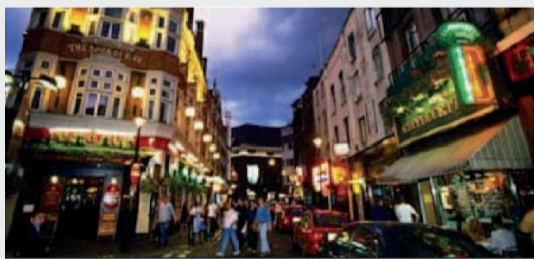
## TRAVEL

## Wishing You Were Here



'Machu Picchu' by George Roberts

## Travel on your doorstep



**Get there:** Boris Bike ('cause it's faster)  
**See:** Endless cocktail and blues bars  
**Eat:** Mezze to share at Yalla Yalla  
**Cost:** £5 – £15 for nibbles for 2

Hop away from Piccadilly's tourist-filled pavements and delve into the side streets of Soho. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the swanky bars offering free music all nights of the week (see: Ain't Nothin' But), cheap and delicious eateries, and a resident B@1 (formerly the Red Lion pub, Marx's old hangout) that trumps its lousy Hammersmith counterpart.

## Gallivanting the golden

Vibrant culture, endless activities and unrivalled coastline: Ch

Let's be honest about it, the existing beach scene has very much gone to the dogs: Ibiza is past its expiry date, Koh Phangan is being sucked into that same black hole (thanks, *The Hangover Part II*), and Malia-napa-luf is far too saturated with sleaze for me to waste my time with a rant. My point is that things are indeed looking bleak, which has forced sun worshippers and classier party-goers to be a little more creative. Perhaps India's western coast is the answer we've all been searching for.

Goa is hardly a new global hotspot – it's been a safe haven for holidaymakers and hippies for decades – but I can't help but think that we're not exploiting it to its full potential. Having spent two months getting myself covered in dust on the temple trail, I decided it would be the ideal ultimate spot before returning for another dreaded term in the smog. So if it's a mixture of vibrant culture, culinary delights and sleepless nights you're after, look no further.

## An inviting Goan home

As the saying goes, there's nothing like being invited into a Goan home. But of course, sifting through the endless locations can be tiring, so I've done the trial and error for you. The LaLiT Golf & Spa Resort in South Goa is nothing less than perfection, and my stay there was what really made this leg of my trip so enjoyable and memorable. The rooms are immaculate, the staff provides outstanding hospitality (hence their slogan 'limitless hospitality'), and the facilities on offer will keep you entertained for eons.

An added bonus is that the resort also caters for groups: for rates in the range of a dingy London hotel it's possible to book out swanky, self-sufficient villas, complete with kitchens, swimming pools, hot tubs, and your own personal Goan master chef. To me the villas just scream 'perfect post-exam getaway' – what better way to celebrate than with endless cocktails with friends under a scorching eastern sun?

As with any holiday, the food served is paramount. The LaLiT chefs will not disappoint, and they served up some of the best Indian food I've had the pleasure of eating. Over the course of my stay the chefs got to know my palette, and consistently managed to craft dishes that kept my taste buds craving more. Appalled by my culinary ignorance, one of the master chefs even gave me some private tuition in Indian fare – the cooking class was fantastic, though I'm yet to replicate the results.

So for all of the reasons above and below, The LaLiT Golf & Spa Resort should be your Goan home of choice. But it's not just the hotel and staff that make the stay an awesome experience: the other guests were lovely and great to interact with. One group invited me to their wedding reception, where I enjoyed poolside shisha and drinks while listening to some ambient tunes.



## Get out and see the state

When it comes to fine golden beaches, you could really be anywhere in the world. Goa is a lot more appetising when you look at it as a state rather than a coastline: there's nothing quite like Indian culture, and the activities on offer in Goa cater to everyone's tastes.

The south, where The LaLiT Golf & Spa Resort is located, is a lot less developed than the north: staying down south is much more soothing, and the most bustling north is easily accessible by car or bike within an hour. Unfortunately my tight schedule only allowed for a day of whizzing through the northern sites, but there's plenty to keep you entertained.

Instantly noticeable is the Portuguese influence on the state, particularly obvious in cities like Margao with the abundance of charming architecture. There's plenty of churches, like the Basílica do Bom Jesus, countless brilliant museums, wildlife sanctuaries, and, of course, golden beaches. Every Wednesday in Anjuna is a vibrant flea market, where you can pick up anything from handmade jewellery to hammocks!

And when all is seen and done, you'll always find good food on standby. The Portuguese-influenced fare isn't an offensive assault on the senses, more addictive coastal delights with a hint of the east, unlike some of the more brutal curries you're sure to encounter. Of course if you're feeling brave, go all out and order a Vindaloo (a Goan classic), but know that you've been warned.



#1. Revel in the eastern sun as you zip up the be



#3. Relax and unwind with a feni at Corta's beach

# Golden sands of gorgeous Goa

Chris Richardson provides a breakdown on this perfect post-exam getaway



## About The LaLiT Resort

Located along the western coast of India, The LaLiT Golf & Spa Resort is a luxurious five star resort built on 85 acres of land. It offers a breathtaking view lapped by the Arabian Sea, with a unique confluence of the Talpone River to its left, its tributary to the right, cradled by the majestic Sahyadri range and a kilometre long exclusive beachfront. Located at Rajbaga, Canacona, The LaLiT Goa is one of the most exquisite, beautiful and secluded Goa beach resorts. It is also the largest property in Goa in terms of area, as well as number of suites offered.

