

Binge Drinking: Is it a problem?

An investigation into students and alcohol: **Page 10**

ISSUE 1506

“Keep the Cat Free”

FELIX



13.01.12

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

Holland Club Campaign

Call to protect staff bar attracts over 600 members

Matt Allinson

The future of Imperial College's staff bar, the Holland Club, is in serious doubt this week as it emerged that college catering are potentially planning on converting the space into a new food outlet.

The news sparked widespread controversy online amongst both Imperial's staff and postgraduate community, with the "Save The Holland Club" Facebook group receiving nearly 600 likes in less than four weeks. The page has become a hub for past and present patrons of the bar to express their shock and outrage at the news, while the page itself has been updated almost daily with information about the potential closure.

The move to replace the Holland Club with a new catering facility comes at the beginning of a busier than usual year for Imperial College Commercial Services, which as well as attempting to improve services provided to students and staff, will also be playing hosts to members of the Swiss and Japanese Olympic teams during the summer.

Currently, Commercial Services are carrying out a feasibility study into how to improve the west basement of the Sherfield Building and will consider, amongst other things, "what additional catering and amenities would best

serve the needs of staff and students on the South Kensington Campus". Meanwhile the Holland Club management have been left feeling "in limbo," unsure whether or not to carry on with their own planned improvement works or even if the Holland Club will remain.

Various sources have stated to Felix that this will be a major project with a budget of around £4m, and the feasibility study has a wide remit of possible amenities that could be offered, including a bar, cafeteria or restaurant, and also allowing space that could be usable by Union clubs and societies.

In correspondence with Felix, Jane Neary, the head of Commercial Services at Imperial, commented that the food facilities on the South Kensington campus had reached saturation point and; despite being able to provide catering services to a footfall of 2.5m people last year; were unable to meet demand.

Furthermore she stated that, "Student feedback has also highlighted that taught postgraduates would welcome more appropriate common room provision on campus," in reference to the fact that the rules of the Senior Common Room state that taught postgraduates are not allowed to eat there.

This is a problem that the college readily acknowledged and has been working

...Continued on Page 4



COMMENT



A rise in Masters fees

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TELEVISION



Sherlock returns to the small screen

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES



Snowsports take on Les Arcs

Page 24

Julia Buckingham to step down as Pro-Rector

Carol Ann Cheah

Professor Julia Buckingham, current Pro-Rector for Education and Academic Affairs at Imperial College London, has been appointed as the next Vice-Chancellor and Principal for Brunel University. The first woman to be appointed to this position at Brunel, she will assume duties from Professor Chris Jenks on the 1st of October 2012.

A graduate in Pharmacology from the University of London, Professor Buckingham is also currently the Director of Imperial's Centre for Integrative Mammalian Physiology and Pharmacology. She joined the College in 1997 during the merger of the West London Medical Schools with Imperial, serving as Non-Clinical Dean for the Faculty of Medicine and the Head of Division of Neuroscience and Mental Health prior

to her appointment as Pro-Rector in 2007.

Professor Buckingham was also previously employed as Professor of Pharmacology and Assistant Dean (Preclinical) at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, University of London. As a researcher, she has had her work funded by various research councils and the Wellcome Trust, and trained over 25 PhD students. She is also cur-

rently Chairman and Trustee of the Society for Endocrinology, as well as a Founder Member of the Society of Biology.

Jane Kelly, Chair of Brunel University's Council, said that "Council is very pleased to have appointed Julia to be our next Vice-Chancellor...[she] demonstrates the skills, commitment and enthusiasm to build on Brunel's strengths and aspirations."

HIGHLIGHTS

What's on

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The Ides of March

Hugo

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£3 members/£4 non-members
or £8 members/£12 non-members to see them all

All Showings of *The Rum Diary* are FREE

Tonight (Friday): *The Rum Diary* (18:30), *The Adventures of TinTin* (20:45) and *The Skin I Live In* (23:00)

Sunday: *The Rum Diary* (15:00), *The Adventures of TinTin* (17:30)

Monday: *The Rum Diary* (18:30), *The Adventures of TinTin* (20:45)

Tuesday: *Hugo* (18:30), *The Ides of March* (20:45)

Thursday: *The Rum Diary* (18:30), *The Skin I Live In* (20:45)

Friday: *The Adventures of TinTin* (18:30), *Hugo* (20:45), *The Ides of March* (23:00)

Tickets and more information at www.icucinema.co.uk

**Union Concert Hall,
Floor 2 – Imperial College Union**

PICK OF THE WEEK

It's a new year, so why not join Felix?



A regular office occurrence

Happy New Year! If anything, the start of 2012 has proven to be pretty dense with news. Despite the number of people allegedly doing their exams, we've somehow ended up with the biggest News Section of the academic year. But of course, we always need more roving reporters on the prowl around campus, not to mention photographers. And writers. And illustrators. Come to think of it, if you're interested in giving us a hand in any way, go ahead! We're always on the lookout for keen individuals, and we're a friendly bunch.

Editor

CLASSIFIEDS

Part time 'nanny', required in W14

Nanny required in West Kensington to look after our 16 month old son, 5 mornings a week, 8.00am – midday, though there is some flexibility in the hours. The position would suit a student as we only need help during term times.

We are looking for someone with the right attitude, (ie loving, baby centred, curious, flexible) rather than lots of previous experience and qualifications. Cooking and some light housework to do with our son (not general cleaning etc) will also be required.

You will need an excellent standard of spoken English and will need to provide two character references (from the UK). You will also need to apply for an enhanced CRB check if offered the position.

We are in the process of establishing a home care company, so there might be training and other care work available in future.

£8.50 per hour

Please phone **07769 908 468** if you meet all of the above requirements.

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

If you'd like to have a classified advert in Felix, just email felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Lolcat of teh week



Grumpage alert level raised from "meh" to "hmpf!"

FELIX

Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB.
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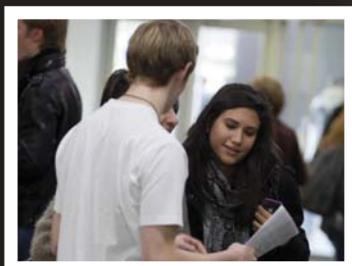
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NEWS

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BUSINESS IMPERIAL

Imperial and UCL celebrate five years of nanotechnology research

Madeleine Staple

It is a truth universally acknowledged that all mad scientists must carry out their ingenious experiments in a basement. But most of us have absolutely no idea what goes on beneath the floors of our faculties. At Imperial, some of our most ingenious pieces of research are carried out by the London Centre of Nanotechnology (LCN), which has just celebrated its fifth anniversary. A collaboration between Imperial and UCL, it covers such a large range of research that it could not be contained in a single basement and is now carried out across both campuses.

The co-director of the LCN is Milo Shaffer, also the warden of Holbein and Willis Jackson Hall. His group aims to contribute science that “can make a real difference to the world around us.” He could be right; in the last five years, their researchers have “discovered magnetic analogues of electric charge, found new

ways to manipulate light... and developed new ways to screen for antibiotic resistance in bacteria.” What’s more, they also offer two Masters programs at Imperial.

“[The LCN] aims to make a real difference to the world”

The LCN is very unusual, in that not only does it involve two of the best universities in London working together, but the team itself is completely multi-disciplinary. Chemists, medics, biochemists, biologists, physicists, material scientists are all striving towards a common goal: working with materials on the nanometre scale to improve the efficiency of instruments and ideas, to analyse materials at a level that was not possible

before, and then to apply that knowledge to all kinds of fields – including healthcare, physics and engineering.

Beneath the floors of the Royal School of Mines lurks one of the most interesting experiments: TITAN, a £6m electron-microscope with correction for spherical aberration, the first of its kind in the UK. By connecting it to sophisticated software, TITAN can take images on an atomic level, allowing us to view single atoms with the naked eye (on a computer screen). Recently, it has been used to study replacement hip-joints – these have always suffered from oxygen degradation, and the team hope to find exactly why this happens and how to counteract it. They are also looking into regenerative medicine, and how and why Alzheimer’s progresses as it does.

The first five years of the London Centre of Nanotechnology have been, by anyone’s estimation, hugely successful. What happens in the next five years could be even more interesting.

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts

Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

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

Men’s cuts £22

Women’s shampoo and cut and shake dry £28

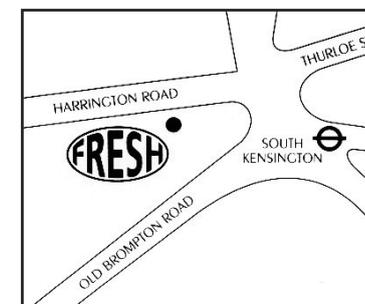
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In Brief

Imperial academics awarded in
New Year's Honours

Three academics at Imperial College have received some of the highest awards in the country for their work in the sciences in the New Year's Honours, announced on December 31. These honours are issued by the Monarch on the advice of the Government for exemplary service.

Professor Sir Stephen Bloom, the head of the Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism division in the Department of Medicine; and Professor Sir Simon Donaldson, a researcher into geometry and topology at the department of Mathematics, have both been appointed Knight Bachelors. In addition, Professor David Phillips, a researcher at the Department of Chemistry, as well as President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, has been made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE).

As well as the members of staff, five members of Imperial's alumni have been given honours, including a Knighthood and a Damehood (the female equivalent).

The Rector of Imperial College has extended his congratulations to the staff and alumni. In a statement to Imperial's press office, he said "These researchers, along with the Imperial alumni who have been honoured, represent some of the very best that the UK has to give. On behalf of the College, I offer them all my warmest congratulations."

Philip Kent

Imperial Horizons initiative to
challenge undergraduates

Imperial has unveiled a new pilot scheme for undergraduates, which aims to challenge students to consider global issues through use of their scientific knowledge.

The new initiative, entitled Imperial Horizons, is being led by the materials physicist Professor Adrian Sutton.

The free programme consists of eight weekly two hour sessions on Monday evenings on the South Kensington campus, with students attending lectures delivered by Imperial research stars as well as outside speakers from the worlds of science, media and policy, allowing for further interaction with the world of research.

Professor Sutton has explained the purpose of the scheme as a means to enable students to put their degrees in a broader context: "Undergraduates at Imperial receive one of the most thorough technical educations available world-wide but there is a growing sense that the education we provide has become too narrow, that we don't facilitate students from different faculties working together and learning about each other's ways of thinking."

"I believe that Imperial College is exceptionally well placed to deliver this programme. This is partly because the College has a long tradition of innovation in teaching and of recognizing excellence in teaching."

The course begins on January 23. Students can sign up through the website www3.imperial.ac.uk/horizons.

Matthew Colvin

Rally to 'save Holland Club'

...Continued from Front Page towards solving, as highlighted by an interview with The Reporter (September 27 2011) in which Mrs Neary stated: "[Commercial Services] would like to create more space for the College community to interact socially, especially taught postgraduates ... [who] don't really have a place to call their own. We would like to change that, providing a catering and social space that could be open out-of-hours and at weekends."

In her correspondence with Felix, Mrs Neary went on to explain that the purpose of the feasibility study is to evaluate the space currently occupied by the Holland Club and determine which facilities would be required to best suit the needs of the College community; whether the new facilities should be open to everyone or just a select group (i.e. staff and postgraduates, both taught and research) and "How the ethos of the Holland Club might be maintained in any new facilities."

"[Commercial Services] would like to create more space for the College community to interact socially"

Kevin Young, the manager of the Holland Club, told Felix that his main complaint is the way he feels that College has not only failed to consult him on their plans for improving postgraduate facilities, but also what he believes to be concerted efforts on behalf of members of the feasibility study staff to not share information about it with him.

Specific examples he included to justify his belief included finding senior members of Properties Management and Commercial Services looking around the inside of the bar at 7am on a Wednesday morning in early November without express permission from Mr Young, and original requests made by college for allowing access for architects and engineers stating that the work done was for "updating the college records."

Mrs Neary stated that the reason the Holland Club committee hadn't been consulted was because there had been nothing to consult on, and that now that the plans are progressing they have been meeting with the panel in charge of the feasibility study.

The Holland Club itself is named after Sir Thomas Holland, former Rector of Imperial College London. It is technically a private members club for non-academic staff, while postgraduate students (both taught and research) are



The Facebook campaign has attracted over 600 members at the time of going to print

allowed in as guests. In practice the bar is heavily used by PhD students when they don't want to drink with undergraduates in the union or the cast of *Made in Chelsea* in the South Kensington locals, which can be prohibitively expensive.

The Holland Club itself is self-governed and not for profit, any money made from the running of the bar is re-invested into the bar. Mr Young also stressed that the Holland Club management was not blind to the increased need of postgraduate students, especially as they now made up the majority of its customers. The Holland Club committee was already looking as far back as last October into plans to re-open the kitchen bring in network points for internet access and purchase a coffee machine.

As it stands the coffee machine has been bought with a three-year service contract, and will be installed within the next few weeks, a point that particularly annoys Mr Young as it may now potentially be ripped out by Easter. This uncertainty about the future has affected the day-to-day running of the club, and also on the ability of the club to go about carrying out its own improvements. Plans to start serving light pub food have been shelved until the Holland Club can be sure the required equipment and staff are worth the investment.

It is hoped that a compromise could be reached between the goals set out by the Feasibility study and the current Holland Club. The feasibility study itself does plan to invite input from students and staff – including members of the Holland Club – on what facilities are desired and how the project should proceed. However Mr Young expressed regret that the Holland Club hadn't been included in the process from the very start. The primary concerns that he wants addressed in the feasibility report are that the new facilities will also be self-governed in the same style as the

Holland Club, and that communal spaces and function rooms remain.

Imperial College Union responded to the ongoing issue with the following statement: "Until the feasibility study comes back it is impossible to comment on what potential plans there are for the space the Holland Club occupies."

"It is important to note that the Holland Club was setup as, and still remains, a bar for non-academic staff of Imperial College London."

"The Union will always be welcoming to plans that seek to improve the amount of social space available to our members. It can only be seen as a positive move that College are looking to invest several million pounds in more student facilities."

"We look forward to submitting our response to any plans that are put forward by College and Commercial Services."

As a worst-case scenario, Mr Young is willing to discuss the moving of the Holland Club to new premises. This is not the first time in its 62-year existence that it has been moved. Originally starting as a room in 15 Princes Gardens – a location Mr Young jokingly said he wouldn't mind moving back to – it was moved to the Huxley building, before being moved into its current site in the basement of Sheffield 16 years ago, which up until that point had been home to Imperial's telephone exchange.

While most Holland Club bar users Felix spoke to weren't averse to the Holland club undergoing a renovation, there was a fear on how said renovation would be done. This was best expressed by one punter questioned who feared that the 'pub' character would be lost to the 'Ikea catalogue' interiors endemic to Commercial Services' most recent projects, the Eastside bar and the Queen's Tower Rooms.

The various outcomes of the feasibility study, which are due in the second quarter of 2012, will be reported in Felix as and when they become available.

Join the debate
and have your
say on this
story at
felixonline.co.uk

Permission granted for Fisher Hall development

Alexander Karapetian

The topic of Fisher Hall's closure in Evelyn Gardens has been revived after a planning permission request from the college aiming to shift the building's use from Halls of Residence to Care Housing was granted.

The request, put forth by both Imperial College and The Wellcome Trust, was approved on December 9 2011 along with proposed development to the affected buildings at 24 and 26 Evelyn Gardens such as removal of the front steps, the insertion of windows and the erection of chimneys.

The review began in January 2011 and it was speculated that the high cost of refurbishment would lead to the closure of the hall. The planning application was submitted in July 2011 indicating the intent to switch to use the hall for elderly care, citing the creation of halls at Prince's Gardens as causing the "need for student accommodation [to be] reduced".

The cheapest standard single room at Eastside, the newest halls at Prince's

Gardens, is currently £175.34 per week, while the cheapest for Fisher is £99.56. Converting Fisher to a care home would cause the 156 existing beds to be turned into 28 housing units. Last year's Union President, Alex Kendall told Felix that the decision appeared "driven by cost-cutting", adding Fisher Hall "is in urgent need of refurbishment and Imperial are less likely to lose money if it is sold on rather than retained as student accommodation."

"new sites would provide an alternative"

Jane Neary, Director of Commercial Services, told Felix last year that the problem with halls such as Fisher lies with the condition of the buildings, and that they "have had no financial investment for as long as anyone can remember", but she denied claims that Fisher was below standard, saying "it's not that [the hall isn't] good enough, it's

completely legal", adding that "we've done all the urgent work".

There is a period of under 38 years left on the lease for Fisher Hall, after which time it reverts to the freeholders, the Wellcome Trust. John Anderson, CEO of the College Fund, told Felix last year that "College is going to be looking at an 8-figure sum to refurbish Fisher Hall to achieve the standard of other halls. To my mind, it simply doesn't make sense to invest that much money into a property for which the lease expires in 38 years".

The College are continuing the search for new sites of accommodation which would take over as an alternative, and were reported to not be seeking a solution through private halls. Felix contacted the Head of Commercial Business and Student Support, Charles Gallagher, who stated that College takes into account Fisher Hall as a "core building" which "currently remains part of the undergraduate accommodation portfolio". He said that "the investment needed to keep the building fully operational as a student resident

Simon Kreitem



The proposals would see new care housing at Evelyn Gardens

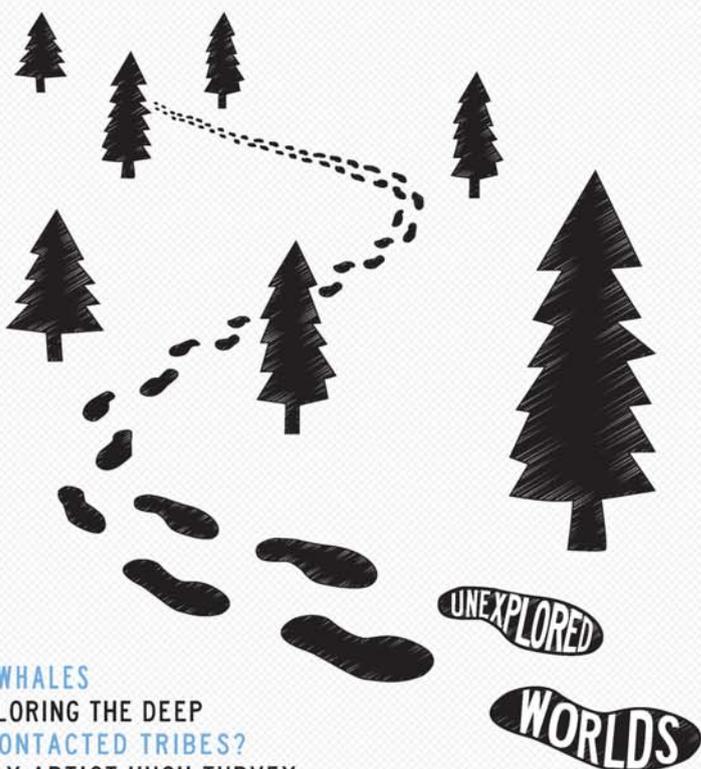
may not be feasible", adding "the College is exploring options for developing the undergraduate accommodation offer".

