

SOPA, PIPA and Piracy

Planned American legislation will be ineffective in war on online piracy: **Page 31**



Clayponds in crisis

Residents speak out over plans to close postgraduate halls

Matthew Colvin

Students have expressed their concern at the planned closure of postgraduate hall of residence Clayponds, with Imperial College Union President Scott Heath expressing his "disappointment" at an alleged lack of communication between the College and the Union with regards to the College's decision.

Clayponds, located in South Ealing, is a student housing estate containing 136 houses and flats and providing accommodation for 325 postgraduate students. Like undergraduate halls of residence, Clayponds has its own wardening team, and social and sporting activities are regularly organised for its residents.

The wardening team was made aware of the College's intention to close Clayponds in December, leading to current and past residents expressing their concern at such a decision. An email sent directly to Rector Sir Keith O'Nions by subwarden Craig Court resulted in a personal response confirming the aim to close Clayponds, while outlining the reasoning behind the decision.

Mr Craig's email placed emphasis on the affordability of Clayponds, claiming that new postgraduate accommodation such as Clapham's Griffon Studios or Imperial West appeals to "a completely

...Continued on Page 4

Tommy Allieri



Clayponds is located in South Ealing, and houses over 300 postgraduate students

SCIENCE



A delay for the next ice age

Page 8

FILM



Spielberg rides to equine victory

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FOOD



Tips and tricks for a year of food

Page 33

Rector takes pay cut amidst university pay rises

Sophia David

An examination of thirteen of the UK's top universities' financial statements from 2010-11 has revealed that their leaders earned an average salary of £333,000, with an average pay rise of £9,700.

The highest paid was Professor Andrew Hamilton, vice-chancellor of Oxford University, who received a to-

tal pay packet of £424,000. The vice-chancellors of Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds, Nottingham, Bristol and Southampton all received a pay rise.

These latest pay rises come amidst a squeeze in university budgets in the last year with £215m cut from teaching budgets and £142m cut from capital project budgets used for new buildings and developments. They have

prompted calls for the government's crackdown on excessive executive pay to be extended to universities.

Meanwhile, some vice-chancellors did take a pay cut including the rector of Imperial, Sir Keith O'Nions. However, O'Nions remains the third highest-paid vice chancellor, receiving a total pay packet of £354,000. A further six employees at Imperial were also listed as having earned over

£270,000 in 2010-11, compared to three the year before.

Sally Hunt, general secretary of the University and College Union, commented that the average salary of university leaders was "eye-wateringly high", particularly since lecturers have faced a 7% real-terms pay cut since 2009.

A survey by *The Independent* also ...Continued on Page 5

HIGHLIGHTS

What's on

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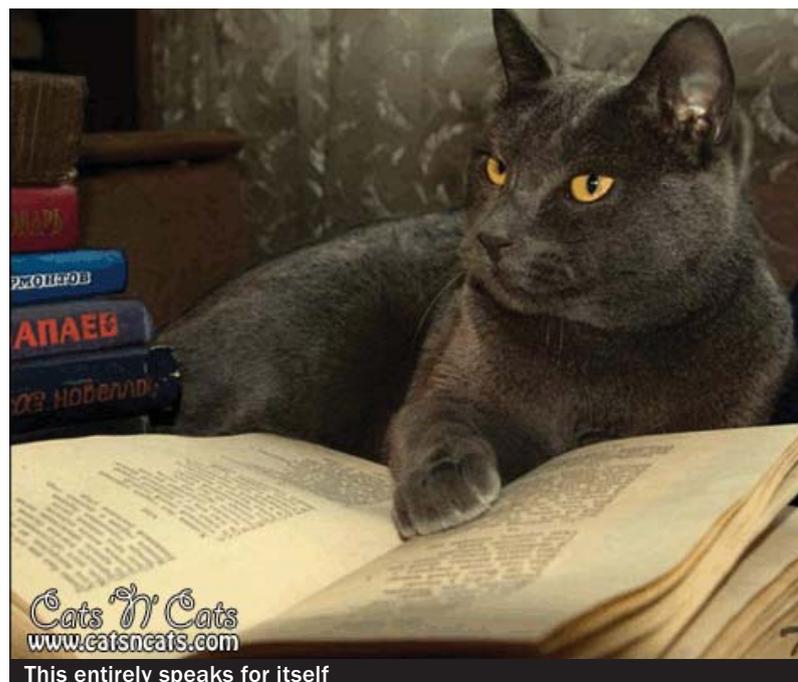
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PICK OF THE WEEK

Put those journals away folks, Books is back



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This entirely speaks for itself

Another week sees the return of another section, long thought lost to the world (read: Beit Quad). A big welcome back to Books, ready to take you on a literary journey like no other.

If you feel that Felix isn't providing material worthy of a section yet to exist, get in contact and you could be up and editing before you know it.

Just think of the sheer power that could be at your fingertips, I know I do. Daily.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Part time 'nanny', required in W14

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Lolcat of teh week



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BUSINESS IMPERIAL

In Brief**Imperial collects lowest amount of university library fines**

Imperial College London are bottom of a league table. Luckily, this is a list of the amount of money raised from library fines. Only £26,703 was collected in fines in the period between the 2005/2006 academic year and now. As all students know, if you don't pay your fines, you aren't allowed to use the library. It's hard to speculate, but maybe the thought of being barred from the library is so unnerving that Imperial students promptly return their books.

On hearing the news, Jason Parmar, Deputy President (Education) stated that Imperial "prides itself on its world class library facilities and learning resources".

The highest London based university was King's in fourth place, who, no doubt, found it confusing to be so high up on a table. In at number one was Leeds, managing to collect £1,869,340 in fines over the course of six academic years. As this is Leeds, the term academic is used lightly. The previous statement could be seen to be unfair; the amount raised could suggest that Leeds' students love their subjects so much that they can't bear to give their books back, or that they're just lazy and forget.

After looking at the table Parmar went on to say: "It's one of the contributing factors to why we are so much better than UCL and are higher than them in the rankings – lol, PAR". He refused to comment on the social acceptability of using the word "lol" in conversation.

Deborah Shorley, Director of Library Services, called Imperial's position at the bottom of the table as a "great victory" and that "it is a very good reflection on the Imperial student" as they are "so well behaved". She stressed that Imperial only imposes fines to make sure the books circulate and that it was not a way of generating money.

Team Leader for User Services Angus Brown added, "We only charge fines on the late return of reserved and high demand books, and otherwise encourage students to renew items they continue to need. It's incredibly difficult to compare libraries (and universities) across the sector, but I think it's fair to say we're quietly pleased to be bottom of this particular league."

Tim Arbabzadah

Jonathan Peek



Central Library's new entrance was inaugurated in December

Support for Clayponds

David Robertson



...Continued from Front Page
different demographic" in terms of accommodation costs.

"If Clayponds is closed, replacing it will be impossible," he continued. "Finding a self contained site with 136 properties of flats and houses in zone 3 with good transport links via the Piccadilly Line straight into college is unrealistic. Converting those properties into student accommodation, including common room facilities and offices for hall supervisors would also be expensive. Clayponds provides for some of your poorer postgraduate students the accommodation they need, just as it has been doing for around 20 years."

The Rector's response aimed to provide some background to the College's decisions, beginning with a reassurance that "we care very much that safe and affordable accommodation is provided for students whilst they study at College."

The response details that a focus group was held in February 2011, "which returned a clear message that students wanted the College to provide accommodation in areas within 30 minutes travel time to the South Kensington campus and close to public transport for increased security, particularly in the evenings."

"Postgraduate students stressed that, unlike when they were undergraduates living away from home for the first time, they wanted an independent living experience but with opportunities to socialise as they wish. The College developed its postgraduate accommodation strategy with this feedback as a key focus."

In addition, the Rector raised concerns about the suitability of Clayponds in the long term, citing an "over 50 minute travel time to South Kensington, in an area with little to offer students in their leisure time."

"Through selling Clayponds the College will be able to raise in the order of £25m-£30m. This will be reinvested in the provision of bursaries to all Imperial postgraduates students that choose to live in GradPad accommodation [Grif-

fon Studios in Clapham or Imperial West at Wood Lane]; the bursary will be in the region of £25 per week for postgraduates in 2012-13. This subsidy will enable Imperial's students to live in better quality accommodation, much closer to South Kensington, than Clayponds currently offers."

Past and present residents of Clayponds have contacted Felix in response to these statements.

Lauren Clark was a resident at Clayponds for one year, until September 2011, and believes that the loss of the accommodation there would "greatly detract from the experience of future postgraduate students". Writing that "the availability of affordable student housing was instrumental in making my time at Imperial enjoyable," reference is also made to the estate's social side: "Clayponds Village also provided a great community atmosphere and culture that can not be easily recreated." In response to the longer commute and activities, she continues: "while the commute time is something I did gripe about, I'd have to strenuously disagree about the surrounding area having little to offer. Kew Gardens and Richmond are a single bus ride away

Séverine Maréchal, writing in an open letter, also emphasises the community of the site, or "Clayponds identity" – "the dynamism and enthusiasm of the wardens and staff... fostered by numerous activities and a constant on-duty presence." Also highlighting the affordability of the location in comparison to Griffon Studios, she continues: "Personally I would not have been able to join Imperial, would I not have had this accommodation option".

John Castle, resident at Clayponds for the 2010-2011 academic year, recalls an "amazing year", again highlighting the "superb community feel". Rubbing claims that the area offers little to do for leisure, Mr Castle highlights the local eateries, pubs and opportunities for sport in the nearby Gunnersbury Park.

"The way that these plans seem to have been kept quiet by the se-

nior management has really annoyed me. Clayponds is an Imperial institution well-loved by its current and former residents, many of whom return to visit. A rationale adequate for closing such a successful part of the College needs to be quite spectacular, and yet it has not been forthcoming."

Union President Scott Heath has actively stated his concern with the closure, claiming that the "consultation [the Union] had [with College] was absolutely zero". Expressing his "disappointment" with the lack of contact with College, especially in light of the "direct impact" that such an event would have on the student body, he continued: "the one-year bursary scheme is a clear sign that College recognises that Grad Pad is pricing out a large number of students. Unfortunately this level of bursary is not enough to 'price in' students."

"We currently have no fit for purpose postgraduate accommodation if you want to replicate what Clayponds offers. Maybe a few years down the line we will have postgraduate accommodation that has the same community spirit, but until then College must provide low-cost accommodation if they have any care or consideration about making life affordable (comfortable)."

"This whole situation is reminiscent of last year's Life Sciences restructure and a sign that the Union needs to have the chance to consult Management Board papers."

The College's Management Board, which is chaired by the Rector, is delegated authority to approve projects with a total value of less than £5m. Hence, the selling of Clayponds, which could generate over £25m, must also be approved by the College Council. Imperial College Union, while not sitting on the Management Board, do sit on College Council, who will meet on 10 February. Heath indicated that he will "use the position in Council to voice the opinion of the Student Body and apologise to all members that neglect of Management Board to consult us means that such comments must be aired there."

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- Alex Kendall, IC Union President 2010-11

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Average pay rise of £10,000 for University leaders

...Continued from Front Page revealed that vice-chancellors and other senior staff claimed a total of approximately £700,000 in expenses in 2010-11, a drop from £883,000 the previous year.

Usman Ali, vice-president of the National Union of Students, also commented, “When students are facing trebled tuition fees and massive youth unemployment, and as universities deal with swingeing cuts to teaching budgets, it is appalling that university heads continues to fill their boots.”

Vice-chancellors’ salaries are usually determined by remuneration committees that most often do not include other employees. Hunt said, “I think there is a very strong argument for employee and student representatives to sit on university remuneration boards. It is vital that we ensure there is proper scrutiny of vice-chancellors’ pay and pension provision.”



Meanwhile, Nicola Dandridge, chief executive of Universities UK, said the remuneration packages “reflected what it takes to recruit and re-

tain individuals able to run complex, multimillion-pound organisations, which are operating in an increasingly competitive, global market.”

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts

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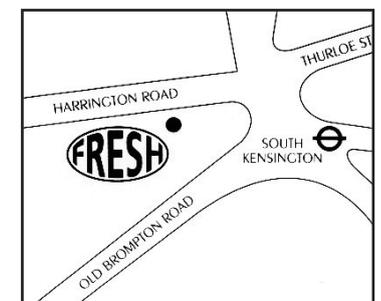
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NEWS

RCSU Science Challenge launched

Overall winner will receive tour of CERN and £2,000

Alexander Karapetian

The Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) launched the Science Challenge 2012 on Tuesday 18 January after holding an event that saw students turn out in force. The launch event, held in the Sir Alexander Fleming building, revealed the questions which this year's Science Challenge revolve around, with Paul Beaumont, RCSU Vice President (Operations) and Science Challenge Chair hosting the night.

The Science Challenge is an essay writing competition that aims to encourage scientific debate, reasoning and the communication of science in a public friendly context. Paul Beaumont emphasised the need for entrants to write a "compelling scientific argument that any member of the public, with only a basic grounding in science could read, understand and be swayed by".

Guest speakers included Managing Director of Sustainability Services at Accenture Peter Lacy, BBC's Science Editor, Imperial alumnus and former Felix Editor Pallab Ghosh and Professor Lord Robert Winston, who each set a question along with Mark Henderson, head of communications at the Wellcome Trust, who was unable to attend.

Entrants select one topic question and must write 800 words by 5 March, when the competition closes. Tuesday's launch event saw the speakers tell stories of their experiences with science communication, which were preceded by speeches from the Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences Professor Maggie Dallman on communication as a valuable asset and former RCSU President Jad Marrouche.

The event was modernised with an interactive live twitter stream being displayed on one screen for the attendees to post collectively as they experienced the event. The tweets were aggregated under the hashtag #SciChal but the screen was shortly switched off as there was no moderation mechanism in place.

The questions for this year's Science Challenge this year are as follows:

Lord Robert Winston: "What are the five main ethical issues that face modern science and how do we tackle them?"

Pallab Ghosh: "What is the role of science journalism in the 21st Century?"

Peter Lacy: "What scientific breakthrough should we focus on to provide sustainable food, energy and water for nine billion on a planet of apparently finite natural resources, and why?"

Maria Veiga



Guest speakers (left to right) Peter Lacy, Lord Robert Winston and Pallab Ghosh

Mark Henderson: "How should politicians best make use of science?"

The competition allows both Imperial students to enter as well as students from secondary schools and colleges, with a separate prize branch for external students. Two unallocated tickets to the House of Lords dinner, where the final is expected to be held, were handed out during the launch to Annina Sartor, who successfully answered the arithmetic riddle given

with 131, the number of years since the RCSU's founding.