**“...vibrant culture, culinary delights and sleepless nights”**

The Portuguese style architecture with an elegant blend of Goan culture is the base of the resort's twin storey sprawling structure - all nestled amidst formally landscaped gardens, a golf course and a multitude of hotel facilities ranging from modern meeting rooms to trendy bar and dining avenues, from beach activities to sports facilities. The resort also has its own luxury Yacht & a Helipad to facilitate the experience of life on all - air, water and earth.

Visit [www.thelalit.com](http://www.thelalit.com) for more details.

## Venturing further afield

I mean sure, Goa is great and everything, but it's not the end of the line. It's perfectly located to allow you to zip up the coast to dusty Rajasthan through Bombay, or down the coast to tropical Kerala. If you're not too bound by time and funds I'd really recommend it: having delved both north and south I'd say that each has their charms and shouldn't be missed. The mighty subcontinent has so much to offer, and Goa is just the tip of one of the most fascinating and diverse countries in the world.

**Planning a trip to India?** This article is one in a series of Felix Travel articles dedicated to the mighty subcontinent. If you're looking for inspiration, log on to [www.felixonline.co.uk](http://www.felixonline.co.uk) and scan the archives for great holiday tips.

**Been travelling? Got a tale you want to share with the world?**

Email: [travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

Tweet us using: [#FelixTravel](https://twitter.com/FelixTravel)



Beautiful coastline



#2. Join in the party by the pool and laugh the day away



Beach shack



#4. Be entertained as musicians serenade you into the early hours

## Doze away your days

Because after all, you're on holiday to relax, right? Having dabbled with the sights on offer I spent too-many-a-day relaxing on Patnem beach. While Indian law dictates that no beach can be private, the beach just in front of the The LaLiT Golf & Spa Resort certainly feels like one: it's snugly nestled between geographical barriers on both sides, separating it from the more busy strips of sand. And being west-facing, the location offers unrivalled sparkling sunsets over the sea.

Of course, for the more enthusiastic sun worshipper the LaLiT offers all kinds of invigorating activities to keep you entertained, from jet skis, to fishing boats, to beach polo! Renting a bicycle is highly recommended: I had a really great ride through some villages, checking out the awesome contrast of the inland mountains with the turquoise Arabian Sea. They're even geared up to beach riding, if you feel like tearing up the sand and picking up some new friends (well, stray dogs who seem to take a liking to moving objects).

For ultimate lethargy, relax in a lounge by the pool at The LaLiT: the swanky poolside sitting area is a great place to read a book and catch some rays. And if that gets too tiring, you can always swim over to the sunken bar for an ice cold feni (a surprisingly delicious local liquor that comes in coconut and cashew varieties) before heading into the spa for a massage and a hot tub.

# HANGMAN

## the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source

### Union drinks contaminated with mysterious substance

Some 90% of all the beverages consumed on Union premises have been found to contain various quantities of a substance that is strictly controlled by the Government and outright illegal in certain premises and communities. The chemical, a by-product of the metabolism of microbes spoiling liquids with a high sugar content, is highly flammable and a precursor to acetic acid, which in its concentrated form is corrosive and has a foul odour. When consumed, symptoms of mild poisoning include impairment of judgement and inhibitions (including a tendency to get naked), increased reaction time and decreased general motor functions (such as the unbuttoning of shirts). At higher doses, slurred speech, blurred vision, short-term memory loss and vomiting may result, often culminating in a total loss of consciousness, virginity and/or dignity.

The anti-inhibitory effect serves to facilitate the further consumption of this dangerous chemical, as the victims tend to drink whatever is immediately in front of them with disregard to the distinctive taste, which would otherwise alert one to the drink's contents. As a diuretic, it not only acts to dehydrate but it also causes annoyance to those nearby due to the necessity of regular toilet breaks. Often, when the victim is away, their drink is either spiked or topped up, followed by various jibes such as "down it, fresher!" or a penny in the cup upon their return, worsening their situation. The extent of this contamination is severe: a survey concluded that some three-quarters of all students at Imperial have reported to have had some or all of the symptoms mentioned above, rising to almost 100% among those studying Medicine.

Students are advised to be vigilant against this insidious threat by making sure of the contents of their drink before consumption, because it is reported that Union staff have been willingly poisoning their customers, and preventing them from leaving the premises with their drink in a possible attempt to avoid arousing the suspicion of the law. It is thought that no other establishments are selling this particular poison, meaning students could not obtain it anywhere else, if need be. In a statement to Hangman, a student who cannot be named as their name is a symbol, said: "It would be downright silly of them to want people to be enticed to go to the Union. It would be stupid for them to then be able to monitor the drinking. I mean, the bar staff could not possibly then just do what they already do so well and not serve those that they deem to be too drunk." In a reply to this the Union said: "We cannot comment on such matter, as we are no longer trying to get elected and therefore have no reason to care". They then returned to typing up their CVs and pretending people care what they do and say.

### Inebriated acquaintance of the week



Step 1: Grab arse Step 2: Orgasm Step 3: Apologise



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# SEX

For further Unexpurgated Details come to the Queens Tower at 12.45 tomorrow (clothes optional)

# PORN REVIEW



Bet you never though the womans rugby team would ever make a porno did ya? Well you were wrong, thanks to our freind Bruce Chan in the darkest recesses of china we bring you a review of "Rug Me. All scrum, all the time". This incrdible movie was shot in 1080P (the capital P is for Penis), and will have you standing at the touchline for a solid 80 minutes. Hangman has become the sole distrubtor in a multi billion penny deal, and will be offering you a DVD free of charge. All readers need to do is collect the smut tokens found in this issue and the next 5. Then after £6.99 for p&p this superb video could be yours. On the right you can see a photographic review that an erudite, honourable young man has sent in after we sent him a preview copy to gain consumer reaction. Our thoughts exactly. BAM!