"Until an alternative facility is found that offers suitable accommodation", he continued, "Fisher Hall will remain a student residence and a core asset for College". The planning proposal for

converting Fisher from a hall to a care home, however, was approved with the condition that "the development shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of permission" as required by Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to avoid the accumulation of unexercised planning permissions.

I, SCIENCE

THE SCIENCE MAGAZINE OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE



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The National Student Survey

On Monday all undergraduate students who will be finishing their degree this year were invited to participate in the National Student Survey (NSS).

Completing the NSS is essential to all parts of the College e.g. Last year's data was used by the Union to create the 'NSS Response', a document which is helping improve the student experience across the whole college.

To help make the survey as useful as possible we have a few tips to those who have yet to complete it:

1. Rate your entire degree, not your final year.

The NSS is very different to SOLE. Use SOLE to discuss the positives and negatives of your year and NSS for the positives and negatives of your whole degree.

2. Don't be neutral.

On many questions you will get these options: Definitely Disagree = 1, Mostly Disagree = 2, Neither Agree nor Disagree = 3, Mostly Agree = 4, Definitely Agree = 5.

1



5

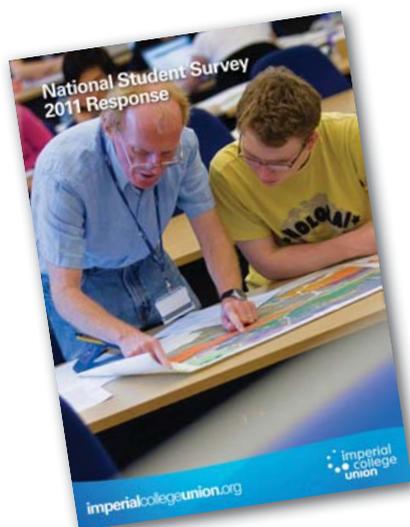
Definitely Disagree

Definitely Agree

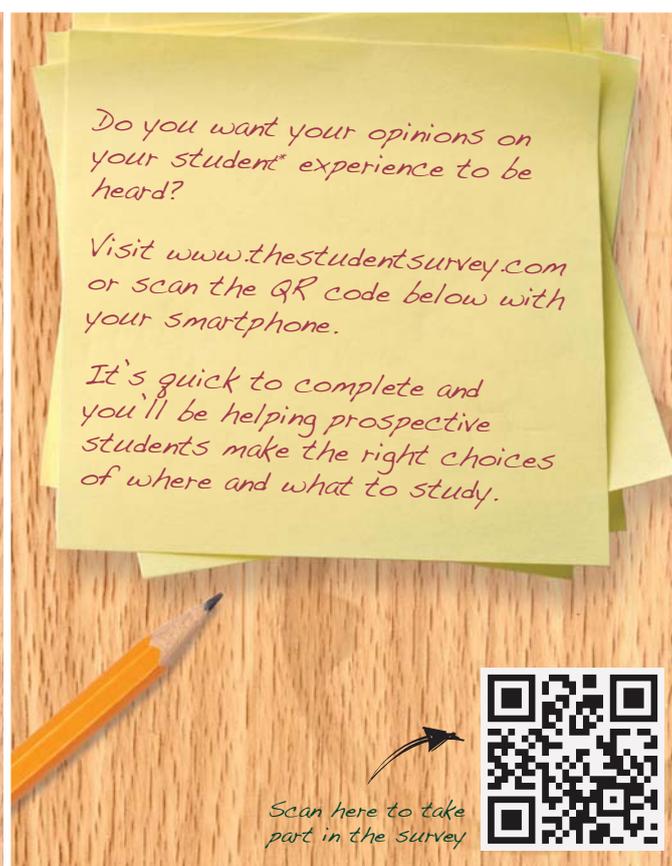
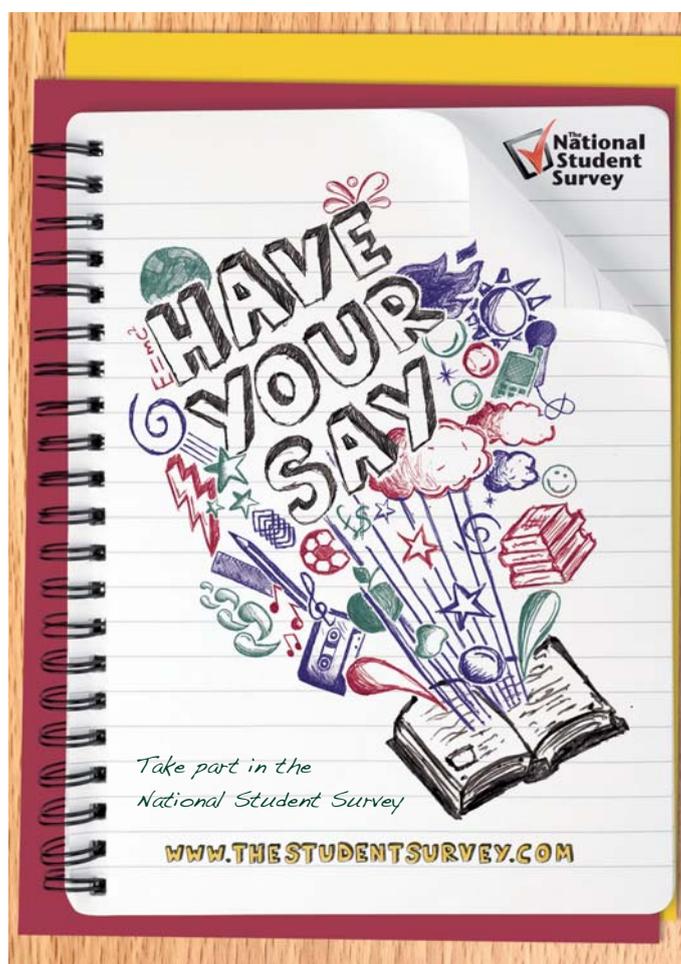
Neutral responses give us no indication as to whether things need improving or are going very well. Make your voice count.

3. Give detailed comments on open text boxes

There are free-text boxes on the survey. Be as detailed as possible if you want to make an impact.



Read the Union's response to last year's NSS results at imperialcollegeunion.org/nss2011



* You are eligible for the NSS if you are a final year undergraduate or are on a flexible part-time programme. If your final year cannot be easily predicted, you will be surveyed during your fourth year of study. If you were due to be in your final year in 2012, but have withdrawn or are repeating your penultimate year, you are also eligible to take part.



your **SABBATICALS**

Scott Heath
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

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NEWS

Imperial West masterplan unveiled

Proposals include 34-storey residential tower to be built at Wood Lane

Matt Colvin
Aemun Reza

Imperial College London has submitted a planning application for the second phase of the development of a new postgraduate campus at Wood Lane, with the project aiming to include the construction of a 34-storey residential tower block.

Imperial purchased the Wood Lane site from the BBC in September 2009 at a freehold price of £28m, with £8m from general College funds and £20m provided by the College Fund, which seeks a long term return from the investment.

Construction on the first phase of the campus is currently underway. This will include four blocks of studios providing accommodation for 606 postgraduate students, alongside some family apartments for Imperial researchers, lecturers and trainee doctors. It is envisioned to be ready by late summer 2012. The studios will form part of a new Imperial College campus – Imperial West – which will ultimately include new research and teaching facilities and management offices for the College as well as a 34-storey residential tower.

The proposals for the second phase ‘masterplan’ of construction at Imperial West include an open landscaped square the size of Soho Square that is

open to the public, a four-star hotel, retail services, a pharmacy, healthcare services and a nursery.

The site aims to incorporate “world-class facilities” for the Imperial School of Public Health, which will be located on the site. The College hopes that the site will enable the College to achieve its ambition of providing accommodation for a quarter of post-graduate students, alongside the new Griffon Studios at Clapham Junction. In addition, the site will operate close to Imperial’s Hammersmith Campus, and will offer a chance to “explore collaborative work with the BBC” due to the close proximity to the BBC’s Media Village. They also anticipate that the new site will attract budding entrepreneurs as a place to start their business as well as creating 2500 jobs and a boost for local business.

The “new safe and secure green open space” proposed by Imperial West aims to be as environmentally friendly as possible both when building the site and once it is completed. They are to take a “green approach” by having a bio-climatic design, using low energy and carbon and minimizing the use of transport between campuses by providing a shuttle-bus.

John Anderson, Project Director for Imperial West has said of the project: “Imperial West will enable the Col-

lege to expand upon the success of its South Kensington site to create a second, open access academic campus that provides the physical infrastructure for world-class research and teaching, leading-edge facilities for business development and technology transfer, and create an attractive environment to live and work in.”

However, the plans have not met widespread approval, with the St Helens Residents Association in North Kensington launching the ‘Imperial’s Folly’ campaign in October 2011. The association hopes to prevent the development from “destroying the Western skyline” for residents of the area. While noting that they do not oppose the development of a new campus, they remain wary of what they consider to be “overdevelopment”.

John Anderson responded to concerns in a statement: “We have refined the designs of the residential building, the academic health building and the office building to respond positively to residents’ comments as well as to the requirements of the planning authorities and Greater London Authority.”

The decision on Phase 2 of the campus construction has been forecasted for late Spring 2012. Imperial West hope to create a “truly mixed development” for academics and researchers with a commercial element of different facilities.

Imperial College London



Imperial West will provide accommodation from autumn 2012

New Medicine Faculty Principal appointed

Alex Nowbar

Professor Dermot Kelleher has been appointed Principal of the Faculty of Medicine. The Vice-Provost for Medical Affairs and Head of the School of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin since 2006, Professor Kelleher is to take up the role on October 1 2012.

Following Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor, who has been Principal since December 2010, Trinity College graduate Professor Kelleher will direct the Faculty of Medicine’s activities and be a member of the College’s Management Board, which acts as the senior decision-making body.

Rector Sir Keith O’Nions welcomes the appointment, saying “Professor Kelleher is an international leader, with an outstanding record in academic medicine. His emphasis on translating research discoveries from the laboratory to frontline patient care fits perfectly with Imperial’s vision, and I am delighted to welcome him to the College.”

Originally a gastroenterologist by trade and now a pioneer in the field of immune response and infectious diseases Professor Kelleher’s research involves examining the immune response to many of the leading causes of gastrointestinal infectious diseases worldwide such as *Helicobacter pylori* and *Clostridium difficile*. One aspect of his work is on lymphocyte function in the body’s reaction to infectious agents and inflammatory diseases like inflammatory bowel disease.

In 2002 Professor Kelleher helped to obtain collaborative grant funding to establish the not-for-profit company, Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre (now Molecular Medicine Ireland), which supports medical biotechnology development in Ireland. Its aim was to accelerate the translation of biomedical research into improved diagnostics and therapies for patients. He is also a founding member of Opsona Therapeutics, a spin-out drug development company from Trinity College Dublin focussed on immunology research.

His appointment coincides with the completion of his term as Chairman of the EuroLife Consortium of European Medical School and has served as a member of the Board of the Health Research Board Ireland, the European Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust Clinical Interest Group.

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Imperial College London recently formed the UK’s first Academic Health Science Centre which aims to translate new discoveries into new therapies as quickly as possible. In admiration of Imperial’s Faculty of Medicine’s “international reputation for excellence” and its “global reach” Professor Kelleher says “I share in its vision for research translation, both through its activities in the Academic Health Science Centre and the future partnership with health providers in North West London.” He is looking forward to “further strengthening Imperial’s medical research and teaching activities and helping take the Faculty to new heights.”

Trinity College Dublin



Professor Dermot Kelleher

FEATURES

Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

features.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Alcohol: why should you care?

Madhura Ghosh and Katy Bettany investigate binge drinking culture

It's that time of year again when we all start to make, and consequently break, all those well-meant resolutions we dreamt up over the Christmas break. But one resolution that couldn't afford to be broken was that made by Imperial College School of Medicine (ICSM) this time last year: its anniversary marked by ICSM's inaugural 'Alcohol Awareness Week', a series of events designed to highlight the dangers students face by abusing alcohol. Here, Felix investigates the binge drinking culture of our universities, and asks what, if anything, can be done.

Alcohol to most British people comes part and parcel with socialising. It's just normal to have a couple of pints or a few glasses of wine when meeting with friends. Peter Marsh, Co-director of The Social Issues Research Centre tells us how the culture of drinking is a fundamental part of our collective psyche. "The British identity [...] has rested on its drinking habits and drinking reputation. The use of alcohol is central to most of our celebratory rituals – to marriages, births and even deaths."

And, according to Sibohan McCann of Drink Aware, this is far from a modern problem. "A King of Norway came to visit Britain thousands of years

ago," she explains "and actually commented then on how the British like to drink to excess. We are talking about a culture that has been going on for so many years."

And at university, of course, the pressure to drink is even more pronounced. Moira Plant, Professor of Alcohol studies, University of West England, feels that the culture of alcohol is even more prevalent in University. "It's really very difficult, particularly for younger people, not to drink because university cultures are drinking cultures. People at times perceive people who don't drink as 'no fun': as people to be suspicious of." We spoke to Verana, a teetotal student at Imperial, who explained that there is "some pressure to drink, but generally people

"One night of bingeing will impair your abstract thinking for 30 days"

are happy when you just explain your choice".

These ideas ring true when looking at an average night out the town – drinking is practically a must. Unfortunately, the amount can lead to people ending up in hospital. Dr Zul Mirza, A&E Consultant in West Middlesex University Hospital gives Felix his take: "the NHS sees twice as many twice as many alcohol patients as 10 years ago; and British teens are the worst binge drinkers in Europe – of all 15-24 year old deaths, alcohol contributes to 1 in 4." He also highlighted the effect of peer pressure leading to previous non-drinkers conforming to fit in.

The College of Emergency Medicine attributes in part the affordability of alcohol as there are studies showing the strong positive correlation between cheap alcohol and excessive use. In supermarkets, it is sold at less than cost price and as Brigid Simmonds Chief Executive of the British Beer and Pub Association tells us "Almost 70% of all alcohol is bought in supermarkets." This has been further exacerbated by the 24 hour licensing reform, which rather than encouraging French café culture and pacing how alcohol was drunk, merely increased availability and enabled alcoholics.

While the notion of alcohol being bad for your health exists, it is seen as relatively safe in large amounts, unlike other easily available drugs

Imperial College London



like paracetamol. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Like an overdose of paracetamol in a short period of time can damage your liver and cause you to die, acute alcohol poisoning can do the same. Furthermore, taking in a lot of alcohol over a short period of time can raise your blood concentrations. If this reaches 300mg/L, you will become unconscious, lose your gag reflex and aspirate vomit. If you're lucky, it will give you pneumonia. If you're not, you'll suffer an hypoxic cardiac arrest – hardly the best way to end a night out.

It is not only in the short term alcohol is dangerous. Excessive consumption over a sustained period can lead to portal hypertension, bleeding of the stomach and vomiting up blood. This is the commonest presentation of alcoholism and alcoholic damage to the liver in the "silent middle classes" who do not arrive in hospital until the damage has become permanent. This insidious onset is due to the apparently harmless act of sharing a bottle of wine each evening with a partner. Whilst the image of a homeless vagabond with a few cans of Tennant's is the stereotypical image of an alcoholic, this is a problem that spans all ages, genders and classes.

But why do students in particular fall into alcohol abuse? The answer of course is multi-factorial, however, Dr Mirza suggests part of the reason might lie in personality type. Students at Imperial are largely Type A, meaning that they exhibit traits like

perfectionism, highly competitive natures, time urgency, and a predisposition to stress. Dr Mirza stressed that it was the responsibility of the student, though, to find outlets for their stress that don't involve alcohol. Currently, though, "there is a lack of understanding about how to deal with the pressure".

So why should students care? The health and professional consequences of binge drinking are well known – but it is not widely appreciated that drinking, even in small amounts, can seriously affect academic performance. There is some evidence that 'one night of heavy binge drinking will impair your abstract thinking for up to 30 days'. That includes your reading comprehension, ability to understand what your lectures say to you, and problem solving abilities. It is a widely held belief that a person can have one or two drinks and behave completely normally, however, this is untrue – a person's ability to think normally could be impaired 'right from the first sip'. Not such a problem on a night out, but if the effects are as long lasting as suggested, students who regularly binge

"159,000 freshers in the UK will drop out of their courses due to alcohol"

drink will face serious academic repercussions (not to mention significant financial cost.) This idea is reflected in the significant number of freshers in the UK who drop out of their courses every year due to alcohol related problems.

But what can be done about the problem? Part of the problem is confusion over guidelines. Officially, the NHS advises men to drink no more than 21 units a week, and women no more than 14. However, this often misleads people into thinking that it is healthy to drink every day, which of course it isn't. It has been suggested this week in a report by the Parliamentary Science and Technology Committee that we should abstain from alcohol for at least 2 days a week. An interesting proposal, but doesn't all this conflicting advice confuse the general public over what is a healthy amount of alcohol to consume. Dr Mirza thinks so, and called for 'clear guidelines and one message' over alcohol intake.

In terms of what universities should be doing, education is a major component. Initiatives like 'Alcohol Awareness' week are fantastic at highlighting the problems associated with excessive drinking. However, Mirza recognises the importance of avoiding seeming 'dictatorial or Machiavellian' when guiding people about their alcohol intake.

"We don't want to stop people having fun, we just want to encourage sensible and responsible drinking."

Worried?

If you are worried about your alcohol intake, there are plenty of places to seek help and advice.

Imperial College Advice Centre

10am – 5pm weekdays,
Mezzanine Level of the Union Building

Imperial College Health Centre

8am – 6pm weekdays, Tuesdays
8am – 1pm, 6:30pm – 8pm (Pre-booked Appointments Only)

Alcoholics Anonymous

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

FEATURES

An interview with Medic President Suzie Rayner

How do you think the medical school has changed since this time last year (with respect to the Daily Mail article highlighting the binge-drinking culture of ICSM)?

The changes made [after] the Daily Mail article last January have caused some necessary changes to bar behaviour. The changes have brought the bar in line with the ICU responsible retailing of alcohol policy which was revised earlier this year. The buckets were removed, alcohol is no longer served in jugs, it has been further highlighted that drunk people will not be served (although this was already an existing rule).

Do you agree with the opinion that excessive drinking has been ingrained into ICSM's culture, and if so, is this something that needs to be changed? What steps have been taken to improve the issue, and how successful have they been?

Whilst many medical school events (across all medical schools, not just ICSM) have previously had an alcohol focus, I think that a great effort has been made over the last few years to lessen

the perceived 'essential' nature of alcohol at these events. Whilst events for 'non-drinkers' have never really taken off, I think that ICSM has improved the events to cater for everyone, which is what we should be aiming for.