RCSU President Luke Kanczes praised the launch, telling Felix that he's "really excited that [they've] launched this year's Science Challenge", adding "hopefully, the questions will generate some fantastic responses to some of the biggest questions facing today's Scientists."

The event makes a change from last year's scaled down version, where the

RCSU were unable to secure sponsorship for the awards. The budget this year is substantially larger and is reflected in the prizes.

The overall winner of this year's Science Challenge will receive a tour of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN as well as a cash prize of £2,000. The category winners will receive a cash prize of £500, with the finalists all also receiving a tour and dinner reception at the House of Lords.

Concern over future of Humanities

Maciej Matuszewski

Concerns have been raised about the future of the Humanities department at Imperial by one of its lecturers, Didier Occhipinti. Mr Occhipinti, who teaches French at the College, was due to present a lecture to the Political Philosophy Society late last term but cancelled the event in protest of what he sees as the threat of a "death by a thousand cuts" to the department.

Speaking to Felix Mr Occhipinti raised the issue of "things at the College with which [he feels] more and more disturbed with". He believes that "discrimination to humanities is on the increase", and that this sort of "anti-intellectualism can go hand in hand with elitism". This discrimination has manifested itself in Humanities department having spent the past three years in a state of near "permanent restructuring" – the much debated proposed changes to the College timetable being just the latest example following large cuts in

previous years.

These latest proposals are a particular concern of Charmian Brinson, the department's Director of Language Studies. She says that the "College Day proposals as they stand will have the effect of reducing student options and adversely affecting the overall student experience just at the point when student fees are about to be tripled". Professor Brinson also points out "Humanities Department was not represented on the College Day Committee" and that while the former Head of the Department, Professor Andrew Warwick, was invited to one of Committee's sessions "the points he made at the meeting were not incorporated into the College Day document".

Mr Occhipinti stresses that, whilst on their own the various changes to Humanities are reasonable; together they pose a real threat to the Department. He believes that "by toying with Humanities the way management is doing a tipping point will be reached from which

Humanities will not recover" and that there is a "real divide between senior management and students and lecturers" who support humanities. Felix was shown a student comment from last autumn SOLE survey which bemoaned how "departments officially encourage humanities, but in practice, do almost anything to discourage students from taking any course (or at least attentively keeping up with it)".

He says that he does not understand the false divide between sciences and humanities and points out how beneficial the subjects taught by the Department can be to Imperial students. He points to a quote from the *Observer* which he thinks explains it best: "The study of history, philosophy, languages and literature broadens horizons and animates minds that go on to enrich society in many ways. The advantages that flow from research into the creative output of humanity might not be obviously financial, but they are incalculable."

Jonathan Peek



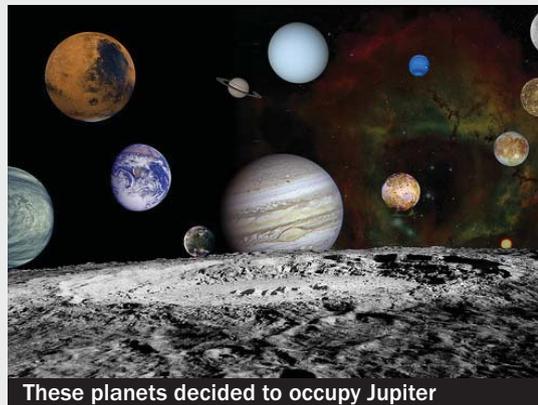
The Department of Humanities has spent the past three years in a state of "restructuring"

In brief**More planets than stars?**

Scientists have found that planets around a star may be the rule, rather than the exception. Announced at the American Astronomical Society meeting and published in *Nature* on the same day, an international collaboration of scientists say that there may be more planets than stars within our galaxy.

A new technique known as gravitational microlensing has allowed the team to look for planets further away from the host star than they have previously been able to. They found a group of planets that are very far from their host star, or even unbound, and conclude that these planets are at least as numerous as stars in the Milky Way.

The results indicate that planetary systems like our own solar system may be more normal than we had previously imagined. Whereas most exoplanets found in the past have been similar to gas giants, due to the techniques used to detect them, Cassan and his colleagues analysis suggests that 62% of stars have a super-Earth (a planet bigger than Earth, but a lot smaller than a gas giant) orbiting them.



These planets decided to occupy Jupiter

Science Museum Lates

Tired of the same old Union every Wednesday? Check out the Science Museum Lates between 7 and 10pm on Wednesday the 25th. The Lottolab on the first floor will be running a psychology experiment with delicious cocktails, DJs, live artists and more! With free entry, cheap drinks and a decent ratio, what's stopping you?

Science Museum, Wednesday 25 January, 7pm

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The next ice age may be late

Carys Cook on how human activity may cause a delay in the next ice age

Human activity may be delaying the Earth's next ice age, a new study reveals, suggesting that atmospheric CO₂ concentrations need to be considerably lower for Earth's next climatic heartbeat to follow its natural rhythm. The study, by Professor Chronis Tzedakis and colleagues at the Environmental Change Research Centre at University College London, published in *Nature Geoscience*, looks at recent geological analogues of the current interglacials in order to answer a question that has, up to now, stumped climatologists – how long do we have until the next ice age?

Over the last few million years, Earth's climate has been dominated by fluctuations between ice ages (or glacials) and their corresponding warm periods (interglacials), climatic states that are controlled by the amount of solar radiation reaching the high latitudes of the Arctic and Antarctic. In turn, the amount of solar radiation reaching Earth on timescales of thousands of years is controlled by regular and mathematically predictable fluctuations in our planet's orbit during its transit around the Sun. For example, precession describes a 26,000 year shift in the orientation of Earth's axis of rotation, whereas obliquity, with a 41,000 year cycle, results from the wobble of Earth's axis relative to the solar plane. Despite their predictability, complications arise when attempting to reconstruct or predict the climate's response to these regular perturbations. This is because the Earth's climate is inherently complex, with many poorly understood processes that produce feedbacks and amplifications in response to changing solar insolation and greenhouse gas concentrations.

It is these uncertainties that mean that study-



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ing the timing of past glacial inceptions in the context of orbital variability is a bit redundant – the durations of past interglacials has been variable as a result of different climatic conditions and component responses. Despite this, there are one or two candidates that may be comparable to the modern interglacial – in particular, one event that occurred around 780,000 years ago. This climatic interval is the target of Tzedakis' study, due to similarities in the amount of solar insolation to today. In fact, their modelling suggests that today's levels of solar insolation would be sufficient to initiate an ice age in the next 1500 years, a remarkably short amount of time. However – and this is a big however – in order for an ice age to initiate, a threshold must be reached where atmospheric CO₂ concentrations are low enough to

permit global cooling. Today, CO₂ concentrations are around 390ppm and fast increasing, but the ice age inception threshold lies around 240ppm. The implications of this are massive – human activity is preventing the natural cyclicity of Earth's climate and may delay the next ice age, which is immediately imminent, at least in geological terms.

So, as the Global Warming Policy Foundation (the UK's leading source of climate change scepticism) suggests – we have a choice. Either we halt CO₂ emissions today and dress up warm and deal with the next ice age, or carry on the same and bask in the searing temperatures and flooding of the warm world of the future...either way, climate change is here and it is here to stay.

DOI:10.1038/ngeo1358

How leaping lizards use their tails

Maciej Matuszewski

Ever since 1969, when J H Ostrom proposed that theropod dinosaurs used their tails to maintain balance during fast movement, scientists have suggested that a wide range of animals, from primates to rodents, use active motion of appendages such as arms or tails to stabilise their motion. Now a team of scientists from the University of California, Berkeley, has found that by moving their tails, lizards can maintain a near constant pitch when moving through the air after a jump.

In their experiments the group made a number of Red-Headed Agama lizards (known scientifically as *Agama agama*) jump from a small block, or vault, to a raised platform. A high speed, 1000 frames per second camera was then used to record their motion. The vault was covered with "smooth glossy card stock", which meant that, as they jumped,

the lizards' legs slipped slightly – imparting an angular momentum to the lizards and causing their angle of flight through the air to change. After analysing the changes to the lizards' pitch caused by this effect, the scientists found that this was less than would have been expected if the lizards didn't have a tail and theorised that "by rotating their tails with respect to the body in the sagittal plane, the lizards transferred angular momentum from the body to tail, thereby reducing body angular velocity and ... body rotation".

To further test it the scientists constructed a wheeled robot with an attached rod to simulate a tail and set it running off a ramp to simulate the lizards' motion. The team says that while "inertial stabilization of robotic locomotion has been modelled before, [their robot was] the first with a specialized tail-like appendage for continuous inertial stabilization". When this 'tail' was moved in the way the lizards' tails had been observed to,

the angle by which the robot was rotated was 72% less than when the rod was held fixed.

Applying the model developed using this research to velociraptors – 1.5m high theropods that lived in the late Cretaceous, the team found that their extraordinarily flexible tails would have been even more effective in stabilising movement through the air than those of the *Agama agama*. They conclude that "small theropods like *Velociraptor* with active tails might have been capable of aerial acrobatics beyond even those displayed by present-day arboreal lizards".

While this research is of clear interest to biologists, the scientists believe the fact that they managed to replicate the effect seen in lizards in a robot shows that their work can not only "advance our understanding of appendage evolution", but also "provide biological inspiration for the next generation of manoeuvrable search-and-rescue robots".

DOI:10.1038/nature10710

SCIENCE

The brain is king

Marie-Laure Hicks on how marketing companies are trying to tap into your brain



Can I interest you in some car insurance? How about consolidating all your existing debts into one single monthly repayment? Please step into my office...

As the economic crisis continues, companies are developing new methods to make you buy, by going straight to the source: your brain. Marketing and advertisement have generally relied on focus groups and surveys to determine the efficiency of a campaign. This method poses a problem as it is difficult to measure a spontaneous reaction. Participants are asked a question and therefore consciously think about it, but 95% of consumer buying behaviour is unconscious. This is where neuroscience comes in.

In 2003, Read Montague and colleagues at the Baylor College of Medicine, Texas, decided to investigate the Pepsi Challenge with functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). Volunteers were given Pepsi or Coca Cola to drink, first in unlabelled cups. They were then given Pepsi or Coca Cola in labelled cups. Read Montague and colleagues measured brain activity as the volunteers sipped the beverage. The results were astonishing. Concerning the unlabelled drinks, volunteers expressed no distinct taste preference and most volunteers were unable to identify the brand. However, when the drinks were labelled, the drink in the Coca Cola labelled cup was clearly preferred. The parts of the brain that were

stimulated also varied. For the unlabelled cup, volunteers expressed high activity in the ventro-medial prefrontal cortex, associated with appetitive rewards. When the cups were labelled, the hippocampus, midbrain and dorsolateral prefrontal cortex were also stimulated. These regions of the brain are linked to emotions, memory and affective influence on behaviour. The text showed that in the case of Coke and Pepsi, taste was not the only factor necessary for preference: there was also a cultural factor linked to the brand.

A number of studies on brand loyalty have taken place since. They show that the cerebral behaviour of loyal customers is different to that of irregular customers in purchasing situations. Brand loyalty was associated with activity in the striatum, ventro-medial prefrontal cortex and anterior cingulate cortex, a network linked with emotions and rewards. On the other hand, when brand loyalty was not involved in a purchase choice, the brain activity patterns corresponded to more semantic processes like mathematical calculations, reading and strategic thinking. In the consumer society, successful brands are those that form an emotional link with their customer.

These findings are now being applied in neuromarketing to determine the efficiency of advertisement campaigns,

packaging and brand image. NeuroFocus, an American company, uses three factors to determine the efficiency of ads: attention, emotional engagement and memory retention. Using an electroencephalogram (EEG), they are able to measure the changes in electrical fields in regions of the brain as a function of time. This method does not provide the same information as an fMRI. The location of the brain activity is not very accurate and signals deep inside the brain are difficult to measure, however being able to follow changes in brain activity on a second by second basis is very useful. It is also cheaper. Using results from ADHD, Alzheimer's and phobia research, the different factors can be measured and quantized. The effectiveness of EEG measurements was verified by asking volunteers subjected to tests, whilst viewing adverts, related questions. Memorable and positive reception was linked to increased brain activity.

Marketing companies are now beginning to apply these theories. A Fanta advert, in which a girl crashes into a window, then walks off to start dancing and drink some Fanta given to her, was studied by Brain Impact, a European company studying unconscious decisions with fMRI. When the girl crashes into the window it triggers a peak of negative emotion, grabbing your attention

and the ending then generates a positive emotion. The advert also stimulates the "emotional" regions of the brain, not the rational ones. EEG and fMRI provide the means to determine the exact trigger that will generate the emotions and stimulate the rewards and memory regions of your brain for increased impact.

Neuroscience has already provided us with new and useful information on the human brain, and neuromarketing is a growing area of research, especially in private industry, that has the potential to do the same. However, the capacity to manipulate the human brain into certain behaviours leads to serious ethical issues. Adverts that have been developed with information provided by neuroscience have been shown to trigger purchase intent. If businesses have the capacity to "read their clients' minds", will the best interest of consumers be taken into account? Scientists have suggested that addictions to shopping could be amplified. In addition, volunteers taking part in studies have no control over the personal information they provide and their privacy can be breached. With the absence of regulation, neuromarketing has potentially dangerous applications and could affect the freedom of choice of customers, especially as political campaigns are showing interest in neuromarketing.

How we find faces

Madhura Ghosh

Our face is one of the main things that identifies us as an individual.

Babies have a tendency to attend to face and "face-like" stimuli (such as a triangle on a point as opposed to on a base). With faces practically hard-wired into our systems from a young age, it makes sense that there is a part of the brain dedicated to recognising faces in opposition to non faces – the fusiform gyrus.

However, what is perplexing to scientists is that such a finely tuned organ as the brain appears to have a lot of overlap in function between hemispheres.

Ming Meng and colleagues recently helped clear up this area of murky understanding proving there are indeed differences between the right and left fusiform gyri.

Firstly, the results show that the right fusiform gyrus tends to make face/non-face categorical judgements. As in, there is a clear cut-off point. In contrast, activity in the left fusiform gyrus appears to correspond to face similarities within an image. This is modulated by contextual information – an almost mental sharpening by enhancing responses to faces and diminishing them towards almost faces.

So, when we look at the 'faces' of inanimate objects, such as a car for example; I imagine the response in the brain goes a little like this:

Right Fusiform gyrus: "That is not a face."

Left Fusiform gyrus: "It's a little too square and metallic for a face, but look it's smiling!"