We went back in the archives to give you some old school Hangman.  
We're so swagged out we're not even copy editing this bitch

# HANGMAN

## HOW POPULAR ARE YOU?

...And now revealing a totally new personality investigation that totally wasn't ripped off from 1972. It's your chance to find out what people really think about you, be sure to answer questions honestly.

	Points
1. What sex are you	
a. Male	1
b. Female	10
c. Uncertain	0
2. What attracted you to college?	
a. The supercomputer underneath Huxley	-1
b. the college colours	2
c. the 2-1 ratio	10
	depending on your answer to qtn. 1
3. What has made the most impression on you so far?	
a. The union bar (and vice versa)	-1
b. The Albert Memorial	0(?)
c. The 2:1 ratio	
4. What is your idea of a "good night out"?	
a. Playing WoW until lectures the next day	-1
b. Reading books about teenage vampires	-1
c. Something completely different	10
5. What do people do when you enter a room?	
a. Gather round like flies (to a dustbin)	10
b. Stick a pint of courage in your right hand	-1
c. Leave	0
6. What do people say when you leave the room?	
a. She's got those "come to bed with me" eyes	10
b. I wonder if she's started shaving yet?	-1
c. I didn't know she come in	0

Optional question - an added bonus

7. What is your favourite colour of the following:
- a. Red
  - b. Yellow
  - c. Tartan
  - d. Pale

Add up your points and turn to page 68 to see how you rate

You're a quillible, insecure, observant, persevering and last but not least extremely bored

**"I now get looks from boys who are passing by in the street?"**

says Al Norman

"I had terrible problems with my acne and pimples. I never had any boyfriends. I tried everything including the internet. Then I discovered Jermouka. As you can see from the photo I have no problems at all!"



Draw your own conclusions.....

JERMOUKA "the instant answer"

## Horoscopes

### Aries

This week you realise that you hate science. Unfortunately you're actually 20 minutes into your PhD viva by this point. You come to your senses the following Tuesday in a blood spattered union minibus driving across the Scottish highlands with your two assessors dead on the back seats.

### Gemini

This week you're an embryonic stem cell. Oh the limitless possibilities, you could be a neural cell, a heart valve, anything! You feel the hormone solution wash over you and to your horror realise that you've been turned into a fucking knee cap.

### Leo

This week you're sat in the lab wondering why on earth you're wasting all the embryonic stem cells you've been given on making replacement Knee Caps. You resolve to never accept grant money from the Mafia again.

### Libra

This Friday you are in the Holland Club. After your fourth whisky you realise that when you die you want to have an Irish Wake here in the style of "The Wire". After your 9th whisky you decide to go to the union to get a change of scenery. You trip on the ramp and roll gently back down to the bar. Cursing, you buy another whisky.

### Sagittarius

This week you work for college estates. An agitated Biochem researcher calls up and says a lock needs replacing and lists it as high priority. As everyone lists their estates jobs as high priority you ignore it and get back to playing angry birds and pissing around with the heating.

### Aquarius

This week you are a genetically altered monkey in the Biochemistry department. Your feared master looks agitated that no one from estates has arrived to fix the lock on the lab door. That night you break out and start the zombie apocalypse.

### Taurus

This week you're a postgraduate student doing marking work. After the 700th email from the head of physics about improving the quality of "feedback for the student" you decide to take a shit on the manuscript you're marking. That should get the point across.

### Cancer

This week you're a physics final year student who just received a marked lab report covered in what appears to be fecal matter. At that moment the NSS call you and ask about the quality of the feedback. You say that it's ambiguous.

### Virgo

This week you are the PA to the Dean of Education. When asked by a journalist why Imperial has yet again slipped in the student satisfaction survey you point out that IC endeavours to make it to number 2 on feedback. It's unconvincing.

### Scorpio

This week you're a postgraduate student marker. You receive an email encouraging quality feedback but banning defecation. You decide to go round the house of the person whose script you are marking, hold a gun to his head and scream "ENGLISH MOTHERFUCKER, DO YOU SPEAK IT?"

### Capricorn

This week you're eating a Big Kahuna Burger when John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson bust into your front room and SLJ starts reciting a passage from Ezekiel at you. You resolve to proof read your next lab report for grammatical errors.

### Pisces

This week you are the prime minister of Greece. You realise that this sort of job doesn't come around very often and decide to publicly shaft Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy. You retire to Palmers Green and set up a falafel shop.

by FELIX :

feature writers.