I would like to reiterate Dr Mirza's point that this Awareness week is an excellent step in the right direction. What made you decide to arrange an Alcohol Awareness week, and will it become a regular thing for the medical school?

The thought to run an Alcohol Awareness week was initially triggered by last year's press, and ICSMSU felt that it necessary to highlight to students the impact that alcohol (or misuse of it) can have on their careers. I hope that it has not come across as an attempt to tell people not to drink: that was never the aim. We want to provide the information that people need to allow them to make a fully informed decision.

Huge thanks to Neeraj Kalra, ICSMSU Welfare Officer for leading the week, which I think has been well received.

Obviously, education is a massive component in changing the health behaviours of students, and many

students may not be aware that they are at risk of seriously damaging their professional and personal lives. However, is education enough – do you not think that there needs to be more serious repercussions for students who repeatedly drink excessively?

I think it is crucial to separate the impact of drinking excessively in different situations. Where it is purely impacting the individual, whilst we can educate to allow them to know the damage they are doing, it is ultimately their decision (as long as they have capacity and insight). The difference comes when the individual's alcohol consumption is affecting those around them, whether it is family, friends or patients.

However, I think what is often missed is that alcohol abuse (and ultimately addiction) is also a medical problem as well as a social one, and students who have difficulties surrounding alcohol need to be helped through it, and not refuse to tell anyone for fear of repercussion. I don't think that punitive measures are the most productive approach to alcohol misuse.

How would you respond to the possible criticism of the ICSMSU about

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Pass the sick bag: The antics of these Imperial College medical students should worry us all

By NEIL SEARS and PAUL BENTLEY

Last year's Daily Mail article

certain members failing to lead by example by drinking responsibly?

The ICSMSU Exec, as an elected body, is voted for by all students and is representative of the student body.

ICSMSU Exec strive to lead by example, and we are aware of the impact that alcohol can have in relation to students.

A key point of alcohol awareness week is to start to impact upon the perceived drinking culture. I hope that in a few years time, as a result of campaigns run by ICSMSU amongst others, we will have managed to change this, but it will be a long process.

And finally, if a student suspects they have a drinking problem, where should be their first point of call for help? Many students could be reluctant to come forward for fear of jeopardising themselves professionally – what would you say to them?

Within the university, there are lots of points of call. Obviously, the ICSMSU Welfare Officer and I are always available for confidential advice. The senior welfare tutors are also an excellent source of impartial and confidential advice. The counselling service (counselling@ic.ac.uk) provide 8 sessions and referrals for longer term treatment.

Inviting all first and second year undergraduates

Imperial Horizons

www3.imperial.ac.uk/horizons

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**Imperial College
London**



In brief**Untreatable TB found in India**

In an early contender for scariest science story of the year, scientists in India announced that they have found a strain of tuberculosis (TB) that is completely resistant to all drugs normally used to treat the disease. Doctors in Mumbai are calling the strain TDR, which stands for totally drug resistant.

TB is already one of the world's worst killers, along with HIV/AIDS and malaria. This is partly because, to cure it completely, a patient must take a long course of antibiotics that have some unpleasant side effects and have to be taken long after the patient starts to feel better.

Incomplete courses of antibiotics, amongst other problems, have already given rise to two strains of TB known as MDR and XDR, which stand for multi-drug resistant and extensively drug resistant respectively.

The new TDR strain is a worrying addition, especially once you consider that not all countries have the resources available to diagnose this strain of the disease, and that one person with active TB can infect up to 15 others.

Nicotine patches don't help you in the long term

Using nicotine-replacement patches or chewing nicotine gum does not help keep you off cigarettes in the long term, scientists have said. While such therapies could be useful immediately after quitting smoking, and studies have shown that people using nicotine-replacement therapies are twice as likely to remain off cigarettes six months after quitting, the difference after a few years is greatly reduced.

In fact, over five years scientists periodically questioned a group of people who had given up smoking and found that those who used patches or gum were no less likely to have relapsed than those who did not.

This result does not change the fact that nicotine-replacement therapies help many people through the quitting process, but those people who do use them should be careful not to become complacent once the initial period is over.

Doomsday clock moves to five minutes to midnight

Scientists in charge of the symbolic doomsday clock moved its hand one minute closer to midnight, so that it now sits at 23:55 – where it was in 2007. The *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, who control the clock, explained their decision by saying that a “path toward a world free of nuclear weapons is not at all clear, and leadership is failing.”

They cited a collective failure to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, act on climate change, or find safe and sustainable sources of energy, as shown by the Fukushima disaster in March last year.

It's raining methane**Kelly Oakes**

Scientists have developed the most advanced model yet of the weather system on Titan, one of Saturn's moons and the only place in the solar system other than Earth that harbours lakes.

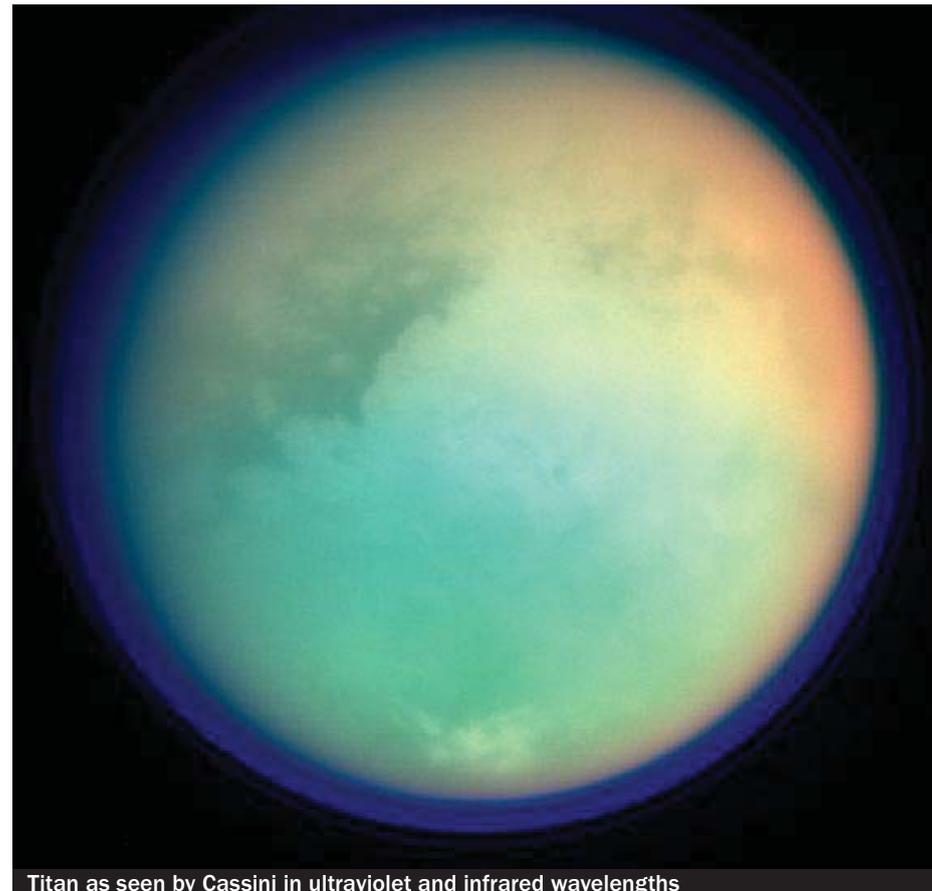
Instead of water, Titan's lakes are filled with methane, a molecule made of one carbon atom and four hydrogen ones. The temperature on Titan is around -180°C , which is just right for methane to exist in three different states: solid, liquid and gas. The lakes on Titan form part of a whole weather system, that works in much the same way as the water cycle does on Earth. Vast clouds that cover the surface for most of the year (one Titan year, that is, which is equivalent to 30 Earth years) made up of evaporated methane from the surface, that eventually precipitates back down to fill the lakes again.

Observations made by the Cassini spacecraft currently in orbit around Saturn show that lakes are not scattered across the surface of Titan uniformly, but instead tend to cluster around the polar regions. Clouds also appear to cluster near the poles at middle and high latitudes in the summer hemisphere, which until recently was the southern hemisphere.

Dr Mueller-Wodarg, a planetary scientist in the Physics department at Imperial explained, “Recent Cassini observations have made a direct link between changes in clouds and changes on the ground in terms of the sizes of lakes, hinting at actual weather events occurring right now.”

Previous models have tried and failed to explain all of these observations, but now a group of Caltech researchers think they can do just that using a new model that is a cut above other attempts. For starters, it is 3D rather than 2D, and includes more detail about the transport of methane from the surface to the atmosphere, and vice versa. It also takes into account surface reservoirs of methane and how they change over a year.

The Caltech team, led by Professor Tapio Schneider, produced simulations that reproduced the distribution of clouds that has been observed by Cassini and the right distribution



Titan as seen by Cassini in ultraviolet and infrared wavelengths

of lakes.

Mueller-Wodarg said that through the Caltech team's work “we have gained a first understanding of what controls these features.”

Schneider and his colleagues think that because there is less sunlight at the poles of the moon, on average, it is easier for lakes of methane to accumulate there. In places where there is a lot of sunlight, its energy would cause the methane to evaporate and prevent the formation of such lakes.

The Caltech team simulated the interaction between the surface methane and that in the atmosphere in more detail than has been done before.

“The wind system calculated by the model, which plays a crucial role in globally distributing methane, appears to be quite realistic. This is important since only a single wind observation, from the Huygens probe, is available near the surface, so we rely on models to calculate them” said Mueller-Wodarg.

Armed with this new model, scientists working on Cassini will hopefully now be able to plan observations so that they can test the predictions made by it. Mueller-Wodarg added, “We will now be able to predict cloud occurrences and specifically look for the predicted clouds.”

DOI: 10.1038/nature10666

Apathy leads to better group decisions**Luke Sheldon**

Every four or five years we go along to a ballot box, tick our preferred political party and defer all other decisions to the group that gains power. Most people probably believe this is the best way of running things. We may not even have much to say about education, economics or war, so how could we add to decision making? And why is this being mentioned in the science pages?

A group of researchers, based mainly at Princeton, recently published results in the journal *Science* that showed democratic consensus is enhanced by the participation of what they term “uninformed individuals”. This means that the

presence of people with weak preferences dilute the control of a strongly opinionated minority allowing a decision to be finalised that is representative of the whole group.

Whether it is schooling fish, flocking birds or an anarchist organisation, decisions are regularly decided without voting. It has been argued that with people/birds/anarchists acting with their self-interests the process of deciding what to do to/where to fly during migration/whether it is ethical to eat meat, even when it's from a bin, (a debate I have witnessed) can be easily corrupted by an individual or small faction which are particularly vocal to the benefit of themselves, rather than to the rest of the group. The group of scientists from Princeton used models of the

movement of animals, with varying preferences of direction, and varying strengths in that preference, and found that a strong minority could dominate over a numerical, but weaker, majority. However, when individuals with no real preference of where to go were added into the mix they instantly returned control to the majority. They also found these results to be reproduced in real experiments with groups of strongly schooling species of fish.

This study shows that consensus decision making, where voting is not used, can work when there are people with no real preference taking part. Who knew that science would prove anarchists have been getting it right all along.

DOI: 10.1126/science.1210280

LHC finds its first new particle

Alexander Karapetian

Over the Christmas holidays, CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva reported its first particle discovery since opening in 2009. Named Chi_b (3P), the particle was recorded by ATLAS, one of four detectors within the LHC, and is a more excited state of the Chi particle.

Chi particles are part of a family of mesons called quarkonia, whose constituents include a quark and their own antiquark. The Chi_b (3P) particle is an example of bottomonium, made up of a bottom (or beauty) quark and a bottom antiquark.

The particle was discovered by researchers from the University of Birmingham and Lancaster University, who analysed data from the ATLAS detector and published their findings on 22 December. James Walder, a research associate from Lancaster who worked on the analysis, said that the particle "was predicted by many theorists but was not observed at previous experiments."

Professor Roger Jones, Head of the Lancaster ATLAS group, said "while people are rightly interested in the Higgs boson, which we believe gives particles their mass and may have started to reveal itself, a lot of the mass of everyday objects comes from the strong

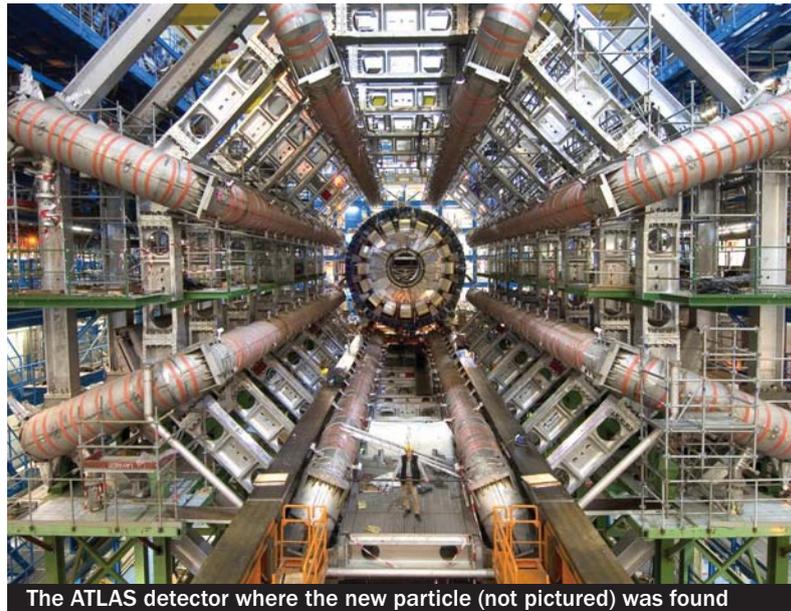
This moves us a step closer to understanding how the universe is held together

interaction we are investigating using the Chi_b (3P)."

"The better we understand the strong force, the more we understand a large part of the data that we see, which is quite often the background to the more exciting things we are looking for, like the Higgs", he added.

Professor Paul Newman, from the University of Birmingham said that the discovery of this particle is a "testament to the very successful running of the collider in 2011 and to the superb understanding of our detector which has been achieved by the ATLAS collaboration already."

Other, less excited states of Chi particles were observed 25 years ago, and new measurements continue to test theoretical calculations of the forces that act on fundamental particles. Dr Miriam Watson commented that this will



The ATLAS detector where the new particle (not pictured) was found

"move us a step closer to understanding how the universe is held together."

Dr Jad Marrouche, an Imperial researcher working on the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment, another detector at the LHC, told Felix: "this is yet another validation of the predictive power of our theories. However, it's not the discovery we were all hoping for in 2011 – there is still one more particle the Standard Model predicts which we haven't conclusively discovered yet,

but 2012 will hopefully be that year."

The LHC continues to fill gaps in the Standard Model of particle physics and leads the search for the Higgs Boson. It was closed for the Christmas holidays and will resume running following a submission of various papers this month regarding the latest Higgs analysis data showcased at their scientific update and press conference on December 13.

arXiv:1112.5154v1

Leap second announced

Philip Kent

Astronomers and engineers at the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) Earth Orientation Centre recently announced that a leap second will be applied at the end of June this year. Leap seconds are introduced by the IERS to make up for inaccuracies in timekeeping, made as a result of the slowdown of the Earth's rotation. This additional second means that June 30 will last until 23:59:60UTC, instead of ending at the end of the 59th second. As this is during British Summer Time, the change will be applied at 1AM, and will be marked by a 7th 'pip' from the BBC's time signal.

Coordinated Universal Time, or UTC, is the measure of time from which all time zones are offsets of, and is derived from an international network of atomic clocks. While this leads to an incredibly accurate measurement of time, it fails to account for the decrease in the speed of the Earth's rotation. This decrease is as a result of the circulation of currents in the atmosphere and oceans, as well as due to lunar pull.

UT1, an alternative measure of universal time, is instead based on the rotation of the Earth against the Sun, making it a more accurate form of GMT. This does take into account the slowdown, though having days of non-constant length is inconvenient so UT1 is not in general use. As the slowdown is accounted for, UT1 is more accurate than UTC, and so there is a difference between this 'accurate' measurement and UTC's 'convenient' one.

This difference can become problematic, so the IERS have the option of introducing leap seconds at the end of June and December. These seconds are applied so that the difference between UT1 and UTC never exceeds 0.9 seconds. To date, there have been 25 leap seconds applied to UTC, the most recent being at the very end of 2008.

The future of the leap second is uncertain, with a proposal by the UN International Telecommunication Union to abolish them. If there is approval by members of the ITU in a conference later this year, then no more leap seconds would be applied from 2017.

Whilst this is unlikely to be an issue for most – watches, for example, are unlikely to be accurate to the second – systems that update their time automatically (such as via the Rugby Time Signal or NTP) will be automatically corrected.

Have you seen my time cloak?

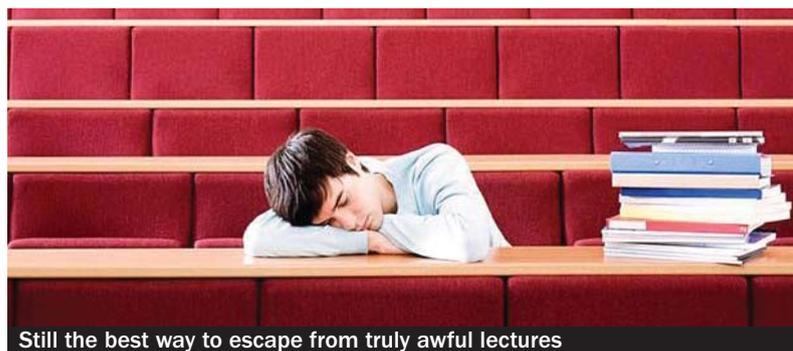
Pavitar Devgon

Yes, you read right: time cloak. But what is this mysterious device? Well, it works to conceal an event in time. This is not just science fiction; experiments and investigations have been carried out to show that such a cloak might actually be a possibility.

Now before you get too many wild ideas, let me preface this article by saying that there is no garment that allows you to escape from even the worst lectures.

Imagine a spatial cloak which renders what is inside invisible. Most ideas concerning this use the refraction of light and bend light around a spatial region using lenses with negative refractive indices, to make it appear undetectable.

Instead of diffracting and refracting light, the time lenses affect its dispersion. For an event to be detected in time or space, you need to change, manipulate or somehow alter a parcel of light. When we view an object on the table, what we are seeing is all the light reflected off its surface. Just as a spatial cloak warps light around space,



Still the best way to escape from truly awful lectures

the time lens will similarly affect light and not allow it to reflect of the region.

To achieve this, Moti Fridman and his research team at Cornell University accelerated the front of the incident light and delayed its rear part.