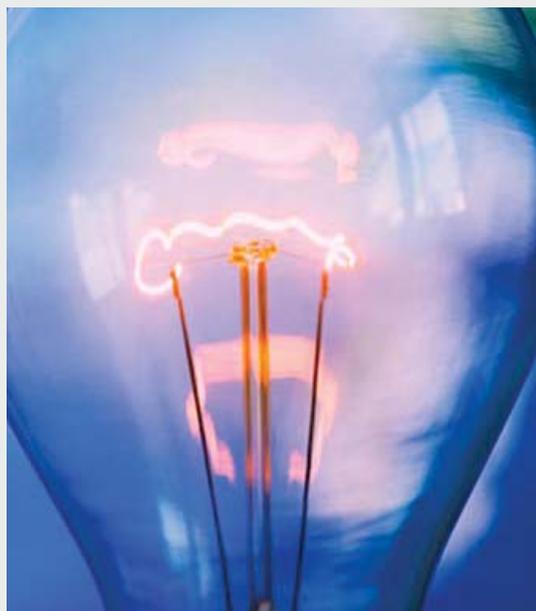
In the right hemisphere, as a categorical judgment has been made, there is no real enhancement or change.

This could possibly lead you to believe, with such a quick initial judgment being passed, that the right fusiform gyrus undertakes the rapid initial processing. As with many things concerning the brain, it is not that simple. Through careful studies, scientists have worked out that responses in the left side occur within two seconds of seeing the image and diminish quickly (correlating with rapid processing) while responses on the right can last up to eight seconds indicating deep cognition of faces.

However, this research is not simply about finding out where our childish ability to delight in face-like forms arises from. With the brain being as intricate and delicate as it is, problems can easily occur. Though our understanding is currently limited; research such as this that furthers our knowledge brings us one step closer to treating and helping a multitude of neurologically damaged patients.

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Letter from the Editors



In 2009 an advisory group chaired by Sir Martin Taylor FRS and comprising of two Nobel Laureates, two ex Science Ministers and two leaders in industry met as an advisory group to detail recommendations for government policy and the future of science in the UK. Their report – *The Scientific Century* – makes the case for continued investment in science during an austere age.

Published in the face of impending public spending cuts, the report warned of the need for urgent action to maintain the UK's position of competitive advantage in the sciences and technology. Their advice, summarised in six recommendations for government strategy, made the case for science and innovation led economic growth and explained how the fragile infrastructure that links these two ideas would be undermined by the "false economy" of cuts to the sector.

As well as the need to encourage industry and private research institutions through such a fiscal display of confidence, they also urged strong and confidence-boosting measures towards individuals. They recognised a need to encourage established scientists and early career researchers with funding incentives and greater numbers of postdoctoral fellowships, support schemes and improved visa conditions to enable overseas collaboration, as they put it, to "prioritise investment in excellent people."

The need for investment in people was traced from primary education right through to postgraduate education, and the current state of PhD training. A change in the academic landscape, whereby interdepartmental and intervaristy collaboration are encouraged, would improve the ability to progress pure science to innovation, but requires researchers with broader expertise than is offered by current PhD programmes. In order for postgraduate degrees to remain a bastion of intellectual achievement, respected both inside and outside careers in science, their content must change in some way to reflect both scientific and non-scientific spheres. As such, the 'soft skills' of teamwork, communication, and negotiation, often seen as peripheral to the academic agenda, must play a more fundamental role if higher education in the UK is to survive and prosper.

–The Business Editors

About turns on the road to academia

With *Nature* citing the number of PhDs as "growing like mushrooms", is the doctorate in need of reform?

Beñat Gurrutxaga-Lerma

In the age of privilege, when very few attended and graduated from university, achieving the degree of Doctor was a rare feat even amongst the educated. Doctors were revered in many of the royal courts of Europe and granted privileges reserved only to the highest peers of the realm: in Spain, France, the Holy Roman Empire and Portugal, doctors were exempt from uncovering their heads in the presence of the sovereign, and were allowed to address Him without previous questioning. Even the awarding of such PhDs was performed differently – these were not, for instance, awarded after a dissertation had been submitted, but instead granted to honour the academic career of the holder who, for one reason or another, had been deemed sufficiently distinguished as to deserve a doctoral degree. PhDs were thus intimately linked to academia – to the point that they were seldom awarded out of it – and doctors inevitably pursued academic careers because it was the only way of being awarded such degrees in the first place.

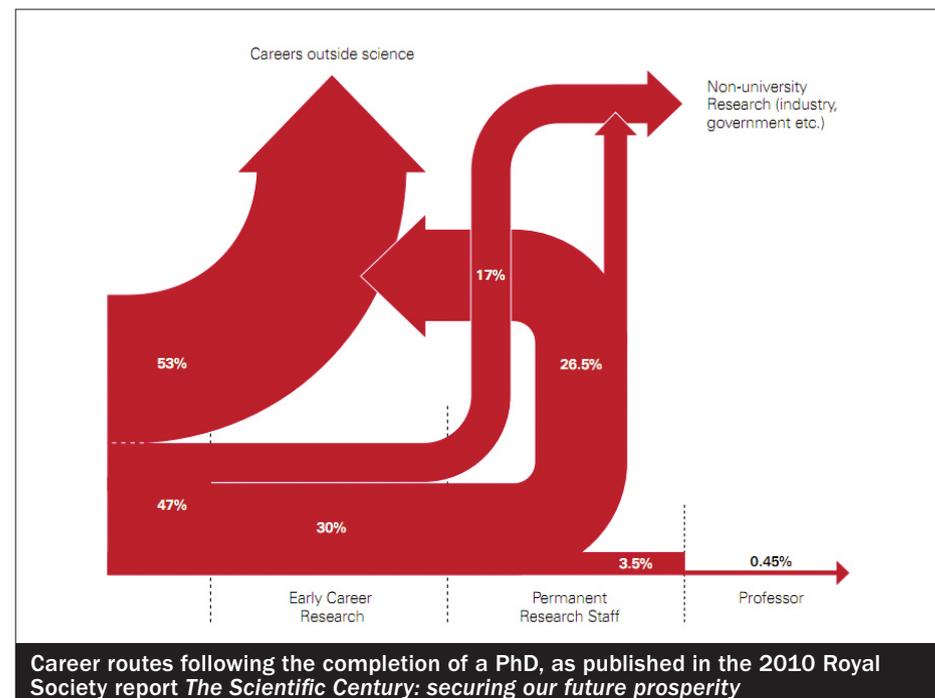
In the first half of the 19th century German universities redefined doctoral degrees to their present form: degrees granted after a period of thorough research leading to an original scientific contribution. American universities soon embraced this model and, begrudgingly, European universities such as Oxford and Cambridge ended up applying it too. However, the view of PhDs as academic-leading degrees still holds on in society.

Considering the high specialisation required of PhD candidates, both at the point of application, as well as in what is delivered – the programme content, this view is hardly surprising.

On average it takes at least 3 intense years to complete a PhD, and combined with the three to four years spent obtaining requisite Bachelor's and Master's degrees, makes doctorates palatable only for those with a strong bent towards a career in research. While the private non-academic sector does conduct significant amounts of research, this often does not include research deemed as risky, audacious or too vague, so that even in the USA most research is publicly funded and, excluding research laboratories, carried out in or around universities.

And then PhD programmes themselves are often shaped in such a way that doctoral students are trained for nothing but research and academia; skills such as team working, management, business, accountancy and law are often completely neglected in the pursuit of pure knowledge. It is no surprise that after such an upbringing most PhD candidates show a preference for academic careers when asked about their future employment preferences.

Besides, the huge spread of university grad-



uates in the last few decades has led to a steep increase in the amounts of doctors, drawing the editors of *Nature* to declare "PhDs now grow like mushrooms". As they pointed out some months ago, the number of doctorates earned each year has grown by 40% in the OECD countries during the last decade, and with a limited number of academic positions available, many such PhD graduates will never get jobs to match their qualifications; supply has outstripped demand.

This has two main consequences. For one, it makes the entry to an academic career a tighter competition. PhD holders are forced to gain better qualifications and improve their academic CVs, often by taking successive poorly paid postdoctoral positions. In many disciplines, having completed a few years of postdoc work is already an *a priori* requirement for an academic position, and in some extreme cases such as life sciences, people may well need to spend between five and ten years doing postdoctoral work before even being able to apply for a tenured position, which even then, is not guaranteed to be successful.

Recent data published by the Royal Society shows that of all PhD holders, 47% opt for what they euphemistically call "early career research", i.e. postdocs. Statistics show that only 3.5% of PhD holders will ever manage to become permanent research staff – academics – however, and even fewer (about 0.45%) will become university professors. With about 17% of PhD holders undertaking non-academic research careers, the overwhelming majority of PhDs end up in careers outside research.

This majority was recently reviewed in the *New York Times*. In an article titled "Is a Mas-

ter's the new Bachelor's?" the NYT analysed the difficulties many Bachelor's degree holders face when looking for graduate job positions owing to the ever increasing number of better qualified (Master's, in this case) degree holders. These Master's holders, in turn, struggle for job positions that were traditionally held for them, due to the widespread proliferation of the even more highly qualified doctors. Hence, the second consequence: the proliferation of academic degrees seems to have diluted the value of each qualification, and is thus changing the requirements on careers outside academia too.

While the situation is an unhappy one for Bachelor's and Master's degree holders, PhDs working outside academia often see themselves in positions for which they are overly qualified and underpaid. As was pointed out in *Nature*, PhDs themselves are not linked to significant gains in terms of salary – being only about 1-3.5% higher than that of Master's holders – nor in higher job satisfaction. The biggest beneficiaries of this situation are the private companies, able to hire more highly qualified candidates for less.

Over time, voices claiming for another redefinition of doctoral degrees are becoming louder. Arguing that the proliferation of PhDs is leading to the above described dilution of the degree, it has been proposed that PhDs should be re-shaped to better match the needs of the job market, and less so those of academia. Current EPSRC-sponsored EngD and Centres for Doctoral Training seem to be leaning in that direction, but question is whether a mere reform of PhD programs is all PhD degrees need in the modern world.

Brand Identity

The Imperial Entrepreneurs explain the impact of branding

Alexandru Podgurschi

Bloomberg BusinessWeek recently published an article by Larry Popelka titled "The Key to Success? Your Corporate Mission." It investigates the particular case of the Chevrolet Volt and it is perfectly summed up by one line: "Most consumers no longer shop for products. They shop for a company."

What makes people crave that Ralph Lauren Polo rather than the Tommy Hilfiger shirt, the new iPad/iPhone over any Android device, that bottle of Moët & Chandon rather than Veuve Clicquot or the Toyota Prius over a Chevrolet Volt? There are definitely enough arguments to rationalise the desire, but whether one admits it or not, an established brand makes it that much easier for a company to sell their product.

That is not to say that establishing a brand in itself is an easy task. There is a reason why most major companies have a Marketing department. It reaches well beyond the (often) cheesy ads on television and on billboards. The job these people have at hand is

to create a brand identity, an image the targeted customer can identify with, an illusion that their customers are somehow part of a distinguished community that purchases those products.

The number of times you see someone check their phone because they have heard someone else's iPhone message alert is ever increasing, yet these iPhone owners still feel special, like they are somehow different. And that is precisely what consumer goods companies try to achieve. So how do they go about creating that identity? The simple answer is by making themselves stand out from the immense number of other companies out there. But that's a bit general and not all that useful.

First off, the name is one the most important aspects of creating a brand. Joining together the four last names of the founders might be a good idea for a law or financial services company, but unless your last names have a particularly catchy sound to it, this is to be avoided. The last thing a start-up needs is for people to not be able to refer to it simply because they are unsure about

how to pronounce its name.

Secondly, the logo. The simpler it is, the better it is. Trouble is that the shorter and more basic the design brief, the harder it is to actually design one. While it can certainly change along the way, as many companies such as Starbucks, Mazda or Apple have (if you haven't yet, please do check out Apple's original logo), the logo should instantly scream the name of your brand. A Google search for "logo design" should offer more than enough options to suit anyone's needs for any time and price range.

As a final piece of advice, the importance of a good website cannot be underestimated. Anyone can get a decent-looking one up and running with a basic template. If your Computing friends at Imperial refuse to help, there are plenty of people out there willing to do the job for a relatively small fee. It is one of the most common, yet easiest to avoid, aspects of a business that can turn people away. A perfunctory website suggests a shady company, and we've all avoided buying things off certain websites simply because they



Two of the most recognisable brands in the world, Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola, have been warring over the soft drinks market for more than three decades

don't inspire much confidence.

Creating a brand is no easy task. And it certainly isn't limited to the few aspects outlined above. Some might even claim maintaining one is even harder. To the entrepreneurs out there, it is often one of the most challenging aspects of starting a business. It is sometimes said that it is not the idea, but rather its implementation that makes a business, and a good realisation of an idea will avoid becoming obsolete only if it

is well promoted. It is a combination of management, marketing, accounting and innovation that makes a business thrive; establishing a brand is surely the aspect that is most easily overlooked and yet essential for a successful venture.



Democracy and capitalism: an unhappy marriage?

Tim Zuehlsdorff

When Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy on 15 September 2008, it marked the most dramatic collapse of an U.S. firm in history. In many ways, the name of the once fourth biggest investment bank in the United States has become a synonym for the global financial meltdown that shook the world in 2008 and whose aftershocks are still felt today.

While the precise causes of the 2008 crisis are complex, many people, including U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, have blamed the continuous deregulation of the financial market during the Reagan era. Any attempts to reintroduce effective financial regulations in the aftermath of the crisis have been very successfully undermined, either by political opposition in the U.S. or by the indecisiveness of member states of the European Union.

All in all, the political elite of the western world has shown an alarming lack of action considering the global scale of the recent financial disaster. Proponents of the deregulated market have been quick to point out that the free market is the pillar of western democracy. Since the free market creates a healthy economy and growth, they

argue, it fundamentally helps creating a healthy, democratic society, and thus any financial regulation is potentially harmful not only to the markets, but to society as a whole. This point, however, is based on the misconception that democracy and free market capitalism are pursuing the same goals, or are even based on the same concepts. It requires only a short analysis to recognize the flaws in this conception.

Democracy is fundamentally based on the concept of equality, most notably the equal weight of votes cast by each individual member of society, as well as the concept of equality before the law. However, in order for each citizen to access his given right and duty of political participation, he or she needs to be in the position to make an informed choice. From this idea, one can derive the right to equal access to information and education for each individual in a democratic society. Since people living in extreme poverty cannot be expected to take an active role in society in the midst of a daily struggle for survival, democracies have a duty to provide a certain level of care to allow every individual in need a certain standard of living. Following the same line of reasoning, it can be understood that large social inequalities are actu-

ally harmful to the idea of democracy, since they tend to create a large group of frustrated, disinterested non-voters.