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ATTRACTIVE femmale

tea-masher

**Wanted**

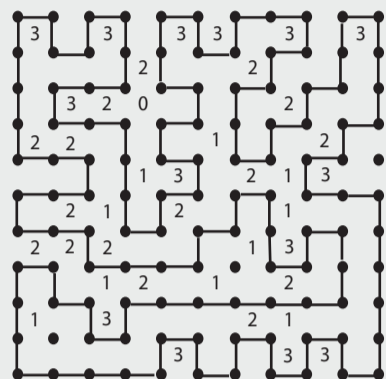
Puzzles Editor: James Hook

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

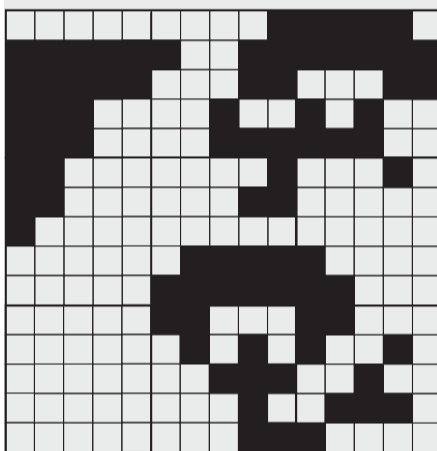
# PUZZLES

## Last Week's Solutions

### Slitherlink



### Nonogram



## Crosswords

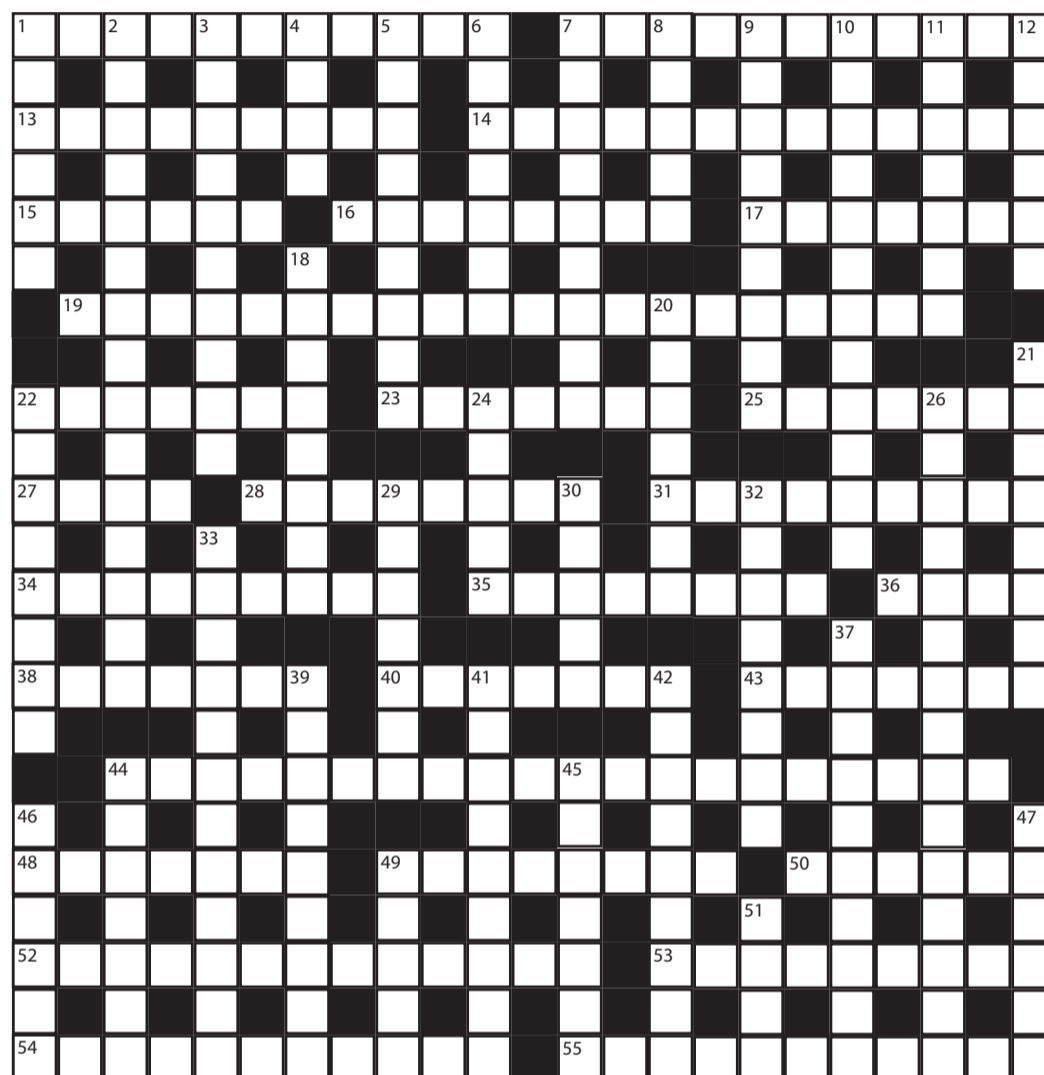
**QUICK(ish) - Across** 1. Question 5. Waffle 10. Aspen 11. Cafeteria 12. Tsunami 13. Espouse 14. Tedium 16. Ashtray 19. Archery 21. Lyrical 25. Humerus 26. Optimal 28. Apartheid 29. Sinai 30. Totter 31. Empyrean **Down** 1. Quantity 2. Expound 3. Tonga 4. Orchid 6. Antipathy 7. Formula 8. Enamel 9. Offense 15. Usherette 17. Brisket 18. Stallion 20. Rampant 22. Immense 23. Thwart 24. Condom 27. Tasty

**CRYPTIC - Across** 1. Speed Bump 6. Havoc 9. Tissues 10. Pasteur 11. Nun 12. Looney Tunes 14. Fleece 15. Proximal 17. Employee 19. Idiots 22. Deerstalker 23. Eat 25. Operate 27. Primate 28. Kitty 29. Twenty-One **Down** 1. Satin 2. Essence 3. Double Cross 4. Upshot 5. Puppetry 6. His 7. Vietnam 8. Chrysalis 13. Taxidermist 14. Fieldwork 16. Decadent 18. Present 20. Oregano 21. Skopje 24. There 26. Any

### Chess

1. Nf6+ Kh8 and upon 2. Ne8!! The threat of Qf8+ is pretty much unpreventable, since 2...Qf1+ 3. Kh4 leads to nothing.

## Giant Prize Double Crossword



Send in the answers to either set of clues to [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk) by **November 16** to be in with a chance of winning a bottle of champagne/other similarly priced alcohol. One correct entry for each crossword will be selected at random. The editor's decision is final.