A split time lens creates a "frequency chirp" which is interpreted as separating the red and blue parts of the spectral wave and delaying them. A single-mode fibre further delays higher wavelengths while speeding up shorter wavelengths with respect to the initial beam. There comes a point where the region is fully isolated. The process is then reversed so that the regular wave

is detected and it is unnoticeable that the wave has been changed at all.

The best visualisation I can give is to imagine a sheet of light coming towards the zone, which has different wavelengths being sped up and slowed down so the light bends around the region, analogously to an invisible spatial lensing effect.

Whether or not you can imagine it – as with the case of most modern high level physics, even Richard Feynman said "I think I can safely say that nobody understands quantum mechanics" – Fridman's team was able to experiment using the method and

showed that the lens actually can mask an event to a high degree.

The experiment was set up so a 1569nm light pulse interacted with a non-linear fibre, producing a 1539nm signal. The 1539nm signal was clearly observed when the cloak was turned off, however once activated, the cloak reduced the amplitude to noise levels.

While the time cloak is not 100% efficient, it did conceal the majority of the fibre, reducing the amplitude by more than 10 times. To greater increase efficiency, the 'temporal gap' can be widened by exaggerating the dispersion of light between the split time lenses. There is a trade-off here though as the effects of third-order dispersion arise and interferes with the experiment, reducing efficiency.

While these experiments do provide strong evidence that we should continue research into this field, they are just the beginning and it will still be a long time before you can weave your own time cloak from tachyon hairs and use it to escape from bad lectures. In the mean time, we will just have to risk being seen.

DOI: 10.1038/nature10695

Want to write for Felix Science? Email us!

Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
Sam Horti

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

FELIX

All it takes is a little Dutch courage

The rumoured closure of the Holland Club has seen an immense response from the College community. From staff to postgraduate students, the actions of College with regards to its feasibility study have been watched ever closely since rumours of a possible closure surfaced over last term. Could the severity of such a campaign, employing a sizeable Facebook page, make a change to the study and potentially, the future of the Holland Club?

The College has clearly been paying attention to the opinions that have been generated by the Facebook group. On Wednesday an announcement on the Imperial College website called for feedback and input into the feasibility study, considering such areas as “what additional catering and amenities would best serve the needs of staff and students on the South Kensington campus” and “how the ethos of the Holland Club might be maintained within any new facilities”. The resulting comments continue the great deal of worry from patrons of the bar as already expressed on the Facebook group.

How the College proceeds with the feasibility study will, of course, be affected by the sheer number of people who have taken to the relative channels to express their opinions over the rumoured plans. Hundreds of campaigners will doubtless be studying the issue with keen interest, which College cannot simply ignore. Any conclusions from the study must be able to withstand the heaviest of scrutiny if they are to be accepted by the community.

The Holland Club is not a stranger to potential closure, with Felix reporting in June 1995 on its then-financial difficulties. Nearly seventeen years on, and under whole new circumstances many have taken it upon themselves to fight for its continued existence, which is, at the very least, a testament to its popularity amongst staff and indeed students.

As the coming days bring more news of the College's conclusions into the study, the campaign is likely to grow ever larger. Indeed, some patrons have even been considering events such as a sit-in in order to express their feelings. Regardless of the outcome, there's no denying that the supporters of the Holland Club are ready and prepared to fight their case whatever the case may be.

Mystery over Masters fee rises



Alexander Kendall

Since the government cut funding for higher education and Undergraduate fees were forced up, much has been speculated about the corresponding rise in Postgraduate fees. Though technically the funding from the Government for Postgraduate fees was also cut, since it is lumped in with the total Undergraduate teaching grant it is hard to prise them apart and the two may in fact be inseparable. Across the country, we began to hear of price rises for Masters courses. The UK average is currently a 24% increase and as a student I had heard nothing from the College, the Union or Felix about any rises at Imperial until a lecturer remarked that they were going up to £9000. I decided to investigate.

The Imperial website is a good place to start, but the course fees in the Postgraduate prospectus are still those from 2011/12. You would think from this that the fees for this year's entry have yet to be decided, but this is far from the truth. The fees are in fact published on the Registry section of the website. Why they haven't been changed in the prospectus is beyond me. Having a closer look reveals a very strange system of increases. A lot of courses have not gone up at all, or have just gone up with inflation. Medicine is a good example of this. There are a few increasing at the national average such as Bioengineering and Computing at 25% and 22% respec-

tively. Whether this is justified or not is still a point of contention. Another strange side of the Registry figures is that, next to the 2012/13, they list the '2011/12 figure'; the problem is that these figures are frequently wrong, as anyone can see by comparing the Registry page with the prospectus.

Then comes the shocker: the suite of 19 Life Sciences Masters degrees, which have had their costs increased by 78.2% from £5050 to £9000. Why?! Yet again, since the Union didn't know about this, and we haven't seen anything from College, I'm going to make some assumptions based on how I understand the system. If these are wrong then I welcome clarification. It is time that this was challenged though, as I know from an academic, whose name I won't mention, that these fee rises were known about in September.

Imperial as a University sets a 'baseline' Masters cost which is the minimum anyone will have to pay. The College baseline is (from what I can work out on the Registry website) £3825. From then on the Faculties can decide to increase this by however much they want, as there is no government cap on Masters fees. The Departments and Course Directors apparently have no power over the price of their courses. The Faculty of Natural Sciences has therefore decided to increase these fees. What are the possible reasons for this? Fees can increase for four reasons: to dramatically increase the quality of the course, to cover some new costs, to replace lost funding from another source (as with Undergraduate fees) or to provide bursaries. I cannot see how any of these reasons can be justified here.

An increase in the quality or costs of the course would surely be something the Course Directors have an influence over and so they subsequently would advise that the fee would have to go up. But Course Directors were told how much their fees would have to increase by the Faculty, which has no role in the quality or running costs of individual courses.

The drop in funding from another source could correspond to the reduction in the government teaching grant. But if this is being taken into account then we should see an equal increase across all Masters courses, which we do not. Regarding bursaries for postgraduates, I have heard rumours but nothing concrete. More bursaries would be welcome, but surely if this is the reason for the increase then it still doesn't explain why such a large increase is happening in such a tar-



MCap – Master of Captions. £9000

geted way.

What effect will this have? There is little support from the government and the University, who provide for a select few very needy and intelligent students doing Masters. Most students have either saved up for the course and accommodation costs or have the Professional Development Loan, a commercial loan provided by either Barclays or the Co-op for up to £10,000. Though this is commercial, the government pays the interest during your time of study, but you have to begin paying it back, whether you have a job or not, within a month of finishing. Fair enough, you may say. The problem arises because this £10,000 maximum amount is not set to increase. Masters fee increases, when not combined with loan increases, simply price people out completely. This is not just a case of more debt but of a simple inability to pay. Imperial has also now introduced a deposit system for Masters – 10% as soon as you accept your place. Many people cannot afford to pay £900 several months before getting any loan or financial assistance.

The financial reasons for this and the potential solutions have yet to be thrashed out. What is unacceptable is Imperial's secrecy over these fee rises. It is bizarre that no one seems to know about this and it isn't being talked about. Course costs should be transparent. The Faculty of Natural Sciences needs to explain why it has imposed a 78% rise on 19 Masters when costs for other Masters in the College have remained the same or gone up by only a few percent. Other Faculties should also explain any rises above inflation. The College needs to explain why some Masters are going up and some not, and whether or not it sees this as fair. That the fee rises were decided by September and yet the Postgraduate prospectus has, to date, not been updated is unacceptable.

“Masters fee increases, when not combined with loan increases, simply price people out”

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COMMENT

Big Brother is watching you



Matt Allinson

Last term I went to Paris to meet up with a friend who is doing a year abroad. Being a man of modest means I took the overnight coach, arriving at the coach station at 5am. My friend was arriving by the first train from Clermont Ferrand at about 8am, which meant I got to spend two and a half hours waiting in Gare Du Lyon with nothing but an incredibly expensive coffee and a copy of *The Economist* for company. Growing quickly bored of *The Economist* I took up people watching. What struck me most was the fact that the police in France, even the guys in the transport police, are armed. Every officer had a handgun and what looked like a Taser. Several of the officers, when they were just standing around, even rested their hands on their weapons in some bad-ass John Wayne pose. This made me feel exceptionally uncomfortable. The preceding 12 months at home had consisted of bungled policing of student protests, UK uncut demonstrations and the summer riots; which, coupled with my intrinsic whinging liberal outlook on life, had left me very distrustful of the police. Not for the first time that weekend, I found myself feeling a little homesick. Our police can at times be rubbish, racist idiots, but at least they can't blow our brains out.

However, one aspect where law enforcement in the country still infuriates me though is the ubiquity of surveillance. Primarily due to the CCTV network established in response to the actions of the IRA in the 1970s and 80s, the British are the most watched nation on earth. Although fantastic at providing security by allowing for suspicious vehicles and abandoned packages to be detected, the crime fighting merits of closed circuit television are far from clear to me. By having cameras everywhere, all you are doing to criminals is suggesting that they perhaps wear a hat. Personal experience

as a victim of a crime has resulted in me hearing a variety of excuses on CCTV's behalf, such as being in a camera blind-spot, the tape having already been wiped and, the most ridiculous excuse I ever heard after the assault of a friend, that the camera didn't work in the rain. In much the same way I cannot understand why the French seem to tolerate their police officers being able to utilise lethal force at the drop of a hat, I cannot understand why we in this country don't seem to care about CCTV. A woman whose husband was assaulted so violently in a nightclub in Wakefield that he now requires 24 hour care has called for CCTV to be mandatory in nightclubs and bars and an article on her campaign even made the BBC most read section – admittedly on a rather slow news day between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. With all due respect to a person who has been subject to a terrible injustice, how would CCTV have helped? Even in the unlikely event that the cameras were working, what would they have provided? More footage of her husband getting attacked from several angles, perhaps, but not much more. CCTV doesn't make people behave better, it just means we get to watch them behave badly. Most worryingly, the article on her campaign she is quoted as saying "If you get the Big Brother effect within the clubs then aggression, when it is spotted, can be stopped before it goes any further."

Now, as I stated previously, I have a whinging liberal outlook on life. Quoting the phrase "Big Brother" as a force for the public good has made me sweat so much that it's made the ink run on the copy of the *Guardian* I was reading. Close friends of mine will appreciate the irony of me complaining about privacy when I am eternally logged into at least one and usually three social media websites at any given moment, but the difference between social media and "Big Brother" is important. That difference is engagement. Big



Italian police have guns, but more importantly, style and swagger

Brother not only requires passivity in its subjects, but, in both Orwell's books and in practice on our camera-laden streets, actively encourages it. Social media, however, is all about being active. One has to check into Foursquare, tweet about a TV show or post a photograph of where we are on Tumblr for our privacy to be violated.

Brits are enormously famous for being a little bit passive about everything. "Mustn't Grumble," is more than a phrase for us, it's a way of life. However, I feel that in public disorder and crime we are dangerously over-passive. Daring heroics by impromptu crime-fighters are an American comic book invention. A British comic book hero would probably be 'Loud Tutting and Head Shaking Man'. Have you seen the Croydon Tram video on YouTube? While most comment on the video focuses expressly on the reprehensible subject and her words and ideas, a large amount of mention is given to the woman, pictured at the end of the film, determinedly playing a game on her phone desperately trying not to look up or play any part in the fuss taking place around her. It is important to note, however, that the infamous Croydon Tram lady wasn't apprehended on the basis of

evidence gathered by the no doubt rather expensive CCTV systems that have been installed throughout the TfL network, but rather through evidence obtained via a YouTube video. Mike Skinner, leader of British chart sensation The Streets, once complained on 'When You Wasn't Famous': "How am I supposed to do a line [of coke] in front of complete strangers when I know they've all got camera phones?"

I'm not saying that we should screw the system and start tweeting parking offenses in lieu of traffic wardens and post our location on Foursquare if we see an unattended bag, but the constant encroachment of state cameras into our lives is unnecessary. The general public now has the means to capture high quality footage of crimes being committed, rendering patchy, expensive and liberty infringing surveillance systems obsolete. What's more, encouraging the public to take a more active role in recording and reporting crime could be seen by the "big society" conservatives as strengthening the community. Our police are no more heavily armed than us, and our closely matched ability to document crime strengthens our liberty once more.

By having cameras everywhere, all you are doing to criminals is suggesting that they perhaps wear a hat.

Feminists need to man up



Marie-Laure Hicks

I am writing from the kitchen, the place where my family believe I belong, having given me an apron, tea towels, cookbooks and sponges for Christmas. Feminism is committing suicide. Last week, the BBC's adaptation of Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock* was criticised for being sexist. In my opinion, this was another example of where feminism is going wrong by creating bad press. The allegations were purely based on a far-fetched interpretation of the last fifteen minutes of the show.

It is not because a woman takes "advice" from a man, has feelings for another and

is saved from being beheaded by him that she is a "pawn" in the game of men or the weaker sex. The ending was criticised for being changed from Irene Adler's victory in the original story to her losing against the Holmes brothers. That is quite simply called dramatization for entertainment's purpose. Adler greets the famous detective in the full nude, giving away the code to her safe (her measurements – obviously a key factor in a woman's worth). It was sexy, not sexist.

Feminists are slowly becoming repeat offenders in this area, following Apple's Siri scandal in the USA. Picking up on

small details, over-interpreting them and then proceeding to make a big deal out of it. This is not helping their cause whatsoever. The point is to obtain the same rights and opportunities for women as those available to men. Then again, when the voices of feminism come across as those of hormonal, loud, strongly opinionated beings picking at mere details, the result can only be negative. The stereotype of an active feminist is that of an angry lesbian with half her hair shaved off. Men mock women for being overemotional, irrational, picky and constantly moaning. How can you expect to improve that image and

prospects of women with behaviours such as this? In that case, they may just as well surrender to sexism and go back to their ovens. A form of extremism is developing in feminism. This might be the worst service rendered to the cause because its portrayal is so bad. So instead of depreciating the general view of the fairer sex, feminists should calm down, take a step back and concentrate on real issues. Like the "Reclaim the Night" campaign (fighting against sexual crimes and for safer streets at night). Not a BBC TV drama that pictures a strong woman, "THE Woman", proving to be Sherlock Holmes' equal.

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MUSIC

Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



Oneohtrix Point Never
Replica
Software
2011

My New Year's Resolution was to stop using food metaphors in my writing, but as you will see, this album has left me a bit drunk and I've succumbed to the lurid appeal of Pot Noodle once again.

Broken resolutions aside, 2012 is still young and the green shoots of new albums are yet to appear. So I hope you will forgive me if albums from 2011 continue to appear for a week or two. Indeed, **Oneohtrix Point Never's** *Replica* is a re-release from November that certainly carries its weight into the New Year.

Replica is a 40-minute cacophony of a gazillion different and competing sounds from Brooklyn-based experimentalist Daniel Lopatin. Lyrics fear to tread in his ambient netherworld where pianos dash in and clash horns with chopped up squeaks and run-down, exhausted beats.

I'll be straightforward: it's not something that you would expect to like. It's deeply weird. At times there's an almost-overwhelming urge to grab your speakers and shout, "this shouldn't be working!"

But work it does. Despite the tongue-twisting diversity of flavours, this dish is a spectacularly enjoyable shock to the senses. When things get too hot, soft sea-like melodies soothe like a cool glass of milk. If it feels like things are getting a bit meek, *Replica* chucks a raft of chillies down your throat.

The overall effect is rather otherworldly. It feels oddly appropriate for the New Year: it's very suggestive. The great variety of sounds rubbing shoulders on crowded tracks, or warily standing off from each other, leaving large **Jamie xx**-shaped gulfs between them, feel like a cipher of what's to come in 2012. Like a mash-up of ghostly tunes that are yet to be recorded.

So perhaps not the easiest album to start off the term with. I might have selected **The Weeknd's** latest superficial mixtape, *Echoes of Silence*, except that I think it's a cheap, one-dimensional knock off of **Michael Jackson's** *Dangerous* (screw it, of MJ generally) and not worth anyone's time. But given its fair chance, *Replica* will prove as satisfying as those 4am Pot Noodles, and without any of the shame...

If you're upset at my gratuitous trolling of The Weeknd, tweet me @kadhimshubber to tell me why I totally don't get it, and it's like "all sexy and creepy and shit". Alternatively tweet @OPN and ask him how many girls he's pulled with the line, "The name's Point Never, Oneohtrix Point Never".

Do they owe us a living?

Theo Pavlakou on selling out to bring home the bacon

People, including me, seem to nag about how bands are continuously following the crowd and moving more towards the mainstream genres, instead of keeping it underground and just making music like they used to – a term known as "selling out". But in our increasingly greedy, torrent-driven society, with its ever expanding pool of artists, is it any wonder that bands are almost forced to move in this direction?

How are artists expected to keep making underground music when the demographic for this sort of appeal is so small, and the few people that do listen to it don't seem to want to spend any money on actually supporting them?

Is it selfish for a band to take the initiative to move in a direction where they can actually make enough money to live on, instead of living on a tour bus, making only enough money to eat fast food and pay for fuel? Don't you think they would prefer sticking to the music they love to play, if they could afford it?

I mean, here we are, possibly leaving our childhood dreams behind and modeling our lives around getting enough money to actually support a family one day or buying a Porsche 911. Is it really any wonder that some of these artists actually want the same thing? And that they may have to sacrifice a little bit of their taste by actually "selling out" a little to make a bit of extra cash?

Is it really our position to judge whether a band has done the wrong thing, as we sit back and do the same in our lives with our career paths? I know people, including many friends, who complain endlessly about this and then go onto their computers, with their libraries of hundreds of gigabytes of music (most of which exist just to add to the collection and rot), stacked up nicely into lines of folders. All of which was downloaded illegally!

I'm sorry, but if you are going to do that, then



Ever heard of ScarletSnowPrelude? – No! Because they didn't sell out... or they suck?

you can't complain. It's the equivalent of going into your favourite restaurant, which serves some luxury food you love, eating there and making a run for it without paying. Then the next time you go, the owner knows what you intend to do, but for some reason he still gives you some food, because cooking is what he loves to do (I know, not quite the same, but you get the point), which may not be as nice; and you still don't pay. Then you go home and have a fit about it to your friends.

Being in a band for over 5 years now, and pursuing the dream of being signed by some indie record label that also has bands that we listened to daily – such as **This Will Destroy You** or **Moving Mountains** (no, not the song by **Usher**) – has made me realise how tough it really is.

The dream started to deteriorate as we realised how many obstacles stand in the way of under-

ground bands – the limited amount of fans, the money you just don't have, and the fact that the record deals just suck anyway, really.

You have to comprehend that you are either going to start becoming a little more commercial or you're going to end up letting go of all that to register at some university like Imperial College London, studying a degree like EEE, ending up with a career at the end of it that might actually get you something better than a wall full of your merch because no one else bought it; and then close your mouth when you see some of your favourite bands do what you were tempted to do years ago.