"The overlaps are smaller than usually perceived"

On the other hand, the system of capitalism is fundamentally based on competition. Thus, it will naturally drive society towards a state of inequality rather than equality. The accumulation of wealth by one individual can only occur at the cost of other individuals. Granted, there do exist a few overlaps between the basic principles of democracy and capitalism. For example, capitalism does need a developed judiciary in order to operate. This can be observed in China, where Western companies are often struggling since their intellectual properties are not rigorously protected by the state. On the other hand, it has to be pointed out that capitalism outdates western democracies, and was working perfectly well in the old monarchies of pre World War I Germany and Austro-Hungary.

The overlaps between the basic tenets of democracy and capitalism are thus smaller than normally perceived. In fact, some concepts of capitalism are in direct conflict with the democratic ideals of equality. In January 2010 it was reported that the German Free Democratic Party (FDP) had received a donation of 1.1 million Euros from Baron August von Fink, one of the richest Germans and owner of a range of hotels. Two days after getting into power as the junior partner in a coalition with Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, the FDP pushed for a highly controversial law to cut the VAT on hotel room bookings. While the FDP faced a fair amount of criticism from the general population, their actions were perfectly legal under German law. But this idea that the wealthy can so openly influence politics fundamentally undermines the equality principle of democracy.

The reluctance of politicians to introduce effective regulations of the financial market after the 2008 crisis only continues a basic trend in the western world, that where necessary, the ideals of democracy are bent in favor of capitalist ideas. The scale of the 2008 events, as well as the aftermath and the current Eurozone crisis show the

grave consequences of this trend. In this situation, some members of leftist parties all over Europe and especially in Greece have been calling for a return to socialist principles. These calls for abandoning capitalism altogether in order to save democracy are equally flawed however. The past has shown that socialist societies are not able to survive without radically infringing on the freedoms of individuals. The perfect union of democracy and socialism only ever existed in Marx' and Engel's minds.

Rather, the west should shift focus on protecting the values of democracy as the highest good of society and bend and restrict the ideals of the free market wherever they infringe on those values. It is obvious that the values of capitalism and democracy are idealised concepts and a working marriage of the two has always been based on tradeoffs. In pushing for effective regulations of the financial markets, politicians are given the opportunity to readjust what can be perceived as a dangerous imbalance between free market ideas and democratic principles that has manifested over the last decades. If such a readjustment cannot be achieved in the aftermath of the biggest financial crisis in decades, it is unlikely it ever will be.

Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
Sam Horti

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COMMENT

FELIX

Voice of Clayponds must be heard by College

Another week sees another potential closure by College. Hot on the heels of an ongoing campaign for the continuation of the Holland Club, many have responded to the news of the possible closure of Clayponds halls of residence in South Ealing, with a consensus that the loss of such an establishment would be detrimental to the College community.

Yet the news of the closure surfaced through rumour, with the Rector himself providing an official response to a postgraduate's concerns via email. Is it acceptable for postgraduates to be informed about the reasoning behind such a decision in this manner? Indeed, the matter here is the representation of the student, and of others in residence at Clayponds, and how it could be handled with, perhaps, more sensitivity towards their needs..

The fact that Clayponds residents have readily contested the plans in defence of the Clayponds "community", even before confirmation of the intended closure of the site, suggests that the handling of the views of postgraduates was not handled nearly as well as it could have been. College may have appeared to have taken the decision without fully appreciating the channels that exist; channels that take into account the opinions of perhaps, a wider variety of students who could provide valuable information and opinion, as indeed they have done in correspondence with this very newspaper.

One such channel is the Student Union. Comments made by Union President Scott Heath accentuate the "disappointment" in the fact that the Union has so far had no say on any of the plans. It is hard to disagree that an entire lack of consultation may not be the best course of action when such a matter affects a significant proportion of the student body.

And then there is the very real concern of affordability of Imperial's new postgraduate accommodation – Imperial West at Wood Lane and Griffon Studios in Clapham. The Rector has outlined a bursary scheme for those who choose to live here next academic year, but when you offer students money to live in accommodation, do you really have the pricing right? Imperial must provide affordable accommodation for its students and there is a distinct worry amongst those who have contacted Felix that the end of Clayponds will mean the end of affordable accommodation. Now is the time for College to listen closely to those likely to be affected by the closure of Clayponds, and to ensure that feasible postgraduate accommodation is in place for the immediate future.

Rejection isn't the end of the world



Angry Geek

I've been helping out at interview days this year. Normally this is a task I avoid in the same way I avoid slapping my own balls with a wooden paddle – that is, by not agreeing to do it when I'm asked by my superiors (it happens more than you'd think). However, this year I am short on money and, like all people short on money, I am not averse to a little ball-slapping in return for cash.

Interview days at Imperial have all the atmosphere of a funeral, with worse quality food. The interviewers are miserable because they could be off somewhere writing down equations. The interviewees are miserable because they want to go to Cambridge instead. And I'm miserable because it's a fucking Wednesday and I'm standing around in a gaudily-lit box of a room wondering what kind of catering department can do Hoi Sin duck wraps and falafel but somehow fail to do, say, cheese sandwiches.

I mean I love duck, it's just – cheese sandwiches, guys. How hard would that be?

It's on days like this that I see evidence of everything that is wrong with how we treat sixth-formers, both as a university and a nation. It's not just that we under-fund their education and then complain when they're not up to scratch. It's the sheer amount of pres-

“As much as I love Imperial, I feel it contributed about as much to my overall education as many other institutions would have done”



Stock photo of an interview, or some seriously niche porn? You decide...

sure we pour on them – you'd think they had a life expectancy of about thirty years. They're so focused on what this decision will mean for the rest of their life that they seem to forget just how much life they have left to live. I know people who have done three degrees and changed career four times. Yet people are captivated by the idea that if you don't get into Imperial you might as well top yourself, because there's no way in hell you're going to leave Birmingham otherwise.

As much as I love Imperial, I feel it contributed about as much to my overall education as many other institutions would have done. People seem to think that enthusiastic, motivated and talented educators are only able to exist inside the walls of Cambridge, Oxford or Imperial, and that the atmospheric composition of places like Southampton or York or Edinburgh causes anyone with half a brain to asphyxiate. Merely thinking of entering a university that isn't in the top ten of one league table or another causes your IQ to drop by eighty points.

You know as well as I do that, while we're blessed with some excellent people at Imperial and some good facilities, careers aren't made or broken simply by the name on your degree (unless you're in the proportion of Imperial's population who want as much as possible for as little effort as can be gotten away with, in which case feel free to choke on your own tongue next time you're knocking back vials of baby tears or whatever you do for fun). You're the one responsible for securing your future, and that can be done almost anywhere if you're willing to put forth the effort. That's

why it's important that sixth-formers spend the time choosing their subject for university, rather than the institution. Talking to a lot of the interviewees, however, I'm left with a very different impression.

Maybe that's alright, or unavoidable, or not anyone's fault at all. I doubt it, somehow. Imperial's past Rectors have often tried their best to elevate Imperial's status, to make it equal to Oxford or Cambridge as if this will make it a better university simply because people think it is. The most interesting researchers I've met this year were working out of Essex, and they seemed perfectly content with their position in life. I imagine it rubs off on students as well.

We chuckle about how we overwork ourselves here, but it's less funny to watch first-years weep into textbooks every May – and those are the ones who managed to get in. The sixth-formers that are dreading every morning's post right now are honestly harming themselves by stressing over these interviews and decisions that they somehow perceive as major life choices.

Coming to Imperial might change your life, of course. But most likely you'll still be the same person you were beforehand. If, like me, you're working at an interview day this year, try to impress this on those who turn up – that while Imperial is a fine place to be, it's not a magic bullet, and a rejection from us is not a curse on your every decision from hereon out.

It won't make any difference, of course, because no-one is listening to you on interview day. But do it anyway. I'll appreciate it.

Want to write "you suck, I hate you for having a different opinion to me"? You do. Wow. You have some serious exam stress I guess. Fine, if you really need an outlet, why not go to: felixonline.co.uk

COMMENT

Occupy the New Year, but grow up first



Stephen Smith

Revolution! With its impassioned rhetoric and gritty anger the Occupy movement is intent on overhauling democracy as we know it. Bitter, disaffected people around the world are answering Occupy's call, and governments are beginning to pay attention to the voice of the disillusioned masses!

Reading preachy propagandistic non-journalism like the above paragraph makes me crush my glass of whisky in disgust and want to go on hunger strike until critical thinking lessons are given to all children of all ages until they're so sceptical they end up believing nothing at all.

Yet this is what we have to deal with: a right-wing press that unilaterally dismisses anything remotely Occupy-related with allegations of drug abuse, defecation on Church property, and general rowdiness. In addition, we have a much smaller left-wing press that prints youthful, idealistic tripe and worships at the feet of Occupy as if it the best thing to have happened to socialism since the welfare state was first conceived.

This pseudo-debate is like listening to two people debating over an orange: one thinks it exhibits behaviour typical of a banana while the other believes it is a wonderful example of an apple. Both sides are talking out of their elbows, and it bores me senseless.

I will not waste many valuable words explaining what is wrong with the conservative side of the 'debate'. There can be few people in Britain today who don't think the right-wing press is the two-faced mistress of the upper classes, a Conservative propaganda machine with a thinly-veiled sprinkling of islamophobia.

The left-wing press is usually slightly more subtle and discerning in its opinions, but with Occupy it comes across as a schoolboy with a crush: the Occupy movement can do no wrong. Photos of Guy Fawkes masks accompany the anticipation of an approaching revolution. The Government must listen to the voice of its people! We are the 99%!

Leaving aside the dubious statistical nature of "the 99%", what I really want to address is the idea of revolution. To young idealists like myself and the members of Occupy, revolution can seem exciting and liberating: who hasn't imagined themselves as a British Che Guevara, motorcycling down the streets of a burnt-out London, cigarette in mouth, awaiting the symbolic, V-for-Vendetta-style explosion of Big Ben?

But has it really come to this? Do we really need a masked vaudevillian veteran or an angry Venezuelan medical student to save us from our authoritarian overlords? Of course not. The fact that I can write here that 'David Cameron feasts daily on the bloodied corpses of children' without getting arrested is proof of that (though if I mysteriously stop writing articles after this, you'll know that Britain has in fact slipped into a North Korean nightmare).

Occupy is about bringing back democracy and returning complete control of the government to the people who elect them. And whatever revolution is, it is not democratic – it is, in fact, fairly totalitarian, since it involves forcing a single ideology on an entire population. This is fine in Egypt or Libya where the situation is beyond horrific, but not here.

I think I'm justified in saying that



Can you first figure out how to use an apostrophe please

most people don't want a revolution, or, to phrase it less controversially, a "complete overhaul of democracy". It is the everyday concerns (Will the buses still run? Who will pay the winter fuel allowance? Will the police still be on duty? Will I still be able to fund my alcoholism on the Disability Living Allowance I'm fraudulently claiming from the government?) that make revolution – for lack of a better phrase – a terrible idea.

The system of Government clearly needs to be changed; anyone with half a brain can see that. But it is essential that it is changed from within, by getting elected and passing legislation through Parliament. Any other approach is hypocritical and dangerous.

As a new approach in this New Year, Occupiers and Occupy-supporters should join and vote for the Green Party:

a party with near-identical policies to Occupy, but with less stigma and – importantly – an MP in Westminster. The Green Party should debate strongly with other large parties and repeatedly make the point that none of the other 3 main parties in England will make the sweeping changes that are needed.

With Lib Dem popularity at an all-time low, the Green Party should pick up a few more seats in the next election. Then, and only then, does Occupy have the power and legitimacy to pressure the government into changing the system.

In short: Occupy is absolutely right in its motives, but completely wrong in its methods. The left-wing press should take heed of this – a schoolboy crush is a cruel thing, and it will only end in tears.

“Occupy is absolutely right in its motives, but completely wrong in its methods”

Why you should give me your money



Edward Yoxall

I'm going to lay my cards out on the table straight away. I will spend the next six months begging you for money. This is the raison d'être of this column. Amusing you (or more likely myself) would be a nice perk on the side – a bit like dental insurance.

Given that you are all, no doubt, very lovely, very deep pocketed people with enormously generous student loans, I'm sure that you're already reaching for your cheque books. It only seems fair, therefore, that I justify you handing me large wads of cash.

So here it is: I'm taking part in an Ironman triathlon. The iron distance

is a 2.4 mile swim followed by a 112 mile cycle followed by a 26.2 mile run (a marathon). Now I was never in the 'gifted athlete' bracket growing up, but then again I was never the last to be picked when choosing football teams either. I have mid-table mediocrity written all over me. I'm the Middlesbrough of sporting prowess.

This is slightly unfortunate, because even if I were incredibly marvellous and could give Mo Farah a run for his money, an Ironman later this year would still be gooch-achingly difficult.

So I guess this begs the question "why?" Well, simply put, (and this is

where it gets a little heavy), my cousin suffers from Cystic Fibrosis and I'm raising money for the CF Trust in the hope that the research they fund will save her life.

CF is a recessive genetic disease. I in 25 people are carriers of the gene (often unaware of the fact) and 1 in 2500 suffer from the full blown illness. It mainly affects the lungs – in later stages it's so difficult to breathe that it feels like you're sucking air through a straw. The median life expectancy is 35.

My cousin is waiting for a lung transplant. If she gets one, it will radically change her life for the better, but

it won't cure her. She'll be OK for 10 years or so, but much more money is needed for research before a permanent fix can be found.

So that is why I'm doing an Ironman. I want to inspire people to give a few pennies to a cause that is very close to my heart. Any amount counts – and it will be incredibly gratefully received.

You can sponsor Ned online by going to www.justgiving.com/NedIronman or by text through JustTextGiving by sending 'IRON66 £(amount you like to give)' to 70070

Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
Sam Horti

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COMMENT

New Year Resolution? Get Coding



Michael Cook

I feel like Computer Science stands out from the other subjects at Imperial for a number of reasons, not all of them related to social ability or personal hygiene (I thought I'd open with a lazy joke to lure you in, forgive me). Like all subjects taught at Imperial, the course contains a lot of high-level, greatly complex areas of study that are entirely inaccessible to outsiders. Yet there is a core to the course that is not like this, a core that is dressed up in the garb of 'higher education' but is in fact hugely useful in everyday life, and surprisingly accessible to those with no grounding in computer science at all.

There are a lot of reasons for this, foremostly a simple lack of computer science education in most countries' education syllabi. Those interested in the education debate might be familiar with last year's review published by the government looking into the state of computer science education, training and support in the UK. The report read like a lazily-written homework assignment by someone who couldn't care less about its content, which it broadly was. They noted a lack of computer science content, but gave no solutions.