### QUICK (well, not really...)

#### Across

1. Children's outdoor game (4,3,4)  
7. Star of Gunfight at the OK Corral, Spartacus (4,7)  
13. Reach a compromise through discussion (9)  
14. Site of Custer's Last Stand (6,7)  
15. Southern Grecian city (6)  
16. Well known from long or close association (8)  
17. Having a troublesome situation from which resolution is tricky (2,1,4)  
19. Treat with suspicion (4,4,1,5,2,4)  
22. Phone number to a source of specific information (7)  
23. One doing a degree (7)  
25. Discovers, investigates (7)  
27. Spun thread; tell a story (4)  
28. Reference symbol to an annotation (8)  
31. Combination of string, woodwind, percussion and brass (9)  
34. (Of sword, tool etc.) large or unwieldy (3-6)  
35. Genesis vessel (5,3)  
36. Pronoun used to identify a specific thing close to hand (4)  
38. Monetary unit of Brazil, Mexico (7)  
40. Gloves lacking separate finger

#### Down

sections (7)  
43. 15th letter of the Greek alphabet (7)  
44. 1968 film - characters include Caractacus Potts and Truly Scrumptious (6,6,4,4)  
48. One from Emilia-Romagna region of Italy (7)  
49. Close friend or associate (derived from Spanish) (8)  
50. Pester (6)  
52. Variety of cookie (9,4)  
53. Competitor who has little chance of winning (4,5)  
54. Future-predicting device (7,4)  
55. Legal authorisation (11)  
**Down**  
1. Free of deceit (6)  
2. 1975 Al Pacino film (3,3,9)  
3. Contrast or opposition between two things (10)  
4. Tie; compose picture (4)  
5. Short hairs on the face (9)  
6. Murder (7)  
7. North Atlantic grey gull - genus Rissa (9)  
8. Measuring instrument; dictator (5)  
9. Questioned about a completed mission (9)  
10. Not certain (12)

#### Down

11. Watchman (7)  
12. Abrasive device/tool (6)  
18. Did in a subtle or delicate manner (8)  
20. Ideas or vague conceptions (7)  
21. Killer (of a prominent person) (8)  
22. Pile of dry grass (8)  
24. A joining together (5)  
26. The \_\_\_\_ - JD Salinger novel (7,2,3,3)  
29. (Of disease) regularly found (7)  
30. Dishonest man (5)  
32. Examples of these include Freakazoid! and Johnny Bravo (8)  
33. Milton poem "to justify the ways of God to men" (8,4)  
37. Dictator of the fictional world of Oceania (3,7)  
39. Alert (2,3,4)  
41. Victorious (9)  
42. Recovered from a night on the lash (7,2)  
44. With little attention to detail (7)  
45. Tedious journey on foot (7)  
46. Rhizome used to induce vomiting (6)  
47. Legally seize (6)  
49. Claw of a crab (5)  
51. Perching bird; make a sound of delight (4)

### CRYPTIC

#### Across

1. Book star police department (11)  
7. Support for completely even algebra. One is quite sobering! (11)  
13. Humiliated, death is good when pursued (9)  
14. Letter from horseman for one star (5,8)  
15. Chinese fruit contained within. Cool it, chill (6)  
16. Judging at bar trial careless (8)  
17. Keen consideration of home (7)  
19. Have bad start with poor high jump technique? (3,3,2,3,5,4)  
22. Crazy grandmother in the deep, nearly (7)  
23. Advocate killing animal, it is said (7)  
25. November in disarray until meet up without plan (3,4)  
27. One who roasts is part of Rachmaninov encore (4)  
28. Pretty alien in space (8)  
31. Disturbing pest on hot ash at the start of Autumn (9)  
34. Predicted one considering point is mainly excellent negotiator (9)  
35. Changes once again to comprehend intelligent Southerner (8)  
36. Groove for second lot (4)  
38. Endless currents within scorch cheese (7)  
40. Spin-wash herring (7)  
43. Plunderer's assistant in Rolls-Royces (7)  
44. Treating superficially, taking off top? (10,3,7)  
48. Middle eastern beheaded Prime Minister (7)  
49. Nylon tangled up, one is French (8)  
50. Mischievous imp hidden in painting of hollow (6)  
52. Common sense on The X Factor? (5,8)  
53. Camping perhaps, positive plan (9)  
54. Stimulus in spinning screens brings revivals (11)  
55. Writer on controversial issues he let in with baby around (11)