All I'm saying is that maybe we should cut these bands some slack, because when it comes down to it, they're also just trying to make a living, and they'll either have to adapt (even if it does mean that they expand their fan base to 14-year-old girls) or simply quit.

A beginner's guide to post-hardcore: At The Drive-In

George Jeffrey

Welcome to the first instalment of this weekly guide to the darker side of alternative music. What better way to start than with the news that the almighty **At The Drive-In** have reformed after a ten-year hiatus. Those of you familiar with this band will probably be losing your noggin right now, but for those of you who aren't, I'll give you a little insight into why At The Drive-In are so important.

As a new band from El Paso, Texas, playing to tiny crowds (tiny in number, not like playing to dwarves or anything weird), little did they know that they would become the fathers of modern alternative rock music. Throughout the lifetime of the band, they released a multitude of timeless records, culminating in the incred-

ible *Relationship Of Command*. While their music is truly inspirational, the things they are perhaps most famous for are their stage antics and drug abuse. These things cannot be put into words and so to see them in action I suggest following the **Recommendation** at the end. Their notoriety caused them to lead the 90s post-hardcore movement to fight the generic music heard every day on radios worldwide. They used the sheer power of their music to start winning this war but like the true drug-addled lunatics that they were, they committed an act of friendly fire in one of their final shows when front man Cedric Bixler-Zavala criticised fans of the band for "slam-dancing" and continued to bleat like a sheep at them. But no harm was done as this was the At The Drive-In they knew and loved.

Whether they'll be the same now is a different story but I'm sure any fans of the band will join me in hoping they'll come back exactly as they left: a bunch of nutters. I urge you to try your hardest to use your laptop for something other than a wanking aid and check out some of At The Drive-In's music or at least the Recommendation below.

Remember to come back every week and if you've got exams coming up just remember we're all dead at the end of the year anyway so fuck it. Good old Mayans, always making everything better. Happy 2012.

Writer's Recommendation: Get on YouTube and watch At The Drive-In's live performance of 'One Armed Scissor' on Later with Jools Holland. Poor old Jools looks mortified.

What has the Union achieved so far this year?

Over the last term your Sabbaticals and the Union have been working on you behalf to improve your time at College.

Here is just a few of our successes!



STRATEGIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE INCLUSION

After removal from the committee in 2005 the Union has long argued that it should have a place on this Committee. In December it was confirmed that the Union would be invited to return.

RECORD CLUBS, SOCIETY & PROJECT MEMBERSHIPS

We broke the existing record for club memberships, amassing 10,296. In the month of October 50p for every second was paid to clubs, societies and projects.

NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY RESPONSE

We wrote an official response to the 2011 NSS Results and worked with college to deliver improvements in all areas of the survey.

Keep up-to-date with your Sabbaticals at:
imperialcollegeunion.org/sabbs

QUAD REDEVELOPMENT – NEW BENCHES AND BINS

We acquired new (and safer) benches, repaved and replaced the bins to make the Quad a more enjoyable area. The bike racks are being improved at the right now.

A COOLER, MORE BEARABLE LIBRARY

Our lobbying encouraged college to apply film to all windows which should see a reduction of around 6 degrees Celsius during the summer months.

RECORD NUMBER OF CLUB OFFICERS TRAINED

Using our online training systems, talks from Sabbaticals and email Q&As we ensured all our 2,000 officers received training.

YOUR SABBATICALS – MAKING THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE

We revamped the Union Blogging System to make the work of Your Sabbaticals more transparent (and contactable). Over 8,000 of you have read their blogs.

REPRESENTING YOU NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

The Union has attended four meetings of the Aldwych Group and visited Germany to attend an IDEALISTIC conference. We have also met with Members of Parliament, local Councillors and representatives from national bodies. We responded to the White Paper on Higher Education as well as UCAS and QAA consultations.

MOVING CLUB FINANCES ONLINE

We began the process of moving out financial systems online; allowing for rapid payment of our members and a lower workload for club treasurers.

EVERYDAY VALUE IN THE UNION SHOP

We introduced a range of low-coast everyday essential items in the Union Shop. We will continue to ensure you can get the stationery you need at the best possible prices.

PROVIDED THE COLLEGE'S BEST PLACE FOR YOU TO RELAX!

Our bars have been your favourite place on campus to relax after a hard day's study. In October alone we sold over 95,000 pints of lager and 4,000 burgers!

Remember, the most important part of Imperial College Union is you!

Elections for next year's Sabbaticals and student officers starts in February. Keep a look out online and in Felix for more information.

FILM

Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Overlooked DVD of the week

The Whistleblower

Director Larysa Kondracki
Screenwriter Larysa Kondracki
Cast Rachel Weisz, David Strathairn, Monica Bellucci, Vanessa Redgrave

John Park



Why this important, superior thriller only made the direct-to-DVD release is anyone's guess but *The Whistleblower*, one woman's quest for justice in which she has to go after a powerful group of individuals, may sound familiar and predictable, but anchored by a strong lead performance, assured direction and a solid script, is an unmissable treat.

Based on a true story (aren't they always?), we first meet Kathryn Bolkovac (Weisz), a Nebraska cop, as she takes on a job for Democra Corp, an American private military company, to travel to post-war Bosnia, where she is to assist the peace-keeping operations overseen by the United Nations.

Although this new opportunity is well-paid and filled with excitement at first, she soon uncovers a major sex-trafficking ring in which even underage girls are forced into prostitution. At first, Bolkovac only suspects the local police and the military of being responsible. But as she digs deeper, she discovers a long list of clientele that includes names of high-level diplomats, as well as those employed in the U.N.

Bolkovac is far from perfect, and is way in over her head trying to tackle the world's biggest, most respected organisation. But the one thing she knows better than anyone is right and wrong. Rape is wrong. Human trafficking is wrong.

Weisz, in one of her most unforgettable performances, is masterful in balancing the many complex emotions of her character as she is put through all sorts of obstacles. Compassion and anger are what drive our heroine; the former for the abused girls, and the latter towards the high-power officials arrogant and corrupt enough to believe that they can get away with anything.

What sets *The Whistleblower* apart from similar themed films is how personal and sensitive the film's narrative is. Bolkovac travels alone, mostly in the dark, risking her life in order to finish what she rightfully started. By using her vulnerability, it reels you in, and is more than effective in setting up a cruel, menacing atmosphere of the real world. And being such a character-driven drama, it walks that fine line of addressing the important key issues with confidence and passion, all the while not succumbing to too much preachy tone. It has a gentle, well-balanced mix of drama and thriller, in which neither aspect is overplayed. It's a much-needed wake-up call for us all, reminding us of the world we live in.

The Whistleblower is released on January 16

This lady's not for turning

The Iron Lady

Director Phyllida Lloyd
Screenwriter Abi Morgan
Cast Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent

John Park



January blues and then some

Phyllida Lloyd is a special director. But I mean this as no compliment. With her skills behind the camera, she has managed the almost impossible. She made a Meryl Streep movie almost unwatchable.

Opening with a hallucinatory Margaret Thatcher (Streep), in which she believes her dead husband Dennis (Jim Broadbent) is still alive, the film is already starting to show that it has its focus in all the wrong places. It is heart-breaking for the audience to learn that she has lost someone dear to her heart, and the devastating consequences this has had on her life, but it's certainly not something we want to come back to too frequently. Perhaps trying to squeeze as many tears out of us as possible, Lloyd is strangely eager to show the current Thatcher, instead of closely examining the rise of a great leader, her politics, and her eventual decline.

Sure, we have the flashbacks. We even see a younger version of Margaret played by the perky Alexandra Roach. It's unclear why Lloyd even bothered with this segment, for this part serves no purpose to the later parts of the film. It moves too quickly, and barely glances over her family. Her distant mother and her politically driven father are scarcely shown, and appear to have had very little influence on her. Then we hear the happy news that she got accepted into Oxford. Margaret soon runs for a seat in the Parliament. So what happened in Oxford? Apparently, not much. Through her first election, she meets Dennis, a charming young businessman who wants to marry her. They bond over *The King and I*. As he proposes, she declares that she won't "die washing teacups." This kind of ambition is why he wants to be her husband.

Fine then, this chooses to focus more on the romance between Margaret and Dennis, given the way the dead Dennis keeps popping up to trouble the frail Margaret. Not quite; because when politics kicks in, Dennis is forgotten in an instant and is shown in rare shots where he's surrounded by fellow conservatives, applauding as Margaret delivers a winning speech. The bond between these

two is never explored any further than their mutual love for *The King and I*, and it becomes increasingly frustrating as we know so very little about the couple. Her children also make an appearance – and although the daughter (the excellent Olivia Colman) shows up to add more nostalgia, the son's name is barely even called.

So has Lloyd suddenly decided, half way through the film no less, that she does in fact want to explore the politics? Again, not quite. Showing all of the leader's accomplishments in tacky scenes containing far too much past real-life footage, whereas Streep is required to do no more than a) wave at her supporters or b) look scared in her car as angry demonstrators try to climb her vehicle, there is hardly any sense of triumph for the remarkable political climb this woman managed. The closing of the coalmines, resolution of the Cold War, the IRA prisoners' hunger strike, the Falklands War etc., are covered poorly, if at all.

But one thing is for certain: Streep is, as usual, utterly brilliant. This isn't just about her accent or the voice. Perfect as those two qualities are, Streep goes a step further in showing us the more private and ailing Thatcher as well as the characteristics of a stern Prime Minister. She is ruthless and stubborn as she addresses her cabinet, often alienating even those close to her, and yet her vulnerable sides show through, mostly when it becomes apparent that not having her husband around in later life is unbearable even to the Iron Lady. Opposite her, Broadbent is also spot-on, providing a subdued air of warmth, exactly the kind of support Streep needs to truly shine.

Lloyd's direction however, is irritatingly disjointed, uneven and manages to suck all the excitement and drama from this extraordinary woman's life. One wonders what would have happened to this project if Streep had declined the role. As she happens to be the best and only reason to even consider watching this, it would be reasonable to assume that without her *The Iron Lady* would have flopped.

Cheater's guide to *Margin Call*

Margin Call

Director J. C. Chandor
Screenwriter J. C. Chandor
Cast Kevin Spacey, Paul Bettany, Jeremy Irons, Demi Moore, Simon Baker, Zachary Quinto, Penn Badgley, Stanley Tucci

John Park

What is shown in *Margin Call* is what really might have happened in the final days leading up to the eventual financial collapse of 2008 that has put the global market in chaos.

Set in an unnamed but very successful investment firm, as the company's CEO (the brilliantly sly Irons) learns of his troubled investments that can take down his empire in one clean swoop, he makes the corrupt decision to sell off all of the company's toxic assets, before anyone can close in on his downfall. In short, he decreases his company's exposure in what will become the biggest financial crisis in history, whilst taking

down the rest of the world's economy along with him.

A lot of financial talk shouldn't put you off from watching this gripping Wall Street drama, as the talented actors turn heavy dialogue into compelling, dramatic exchange.

More surprising however, is how Chandor, in his compelling directorial debut, remembers to neither condone nor condemn his characters. It's easy to have a condescending, angry tone against the investment bankers selling away their designated share of worthless holdings, but Chandor's subtle direction opts to examine the many employees involved in this chaotic mess on a more personal level. All the characters, no matter what positions they hold, are shown to have vulnerabilities and insecurities of their own, even in very brief moments, and their personal struggles coping with the demise of the world economy is a fresh, fair-minded and honest approach in the midst of so much hate and anger displayed towards bankers nowadays.



Must work to "live long and prosper!"

As Rooney dons her new tattoo...

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Director David Fincher
Screenwriters Steven Zaillian, Stieg Larsson (novel)
Cast Rooney Mara, Daniel Craig, Christopher Plummer, Robin Wright

Lucia Podhorska

Set in Sweden, the plot revolves around disgraced journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Craig) and 23-year-old hacker Lisbeth Salander (Mara). Diagnosed as mentally incompetent as a child, Salander is a Ward of the State who has, in her short life, been subjected to all manners of physical and mental abuse. Mikael Blomkvist is hired by Henrik Vanger (Plummer), former CEO of a large corporation, to solve the four decade long mystery of the death of his niece. Reluctant at first, Blomkvist finally accepts the job and moves out to the small town of Hedestad, where he is later on joined in his investigation by Lisbeth. What follows is a truly harrowing tale of murder and deceit.

David Fincher, well known for his psychological thrillers dealing with mass-murderers (*Se7en*, *Zodiac*), is really in his element with this film. Fol-



Let's take this to the bed shall we Agent Salacious Salander?

lowing his Oscar nominated *The Social Network* from last year he manages to again direct an amazing movie. The opening title sequence alone makes it clear that the next 2.5 hours are going to be equal parts uncomfortable and on-the-edge-of-your-seat exciting to watch. Filmed on location in Sweden, this adaptation is fast-paced and gripping from start to finish.

Much like Natalie Portman's performance in *Black Swan*, Mara's portrayal of goth hacker Lisbeth is a fine example of total character embodiment. This little known actress, probably best known as the girl who dumps Mark Zuckerberg in *The Social Network* is the perfect fit physically, but has also turned out to be perfect in her acting. While the true complexity of Lisbeth's character only

becomes fully apparent in the future novels, Mara still manages to beautifully capture both Lisbeth's rough exterior and her vulnerability. Her dedication to this role is demonstrated in her willingness to cut and dye her hair, and by suffering through a number of piercings. It would be easy to turn Lisbeth into a stereotype, but she keeps surprising viewers at every turn and I'm excited to see what Mara has up her sleeve for the next two films.

The casting of Craig as Mikael Blomkvist was also initially a surprise, but he does a fine job of breathing life into the character. He's a far-cry from the suave James Bond, but then it's not right to try and compare those two characters. Craig never really has a chance to show-off his acting skills, as every scene is stolen by

Mara and her much more complicated character. Also, despite his reasoning of Blomkvist not necessarily having a Swedish accent because he'd lived abroad, sounds like laziness and makes him the only cast member without an accent.

In terms of book-to-movie adaptation, the American version is almost perfect, with only a few changes that don't take anything away from the viewing pleasure of people who have read the books. The book itself was difficult because of the subject matter and I'm glad the Hollywood version didn't gloss over the more extreme scenes. People who are familiar with Fincher's work won't be shocked by how graphic and violent this movie is. This is not an easy movie, but I found it highly enjoyable and have already seen it twice. It's not necessary to have read the books before watching it, but I would recommend reading them to gain a fuller appreciation of the characters and story that Stieg Larsson created.

Many critics have said that they do not understand why it was necessary to make a Hollywood version, but great stories can be told again and again, and Lisbeth's story is a great one. This truly is a stunning, thought-provoking film and makes a nice change from the usual, naïve Hollywood flicks.

...Noomi lands her H debut

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

Director Guy Ritchie
Screenwriters Michele Mulroney, Kieran Mulroney
Cast Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Noomi Rapace

Maciej Matuszewski

I must say that my feelings about Guy Ritchie's latest *Sherlock Holmes* are somewhat mixed. When I first walked out of the cinema after seeing the film shortly after Christmas, there was no doubt that I felt I had gotten my money's worth. Sure, it wasn't exactly faithful to the original stories or even, with its heavy action focus, to the stories' spirit. However, I always find it pointless to demand absolute verisimilitude with the source material of an adaptation. There is no reason a different interpretation, if well made, couldn't be just as good as the original.

Mind you, *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* is certainly well made. The action is fast paced and exciting and, as in the last film, slow motion is generally employed to great effect - though I will admit that some might find it rather overused at times. Despite the changes in tone, the crucial elements that have



Elementary my dear Watson, you should never start with French

always made Holmes stories so compelling - the character of Holmes and his relationship with Watson - are still pretty much intact. While this relationship between our protagonists is far more fractious than in Conan Doyle's work, their many arguments provide some of the best scenes in the film and do not obscure how strong their friendship really is.

The film certainly isn't perfect. There are numerous small plot holes and, while I'm no expert myself, the movie's understanding of foreign affairs seems almost as bad as its predecessor's understanding

of domestic politics. All these, however, are easily forgotten and, if it wasn't for an unlucky coincidence, I might have said that this is as good a Holmes film as we could have hoped for.

You shouldn't expect an intellectual masterpiece from a *Sherlock Holmes* movie but I would at least hope for some sort of insight into our protagonists and interesting characterisation. Unfortunately the explosions and witty banter leave very little room for either. Indeed everybody outside of the main pair seems superfluous to requirements. After hav-

ing been horribly misused in the first film Irene Adler is brought back only to be killed off in the first few scenes. One might think that this would have some significance later but she isn't even mentioned past the half way point. The replacement as female lead (Rapace) is so completely undeveloped and utterly bland that I can't even remember her character's name.

This is certainly not a disaster, all the good points I made still apply. If you go and see this film you'll probably enjoy yourselves - just don't expect too much.

Top 10 Box Office films in the UK this week



1) Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol - 12A - Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg

2) Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows - 12A - Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Noomi Rapace

3) The Iron Lady - 12A - Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent

4) The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo - 18 - Rooney Mara, Daniel Craig, Christopher Plummer, Robin Wright

5) Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked - U - Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney

6) Puss in Boots - U - Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis

7) Goon - 15 - Seann William Scott, Jay Baruchel

8) The Artist - PG - Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo, John Goodman, James Cromwell

9) New Year's Eve - 12A - Michelle Pfeiffer, Zac Efron, Robert De Niro, Halle Berry, Hilary Swank

10) Hugo - PG - Asa Butterfield, Chloë Grace Moretz, Ben Kingsley

Television Editors: **George Barnett**
James Simpson

tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TELEVISION

Pick of the week

Now that exams are over, put your feet up and put the telly on... here's what to watch



January 14 | 2000 | Sky Arts 1
Monty Python: Almost the Truth

First episode in the a history of the comedy group. This week; the formation of *Monty Python*.

January 15 | 1610 | ITV1
Vera

First in a four part series of detective shows featuring *Brenda Blethyn* as DCI Vera Stanhope.

January 15 | 2100 | BBC1
Sherlock

Last in the series. Damn.

January 16 | 2030 | BBC1
The One Griff Rhys Jones

Last in the series in which the welshman explores his comedy routes with thirty minutes of sketches with his old partner *Mel Smith*. Guests include: Hugh Bonneville (*Downton Abbey*), Larry Lamb (*Gavin and Stacey*) and Tom Hollander (*Rev*).

January 16 | 2130 | BBC2
Stargazing Live - Back to Earth

Brian Cox and Dara O'Briain celebrate all things astronomical from the Jodrell Bank Observatory.



January 17 | 2130 | BBC2
Horizon

Adam Rutherford explores one of the newest areas of science, *synthetic biology*, in which scientists break down nature and rebuild it as they wish.

January 18 | 2000 | Channel 4
How to Cook Like Heston

Everyday tips from the craziest chef in the World.