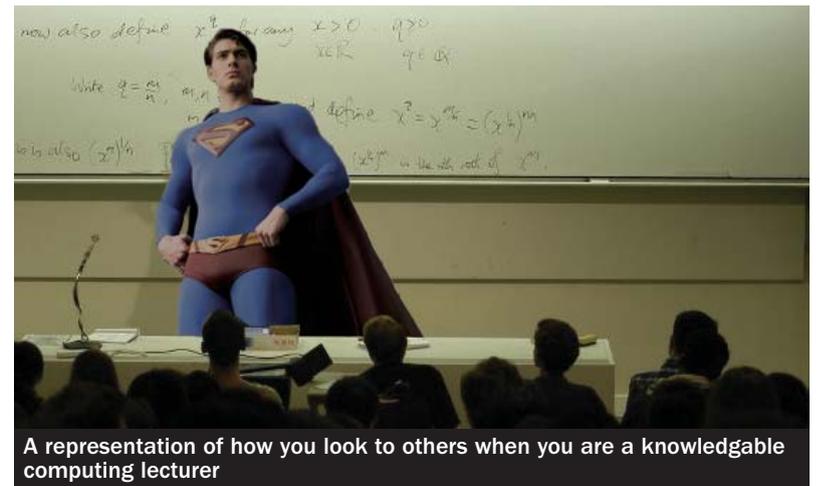
What is important to realise about this is that even when the situation changes in our schools (for it surely must eventually) those of you reading this in Felix as it goes to press can never benefit from such a change. You are locked out

of that education forever, but you exist in a world of increasing technological complexity, where those with knowledge of programming, the internet, operating systems and electronics are increasingly distancing themselves from those without that knowledge.

This distancing is more subtle in some places than others. Watch an episode of 24 and the CTU technology 'experts' will explain a situation to their superiors using unnecessary and intentionally confusing terms. They're met with a stiff rebuke; 'spare me the techno-babble', 'just give it to me in English!', 'I don't need to know specifics!' This presents a clear message to the viewer – you don't understand what they're doing, you never will, and you don't need to.

The hacking stories of last year (websites, rather than phones) have their perpetrators portrayed as mysterious, preternaturally intelligent individuals who exist in a confusing world of sophisticated technology and complicated lists of information. In reality, many of the attacks carried out last year on high-profile websites were little more sophisticated than when my mother downloads iTunes, installs it, and uses it to play music. Read a BBC news article on the matter, however, and you enter a cyber-Tolkien world where hackers wield a magical power that you don't, and never can, understand.

This is wrong. This is not the attitude



A representation of how you look to others when you are a knowledgeable computing lecturer

to technology that should be spread. The world is becoming increasingly reliant on software and hardware, and we are encouraging the population to shy away from understanding it, rather than embracing it and learning to bend it to their own ends. The average Imperial student – intelligent, motivated and already working closely within the world of science – is perfectly positioned to pick up and learn how to program, how websites work, how data is stored, how adverts target users of certain websites, how torrent users can be identified and how the world around them works. Once people such as yourselves have embraced this, it will make it easier to pass the knowledge

on to others, and turn around the trend of avoiding technological complexity.

And so to the nub of my article. I'm not one for resolutions generally, but this year I implore every one of you to learn something new about the technology that you use every day. If you wish to learn how to program, the website CodeYear can help you with regular lectures, resources and assistance. Imperial's Robotics, Gaming, Wikipedia, and other tech-related societies are welcoming and well-informed. As any computer scientist can attest, you cannot know enough about technology. But the more you know, the better-equipped you'll be for the future.

The average Imperial student ... is perfectly positioned to pick up and learn how to program

Time for change



Samuel Furse

Back in the dear old early 14th century, "the pox" was considered a punishment from God. If you had it, you were evil and it was a just fate. You had wronged. You had failed. You deserved to die. The trouble with this idea was that there came a time when it struck a lot of people that this was not quite true. In the mid and late 14th century, a lot of people died of it. At once. Whole villages vanished. And this happened across Europe, though sadly without BBC News to report it. Either way, the emphasis shifted a bit from individuals to groups of people being 'bad'. The thinking was that the older generation had got it a bit wrong, but it is alright, because we have found out about it now. And, co-incidentally, all the bad people are dead so there is nothing more to worry about. Keep praying for good harvests and to avoid Armageddon and it will all be fine.

And all was fine, until the next time. That came as an influenza outbreak in

the 16th century that killed even Mary I. Influenza, like other infectious diseases, was not seen quite as a punishment from God, at least not by enlightened scholars. Despite that, talk of it was enough to put the wind up the peasantry, much as Fox News does today. We probably get a balanced view from Shakespeare, who seems to suggest that by this period it was understood that such an illness could be spread, and thus could also be contained. Containment of a sort was achieved by restricting the movement of people (a plot device in Romeo and Juliet). Things had moved on a lot since the God-fearing Christians of pre-Renaissance England had thought that prayer and being nice to God would absolve them from death-by-anthrax.

What stepped things on from this point was the discovery of the cell by Hooke about fifty years later. A while after this the bacterium was identified, and then not long after that the cause of the likes of scarlet fever, tuberculosis and so on were beginning to be understood. It was infectious disease, and a

lot of them could be knocked out by taking antibiotics. As a result we now enjoy a whole host of other ways to die, many of which were unknown in medieval Britain, chiefly because if you made it to 30 and had children you were having enough of a party not to give a damn one way or the other.

This is not the whole story though. People in the dark ages were put to death for things we would term illnesses, or at least, long-term medical conditions. People who had Tourette's syndrome were considered to be possessed by demons. People with manic depression or paranoid schizophrenia were thought of either as ludicrously spiritual and were revered, or just mad and were burned. Sadly, none of these things has the benefit of being caused by a plentiful life-form that can be observed under a microscope. It is 'psychological', and unless you know someone who is like that, it is an alien and often uncomfortable world for to encounter. A world as terrifying as the one where coughs and sneezes meant you were an emissary of

Satan, I have no doubt.

Needless to say, I do think it is 'Time for a Change'. Treating illness with suspicion and neglect is as bonkers as many of those who are neglected for that reason. What I am nervous of, however, is whingeing and moaning as a means to increasing awareness. Complaining that change is required puts 'mental health issues' in the same bracket as every other good cause, not least the most nauseating of all, the 'needy'.

So what am I, and my fellow mentalists, to do? Well, we need to play a long game. This is for the same reason that going to the Middle Ages and telling people the real reasons why they had syphilis would not work. People need to be educated at a pace at which they can learn. In order for that to work, all of us need to learn. We need to learn what causes people to be manic-depressive, or depressive, or whatever. That means spending money on science (obviously), but it also means talking about it, and it means changing. So, let us change.

Treating illness with suspicion and neglect is ... bonkers

COMMENT

Media bias just flies right by us



Tim Arbabzadah

Something hit me the other day. It wasn't a fist luckily/unfortunately (delete as appropriate based on your opinion of me). I'll explain, I was reading a newspaper that wasn't Felix (treason, I know, I wouldn't recommend that anyone else EVER does this). I was just browsing the news section, as I'm an intellectual/was trying to look intellectual in the hope that a girl in a coffee shop would notice me and be enamoured. It didn't work (damn you revision beard, you make me look unkempt – in a bad way, not like a loveable rogue), but I did manage to see something so obvious that I was surprised people are not up in arms about it. The newspaper was incredibly unsubtle in its bias. It was obvious what it wanted you to take away from the news story. It was, at times, so clear what side it was leaning towards, that it was bordering on being one giant comment section (being the Comment Editor, that would be both awesome and incredibly destructive to my degree).

On reading a news story, I actually did a double take and assumed I was being paranoid. That wasn't possible. I said in my head, as they're listening ALL THE TIME. I was looking too much into things, and taking some subtle slight too seriously. Maybe it says something about me that I'm doing this. Admittedly, that's entirely possible. Luckily, I'm not the only one to notice. For example, I think we all know what the Daily Mail's views on life are (oh, and, sorry, but reading this article gives you cancer and makes paedophilic immigrants befriend your children).

You may say I'm slow on the uptake. The thing is, I did notice this a long time

ago, thought 'meh, that's just the way they roll' and ignored it. Ever since then, I think I've trained my brain to just use vacuum filtration on the article and only collect the precipitate (or facts – jokes like that prove that I bear the scars of recent revision).

If anything, obvious bias is possibly less sinister than subtle undercurrents of persuasion. Reading a story and thinking 'yeah that's their spin on it' means that they've been a bit too heavy-handed. What they aim to do is implant an idea in your brain (Inception style, minus Leo) that you just naturally conclude from reading the article.

This leads me on to the future of the print media. I think that if there were to be a newspaper, physical and electronic, that provided factual, well-researched, un-biased news it would be something I would like to read. The idea that I could read a news story and then draw my own conclusions without someone trying to force their opinion on me is quite nice. They would, of course, have a Comment section where the newspaper could give its comment and opinion on the news. However, this would be a separate section; the news would be left to the News section and the comment to the Comment. That's sort of how it was meant to be. You may say that this, rather handily, gets rid of the hypocrisy of writing in a Comment section about how newspapers should have less comment. My point is really boiling down to this: in a serious paper's News section, I expect factual reporting that tells you what's happening. In the Comment section, I can find analysis and someone's opinion on what's going on. When reading a person's opinion, it's them saying what

they think, so I'm ready for someone to give a bit of a one-sided view to support their argument. They are, after all, trying to get me to agree with what they think. That's the point, and the beauty, of the Comment section: everyone can voice their view on a particular topic of their choosing. They can use facts to support their argument, but they are not just aiming to deliver you facts. They are, like a woman/man talking to a bisexual man that she/he fancies, trying to swing you one way rather than the other.

Another way that I think print media could survive, if it wishes to, is by becoming the gold standard. You can get your news from all the 24 hour news channels and websites nowadays. The trouble is, often a breaking story will dominate. There are many consequences of this. Firstly, you end up getting a saturation of reporting and speculation. Just remember the tragedy in Norway where it was suggested, incorrectly, that it was an Islamic terrorist attack. Secondly, it means other news stories are swept down the agenda and basically forgotten about. What I'm suggesting is that a newspaper, not having to rush to immediately push out some news, could have enough time to investigate things a bit more. A day isn't too long, but it could help them fact-check.

Of course, this is the real world. It is impossible for someone to be completely unbiased. Why? Because of who writes the news. Humans. We are all human, not automatons. We will all, invariably, without even realising it, write something a bit biased when reporting facts. It's impossible not to. Whether it's consciously making it out as if an experiment has gone well when it hasn't,



Zoey Deschanel? Relevant as she's standing in front of the famously unbiased Fox's logo

or subconsciously wording something in a particular way, it's unavoidable. I think that if a newspaper, or any news outlet, said, okay, we are not machines, so let's put some safeguards in to ensure we are as fair as possible. Don't ask me what these would be. I guess having a lot of people separately read it and flag anything they think is too biased. Even then it's possible they would only tell people about stuff they don't agree with. So I accept that you can't eliminate bias completely, but you can keep it to a minimum.

I'll end this by explaining why I say it flies right by us. Obviously, it was the catchiest title I could think of. Also, even if it doesn't fly by us, we are so resigned to it that we ignore it and so how prevalent and influential it is whizzes past us; we forget that it could be affecting others. Then again, I guess I am pretty biased.

... this is the real world. It is impossible for someone to be completely unbiased... we are all human, not automatons.

Kim Jong-Jesus?



John Raftery

Everyone ought to love, serve, even worship me above all else." What a sinister, egotistic and deranged thing to say! If you met someone who really believed that about themselves, you would probably not want to meet them a second time. But isn't that what Christians believe about God? When Jesus was asked which commandment was most important, he answered: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Doesn't that prove the point? Like a North Korean dictator, God seems to demand nothing less than wall-to-wall adoration!

Imagine finally reaching that distant

light at the end of the tunnel – leaving Imperial – and getting a job offer (an unlikely scenario, I know). The job description: with every waking moment you must pursue with resolute determination your own happiness. Vast resources and all the help you could ask for are at your disposal. You might start out trying to buy satisfaction: a suit, a yacht, a peerage – whatever does it for you. If those didn't hit the spot, you might turn to art, music and natural beauty for happiness. Failing that, perhaps relationships: marriage and children, or maybe just a goldfish for the time being. The latter two categories will probably offer you a degree of satisfaction; appreciating that which is beautiful, and loving someone who loves you in return could be the most

profound joys of all. That is what worship is. Forget prostration and mindless chanting; Christian worship is all about appreciating God's beauty and delighting in our relationship with him. And since he outshines anything you'll see in the world, and his love is more loyal than that of a mother, worship turns out to be a hedonist's best course of action! So when God commands us to worship and love him, he is actually telling us to pursue our best chance of happiness. That's a command I'm happy to obey.

But that might still leave us with the impression that God is needy, like a roney North Korean premier, or an Imperial student desperate for love and affection. Was God lonely before he made people that he could relate to? Did he create humans so that he could

be fulfilled in some way? The Christian answer is that even before time existed, God was already enjoying perfect relationships in a community of three. In God there are three 'people': Father, Son and Spirit, having their own thoughts, actions and personalities. Not three gods, but one god in three persons. So unlike a singular god, the god of the Bible created not so that he could be loved, but to share the love he already had. We may flatter ourselves by suggesting that God needs us, but ultimately we need him. The best attempts of the human race to find satisfaction apart from God have left even the most accomplished men in history insecure, unfulfilled and facing death with uncertainty. So the better question isn't "Is God needy?" but "Who needs God?"

... pursue ... happiness, that's a command I'm happy to obey

Arts Editors: **Will Prince**
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ARTS

The Poet's Column

Prophecy by Pavitar Devgon

Night will end at dawn's creation
Dark will flee from light's oration
None will rest til seeketh peace
The battles won when falls the beast

Day will die when dusk is calling
The winners lose, the killers mourning
Endlessly the cycle rides
Fruit turns poison, true love lies

The sun is born under hidden ceiling
He grows to kill, enraged, unfeeling
The moon, she helps the all those who need
Whether ours or theirs, both cured indeed

The compass can give us direction
But only based on introspection
The eye of heaven sees the sight
And knows the way to end our plight

Felix Arts is constantly looking for new poets. If you want to see your work appearing here, do get in touch. Additionally, those interested in joining Poetry Society, contact Osas, at oo2409@imperial.ac.uk.

Fluent on Paper's open mic poetry night is back this Sunday. Come on down to The Builders Arms in South Ken from 19:00, with or without some of your own material. Flowing drinks, top poems and good times guaranteed (or at least two of the three).