#### Down

1. Indulge old king closing in on D-Day (6)  
2. Eleventh redesign with hopes up to exceed current limits (4,3,8)  
3. Savagely hunted boar that's flightless (10)  
4. Confront person (4)  
5. Persistence of nut, moron encapsulates Royal Academy (9)  
6. Not hearing much, lifeless, cut tail off aquatic animal (7)  
7. Best place to put socks? (3,6)  
8. Handicapped but got up, having one electronic memo (1-4)  
9. Bizarrely agree after concluded to be too enthusiastic (9)  
10. Drink and sandwiches by arrangement of ant eater? No! (9,3)  
11. Most powerful rising pairing in case of outsider (7)  
12. Followers of thoughts of Kotarbinski's sister disturbing (6)  
18. Kills prostitute, say, at sea (8)  
20. Reflecting serious thought in beginning and end of opera, not Act Four. South Pacific, for example (4,3)  
21. I think deeply about no cargo in ship (8)  
22. You rise, fenced in by restriction, extremely courageously showing resilience (8)  
24. Discourage animal eating tree initially (5)  
26. Distinguished man, right, in dodgy Zeppelin gaining order of chivalry award for promoting unity (5,5,5)  
29. King day - Bow! (7)  
30. Crack - Charlie has a thousand! (5)  
32. Disciple in exile, perhaps to end weakly (5,3)  
33. Minor collision for whammy bar on Stratocaster? (6,6)  
37. Change for gamblers storing false tree containing first of emeralds (10)  
39. Pay back concerning copycat musical group (9)  
41. People in Brixton are recluses surrounding chief tough guy (9)  
42. Communist committee constructs dim uprising (9)  
44. Composer to investigate outside scale of expertise (7)  
45. Two containers, one lifted up, for clothing (4,3)  
46. One that talks Easterner into silly risks (6)  
47. Second bath of chemicals for druggie (6)  
49. Scientific reasoning about mathematical function at Imperial (5)  
51. Describe something tetchy, not edgy (4)



# PUZZLES

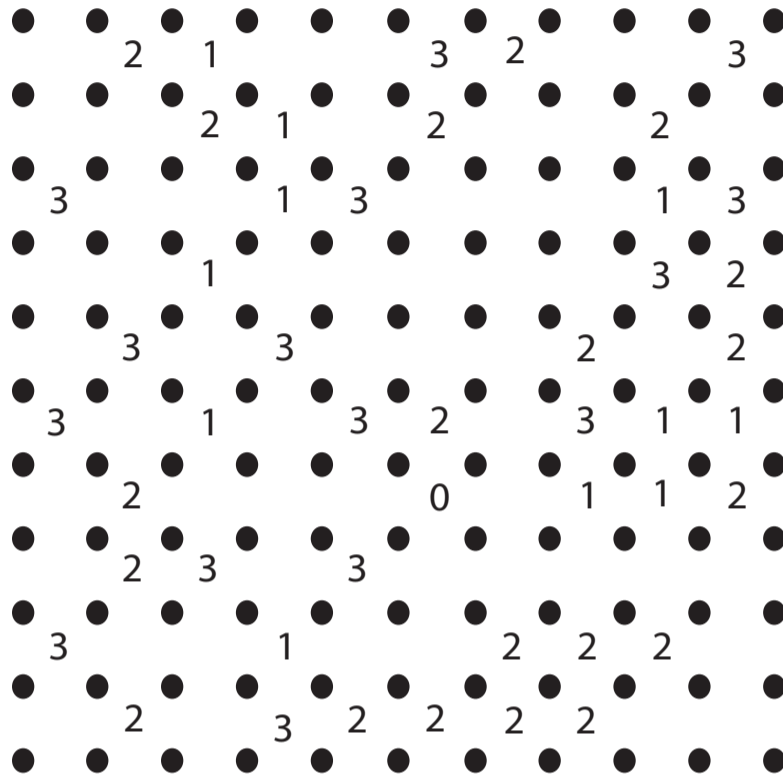
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## Film Strip

Identify these films. You'll find a common theme between them...



## SLITHERLINK



The aim with Slitherlink is to make one continuous closed loop by connecting the dots. The numbers in each square indicate how many edges of the square are part of the loop, so if it contains a "2", you know that two and only two out of four edges have lines. That's all the info you need to get the one logical answer (though waiting a week to see the solution will also do). Answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk, as the puzzles team receives one shower per correct solution.

## FUCWIT League Leader Board

### Teams:

The Jailbaits	25
Pegasus & Parrots	24
Elbowfart	22
Paddy Got Bummed	17

### Individuals:

Jeremy Neale	29
Wael Aljeshi	17

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved, with prizes for both the winning team and the winning individual.

Points will be awarded per individual puzzles solved. The first person/team to send in a correct answer for a puzzle will receive 2 points per puzzle. After that people who send in correct answers will be awarded 1 point per puzzle. Double points are awarded for cryptic crosswords.

Send your solutions to: [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk) for points galore!

## Cryptic Crosswords? No Thanks!

Having trouble with the Felix cryptic crosswords in the sports section? No idea what it all means or would like to know why some answers are as they are? Contact [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk) with the subject line "Cryptic Help". You'll be sent an introduction to how cryptic crosswords work and what to look out for. Each week you'll also receive complete explanations to the answers in the previous week's Felix cryptic crossword.

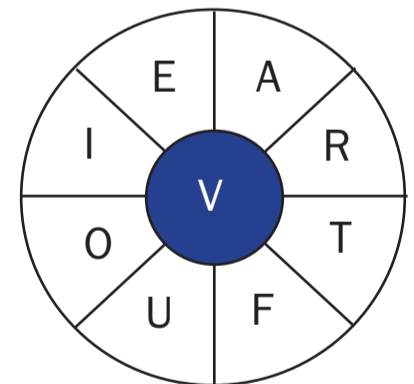
## Wordoku

I		Y	H				R	
	H			I				
				R				T
		D				Y		A
	R		Y	H	S		B	
Y		B				T		
R				A				
				Y			A	
	A				H	I		B

This week's wordoku contains something...SENSIBLE RELATING TO 1500TH ISSUE CELEBRATIONS? If it's not childish, it's not really worth my time... Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol.

## Word Wheel

TARGET: 14



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

## Anagrams - Sports

Anagram the letters to make some thematic words and phrases. Then, anagram the letters in red to suggest an alternative.