A power play with the most powerful family in Britain

Plabon Saha uses his powers of deduction on the new series of *Sherlock*

After a successful first season, *Sherlock* is back on our screens. Giving the detective stories a 21st century make-up, the second season does not disappoint. In fact it picks up exactly where it left off, full of suspense, comedy and twists. The way things are turning out, *Sherlock* should be added to everyone's must-watch list.

The first episode titled 'A Scandal in Belgravia' lifts the story to a new high as Sherlock finds himself tackling Irene Adler, a dominatrix with some compromising photographs of a member of the royal family. Being hired by the highest in the land, it's up to Sherlock to save the monarchy's face but soon he finds that there's more afoot than a simple blackmailer. From then on the story spins off and touches aspects of international terrorism, rogue CIA agents and British secrets. I would expect no less from Steven Moffat and, in his own style he keeps us interested in a thickening, complicated plot.

The biggest challenge for this season would have been to move the characters forward rather than simply solve cases. In this episode certainly we see a more human side of Sherlock which speaks to the audience and I can't praise Benedict Cumberbatch enough for his acting. Robert Downey Jr. ought to take some pointers. The inclusion of Lara Pulver to play



No one could look as cool as Sherlock in this jacket

Irene Adler was brilliant in its own right. And of course, sex sells. So, it was not surprising at all that the episode had a 30% audience share. Yet the show itself was not trashed and the upcoming series finale is certainly worth looking forward to.

There has been much to look forward to in this series, with last Sunday's episode revolv-

ing around the famous hell-hound case, which received an army research labs twist. In particular the upcoming series finale is one to watch out for as the detective finally tackles his greatest antagonist: Jim Moriarty. Sir Conan Doyle didn't think Sherlock would make it out of this one alive. Will 21st Century Sherlock make it? I guess you'll just have to tune in.

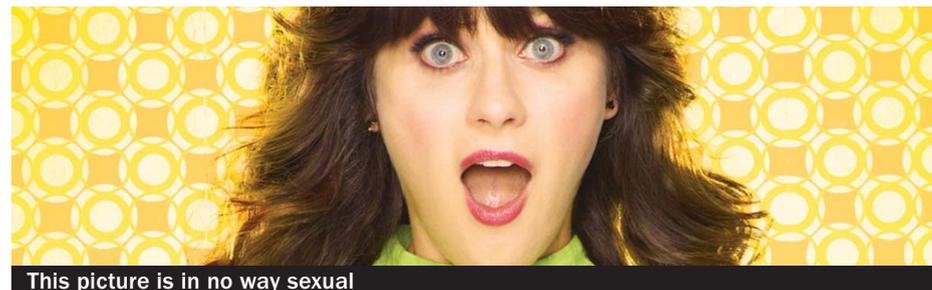
There's a New Girl on Channel 4!

As the statistically most depressing day of the year nears, Channel 4 is prepared with a little treat

Marie-Laure Hicks

Blue Monday (the statistically most depressing day of the year) is approaching. The weather is ever gloomier. Work starts to pile up. Festive feelings slowly disintegrate into utter misery. In a desperate attempt to cheer yourself up, you splash your student loan in the sales, fill your house with the smell of baking cake, or finish *Skyrim*. I'm going to recommend an alternative measure: Channel 4's new sitcom, *New Girl*.

Jess (Zoey Deschanel, *500 Days of Summer*) is a young, quirky and slightly insane primary school teacher. She has just broken up with her boyfriend after catching him with another woman. Emotionally shattered, she moves in with three guys found online. Nick is a law-school drop-out bartender with a low self-esteem. Schmidt is an overconfident man with a tendency to take his shirt off for no reason and donate a dollar to the douche bag jar each time. Winston is unemployed after spending two years playing basketball in Latvia, and surprisingly talented at bell ringing.



This picture is in no way sexual

Two worlds collide. The poor flatmates are completely lost in front of this crying wreck that watches *Dirty Dancing* on loop and makes up songs (she comes up with the theme tune in the pilot). Jess, on the other hand, is completely confused by these men and has no understanding whatsoever of boundaries. Let the fun begin. As the boys help Jess get over her ex, discover her inner craziness and meet her model friend Cece, she finds herself a new solid base of friends.

This breath of fresh air is like a short rom-com; *Friends* with the dynamics of *The Big*

Bang Theory. It is a cute, heart-warming, sexy comedy. Zoey Deschanel is a splendid actress, able to make any crazy old cat lady look adorable. Quite simply very enjoyable and relaxing. *New Girl* is 20 minutes of easy (brainless) entertainment and a good laugh.

The sitcom is carried by Deschanel's performance and is tipped to be one of the most exciting new comedies of the year. Nominated for Best Television Series and Best Actress at the Golden Globes, it is more than promising.

New Girl, on Channel 4, Friday at 8:30pm.

Fashion Editors: **Saskia Verhagen**
Alice Yang

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FASHION

Fashion faux pas to avoid

Kicking off a new year, **Alice Yang** shows us the style resolutions to adopt for life, not just for novelty

GIRLS: Bin those Uggs

Understandably, after seasons of toe-crunching towering stilettos, the female population are seeking out more practical and cosy footwear. Yet regardless of how appealing a shearling lined boot may sound, we must remember and endeavour to live through the famous quote: 'no pain, no gain'. Now girls, that is not to say that we should start sacrificing our feet every day, but it really is time to ditch those monstrosities, better known as Ugg Boots. Even the name of these clumpy sheepskin clad slippers gives off a repulsive sound – so throw them to the landfill where they belong and instead invest in a good pair of leather boots. Not only will these keep your feet warm, but they'll also keep them dry – without the use of 'care kits'. Break the bank and bag a pair of elegant leg extending Rick Owens wedge boots or opt for a less demanding pair of ankle boots from Office.

With so many choices out there that eliminate 'fat calf syndrome' and guarantee you walk upright (as opposed to on the side of your Ugg), this resolution will not only improve your posture but will also help you give off a more sophisticated look.



Bin!



Buy!

Office Ankle Boots
£70

Rick Owens
Wedges
£710

GUYS: T under V is never good

Should you be reading this issue of Felix prior to catching sight of your own reflection for the first time today, fear not because the t-shirt under the v-neck is a fashion pit that Justin Timberlake, Gordon Ramsay and even Brad Pitt have fallen into. However, let's make this clear once and for all, a round neck protruding inconspicuously from under a sharp V, especially in clashing colours, is identical to hanging a sign around one's neck reading "I blindly picked what I'm wearing off my floor this morning" – also known as a big red warning sign to your female counterparts regarding your sense of style.

Now boys, your mother did not buy you v-neck sweaters in a desperate attempt to wean you out of your hoodies and band-ts just to see their efforts ruined by such carelessness. Instead, make the conscious decision (preferably starting as soon as possible) to match a smart shirt with your v-neck. Should this look be too formal for you, a casual shirt is a wardrobe staple for the modern man and with the high street offering such a plethora of styles and patterns; you really are spoilt for choice.



Look in a mirror



Looking good

GIRLS: VPLs no more

The return of the 70s has landed with us recently in the form of glitter and gold, yet not all the looks from the decade are ones to copy, and topping the list are the unsightly sight of VPLs – most commonly seen under excessively tight lower wear.

Leggings/jeggings/treggings, regardless of what you call them, undeniably have their uses – thicker than tights, and with the ability to sit perfectly under long tops without the need of shorts. However, the unfortunate fact is, too many have been ignoring the word 'long' prior to 'top', resulting in what can only be described as flashing the world a disturbing peek down where-the-sun-don't-shine.

So should your backside be perfectly pert, I am by no means preventing you from giving the male population their eye candy, but for those wishing to keep their dignity having indulged somewhat more humanly over the break on comfort food instead of trips to the gym, opt to dress with a lengthy shimmering top à la Kate Moss in vintage Chanel or perhaps throw on a pair of treggings under this season's favourite large jumper for an overall cosier effect as seen on Rumi Neely.



Yes



No

GUYS: Roll long sleeves, burn short sleeves

Referring to formal short-sleeved shirts as opposed to the standard t-shirt, this section is the start of an attempt to ban the wearing of such items. If you are not yet aware of the risks of wearing such pieces – they hang on even the hunkiest of men in the most unflattering manner, then perhaps it is time you cleared out your wardrobe and indulged in what women call 'retail therapy'.

The hatred towards these shirts arises because not only are they cut out in the shape of square for some mysterious reason meaning that wearers are expected to be as wide as they are tall, but they also possess the most ridiculous loose floppy sleeves. Not quite as short as on a t-shirt but most definitely not full length, these sleeves hobble somewhat uncertainly around the elbow so that even the most gym-loving biceps seem somewhat lanky and lacking in substance.

Make a new resolution for life to avoid such items and instead opt for rolling up the sleeves on your long sleeved shirt in warmer conditions. Not only will you be able to show off how miraculously athletic you're destined to become, your future office reputation will benefit too.



Buff



Burn

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Simon Federer

From London to Les Arcs

Caffeine addiction, bizarre haircuts and onesies.

Snowsports report on their biggest ski trip in recent memory



Elisabeth Burks

“I dunno why there’s so much snow, it’s just like MAGIC,” the words of the little girl in the ski film *Attack of La Niña* echoed amongst Imperial students throughout the first week of the holidays. The last night of term saw the departure of three coaches of us as we journeyed to Les Arcs in the Alps. A total of 137 attendees made this the biggest ski trip in recent memory by quite a long way. Just two weeks before we left for the Alps there was no snow – none. The wait for snow was painful but after enough Snow Dances praising the God of Pow (powder snow) we were blessed with an unprecedented amount. A mere two days before the trip our chosen French resort, Les Arcs was reporting “Dumping Snow” – the biggest and most consistent snow fall in 10 years. It really was magic.

The wait to board the ferry at Dover gave us a chance to catch up with the other London universities heading our way – Arts, Greenwich, Southbank, Ravensbourne and a couple from Westminster. Everyone was in high spirits, especially the committee, who had been planning for this event for a long time (six months!). Not everyone chose to board the ferry by bus, a few Imperial students thought it better to strut on – at least that’s what we heard – their fortune cookies might have read “a coach driver waits for no man”.

Arriving in the resort many hours later, we were greeted by the rest of the Wasteland Ski crew and the guys from Relentless. We were handed out free cans of the drink, the first of many to come. The result was a bizarre social experiment. The

entire week was sponsored by Relentless which kept everyone going, but by the end of the week some students couldn’t function without it. These sad souls could be seen shaking from caffeine withdrawals muttering about how many they had consumed in the last hour and wondering when they might get their next fix. Still, we learnt a lot, for instance if you drink 15 cans in less than 12 hours you might find yourself in hospital. Needless to say, if you’ve ever complained about the cost of a can of Relentless – think again – it’s for your own safety!

“Avalanche warnings were high and so was the adrenaline”

The snow, the snow, the snow! This week was really about nothing else. It was incredible! Former Whistler seasonaires were overheard saying, “this is the most powder I’ve ever seen!” It just kept falling, everyday, relentlessly. Avalanche warnings were high and so was the adrenaline. Les Arcs has plentiful off-piste areas that are close enough to stay safe and offer fresh lines. By midweek it was snowing so heavily that the top half of the mountain closed. With only about three lifts open it didn’t matter how many times you did the same run by the time you got back up to the top – your previous tracks were covered in fresh, soft powder. It seemed ridiculous that three

weeks prior, all of this was grass and rocks. It was deep enough that even though there was no Snow Park yet – Simon Federer and Will Stanger of the committee both landed their first backflips! Also, an impressive amount of piste skiing was done by frequent racer Michael Parkes and his crew – leaving no piste untouched! However, nothing could compare to being almost waist deep, sailing through trees and taking it as it comes.

Snow is something that is not only to be enjoyed during the day, the evenings of après-ski resulted in snowball fights and backflips off balconies. With four fancy dress themed evenings planned (Tube Stations, Comic Book Superheroes, Retro 80s and Animals), Imperial students really did us proud! Four outfits may be a lot of packing space to ask for, but it was so worth it! It was a wondrous sight to see a mixture of Cockfosters, Shepherd’s Bushes, Baker Streets and Blackfriars out one night then WonderwoMAN, Batman, Willie from *The Simpsons*, Dennis the Menace, Bananaman and Mario the next. It is fast becoming tradition in Les Arcs to get bizarre haircuts: 2 years prior it was the Hare Krishna Monk do, this year the Irish Crew Cut. Thank you so much to those who chose commitment to the cause over personal dignity (note: Mr. Squiggles) – we love you for it!

The mountain meal – for Retro Ski Day – brought out 80s onesies in force. Much cheese was eaten and much wine drunk in a restaurant on the slopes. Despite the long wait at the beginning all were well fed enough to start some table dancing and conga fun! For those looking to earn some extra pocket money, the consumption of an entire cup of cheese could earn you two euros. Sadly, the

challenge might have left you feeling a bit funny. With night fallen and dinner and dancing over, it was time to find those skis or that pesky snowboard in the dark and descend down the green run home. By this stage those beginners were skiing like pros and everyone made it down safely!

“The consumption of an entire cup of cheese could earn you two euros”

With the week coming to a close, it was sad to say goodbye – to new found love, to new friends and old, and most of all to the unique beauty that is a university ski trip. We boarded the coaches exhausted, but in equally high spirits knowing that the mountains had blessed us with an incredible trip.

A big thank you is needed to Vlad, our trip organiser who worked tirelessly on putting this trip together. If you see him, give him a high five! Also a thank you to travel company Wasteland Ski for helping us through it. London did Les Arcs and we did it well.

If you are feeling like you missed out there’s the Easter trip next (2000+ UK university students in one resort – with competitions all week if you want another sensational holiday). Next year’s winter trip should be just as big and so don’t leave it to the last minute to book! Any questions – email us at ski@ic.ac.uk. As always, Snow Love!

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Looking for a change of scenery?

Then look no further than Imperial's Erasmus scheme

Richard Butters

The best wines in the world are French; the most beautiful women in the world are Spanish; the best pizza is claimed by Italy, the best chocolate by the Swiss, the best beer by the Belgians – even the Germans have their ruthless efficiency to make the rest of the world jealous. So what is so fantastic about England? The weather is better on the continent, the skiing is better on the continent, and the beaches are far, far better on the continent. Europe is home to après-ski, topless sunbathing and absinthe; we've got binge drinking and rain.

To compound this, we have chosen to spend three years (and upwards) of our lives here. Could there be more of an antithesis to the lazy hedonism of Europe than Imperial College? I find it unlikely. And so to my point – there is hope. Whilst you have resigned yourself to a slow and steady slog to a good degree, to turning your back on your inner libertine, there is hope; hope in the form of the Erasmus scheme which will pay you to spend a year of your degree in Europe. The Year Abroad programmes at Imperial have sent Physicists to

Tenerife, Biologists to the Alps and, to their credit, Chemists even further from the civilized world. So whether it is skiing, surfing, sunbathing or an efficiently run and painfully clean public transport system that floats your boat, the Year Abroad programme is for you.

"But wait!" I hear you cry, "is there not some way I can get a taste of the delirious delights of a year abroad before I make this momentous decision?" There is indeed – Tuesday 17 January sees the heady cocktail that is a year abroad distilled into a single shot of pure escapism. Yes, for one night only the largest society at Imperial not to have been banned from the Union invites you to come and experience the pleasures of a year abroad from the safety of the Blackett Laboratory. Last year's International food night was so debauched it is said to have made the head chef at Nobu fall on his sword. There will be food and drink from all over Europe, along with the riotously attractive men and women currently on exchange, all of whom find the British accent(s) wildly arousing. To top this off the returning students will be roaming around showing off their linguistic skills and bragging about the

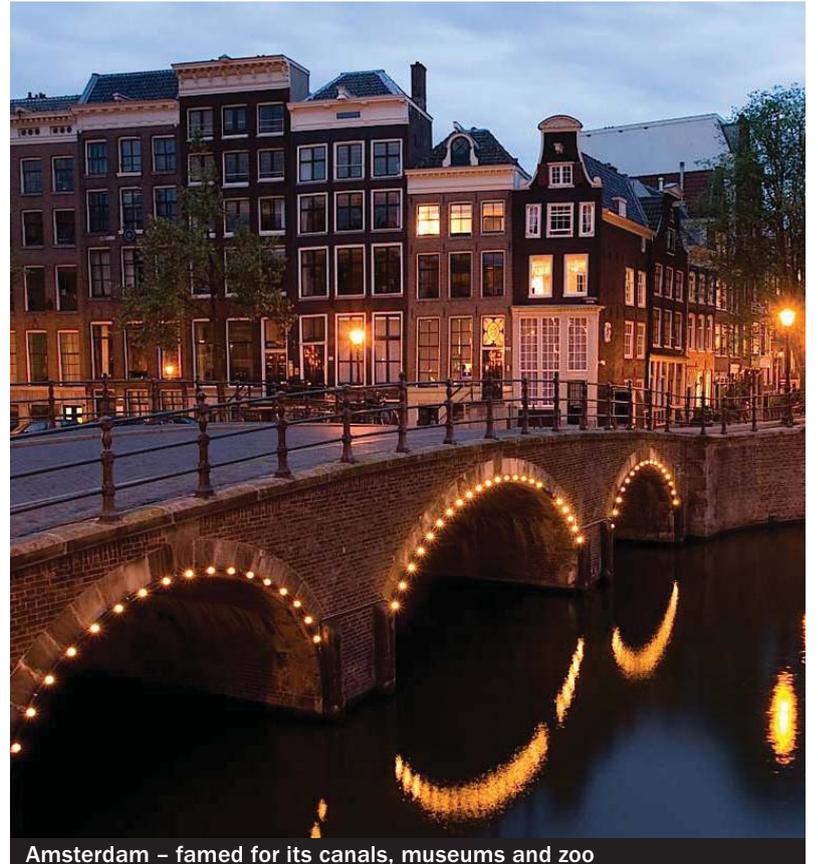
number of Swiss women they were able to nail, because now that they do gymnastics instead of rugby they have a lot more time on their hands. So what better place to find out what to expect, and why to choose a year abroad?

Following the wonders of the international food night there will be an unbelievably cheap trip to Amsterdam, the home of (according to Wikipedia's things to do in Amsterdam) 19 mouth-watering museums, 16 eye-wateringly beautiful churches and of course the Amsterdam zoo, described by some as "like, a total mind-f**k". For £119 ESN UK will give you transport to and from Amsterdam, 2 nights in a hostel, and free club entry on the first night. For details please contact erasmus@imperial.ac.uk – places are limited so act fast!