Dazed & Confused at Somerset House

Looking back on twenty years at the forefront of fashion

Deepka Rana

It is odd to think that around the time of my birth, some 20 years ago, Jefferson Hack and John 'Rankin' Waddell were on the brink of producing the first issue of what was to become one of my favourite magazines during my late teens and beyond. Granted, *Dazed & Confused* started as a rather low-key black and white fold out poster, but it almost inevitably gained momentum and acclaim, with Rankin's prolific photography and Hack's keen eye for talent, making it one of the leading creative publications in the world. It is not least because of this that as I crossed London to view a showcase of the *Dazed* story, my expectations were set exceedingly high.

The exhibition itself is housed in a set of the more modest rooms of **Somerset House**, making the pieces lining the walls all the more compelling to the eye as they track the course of the magazine's history. Unsurprisingly, the works were not just confined to the walls, with twisted rectangular beams stretching out from the centre of the rooms, the sides of each layered with reels of editorial frames, a quirky layout befitting what is a rather unconventional publication.

A theme represented heavily were the iconic portraits, celebrity and otherwise, that have set *Dazed* apart from most other fashion magazines, not least through Hack's incredible eye for rising talent and alternative beauty. The corridor connecting the various spaces payed homage to all of *Dazed's* front covers, allowing visitors to take a 'literal' walk down memory lane.

Here many of today's household names first gained real exposure in the UK, gracing the front cover in the early stages of their



Dazed? Confused? Our caption writers are

career with the faces of Björk, Pharrel Williams and Eminem all lined up next to each other as well as *Dazed* favourite Kate Moss, whose affinity for the magazine stretches far enough for her to regularly strip down in various semi-nude editorials.

Additional shots by heavyweights such as Terry Richardson and Rankin himself showed an even more daring side to 'simple' portraits with depictions of a ghostly Iggy Pop and a grossly make up smeared Beth Ditto (fully clothed I assure you), both under the serene gaze of an overblown close up of the late Yves Saint Laurent, once again highlighting the different art forms *Dazed* has covered from issue to issue and the vast range of creative geniuses that have contributed to it.

Selecting the pieces which best reflect the last 20 years of *Dazed* is no mean feat, and it is with delight that I can say Emma Reeves and Jefferson Hack, curators of the exhibition, have risen to the task magnificently. The collection stays true to the magazine's core ideals and does not simply stop at the obviously beautiful, displaying many pieces that can make for some very uncomfortable viewing. Shots from Nick Knight's famous 'One-in-Ten' series, featuring women who have undergone mastectomies are on display as well as an entire room filled with screens, upon which images of disabled individuals are projected, clad in attire commissioned especially by Vivienne Westwood and the late Alexander McQueen, a celebration of the alternative beauty found so often within

Dazed.

With the abundance of material available for viewing in each space, it's not hard to find inspiration regardless of background or taste, highlighting the accessibility *Dazed* has built upon over the years. Above all, the exhibition reflects the mixed nature of what *Dazed* has represented over the last two decades. Old and new readers can appreciate that it cannot simply be labelled a fashion, music or photography magazine. *Dazed* is one of the few 'all-rounder' cultural periodicals that manages to capture beauty and talent from the unconventional, quirky and often tragic parts of life but retains its accessibility by not dismissing any artist or cause as too mainstream or insignificant.

"The collection stays true to the magazine's core ideals"

Whether you've been a lifelong fan of the magazine, want to experience snapshots of cultural zeitgeists of days gone by or simply want to catch a glimpse of Kate Moss's nipples, 20 years of *Dazed & Confused* will certainly not disappoint.

20 years of *Dazed & Confused*: Making it up as we go along at **Somerset House** until January 29. Admission free.



Kate Moss, yes. Nipples, no

In the tweet of the moment

Pirates of Carthage looks at social media's pivotal role in bringing down Ben Ali

Will Prince

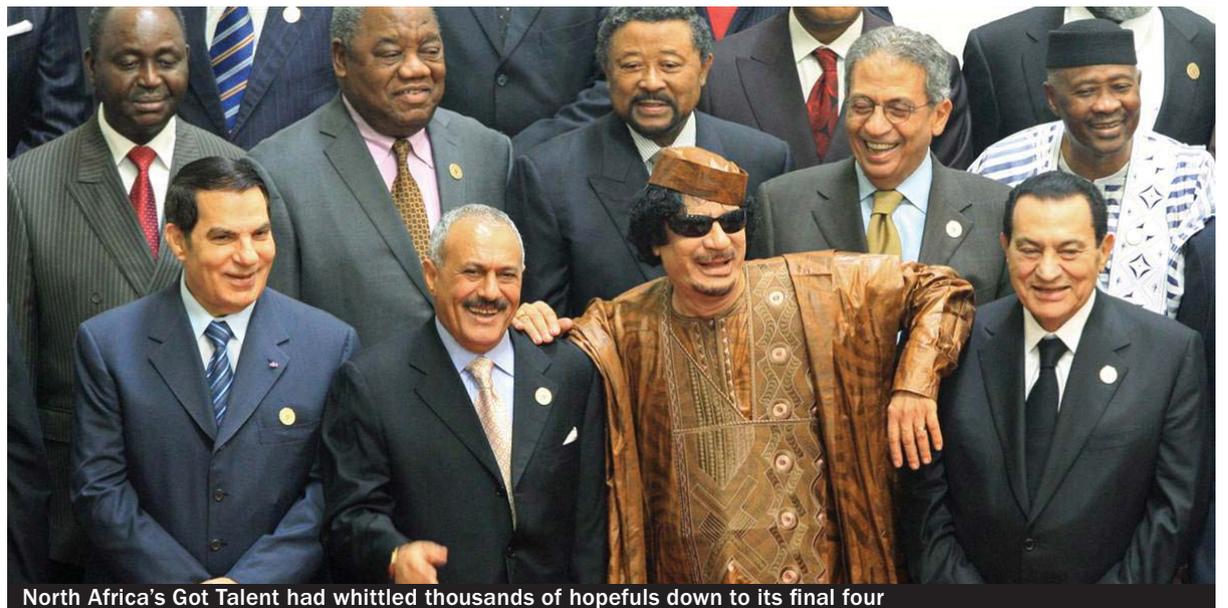
Beyond being an interminable stream of the thoughts of Lethal Bizzle, Twitter for this reviewer had always been just another tool for procrastination. In 2006, many of the angel investors running their rule over the nascent microblogging site figured the same. To have said to them then that tweets of 140 characters would one day be enough to catalyse the downfall of governments, they would have dismissed you as mad. How wrong they all were.

Pirates of Carthage follows the month or so centred around Christmas 2010 that saw the demise of the Ben Ali regime in Tunisia. It takes a unique approach to the story telling – we see the events unfold through the tweets of a select few commentators, both in Tunisia and abroad, deftly woven with pertinent footage from across the web and extracts from classical literature. Using multiple projectors and a cast of four to recite the tweets, *Pirates of Carthage* fittingly bombards the audience with information, ‘fusing’ as its

writer, Dan Kelly, explains, ‘spoken word, video montage and Tunisian Hip-Hop’.

The result is a highly informative, if impassive, piece of theatre that explores the increasingly significant impact of virtual social media on the real world. Drawing references from pop culture as well as nineteenth century literature, Kelly encourages his audience to look beyond their normally mundane use of the Internet and see its role in writing the history of our age: as on one screen a cursor idly clicks its way through iPlayer, on another, the Jasmin Revolution gains momentum on Twitter.

At times the format is quite repetitive – knowing how the story ends certainly had its benefits as the last few minutes began to grind – but no criticisms can be made of its ingenuity. I commend the production’s efforts to let facts drive the narrative but I was struck by how sparingly the cast was used – they were more storytellers than actors – and I found myself at times hungry for a little more humanity and, dare I say it, emotion in the



North Africa's Got Talent had whittled thousands of hopefuls down to its final four

characters behind the tweets.

As contemporary theatre goes, *Pirates of Carthage* couldn't have embraced social media much better. I can't say I've seen anything else that effectively tells its narrative from the

perspective of the Internet, and I very much doubt this will be the last. And at least until then, as I despair over yet another tweet about how amazing *Sherlock* is, I can know that somewhere else on the Twittersphere some-

one is using their 140 characters for a nobler cause. Ahem, Life Sciences.

Pirates of Carthage is showing at The **Nellie Dean** 23-24 January, tickets £5.

Kadhim Shubber



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

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MUSIC

Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



Ernest Gonzales
Natural Traits
 Friends of Friends
 2012

The scientifically-dubious 'most depressing day of the year' has past us by without running aground, and unless you're Maggie Dallman, you'll probably make it to the end of the month without being publicly humiliated. Let's shake off these January blues and start living again. **Ernest Gonzales**, let the beats roll.

There's a lot to be happy about. The days are growing longer, scary American internet legislation appears to have stopped struggling under the water and died, and "that terrible thing I did on New Year's Eve" (don't ask...) is receding comfortably into the distance; the perfect moment for an album like *Natural Traits* to come along. It has an infectious optimism that makes you feel like going out clubbing, but just for the dancing (people do that, right?)

Although they say never judge a book by its cover, and in truth I distrust people who say that, I first listened to this album because the album art is gorgeous. But it instantly wrapped its arms around me and had me hooked. 'The Prudence of Evolution', the opening track, builds layer upon layer carefully and methodically, like a bricklayer building an impressive wall of sound before your very ears. He makes full use of the broad spectrum of electronica and shows just as much skill brewing soulful deep house as he does mixing fuzzy bass with 8-bit beats.

However, the album has its faults. At times you begin to wonder whether his influences, unconscious or otherwise, have crept a bit too obviously to the front row. "Ah, he's channelling **Four Tet** there; this track is a bit **M83**; hold up, has he just ripped off the guitar from **Blue Sky Black Death**?"

But it would be a disservice to make too much of this. For a start, I'm probably wrong, but more importantly, Ernest Gonzales hits that perfect spot between ambient and body-moving beats in the same way that **Gold Panda** does. This is an eminently addictive and satisfying album.

That said, we're not talking *Lucky Shiner*-esque brilliance here; I'm yet to find an album that tops Gold Panda's debut. Speaking of which, if you've found one, drop me a line. (Or 'holla', as I believe some people say...)

If you want to 'holla' at me (yo), you can find me pissing into the wind on Twitter @kadhimshubber. Alternatively, tweet @ernestgonzales and ask him if he'd like to make a donation to the 'That Thing Kadhim broke on New Year's Eve' fund.

Howlin' Circus

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto shares liquid bread while chatting house fires and the blues ahead of *THROB*

So you guys just had rehearsal. How did it go?

Sonam: It was good. As usual. Working on new songs.

How do your songs come about?

Jamie: Different guys will write different kinds of songs and then we try to bring it together and kind of bring it all together to make a common sound.

So you prefer to write songs first and then play.

Jamie: Yeah, but we always start rehearsals with a jam.

Jafar: Yeah, sometimes something will come out of just jamming and we'll hold on to that. It's always good to know you can just improvise if you ever play out all your songs in a set. I think we know each other well enough that we could just jam a bit after the set.

Have you been going after a special sound?

Alan: If it sounds cool... it works. [Stroking exam beard]

Jamie: Alan is classically trained!

Alan: I'm the most classically trained member of the band. I even studied how to play notes on drums.

What?

Alan: No seriously.

Jamie: Jafar plays the harmonica

Oh that's cool. Harmonica sounds good. Gotta buy them all - that's the problem.

Jamie: Yeah, hardly anyone plays them in bands. Sometimes some one plays the harmonica but you hardly hear them on albums. Hey Jafar, remember that guy in that band who bought a harmonica after seeing you play it at one of our gigs?

Jafar: Who...? Oh right, that guy... yeah...

Who?

Jamie: We don't want to say any names.

Jafar: Yeah, no [mumble].

How did you guys meet actually?

Jamie: It was beautiful. Jafar and me met out of fate... I saw him play one day and I thought "what beautiful music".

Jafar: I was fronting my own open mic night at uni, which was happening every week.

Jamie: So that was that and then we got a bassist and a lot of drummers.

How many drummers?

Jamie: 4...5...6...? I don't know.

Drummers...

Jafar: So even though we had songs we didn't play live for months and months because every time the drummer would flake before a gig.

A drummer flaked on me once because of his



Gothic architecture makes a singular appearance in the Wild West

grandma's birthday...

Jamie: You should have told her to come.

Yeah, it would've been a ball. Playing Rage and Nirvana covers...

Alan: I remember playing Nirvana when I was like 13, playing in front of assembly.

Jamie: Is that on YouTube? There's a video of you on YouTube...

Alan: Naked.

Jamie: ...playing in front of...

Alan: No, not that one.

Jamie: There's that as well. I'm talking about the one where you're playing a drum battle in front of assembly. And there's the other one where you're playing a really beat up drum set and all the comments are like "aw man, you're drumset's shiiiiit", "this is absolute bollocks" and all that - and then there's one dude, Mr. Nice Guy, "hey guys, you should stop! This guy's really good. I wish I had a drum kit."

Alan: 50,000 views it had! It's just a shitty drum kit! And just a really simple thing, just really fast.

Jamie: It blew me away. That's why you're in the band.

So you met through YouTube? A modern romance...

Alan: haha I sent my video through the Jazz & Rock mailing list for an audition...

Jamie: You were late for the audition.

He's the drummer.

Jafar: I wasn't there. My house got burgled that day...

Alan was telling me about your gig at Archangel next Saturday the 21st. Do you have any other gigs lined up?

Jamie: We've got a lot of gigs lined up actually. There's this, then 333 on Old Street and Roadtrip Bar. We're playing a couple festivals too. One's a beer festival. Hopefully we'll get free beer but I don't know...

You'd hope so.

Alan: We played at the last Silfest recently. That was really good.

Jamie: Ah yeah, I missed that one.

What happened?

Jamie: Well... I burned down my dad's shed in the garden. The whole thing just went up in flames. I ended up in the hospital with a collapsed lung.

Alan: Hey Jamie, didn't your dad direct some episodes of *Doctor Who*?

Jamie: Well his dad sells drugs and Moroccan women!

xxx: No he doesn't!

Jamie: Well, what does he do then?

xxx: I don't know...

Eventually, the conversation wandered towards Bhutanese economics, Thomas the Tank Engine and onion ciabatta.

(Un)fortunately my recorder ran out of steam and failed to capture those words, like bad tumbleweed.

Perhaps for the best.



ONE WORLD DAY

25TH JAN 2012 (10AM-5PM)
BEIT QUAD AND UNION

The Melting Pot

An initiative pioneered by the Malaysian Society, this intercultural fair promises to showcase some of the most exquisite cultures from all around the world. Similar to Fresher's Fair, the Melting Pot will present Historical Heritage, Music, Dance, Tourism, Arts & Crafts, and most importantly, delectable Food and snacks! There will even be a Lion Dance Performance at 12.45pm that is not to be missed!