1. GOLD BLADE

-----

2. NO DAMN BIT

-----

3. GOBS CHIN SEX

-----

4. KNEELS TO

-----

5. TAPER WOOL

-----

Ans

-----

# SPORT

## 'Moral victory' for ICCC

**Navin Surtani**  
Indoor Cricket

Seven of Imperial Cricket's finest journeyed down to a barn in Hertfordshire last week Saturday only to come away with a moral victory after losing both of their games.

The fact that everyone made it to the barn in Hertfordshire alive was a positive start to the day given the driving skills of vice-captain Majid Ali. When asked about whether the kit-bags were stacked too high in his car, he responded with the words: "I don't need to see, that's fine".

The first match against Middlesex started off steadily for Imperial and the game was evenly poised. Two swift run-outs of 'keeper Vishal Nair and token-white-guy Iain Stobbs turned the tide against IC, but the screw was really turned when the Middlesex albino Sikh off-spinner went for a miserly fifteen runs in his of three overs. A competitive 114 was posted in the end with significant contributions from v/c Majid "extra-hot Nandos" Ali and Jayanth "I lost my lunch" Ganapathy. IC came out with aggression in the field but calm

batting from the opposition and a drop in our own fielding standards meant an easy win for Middlesex.

One change was made for the second game against UCL (or Euston Tech.) with Iain "token" Stobbs making way for Hasit "hungover from halloween" Mehta. Majid used the fuel from his Nandos the previous night and 25 cans of coke to attack his ULU team-mate Willy Pete who opened the bowling for Euston Tech. Aply helped by Vishal and Navin Surtani, the innings finished on 143 from twelve overs. Once again though, the opposition batting was calm. Despite a caught and bowled from Navin along with some direct hit run-outs from skipper Ahsaan and Hasit - Euston Tech managed to win in a tight contest.

Even though the inexperienced team had been defeated, it gave the newer and younger guys a lot of invaluable experience to take forward for next year's tournament. Positives were taken and the weaknesses of the performances analysed with a view to coming into the 2012/13 tournament a better prepared and more experienced unit.



They look happier than the 8-ball guys is all I can say

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### Selected results

in association with  
Sports Partnership

imperial college union *sport Imperial*

Wednesday 2nd November

FENCING		GOLF		HOCKEY	
Men's 3rd	4	Men's 3rd	4	Men's 1st	2
Medicals 2nd	5	Mixed 1st	2.5	Brunel Universty 1st	5
Men's 2nd	127	Royal Holloway 1st	3.5	Women's 1st	5
Queen Mary's 1st	113	Medicals Women's 1st		Reading 1st	0
Essex 2nd	4	King's Medics 1st		Men's 2nd	1
Men's 3rd	85			Medicals 2nd	1
UCL 2nd	135			Chichester 5th	1
King's 1st	3				
Men's 2nd	5	LACROSSE		Women's 2nd	0
Portsmouth 1st	3	Men's 1st	19	Buckinghamshire New 2nd	2
Women's 1st	51	Men's 2nd	1		
Portsmouth 1st	57	Medicals 2nd	1		
Men's 2nd	51	King's 1st	5		
Uni. Greenwich 1st	96				

NETBALL		RUGBY UNION		TABLE TENNIS	
Women's 1st	1	Medicals Men's 1st	10	Men's 1st	17
Hertfordshire 2nd	2	Reading 1st	23	Bath 1st	0
Women's 3rd	1	Medicals Men's 2nd	15	Women's 1st	4
Chichester 4th	4	University of the Arts Ldn	0	Kent 1st	1
Medicals Women's 1st	3	Men's 2nd	5	Essex 1st	12
Brighton 2nd	1	Essex 1st	12		
Medicals Women's 2nd	7	SQUASH		TENNIS	
Medicals Women's 3rd	0	Women's 1st	2	Men's 1st	10
London Metropolitan 1st	29	Portsmouth 1st	2	Kent 1st	2
Medicals Women's 2nd	27	Men's 1st	10		
Brighton 4th	20	King's College 1st	2		
Medicals Women's 5th	10				
London Sth Bank 2nd	10	Men's 2nd	6		
King's 1st	5	Chichester 1st	6		



## SPORT

# IC Hurlers off to strong start



We're not sure what the giant mound of earth is for, either

## Stephen Gallagher Hurling

Imperial & St Mary's	8-14
Cambridge	3-4

For Imperial's first match there couldn't have been much of a better way to start the Hurling season. With blue skies and a light breeze in Greenford the boys in blue new they were in for something good.

Despite Oxford not getting a team, there was a good showing from St Mary's, Cambridge and Lakenheath, who

are made up of US Air Force pilots (I know!).

It was decided that St Mary's and ourselves should play as a joint team, which is what we are doing for Championships, against a mixed team of Cambridge and Lakenheath in a 60 minute, 13-aside match.

The match began with a shaky start for both sides as the players got to know the teammates in their joint team. Once the ball got rolling it became clear that the London side were the dominant force. With some spectacular defending by Neil Clancy and Paul McGovern, Cam-

bridge found it hard to get near the All-Star Hurler Stevie Gallagher, who was stuck in goals through injury but managed some great saves. When the ball did go wide Stevie's poc-outs where literally hit or miss, due to "the wind". In mid-field Jack McCaughan and Keith made impressive runs and scored some points from distance. Despite not being able to run at all, St. Mary's fresher and U-21 Tyrone footballer Ryan poached like a pro and kicked as many points and goals as he pucked. He racked up an impressive score line.