IC Erasmus International Food Night – 18:30, January 17 in the Blackett Common Room, Level 8

ESN UK Ram the Dam – 1-4 March. Tickets available from <http://www.outgoing.co.uk/international-students/trip/3329/>. Deadline for £40 deposit – 16/01/12.

imedia.io



Amsterdam – famed for its canals, museums and zoo

Christian Unions uncover big issues on campus

London-wide project aims to tackle big issues this January

Tim Wyatt

Christianity is dead in the UK. At least, that's what we're told, on an almost weekly basis. Whether because of further decline in church attendance, or supposedly outdated and irrelevant teaching, Christianity is a faith that seems to matter less and less in 21st Century Britain. Despite 70% of the population in the last census claiming to be Christians, a survey in 2005 showed that only 6.7% of the country goes to church regularly. "We are a Christian country and we should not be afraid to say so" said David Cameron in December. However, in a 2008 poll, only 17% of people agreed with him.

The picture is even more striking when it comes to the young. According to the Church of England's own research in 2010, the average age of a churchgoer was 61 and 59% of churches had no members between 15 and 19 years old.

But in universities across London hundreds of Christian students are

telling another story. Almost every university, including Imperial, in the capital has a Christian Union or CU – a group of Christians who try to give every student on their campus a chance to hear the message of Jesus. And these CUs are coming together this month to put on a week of events tackling life's big issues and the relevance of the Christian faith to them.

So what are these 'big issues'? In a unique London-wide survey, each CU spent a week in December trying to find out what their fellow students thought. They asked two simple questions: 'What's your favourite film' (not one of life's big questions, but bear with me) and 'If you could ask God one question, what would it be?' And they got some interesting answers.

Students most want to ask God why he allows suffering to exist, followed by 'What is the meaning/purpose of life?' Perhaps showing a slightly morbid streak, 'Is there life after death?' was third in the list and the simple 'Do you exist?' was also a popular

choice. In amongst these comparatively straightforward enquiries were more profound philosophical questions such as 'Do you have a beard?', 'Why is my hair falling out?' and 'What is your favourite film?' London students' favourite films were less esoteric, with the epic *Lord of the Rings* trilogy topping the poll.

Using these results, CUs in London are holding Uncover: The London CU Project from the 23-27th of January. During the day each CU will host lunchtime talks and other events such as debates or 'Grill a Christian' panel discussions on their campuses. On the evenings of the 24-26th there will be a central event at All Souls Church, near Oxford Circus, presenting the Christian faith with opportunities for discussion via three of the most popular films: *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Shawshank Redemption* and *Inception*. Starting at 7pm, these events will include a café and chance to ask any questions. For more information, search for 'London CU Project' on Facebook.



Gandalf brings the survey smackdown

HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Hangman guide to exams

Exams with double digit amounts of lecture courses, lab reports, constant deadlines: I guess campus food isn't the only thing that leaves you swallowing a shit sandwich

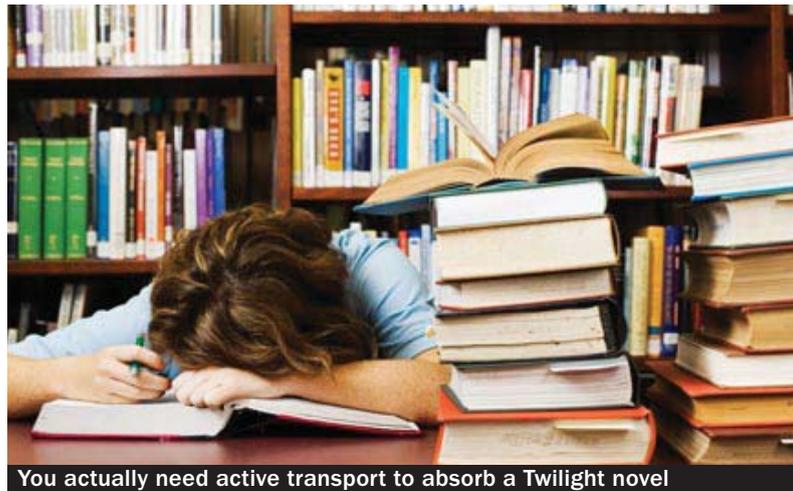
1. Cheat.

2. Convince someone less subtle than you to cheat. Use them as a sacrificial lamb. When they get caught, it will cause a distraction. You can then cheat like a motherfucker who's fucking a married mother while his girlfriend is in the other room. Oh yeah.

3. Press the books to your head. Osmosis works like that doesn't it, biologists? You may need to get a good friend to lick your forehead first.

4. Spend all day on Facebook, Twitter and Google+. Just kidding, spend all day on Facebook and Twitter. Why? This seems like it's not going to help you in exams? Well, those bikini pictures aren't going to perv over themselves are they? Plus, it's definitely going to help you out in a computational

"You think this text is actually from the article? Think again, suckers"



You actually need active transport to absorb a Twilight novel

exam. Right?

5. Don't under any circumstances try to listen to rap music while revising. Having someone brag about how great they are at everything, how much money, cars and women they have, and how things are easy for them isn't helpful for morale.

6. Disrupt the exam hall by carrying out a feasibility study on it. It's only a matter of time until catering start to do it.

7. Burst into tears fifteen minutes into the exam, citing post-traumatic stress syndrome harking back to when your grandmother died five years ago. Be prepared to kill your grandmother for the sake of authenticity (or fake a death certificate).

"Nope, neither is this"

8. Tattoo equations on your thighs. It may make you look like a weirdo in the exam but a. you get an excuse to take your trousers off in public and b. you pass. Better save this technique for summer, though.

9. Sneak into your lecturer's room and replace his shirt with one that has all the notes written on it. He'll notice when he looks in the mirror? Yeah, because Imperial lecturers are all so appearance orientated. Your only problem is if he realises he's not wearing the same thing as the day before.

10. Make up rap songs to remember stuff:

E = mc motherfucking squared bitch,
Now I'm done with relativity now here's the hitch,
Quantum mechanics is like my dick
In that it's thick, hard and incredibly long,
The main difference is that a lot of bitches study my penis while wearing a thong.

11. Don't make rap songs. They just turn out a bit misogynistic and go off topic. Besides, you're not Eminem.

Column Inches

1

2

3

4

5

A thrilling chance to measure things in redundant imperial units; we know you love it. Don't say we don't take care of you.

Don't get ill

You're a student. You don't know how to look after yourself when you're healthy, let alone when you're too fatigued to even have a wank

So, after a week of of battering your stomach and liver with mince pies and wine, cold temperatures and close quarters with family there's a good chance you've come down with some sort of illness. There you thought your immune system had perfected itself after you recovered from Fresher's flu. Newsflash, Wolverine: it's more akin to Norton Antivirus - it barely works, needs updating all the time and needs all the help it can get.

If you've fallen ill on a weekend when your GP isn't available, too fucking bad - your body isn't keeping track of the days. Trot down to your local A&E where you might wait ages because it's full of hypochondriacs who've mistaken a hangover for men-

"Seriously, what are you looking for? This isn't the Da Vinci Code"

ingitis or dipshits who broke their fist when they got into fight with a brick wall. Or, you could just go to a clinic and get seen by a locum shipped in from the deepest recesses of some 2nd world country, who's only working as a doctor on New Year's Eve because he's too shit to get a job as a real GP. Just don't complain if suddenly your sore throat becomes lymphoma and accusations of homosexuality begin

to fly on the basis of some rash on your face. Locums are the Frankie Boyles of the medicine world. Once he's done with you you'll wish he'll overprescribe you with Tramadol.

With any luck, you'll either last until you can see a proper doctor or you go to the hospital. Either way, it's finally time for a dose of modern medicine to fix you right up. What do you mean, antibiotics don't work on viruses? I have to just get loads of rest of keep hydrated? Beer doesn't count for hydration?

Shit sucks because you still have coursework to do and waving a glandular fever diagnosis around isn't going to help because you'll just be told you should've done the work before you got ill, anticipating that this is the most likely time to get sick.



Pictured: a child with no antivirus. Should've renewed his subscription. Instead he goes into hospital every 30 days for a factory reset

HANGMAN

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source

Lecturers revel in students' misery Reporter's eyebrows raised, but not as high as they could be

The Turnip has gone undercover to reveal the truth behind the behaviour of Imperial staff towards their students. Using bugs planted in staff rooms and offices, alongside old-looking PhD students posing as staff, the lid has been blown on what looks like institutionalised abuse of undergraduates across all departments.

Delays in publishing problem sheet solutions are officially cited to be so that students attempt them without relying on the answers, but a conversation overheard between senior staff in the Department of Physics has revealed that they just enjoy seeing them spend five hours on a single question, knowing the obsessive nature of the average Imperialite. One particular lecturer has also been reported to make his exams excruciatingly hard: in previous years people have cried after completing them, or not at all – some just sit there for two hours because it would be a total waste of paper. Some complete it for this very reason.

When the solutions are finally released, some lecturers have replaced some of the answers with more questions, making doing a problem sheet

akin to watching an episode of *Lost*, but without Evangeline Lilly's breasts to compensate.

Lecture theatres are not safe, either, with first-year Physics lecturers challenging their students to contest special relativity. After quoting Einstein's famous equation, the professor asked if anyone wanted to suggest alternatives. One student mentioning modified Newtonian gravity got laughed out of the theatre.

In one extreme case of scholarly misconduct, the lecturer of advanced Riemann tensor calculus in Mathematics simply did away with several lines in a proof with "???" and ended the derivation with "PROFIT!"

Finally, a final-year project supervisor has been reported to give his students no guidance whatsoever with respect to their work: he merely waits for them to spend a whole term heading down a research dead end so that in their final meeting he can berate them for not having done anything, muttering "trolled" under his breath in a thick European accent as they leave his office, hidden under the loud banging noise of the door slamming behind them.



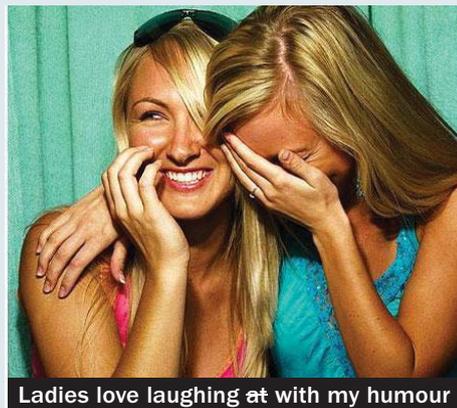
I guess studying under the shadow of a massive phallic tower doesn't help either



DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

He feels homesick... for his Mum's uterus. How he ever moved out for university is a mystery

Dubious vacancies



Ladies love laughing at with my humour

Tortured comic genius? Think you could do so much better, hotshot? Allow me to inform you that this section isn't, you know, entirely exclusive.

Show me what you've got and I'll either spend many a sad, lonely night chuckling to myself over its inherently lame quality or stockpile it for future use.

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk, bring it.

Horoscopes*

*Straight from the mouth of a psychic woman down a Brighton back alley

Aries

This week you wake up to find out that you're President Obama. Hell yeah. Time to go shoot some missiles at countries with oil. You go to press the big red shiny button when you realise that you're now black. Fuck this. You go play basketball with Shaq instead. You lose.

Taurus

This week you need a piss. You urinate behind some deserted bushes and then realise there are Taliban corpses hiding within the bushes. Fuck. You try to run when a hundred military spot lights hit you at once. The only thing you can think of is that your fly is undone.

Gemini

This week you remember its now 2012 and therefore the end of the world. You form a bucket list. The only two things on it are to get your degree and get laid. You realise that you still have another two years to your degree and you haven't been on a date in months. Nice.

Cancer

This week your friend keeps telling you about how amazing *Skyrim* is, even while you sleep. You don't even live with the guy. You can only take so many stories about throwing bears off mountains and shatter his CD. You bathe in the sweet, sweet Level 32 tears.

Leo

This week you take a keen interest in American politics. After a quick trawl through the internet you realise that you don't particularly want to live on this planet anymore. You watch a couple of minutes of FOX News before breaking down completely and supporting a ban on masturbation.

Virgo

This week you go and see Tom Cruise's latest generic action film. Inspired by the fact that he hasn't aged over the past 20 years, you become a Scientologist to discover the key to eternal youth. You give them all your money and end up starving to death yourself. Oh, the irony.

Libra

This week you decide to go on the show *Take Me Out*. You play the theme track to *Doctor Who* as you descend the elevator, dressed as Frodo. You get a black out before you even say your name. 30 girls rejected you in the same second. You wondered why you even applied.

Scorpio

This week you submitted an essay that you know you did badly in. You decide to seduce the lecturer by asking how to get 'extra-credit'. You manage to sleep with the old man. You get the essay back a week later. You still fail. It doesn't get worse than that.

Sagittarius

This week you realise the Holland Club may be closing. You decide to hang out with some undergrads. One says: "Allow Imperial, manz dun knoe about me. Gonna shank my lecturer innit. Safe tings." You can't figure out if he's gonna kill his lecturer or sleep with him.

Capricorn

This week you wake up to realise you're Catwoman. Brilliant. You're sexy and can fight crime and shit. Instead you find yourself shitting in a sandbox and licking your own butt-hole all day. This wasn't what you were expecting. But you enjoy it. Meow.

Aquarius

This week you have exams. You grow a revision beard. You realise you like your revision beard. You decide to keep it. You spend so long maintaining your revision beard that you forget to revise. The only way you can pass is if your exam is on beards. It isn't. You fail.

Pisces

This week you have to ask the question: Whatever happened to Will Smith? Seriously, the guy hasn't done a film for years. What's that? Men in Black III? I'm literally crying actual tears of sadness right now, I just want my Fresh Prince back...



Nick 1Xtra BBC Bright

**Friday 20 January
20:00 - 02:00**

**BBC Radio 1XTRA Nick Bright hosts an
eclectic mix of urban tunes at Metric.**

imperialcollegeunion.org/metric



Puzzles Editor: **James Hook**

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

PUZZLES

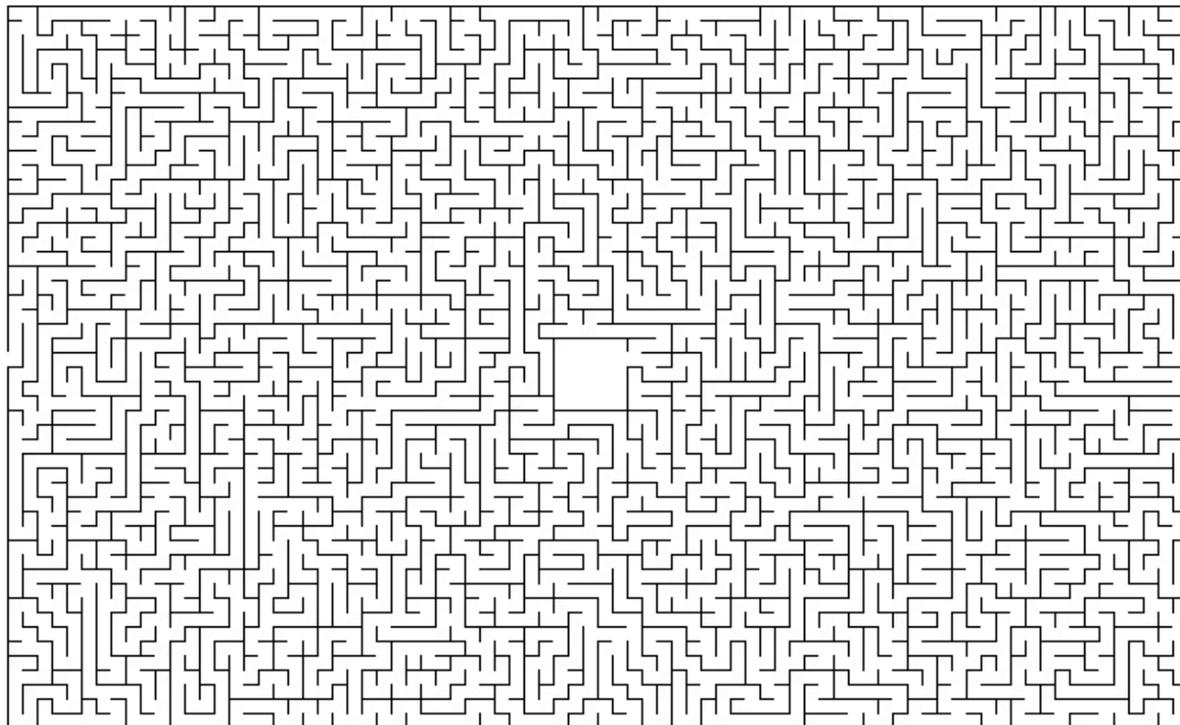
HELP US SOLVE THE ULTIMATE PROBLEM

Do you eat these puzzles for breakfast? I'd get that checked out. But I digress.

If you'd like to contribute to our illustrious section by sending in your own puzzles or comics, email puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

But perhaps you want to go one step further? If you'd like to try your hand at editing these pages, let us know! Send us an email or come down to the Felix Office in the West Basement of Beit Quad to test your mettle.

Maze Entrance/Escape (depending on how you feel)



| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | | | R | | H |
| | | | G | | W | |
| | | | | H | O | N |
| N | O | E | W | | | R |
| W | | | | A | | |
| | | G | S | | | H |
| | | R | | N | | A |
| | | | | | E | S |
| H | S | | | | | G |

Wordoku

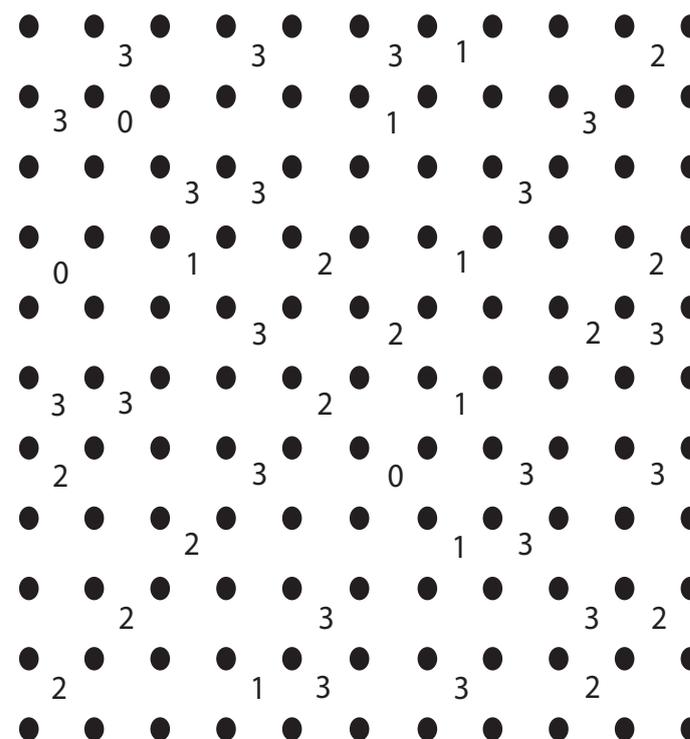
The almighty Wordoku is back from its Christmas break, ready to provide you with an even more inconsequential solution to exam-induced boredom.

The traditional Wordoku has every row, column and 3x3 box containing one letter each. The end result is a rather useless word or phrase that appears in one of the rows or columns. You'll need to finish the entire grid for credit, though.