Participating Societies: Malaysian, Bruneian, Vietnamese, Mauritian, Japanese, Pakistan, Indian, Spanish, Portuguese Speaking, Singaporean & Palestinian

Venue: Beit Quad, Union Dining Hall, Activity Space 1

Free Movie Screening

Three international movies will be screened for FREE courtesy of ICU Cinema and Imperial College Union. With a 33-foot wide screen and surround sound system, what better way could there be of spending a Wednesday afternoon?

Venue: Union Concert Hall (UCH)

Schedule:

10.00am: Three Idiots

12.30pm: Kite Runner

3.00pm: Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon



MUSIC

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

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Walk Off the Earth

Theo Pavlakou on the enlightening covers of the latest viral outfit

We've all heard **Walk Off the Earth's** cover of 'Somebody That I Used to Know' by **Gotye**, and if you haven't then you should get on it, because these guys are actually good. Actually, they're better than good. They're talented. And they use their talent creatively.

A lot of stuff goes on YouTube that really does suck (search for any two random words, and you will find a home video that was not worth the effort of uploading to the web), but that's great, because after a long day in uni, toilet television might just be what we need to totally numb our brain. But these guys really were worth going viral and I'm happy for them. I mean, come on, they're catchy, and not just the Gotye cover, but all of their covers. (and when I say catchy, I'm not talking about that frustrating catchy where you end up with **Nicole Scherzinger** singing in your head... "Why? WHY?!")

They put a creative twist on what they cover, from **Rihanna** to **Adele**, and have really done what a lot of artists try to do but don't quite pull off. The thing that they get right is that they don't try and copy the song, they add their own innovative flavour to it, and I don't mean that they just play it acoustically either. They change it. They take what people know and love, and they reform it, and that's what makes their music so good.

But lets take a look at where these guys were before they hit 23,000,000+ (as seen on 16th January). So according to Wikipedia, which I'll use as a reference for an article that you'll probably read on the tube, the toilet, or not at all; their first success was when they covered 'Backin' Up' by the **Gregory Brothers**, uploaded on the 13th Dec 2010, which I'm not going to lie, I didn't know before these guys covered them (Does that make me uncool? Should I have? I don't know). That didn't hit far higher than 1mil, which I'm assuming about half came after their current hit anyway, but even so they did well. But, these guys started out in 2006! Where were they for like 5 years? Did **Sarah "Sin" Blackwood** (I don't care how well she sings, that's kind of lame you have to admit) have to come into the picture for these guys to make it as big as they are today? Did five people have to play the guitar simultaneously for their talent to shine out? I don't know, but I'm excited to see what their coming album will be like, and whether it will live up to the high expectations that these guys have created for themselves.

Be sure not to miss...

Lubomyr Melnyk

Cafe Oto
Friday 27, January

A rare chance to see the Ukranian expatriot and fastest living pianist in this most intimate of settings. Melnyk developed his own unique playing style, called 'continuous music,' based on fleeting counterpoints which weave a tapestry of pure sound that suspend the passing of time like a heart in rapture.

While in London, Melnyk will also be giving personal piano lessons, open to all interested and adept. **Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto**

Camping in an Old Street basement

Simon Hunter

As acronyms go, the one belonging to the *City Arts & Music Project* is a bit awkward. The same goes for the name of its nightclub: *CAMP Basement*.

A small club just off Old Street roundabout and unlike a lot of its neighbouring establishments, there's nothing pretentious about this place; in fact the whole feel of it can be summed up within the first two metres of walking off the pavement. The guy taking ticket money sits, with his tiny cash box, at a table which is uncomfortably reminiscent of those wobbly pieces of shit we all know and love from the Great Hall at exam time.

Downstairs, an abundance of MDF separates the cupboard-like toilets and fire escape from the rest of the room. The tiled floor reminds one of a 19th century hospital. But people who go to clubs for nice decor are dickheads anyway.

We walked in at about midnight to the monophonic fuzz of **Mr Oizo's** 'Flat Beat', and the warm-up DJ continued by putting a firm pair of V's up at DJ etiquette, playing some of the biggest tunes in UK bass music from the past couple of years. Then, as **Lokiboi** stepped up at about half past, releases from the likes of **Julio**

Bashmore, **Mosca**, **Burial** and **Joy O** flowed

You wouldn't get this at most club nights, but here were a bunch of young lads playing their favourite music and just having fun, something which too often gets forgotten in the competition for unreleased tracks and kudoes for finding music no one's heard before. **ASBO**, the MC for the night, kept things lively and although I often have reservations about MCs, **ASBO** played it well, serving as a connection between the DJ and the dance floor without basking in self-importance.

However, the young group's inexperience at hosting nights showed when **RAMP** label owner **Tom Kerridge** stepped up with a crate full of vinyl, something the laptop DJs hadn't seen coming and for some reason caused significant confusion. It took about fifteen minutes before the correct cables were in the correct places and Tom could get things moving again.

He restarted the proceedings with the incredible '54-46 That's My Number' by **Toots and the Maytals**, the opening track to the film *This is England*; the irony of which I'm sure wasn't missed by the tall, well-built skin-head. Eventually, he settled down into more traditional booming house music.

Unfortunately for me, the set lacked variety

and I eventually grew bored. Sometime after 3, **Arkist** took Tom Kerridge's place behind the decks, rolling out the disco house which enlivened the dance floor once again until we decided the lure of fried chicken was too much and headed for the exit.

CAMP Basement is a strange place, I've never seen it particularly busy; almost to the point of being too empty, yet I find myself really growing to like it. It's not trying to be anything other than a place for like-minded heads to go and enjoy some of the best music coming out of the UK underground dance music scene, and for that you've really got to respect it.

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto



Redrum in the basement

The Horrors still horrify, but not in a good way

Lily Le

The Horrors
Salle du Kao, Lyon
30th November 2011

The most offensive thing **The Horrors** have probably ever done is release *Strange House*. The best thing they have ever done would have to be a toss-up between recognising this embarrassment and recording *Sea within a Sea*. What lies inbetween was the live show I attended.

To be honest, when you are being supported by **Cerebral Ballzy** (who can only be described in a phrase assembled by a disgruntled friend

during their support slot: "I don't understand why I'm not being paid to be here") you don't have much to live up to as long as you don't sound like a mass of incomprehensible noise.

It's not that **The Horrors** were bad live, in fact compared to many other bands they were rather good, but none of the songs enhanced what is so great about their recorded material or brought alive the trippy atmosphere they create so ingeniously.

The band members instead conveyed an air of bored teenagers belonging to the emo adolescent subculture, who had been dragged out of bed and forced to play on stage but had no desire to do so. The light show and atmosphere echoed the music which was darker and heavier

than on record, and it was a shame that the keyboard couldn't be heard very well as a lot of the best parts of each song revolve around it.

The biggest disappointment was during 'Sea within a Sea' in which the intro and outro seemed to be repeated in an ad hoc manner. Sure, they are the best parts of the song, but it felt as though the band didn't put either putting any thought into deciding how many repeats would have produced the greatest effect in a live environment. Instead of recreating that unique **Horrors** vibe, the song instead sounded lazy and flat.

I walked away as a slightly disappointed fan, but relieved that at least I didn't have to endure anything from *Strange House*.

WANTED
MUSIC EDITOR

Love music?

Enjoy writing?

Too broke to pay for gigs?

Free music as in free beer,
not free press.
Right here.

Get in touch if that
tickles your feather.



Music and dance in the 21st century ...

Wolf Tracks

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto speaks to the animals ahead of their appearance at next Saturday's *Felix Music Night*

Who's who?

Ran: I'm Ran, lead singer and I sometimes play acoustic guitar on some of the songs.

Louie: I'm the drummer.

Luke: I'm Luke, I play guitar.

Henry: Henry and I play the bass.

So I heard you guys all met in halls?

Luke: Yeah. We were all in Wilson last year. Me and Louis lived next door to each other and Ran lived sort of two doors down. We just sent an email around the hall and Henry said he played bass. Thankfully in Wilson there's a practice room and it had a drum kit and stuff. It started out as just playing a bit and messing around in there.

I remember late night jams in first year... in Orient, just going into the kitchen. The guy next door was never around.

Luke: Yeah, good times.

Ran: Before Henry came in, after our first bassist had left, we used to just hum the breakdown to this one song.

Luke: We'd all just be like "Bum. Bum. Bada-dumbum!"

Ran: Haha yeah doing the bass bit... it's kind of sad. Then one day Henry came in and just absolutely ripped the bass apart!

Louis: It was just this quiet chap, who just comes in and...

Ran: Yeah, that was awesome.

How long have you guys been together then?

Ran: We're all second year now so...

Henry: About a year.

Luke: We've only started gigging this year, cause last year we were just writing stuff. Last year was more just for fun, wasn't it? I mean it still is, but like – it was more like just go down, have a practice, write some songs. And then at the end of last year we recorded a couple of songs... and it was just this year that we started sending it out.

Was it for a demo or an EP?

Luke: We recorded four songs and a cover. 'Crossroads' by **Cream**.

Ran: And 'Brimful of Asha'.

Luke: Oh yeah, the **Fatboy Slim** version.

Louis: I think we recorded some of it in your room...

To get gigs or just to pass around friends?

Luke: Both really, 'cause all the promoters we came across asked for something. All we had were rough recordings.

Louis: We had miked up a practice room but it didn't sound that great.

I used to record stuff on cassette, just 'cause it's the easiest way. Just press record and it's done. You don't have to worry about anything.

Ran: It was handy though because you can listen back to it...



Wolves are only ever this friendly on National Geographic

So who came up with the band name?

Ran: We were originally called **Romans** which has more meaning just because our drinking room in Wilson was called Rome. And our house that we live in is called Rome 2... but it turns out there are already about 5 bands called the Romans, of varying success. Like someone in the 80s or the 70s...

Luke: It's not very smart as well cause when you Google Romans you'll get something about the Roman Empire.

Ran: So there's a bike shop called Wolf Tracks near where I live in Scotland and I thought "that's cool".

Louis: Bit random.

So being Scottish I guess you appreciate the cold.

Ran: This winter was insane.

Have you ever heard of arctic foxes?

Ran: I think I've heard the name...

They're about the size of a housecat.

Ran: Oh I thought you meant a band!

No, no, not the Arctic Monkeys!

I read somewhere that they can withstand something like -70°C. Some American scientists had to 'borrow' some and put them in a freezer cause they couldn't figure it out. They didn't even shiver.

Luke: You can't even imagine something like that...

I think your brain would freeze.

So I heard some live songs on your SoundCloud...

Louis: Yeah, my brother studied broadcasting at uni so he's into film and all that. So we got

him to come down and record it. We've got a few gigs now from the Uni Music League...

Yeah, I remember some lady was handing out flyers for that during Fresher's Fair... what's that about?

Luke: It's basically like a contest for artists and bands in London universities. I think there are about 40-odd bands. First round gigs are in the university and one band represents each one. In the second round, you play a gig at ULU, the University of London Union. We're playing there on the 17th of February.

That's a nice venue.

Luke: Yeah, it's really cool. There are 4 rounds, so just the semi-finals and the finals left after that.

So what do you do? Fight each other with guitars? Who has the sharpest guitar?

Ran: haha yeah it could turn into that.

Luke: The winner gets an EP recorded by Charlie Hugall, who's done **Florence & the Machine** and **Kaiser Chiefs**. But we've already met a promoter there who's got us a gig at 93 Feet East and a couple at Proud Camden. We've just signed a contract so if we win they're like, "we want to manage you".

Just don't sign anything in blood.

"...Chicken burger!"

Luke: Sorry I'm really hungry.

You can hear Wolf Tracks's recordings on their SoundCloud page, soundcloud.com/wolftracks

Catch them at the ULU for the 2nd round of the Uni Music League on February 17th

A beginner's guide to post-hardcore

Lesson 2: Refused



I am aware that most of you this week have been force-fed a mindless barrage of exam-shaped shit-sandwiches and so I have taken it upon myself to brighten your mood. I am doing this by the (frankly quite old) news that **Refused** have confirmed reconciliation after far too many years apart. Although perhaps more at home in the hardcore box, I feel that Refused must be introduced to anyone interested in post-hardcore, if only for their pure badassery.

Hailing from Sweden, the band is consistently noted amongst the most important bands in the history of alternative music. Their relatively short lifetime of seven years (1991- 1998) saw them amass a huge following of devoted fans, and for good reason. Poured into their sound is an incredible rawness which will resonate with any punk or hardcore lover. Their body of work composes a Hardcore Gospel with each section proving to be an improvement on the last. The final piece of this collection is the album *The Shape of Punk to Come*. Not only is this album unmissable, but its title has more prophetic worth than even the most dearly held scripture for it truly has morphed the shape of modern punk and hardcore music.

Their Viking ancestry becomes visible through the savageness of their live shows. They didn't do any raping or anything though – just thought I'd clear that up. I am NOT accusing the members of Refused of being perpetrators of ultimate Viking rape. Or pillaging for that matter. Although life on the road is supposedly tough, so maybe some minor pillaging did occur. I mean we've all had a little pillage at some point haven't we? No? Just me?

Anyway, back to the live shows. Somehow the music gets even better live and the energy of the band is incredible. The band admit that their final tour was "an awful experience" but after witnessing footage of their last ever show, this feeling is completely hidden and even when they felt this low, the projection of their music is amazing to behold.

Announcing their return will have made any Refused fan's decade and hopefully a couple more of you will have been converted now as well. Remember to check out the Recommendation and come back next week!

Writer's Recommendation

Check out the song 'New Noise.' It's super awesome.

Television Editors: **George Barnett**
James Simpson

tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TELEVISION

This week on Twitter

Some top tweets about *Sherlock*



@Sherlockology

Astonishingly high AI of 91 for #Sherlock - The Reichenbach Fall. Bonkers frankly, you just don't see those kind of numbers often!



@digitalspy

Benedict Cumberbatch voted greatest ever on-screen #Sherlock Holmes



@ItsJimMoriarty

#WhenLifeGivesYouLemons, you won't be able to learn about lemons on Wikipedia anymore. #WikipediaBlackout #Sherlock



@BBCRadio4

#Sherlock's Benedict Cumberbatch stars in Tom and Viv, our drama about TS Eliot's marriage to Viv Haigh-Wood bbc.in/wt5yFn

Benedict Cumberland



Butchers in Northern England named this tasty sausage after everyone's favourite posh bloke

An epic *Sherlock* special...

Tim Arbabzadah goes all Sherlock Holmes on the scriptwriting

First of all, it's worth saying that I enjoyed *Sherlock* and, overall, thought it was a good watch. In fact, I think that the first series was excellent, except for one major problem which I'll get to later. However, in the second series, there are some things that bugged me about it. I thought I'd focus on those as you're also getting another view focussing on the best bits (we spoil you).