Cambridge showed some promise at

the start of the second half with two goals and a point, but London got back in gear and started to dominate again. They were boosted by the presence of Donal McCann, St Mary's Captain; put a few great shots over the bar. With the London forwards seeing the majority of the ball Jerome Scullion, clearly a bit rusty after his 5 years in Borstal for stealing dusties, and John McGuckin created a few penalties and 65's, which were converted.

Sean Dunne in centre half forward made some good catches, but showed he was a footballer when it came to

hitting the ball. His frustration was unleashed on an unsuspecting American when he was fouled. London continued to dominate until the final whistle.

With a few pints in the bar, Imperial and the Mary's lads agreed that the test drive of the amalgamated team had been successful, looking forward to next Saturday when we hope to bring it to the Northern and Scottish Universities who don't know what's coming!

Contact [gaelic.sports@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:gaelic.sports@imperial.ac.uk) for any information on the team.

# 1500 weeks of Sport

## Indy Leclercq Sports Editor



This is it, then. The big one The one you've all been waiting for. I don't know about the rest of the Felix team, but I hope you have as much fun reading this one as us editors down here have had doing it.

I also hope you enjoyed the back cover, which was the fruit of quite a bit of trawling through the archives, looking for nuggets of sport through all the years Felix has been active.

It turns out that the place of sport in this newspaper has ebbed and flowed over the years, with some editors giving it plenty of space, nice

graphics and decent pictures. Other times, it's hastily collated in at the bottom of a page, with about three results and 50-word reports. For the first fifteen or so years of existence, Felix even had a late news supplement, which was basically a couple of typewritten pages sent out on Friday afternoon - it's a shame that doesn't exist any more, it would be a godsend for getting results in.

Since the beginning, though, we've not been renowned as a sporting uni (although that is starting to change), and browsing the archives makes you realise how little has changed through the years: Imperial students are unmistakably Imperial students, whether its 1959 or 2009 (as you can see in this week's Hangman, we still have the same sense

of humour. The sportspeople tend to remain the same, too. There are always the Rugby and Hockey lot, up for a laugh; Rowing, who have been getting up at obscene hours to train since time immemorial and then successes in minor sports (Badminton, Basketball, Fencing and - yes - Tiddlywinks).

Actually that sport headline from the 70s struck me when I saw it (and is now on the back page). I'm not sure if the editor of the day was taking the piss, or if he really regarded Tiddlywinks as something that enough Imperialites were interested in to print the report. In the pre-WOW and Starcraft days, I guess it must have been. What would people have done to occupy the studying spaces otherwise? You can network

a few library tables and have a massively multiplayer Tiddlywinks game, I suppose.

Unfunny attempts at humour aside, though, there has always been a tradition of sport at our beloved university (-sorry, I'll stop now) and Felix has always been there to report on our glowing triumphs and soul-crushing defeats. Thanks to all of you who send your reports in, the section is really hitting its stride now.

On another note, I hope to have the Captains interviews running on a more regular basis from now on, so if you're in a club and interested in getting your Captain or President in these pages, drop me an email! Coming soon: Rugby, Rowing and Synchronised Swimming. Cheers!



# SPORT



tiddlywinks



UNIVERSITY BOXING TRIALS  
I.C. WIN PRESTON CUP



FELIX

# SPORTS NEWS

BOAT CLUB

I.C.C.C.C. BEAT SHEFFIELD



## BOXING

## SPORTS DAY

I.C. Boxing Club provided two members of the London University Boxing Team which regained the U.A.U. Championship Cup, on Friday, March 3rd, after 35 years. Pierre Scribblehead (R.C.B.) was beaten on points in the Flyweight Trial, and Graham Yorks (C. & G.) won the Featherweight title in spite of a badly bruised eye, caused by his carelessness in the semi-final.

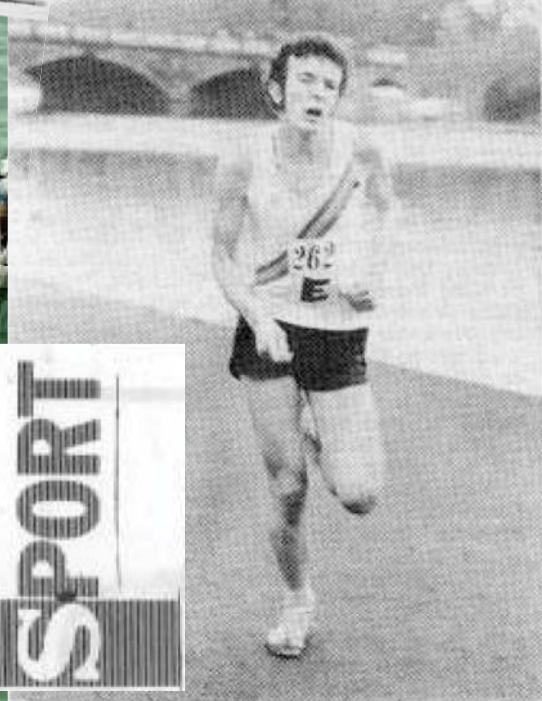
Sports Day will be held at Motspur Park on the second Wednesday of next term. It is an official College half holiday. A closer fight than last year, when R.C.B. won comfortably, is almost assured. R.C.B. and R.S.M. each with 3 wins in the last 30 years will yet again attempt to strip the pants off the Guildsmen. The aim of the Sports Day is as much social as athletic; and to achieve this end EVERYONE'S support is needed. Clamber into one of the coaches on May 3rd. An afternoon of sunshine (we hope) will do you a world of good.



at Motspur Park

WEDNESDAY

3rd MAY 2.30



SPORT