So basically, it's like a Sudoku, but with letters instead of numbers. Thrilling revelations, right there.

As usual, answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk (and that goes for the maze above too). Answers mean points, and points mean prizes. Check out the FUCWIT leader board to the right for more information!

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. Send 'em in, or we don't get fed.

We were originally going to have a normal scribble box here, but seeing as it's a new year we decided to go one step further. For no obvious reason other than furthering his current media exposure, here's a picture of trained thespian Benedict Cumberbatch. The individual who makes the best addition to the box will be richly rewarded. Probably. Get drawing, you know, if that's your kind of thing. Images to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Benedict Cumberbox



FUCWIT League Leader Board

| Teams: | |
|--------------------|----|
| Elbowfart | 75 |
| The Jailbaits | 68 |
| Pegasus & Parrots | 58 |
| Paddy Got Bummed | 50 |
| Cum Puzzling Sluts | 26 |
| Ludibrium Lads | 14 |
| Team Nuclear | 11 |
| Individuals: | |
| Jeremy Neale | 79 |
| Wael Aljeshi | 29 |

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is, as ever, new and improved, with prizes for both the winning team and the winning individual.

Points are awarded for each puzzle solved, double if you're the first correct solution.

As it's a new year, why not go ahead and aim for the big time? If you're determined to win, you could rack up some serious points.

Send your solutions to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk!

SPORT

Felix Sports League

...where do you stand?



| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Diff | Index |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 1 Fencing W1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 403 | 233 | 170 | 5.00 |
| 2 ICSM Football M2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 5.00 |
| 3 ICSM Hockey W2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 5.00 |
| 4 Lacrosse W2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 5.00 |
| 5 Tennis M1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 10 | 28 | 5.00 |
| 6 Tennis W1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 4 | 52 | 5.00 |
| 7 Ultimate Frisbee 1st | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 9 | 36 | 5.00 |
| 8 Hockey W1 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 12 | 4.50 |
| 9 Rugby M1 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 242 | 149 | 93 | 3.88 |
| 10 Badminton W1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 25 | 15 | 10 | 3.80 |
| 11 Fencing M1 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 585 | 460 | 125 | 3.20 |
| 12 Hockey M2 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 10 | 13 | 3.20 |
| 13 Table Tennis W1 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 6 | 13 | 3.20 |
| 14 Basketball M1 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 465 | 380 | 85 | 2.86 |
| 15 ICSM Badminton W1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 14 | 4 | 2.75 |
| 16 Badminton M1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 13 | 14 | 2.60 |
| 17 Squash W1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 2.60 |
| 18 Tennis M2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 40 | 32 | 8 | 2.50 |
| 19 Fencing W2 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 564 | 585 | -21 | 2.00 |
| 20 ICSM Hockey W1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 9 | 14 | 2.00 |
| 21 Lacrosse W1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 85 | 36 | 49 | 2.00 |
| 22 Netball W1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 240 | 195 | 45 | 2.00 |
| 23 Football M1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 1.57 |
| 24 Badminton M2 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 19 | -6 | 1.40 |
| 25 Basketball W1 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 278 | 223 | 55 | 1.40 |
| 26 Lacrosse M1 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 51 | 27 | 24 | 1.40 |
| 27 ICSM Badminton M2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 17 | -2 | 1.25 |
| 28 Football M3 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 14 | -1 | 1.14 |
| 29 Hockey W2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 26 | -20 | 0.83 |
| 30 Football M2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 19 | -2 | 0.71 |
| 31 Fencing M2 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 697 | 683 | 14 | 0.50 |
| 32 Futsal M1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 27 | -9 | 0.50 |
| 33 ICSM Football M1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 6 | -2 | 0.50 |
| 34 ICSM Netball W1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 82 | 72 | 10 | 0.50 |
| 35 ICSM Netball W2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 52 | 50 | 2 | 0.50 |
| 36 ICSM Netball W4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 47 | 50 | -3 | 0.50 |
| 37 ICSM Rugby M3 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 88 | 90 | -2 | 0.50 |
| 38 Squash M3 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 19 | -9 | 0.50 |
| 39 Table Tennis M2 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 53 | 49 | 4 | 0.50 |
| 40 Rugby M2 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 92 | 132 | -40 | -0.14 |
| 41 Golf Mixed 1st | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 10 | -3 | -0.25 |
| 42 Table Tennis M1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 38 | 47 | -9 | -0.40 |
| 43 Basketball M2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 225 | 195 | 30 | -1.00 |
| 44 ICSM Badminton M1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 14 | -4 | -1.00 |
| 45 ICSM Rugby M1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 52 | 104 | -52 | -1.00 |
| 46 ICSM Rugby M2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 32 | 135 | -103 | -1.00 |
| 47 Netball W3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 109 | 100 | 9 | -1.00 |
| 48 Rugby M3 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 100 | 120 | -20 | -1.43 |
| 49 Hockey M1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 30 | -21 | -1.57 |
| 50 Football W1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 35 | -31 | -1.75 |
| 51 Netball W2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 95 | 164 | -69 | -2.20 |
| 52 Squash M1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 22 | -19 | -2.20 |
| 53 Hockey M3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 18 | -11 | -2.50 |
| 54 ICSM Netball W5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 25 | 185 | -160 | -2.50 |
| 55 Squash M2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 18 | -7 | -2.50 |
| 56 Squash M4 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 15 | -12 | -2.50 |
| 57 Fencing M3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 437 | 521 | -84 | -4.00 |
| 58 Hockey M4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 38 | -35 | -4.00 |
| 59 ICSM Basketball M1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 46 | 64 | -18 | -4.00 |
| 60 ICSM Hockey M1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 26 | -20 | -4.00 |
| 61 ICSM Hockey M2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 19 | -16 | -4.00 |
| 62 ICSM Hockey M3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | -3 | -4.00 |
| 63 ICSM Hockey W3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | -7 | -4.00 |
| 64 ICSM Netball W3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 26 | 106 | -80 | -4.00 |

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

sport Imperial

Web: www3.imperial.ac.uk/sports
 Facebook: Search 'Sport Imperial'
 Twitter: @SportImperial

BUDS: Snowsports without snow

Gerald Hawkins
Snowsports

Life is a relentless cycle of untold misery; the daily drudgery of existence a crushing weight on the unfortunate shoulders of the conscious and the sober. An all-too-brief respite from this grim reality was granted to the dedicated few who chose to brave the annual pilgrimage to Edinburgh for the only dryslope snowsports event ever to achieve a reclassification to Class B.

400 miles of tarmac and a severe reduction in life expectancy was all that stood between these intrepid adventurers and glory. The dampest, blurriest, and most sleep deprived event on the snowsports calendar, it is of course time once more for BUDS (British University Dryslope Championship).

During passage, nervous glances were exchanged amongst travellers as a cold sweat covered the collective brow of our firm-handed helmsman and women, skilfully navigating the 15 seater land craft and accompanying five seater "pussy wagon" to the infamous pub-toilet brown slopes of the Midlothian snowsports centre.

Truly blessed were these men and women, as the usually cruel Scottish weather Gods had gifted them a rain free weekend. The

next few days were to be lost in a sweaty haze of dirty women, warm Buckfast, and filthy dubstep.

Broadly speaking, BUDS goes can be divided into three camps; the diehard participants, the nonchalant spectators, and the van warriors – who are most likely to be found draped across the front seats of the gentle diesel giant, basking in the warm breath of its powerful electric heaters.

The first of these groups put in an impressive performance over the weekend, and despite the long wait to ski ratio (think 2 hours sat at the top of the hill for a 20 second descent) our ski race team did particularly well, with Simon Federer finishing top out of the London unis for individual ski racing.

Of course the real star of the show, the untamed beast that crawls out from Edinburgh's grimy underbelly, only rears its head at night – the freestyle comp. Luckily, Imperial had its age-old father and son duo to "reprazent" this year, with Luke Bridgestock leading the way with a slow, controlled, and confident 3, which he nailed to the dindex.

John "Scab-me-please" McGukin followed like a faithful squire in his father's board tracks, and landed a similarly dope 3, to an eruption of applause from the capacity crowd, and supersonic squeal of "John

boy!" from our club captain-cum-mother, Beth Burks.

The standard of freestyle at BUDS has increased so dramatically in recent years that on the final night we witnessed something hither to unseen at a student snowsports competition. The weathered audience was whipped into a quasi-religious frenzy by the man on the mike, resident MC Sketch, to chants of "dooooouuble, doooooouuble". Moments later the atmosphere exploded as a skier landed a double front flip. Hands were thrown towards the sky, strangers were caught in impulsive embrace, as this shared moment brought a tear to the eyes of even the most soulless and battle hardened of snowsports warriors. The beats were cranked, and the audience pumped; a climatic end to an unforgettable event.

It's at some point between the fourth "breakfast fag", and finding yourself legs akimbo by the side of a Scottish cathedral, stinking of booze, that you are forced to re-evaluate your life. We did just that at BUDS, and came across a startling realisation. We are where we want to be. So we lay this monstrous event to rest, quivering in moist anticipation for next year, and prepare ourselves for the furious mental blizzard of the Winter trip. We went big, now it's time to go home.

Rugby League play first ever game

IC Rugby League



The guy on the left obviously tried it a bit too hard

Will Brown
Rugby League

Imperial played their first competitive fixture of the season against Woking College in what was a development fixture for both sides. Woking won 54-22 but it proved a fantastic experience for the new Imperial team.

The first half was very competitive with Imperial's Padhraic Comerford, later named man of the match, opening the scoring with

an early try. Tries followed from scrum half Jack Neil and hooker Stephen Dias but the fitness and experience of the Woking side proved decisive in the second half. A number of breakaway tries and crucial lapses in concentration cost Imperial the chance of a win in their first game.

Darren Pugsley, Imperial Head coach, said: "It was a vital that they got some game time under their belts. We have a lot of lads new to rugby so we needed to get them into a game situation. Woking College are an

experienced and talented outfit and fitted the bill perfectly."

Imperial President, David Hobson, was upbeat after the game commenting: "Despite the score line this was a relatively evenly matched fixture and has given some of our young players the chance to experience rugby league. All of the players really enjoyed the fixture and we're looking forward to getting back on the training field this week." For more information or to get involved contact rfl@imperial.ac.uk.

SPORT

discDoctors grab BUCS points

discDoctors



Well, you can tell it's the indoor nationals

Alex Hunt Ultimate

On Friday 25 November, 11 of Imperial College discDoctors' finest men embarked on a campaign to compete against the other 15 best university indoor teams in the country. It was the weekend of Open Indoor Nationals and it carried the potential for discDoctors (dD) to earn some BUCS points for Imperial College.

dD's first pool game on Saturday morning saw them facing the Manchester team, Halcyon. It proved to be a tough start against clinical opposition resulting in a 6-8 defeat. Oxford's team, OW!, provided dD with their second game. After losing the first game dD wanted this one bad and came out with a fluid and organised offense. It was enough to claim an 8-6 win over the Champions of the Midlands region. The final pool game saw dD face Blaze from Sterling University. Imperial's finest eventually won the game 6-5 by a gritty sudden-death point. Next up for

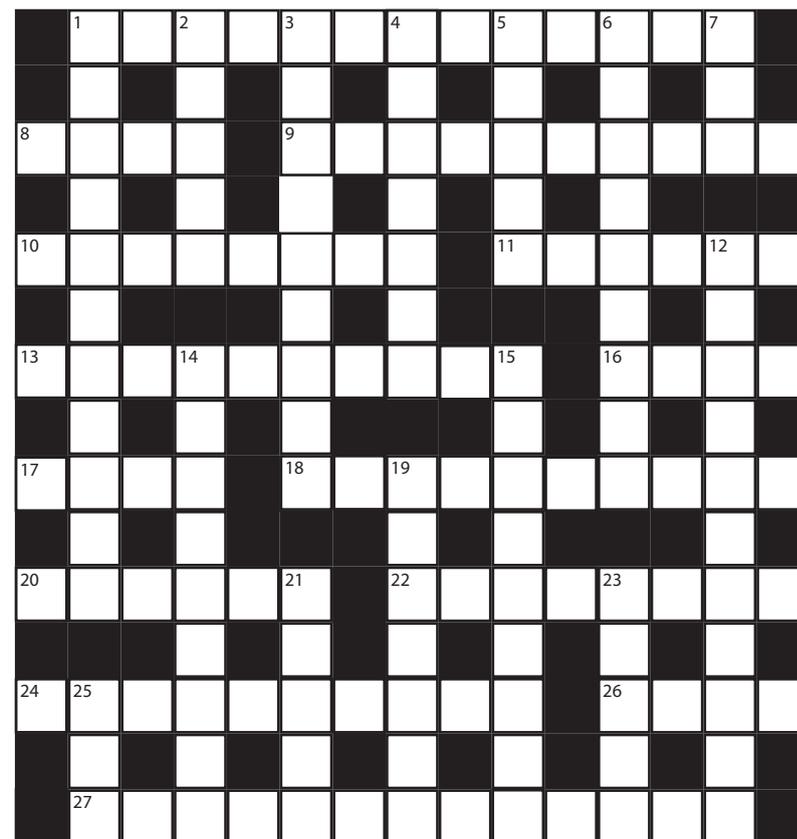
dD were two power pool games, the first against Trinity College Dublin. dD's constantly improving defence saw a lot of pressure placed on the Dubliners causing numerous turnovers and propelling Imperial to a comfortable win. The last game on Saturday saw dD take on Skunks from Southampton in the toughest game of the weekend. Skunk's team had a lofty average height and they managed to use this to their advantage with an impressive long game. After a full day of Ultimate dD carried out classic tournament tradition and went for a team curry, complete with Chinese whispers in German!

discDoctors entered Sunday in 11th position and started the day with a crossover match against the team in 6th place, Haze from Loughborough. If Imperial won this game they'd be propelled into 6th place. dD came into this game fired up and with all guns blazing scoring a few points on the trot. When Haze finally woke up from their reverie, it was all a bit too late for a comeback giving dD a 6-3 win. This result put Im-

perial in the Top 8. The next match was a quarter finals game against the very physical team of Blaze from Dundee. dD had ups and downs in a very tight contest that saw Blaze come out on top through clinical and organised play to clinch a 6-8 victory. The penultimate matchup was against Sublime of Portsmouth University. This too proved to be a very tight game with both teams trying to slow each other down using zone defence. As both sides knew each other too well, zone proved a futile choice with the respective zones being worked through extremely patiently. Sublime managed to come out on top with a 5-7 victory. The final game of the tournament saw Imperial facing off once again with OW! It was a match that could have ended either way with the balance tipped in OW!'s favour resulting in a 7-9 loss.

After two days and nine intense games of Ultimate, Imperial discDoctors ended their Open Indoor National campaign in 8th position, with their first ever BUCS points for Imperial College.

Cryptic Crossword 1,506



Across

1. Put an end to juice game (6)
4. Celestial body is a drug (8)
9. Neighbours on either side make animal noises (6)
10. Portuguese count in Western coast of Ionian province (8)
12. God with sore back (4)
13. Distorted facial expression in the hoods (5)
14. Hear hear? (4)
17. Sex addict can champion many movements (12)
20. Christian ship on the run crashes, but brings them back dead or alive (6,6)
23. Significant work stirring soup (4)
24. Looks at the gentry (5)
25. Steady business (4)
28. Dizzy Prime Minister (8)
29. Past elements include faded colours (6)
30. Indication to stop in a seedy part of town (3,5)
31. Remained boring-sounding (6)

Down

1. Burning to hold a note while giving voice (8)
2. Inform us about costumes (8)
3. Chase around London neighbourhood (4)
5. North country measurement from police HQ (8,4)
6. Throw out, so as to measure up (4)
7. Empty lives of Greek fruits (6)
8. Jackass has master key (6)
11. Calm hometown somewhere in the Empire (12)
15. Confusion over no money runs riot (5)
16. Cherish the radioactive material found in the valley. (5)
18. Exclusively non-drinking lyrics in disarray (8)
19. Compressed tread contains enough to be flattened (8)
21. Bird in an apartment over the riverhead (6)
22. Tightened wallet is dead (6)
26. Malign head of African state (4)
27. Massive Virginia highway (4)

A Happy New Year from

FELIX SPORT

Don't forget to:

Send us your reports!

Help us to edit this section!

Email sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial Snowsports Club

Some like it dry

Imperial Snowsports make do without the white stuff at the BUDS championship

Full report: Page 30



Imperial Eagles held by Great Danes

Roberto Galli
Handball

Have you ever felt that tension, that awareness that to achieve your goal you will have to fight and exceed your own limits? On the day of the most important match of the season the Imperial Eagles felt exactly that way.

The Eagles were about to play the second team of the English first division handball champion: Great Dane, the most titled team in the UK. Many of those first division players play also in the second division but to the Eagles this was not important. "Imperial! What is your profession? Augh Augh Augh!" Let the match begin!

The early stages of the game saw a solid Great Dane taking the lead on the Eagles who seemed shy in defense and attack. But on the 4-7, just when Great Dane was getting confident the Eagles struck back and scored 4 goals taking the 8-7 lead with mighty shots from left-back veteran Lucas Carsten and right-back Max Flashback.

The Eagles were now in control and had their fate in their own hands (literally). The game proceeded with the Eagles leading by 1 or 2 goals until a yellow card to Lucas Carsten and a penalty offered Great Dane the equalizer. Perfect set-up for Great Dane right? You might think. Not when the goal-keeper is handball legend Stefan Bauer! Stefan Bauer, also known as Snakey B., saved the penalty and the Eagles maintained the lead. By half-time, line-player and club president Kolja Ortmann (Papa Bear as he likes

to call himself) and left-back Yannick Seis had secured a 12-10 lead for the Eagles. "Hot jets of man-steam" from the Eagles!

As soon as the second half whistle echoed in cold Leyton hall, Great Dane began an aggressive defense policy. The Eagles offered a couple of counter attacks but maintained the lead. This time goals come from centre players Charles Magne and Kristof and a couple by the right wing signed Ruben Freytag. Left wing player and club captain Roberto Galli, elected more for his partying skills and outstanding physical beauty rather than handball talent, also scored a couple of important goals.

The Eagles' Greek keeper Mega Alexandros, who is believed to descend directly from Alexander the Great himself, saved some tough shots and helped keeping the Eagles 2 or 3 goals up. At 5 minutes to the end of the game, with a five goal lead (23-18) the Eagles were about to make history and set a new standard for English Handball Second Division.

Despite all this, just when you think you can start heading for a warm shower and are already planning to grab some cheap celebratory lager from Tesco, that's when you get punished (or biffé as you say in French)! Complete madness and unmentionable handball from the Eagles allowed Great Dane to climb back to reach a final score of 25-25. Sacrebleu! What a shame! All in all, a draw is a good result and the Eagles proved capable of great handball... but this draw really does taste like defeat!

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