Jostling for position at the top of my list of complaints is the start of the second series. Seriously, it looked as if the writers wrote the cliffhanger for the first series finale, then just said "how will he get out of this using his cunning, fuck it we'll decide later". *Sherlock* escapes by Moriarty basically just going: "meh, fuck it, I'm off now. It's stuffy and smells of chlorine in here". Then it 'all tied in' at the end of the episode. It was lazy, and even with suspended disbelief set to maximum; it was as weak as a drop of Robinson's in the Pacific.

Now on to another main problem: the characters. *Sherlock*, himself, was not all too bad. He was similar enough to be recognisable as the character. At times, he was a bit of moody prick, when in the books he is blunt but charming. With women, he is a gentleman, but just shows no sexual interest in them. The show does pretty much capture the essence of him well, and who doesn't love Benny C.

The major problem, mentioned above, was Jim Moriarty. He was terrible, I'm sorry, but he was that's a fact. Well, obviously it's not a fact as it's my opinion, but shhhh. Moriarty in absolutely no way resembled the figure of Professor Moriarty in the novels, except for being *Sherlock*'s enemy and the bad guy. In the books, he is an elderly, softly spoken man, who is well respected by society and who couldn't have a bad word said about in the press, as people would think it was libel. You could say that, as it's a show, it can take ar-

tistic licence. I just think they took too much. The core of the character, and his personality, was so fundamentally changed that they basically shared a name and that's all. In the show, he was a cut and paste of The Master from *Doctor Who*. He wasn't scary and sinister at all. He was way too openly crazy for you to find him intimidating, basically like an angry chav. The shouting down the phone of skinning people sounded like a bad impression of Ari Gold from *Entourage*.

So we move on down my hit list of whinging, which, I can assure you, has left the Felix office a cold, dark place as nobody agrees with me (I have been ostracised). The next target is Irene Adler. I won't get into a feminism debate here. I have noticed that Steven Moffat is not good at writing strong, sexy women. To be fair, I can't either, and that's probably because neither of us are strong, sexy women. They usually end up turning out cringey and sounding like Jay from *Inbetweeners* ("what me? Yeah I fuck people ALL THE TIME"). Another example is River Song from *Doctor Who*. In fact, that whole episode was a bit dumb really. Why fundamentally change the plot so much when the original plot was so good, and easily modernisable. Plus, while I'm at it, why did her phone suddenly have text to unlock it when she showed it to *Sherlock*, when before it was a password and why, if they were so anxious to get rid of the photos, did they need the passcode? Why not just blow the phone up/melt it down? Also, why change Irene Adler from 'the women who beat him', to 'the woman who, with a lot of help, sort of won, but actually in the end didn't'. The run time of that episode didn't really help it out: it felt a big dragged out at times.

What is the point in having a great set of characters and stories to use if you're just going to end up throwing half of them away in a montage, and the other half alter beyond recognition.

The Hound of the Baskervilles could have been so good. Why did they come up with all the bullshit stuff? How could you not reread it and decide that it's actually not an improvement on the original.

In summary, *Sherlock* is good and an enjoyable watch. The first series was excellent, the second not as good but still fun and worth checking out; I just like to moan, and besides, it's my personal opinion. In fact, that's the wonderful thing about all art forms. They are all personal to you, in this case more so than many others. My version of *Sherlock Holmes* is a certain way, and my image of him in my head is Jeremy Brett (from the old BBC dramatization). If *Sherlock* is your introduction to the sleuth, you may find the books weird and feel like they are wrong, as things aren't how you picture them. So it's all about point of view, and how much spare time you manage to make for yourself to write an article like this.

Borgen: not exactly *Sherlock*...

Maciej Matuszewski

I'm afraid that I missed out on the phenomenon that was *The Killing* so I was eager to watch the BBC's newest Danish import *Borgen*. Produced by the same broadcaster as *The Killing*, *Borgen* is a political drama about Birgitte Nyborg whose small Moderate party's massive election gains, following damaging revelations about her rivals, has made her Denmark's first female Prime Minister.

As could be expected the show has two strands – the political drama and the personal lives of Birgitte and those around her. The political element is certainly entertaining but also completely unrealistic and over the top. Every major political development seems to happen during live television interviews and debates – in the very first episode Birgitte immediately cuts the Moderate's ties former allies Labour after an interviewer suggests that the latter has changed their policies. Admittedly the show recognises that this wasn't exactly the cleverest thing for her to do – we get to see a

rather amusing shot of her exasperated spin doctor standing behind the cameras – but something like this happens almost every episode. Not that this does the Moderates any harm – despite the election results they are still not the largest party but Birgitte's political manoeuvring gets her the top job.

This doesn't get any better once Birgitte does get into power. While she often has to use clever political tricks to get her way there is no sense of any deeper exploration of the nature of power or of politics. Almost all of the Birgitte's problems have clear, black and white solutions. This reached its ridiculous height in the latest episode broadcast here in the UK, '100 Days', in which she has to decide whether to grant yet more autonomy to Greendland – despite its corrupt government, failing schools system and alarming suicide rate. It doesn't take her long to decide that the national pride coming from more autonomy will somehow help the Greendlanders solve all their problems.

The personal elements are handled somewhat

better.

There is no melodrama for its own sake and every character is well developed and acts like a real person. Birgitte's family in particular is a joy to watch – they are clearly under the strain of the difficult and unexpected situation but remain supportive. There are no massive contrived arguments that are conveniently solved by the end of the episode – just a very relatable and sympathetic family trying to get on with their daily lives.

The show is certainly a mixed bag. It's very engaging though unfortunately I'm hard pressed to say it's anything special. The characters may be well rounded and likeable but there just isn't any depth to the plot. This is nothing more than an enjoyable, middle of the road drama.

SHERLOCK SPECIAL

...in memory of the nation's favourite detective

Final episode has more holes than dutch cheese, says Maciej Matuszewski

So the second series of the BBC's brilliant *Sherlock* has come to an end. The first series showed that it is possible to make a fresh, modern television adaptation while remaining impressively faithful to the hundred year old source material. The second showed that the creative team has lost none of their spark in the intervening time.

The first episode 'A Scandal in Belgravia', (in my opinion the best of the three making up this year's showing) got things off to a great start. It struck the perfect mix of references to classic Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stories, sure to raise a smile with avid Holmes fans, and an exciting new conflict with Irene Adler. Like in the Guy Ritchie Holmes film her role has been far expanded from her one appearance in Doyle's work but, unlike in the films, here this works. Perhaps it is that the chemistry between the actors playing Adler and Holmes works better in the TV show, at first conveying antagonism before moving on to, for lack of a better phrase, professional respect and, finally, the barest hint of something more.

Certainly the episode's pacing was far better than that of the films.

Though some forty minutes shorter than either of the movies the lack of the distraction of ever present, over-the-top action scenes allowed far more plot and character development to be fitted in. Not that this is all reserved for Holmes and Adler – one of the greatest strengths of 'Sherlock' is the growing friendship between Holmes and Watson, which has such dramatic payoff in the last few scenes of the final episode.

I am, however, getting ahead of myself. 'The Hounds of Baskerville', the second episode, was probably the weakest of the trio. There was nothing technically wrong with it and it was perfectly enjoyable, it's just that while the other episodes feature Holmes pitting his wits against an intellect his equal, this, in the end, is just a rather simple mystery. There are a few scenes dealing with Holmes feeling fear for one of the first times in his life as a result of being exposed to military hallucinogens but this ends up going nowhere. In short – a forgettable interlude that came between two episodes that build well upon each other.

The show's finale, 'The Reichenbach Fall', is difficult to analyse. While in many ways a great episode it was also immensely disappointing. To explain why, I'm afraid that I'll have to move into spoiler territory. The episode deals with Moriarty, the consulting criminal introduced at the end of the first series and person revealed to be responsible for many of the events of 'A Scandal in Belgravia', framing Holmes for causing all the crimes that he solves to make himself look good. Moriarty even pretends to be an impoverished actor Holmes hired just so that he could have a nemesis. This is done so well that even I began to believe him.

Unfortunately this leads to a rather significant plot hole – Holmes' hugely influential brother

"To explain why, I'm afraid I'll have to move into spoiler territory"

Mycroft, of whom Holmes even says that "occasionally he is the British government". He knows very well that Moriarty is not just an actor and he could have easily used his connections to show that the evidence against his brother was faked. Holmes' pride explains why he never asks Mycroft for help but Mycroft himself is shown to care deeply for his brother and to want to help – but he never does, even when the situation gets desperate. He could have even probably had Moriarty assassinated – after all, it is shown that he had no qualms against holding him prisoner illegally and torturing him before the events of the series.

I am quite vocal in my dislike of plot holes but, while it does come close and is still exceptionally annoying, I'm going to have to say that it doesn't ruin the episode for me. The reason is that, however stupid the means by which they get there, Holmes' and Moriarty's final stand-off is genuinely dramatic. You really sense that Moriarty is Holmes' equal and criminal counterpart – Moriarty's cry of "You're me. You're me" near the end is genuinely chilling – and the tension builds up until the final climax when ... well you might guess from the episode title.

In short, while not perfect, this show was truly an engaging watch. The stories were, for the most part, incredibly engaging and the acting was marvellous. If you haven't seen it yet I strongly advise you to catch it while it's still on iPlayer.

Is Benedict gonna Cumber-back for another series?

YES. Producers Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss both announced on Twitter that a third series was commissioned at the same time as the second. Unfortunately they are also responsible for *Doctor Who*, which ironically consumes a lot of their time; so the next series will air during 2013 at the earliest.



BBC

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FILM

2012 Golden Globe Awards



The long-awaited awards season celebrating 2011's best kicked off on Sunday with the Golden Globes, held in the Beverly Hilton Hotel, California. With Ricky Gervais hosting the show for the third time in a row, no-one was spared from his sharp tongue insulting Hollywood's top stars. Johnny Depp once again had to endure the mention of his terrible *The Tourist*, whereas Jodie Foster's *The Beaver*, starring Mel Gibson about a man who finds a cure to his depression by a talking puppet drew some laughter at how the film made next to nothing at the box office.

Those not present at the ceremony were not exempt from Gervais' opening monologue, with the British comedian comparing socialite Kim Kardashian and Kate Middleton to the Golden Globes and the Oscars respectively. "The Golden Globes," he said, "are just like the Oscars without all that esteem. The Golden Globes are to the Oscars what Kim Kardashian is to Kate Middleton: a bit louder, bit trashier, bit drunker, and more easily bought. Allegedly. Nothing's been proved." He also picked on NBC, the American television network airing the Golden Globes as being the "fourth biggest network." A highly unflattering remark, since there are only five basic competitive primetime channels in the United States (ABC, CBS, FOX and CW being the other four).

When it came to the winners, there were hardly any surprises in store. **Christopher Plummer** (*Beginners*) and **Octavia Spencer** (*The Help*) took home the gold for their supporting gigs, **Madonna** was awarded Best Original Song for her effort 'Masterpiece' in her new film *W.E.* with Hollywood veterans **Martin Scorsese** (*Hugo*) and **Woody Allen** (*Midnight in Paris*) each winning an award for Best Director and Best Screenplay respectively.

Although **Steven Spielberg's** much-lauded *War Horse* left empty-handed, his another hit, *The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn* managed to win Best Animated Film.

The Best Foreign Language Film honour went to *A Separation* an outstanding Iranian film which had already been awarded the top prize last February at the Berlin Film Festival.

Jean Dujardin (*The Artist*) and **Michelle Williams** (*My Week with Marilyn*) were deservedly awarded for their efforts in the comedy category of the Golden Globes, with *The Artist*, a silent, black-and-white film, ultimately taking home the Best Motion Picture – Comedy award.

Meryl Streep further cemented her reputation by winning her eighth Golden Globe for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady* in the category Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama, with the ever-so handsome (something Gervais even acknowledged) and still unmarried **George Clooney** being honoured for his performance in Alexander Payne's *The Descendants*. Director Payne's latest film about a grieving father in Hawaii who finds out about his comatose wife's infidelity also took home the top prize, Best Motion Picture – Drama.

Spielberg's equine First World War

War Horse

Director Steven Spielberg
Screenwriters Lee Hall, Richard Curtis, Michael Morpurgo (play)
Cast Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Tom Hiddleston, David Thewlis, Peter Mullan

Lucy Wiles

This is a true masterpiece. It's certainly one of the most emotional films of recent times, with the last fifty minutes or so being a veritable rollercoaster of ups and downs. This is Spielberg at his absolute finest – so tearjerkingly perfect that I am quite sure there were no dry eyes in the cinema when I left. It was a difficult act to follow – Michael Morpurgo's fiercely popular original novel was extremely highly rated, not to mention the theatrical production which is consistently awarded five stars and has been called "the play of the decade". However, Spielberg's portrayal of a wonderful story has set an extremely high standard for the rest of the films in 2012, as well as earning itself Golden Globe nominations for 'Best Picture: Drama' and 'Best Original Score'.

Shot mostly in Devon, the film tells the tale of Joey, a thoroughbred horse, owned by a poor tenant farmer (Mullan) and loved by the

farmer's teenage son, Albert (Irvine). When World War I breaks out, the farmer is forced to sell Joey to a kind, keen young Army captain (Hiddleston), who takes Joey with him into battle. A heartbroken Albert promises Joey that they'll see each other again some day – and eventually enlists in the army to embark on a search for his friend. The horse accompanies the captain into war, and from there crosses into enemy territory and embarks on a hazardous journey, culminating at the Battle of the Somme. His tale gives us a glimpse of many aspects of warfare – from those fighting in the front line to those left behind at home.

As proven in *Saving Private Ryan*, depicting warfare is one of Spielberg's positive strengths. This film is packed with battle scenes, including a memorable suicidal cavalry charge, and not forgetting the Battle of the Somme itself. There are highly commended performances from Toby Kebbell as a brave Geordie corporal, and, in smaller roles, Benedict Cumberbatch and Eddie Marsan. But, it has to be said, the most memorable performance is by 21-year-old Irvine, who – despite a limited acting repertoire – portrayed young Arthur with sincerity. Of course, a mention must also be made to the fourteen horses that played Joey so convincingly, all the way from foal to adult



Don't worry, I'll make sure you don't end up like that one in *The Godfather*

horse. Considering no animals were harmed in the making, the terror of the horses is very realistically portrayed, and kudos must go to the film's chief horse trainer Bobby Lovgren for that, as well as for managing a whopping 280 horses in a single scene.

Although the film is nearly two and a half hours long, you are never bored. The viewer is held gripped in Joey's tale as he roves through the war – the beauty and tragedy enhanced by John Williams' impressive score and Janusz Kaminski's stirring cinematography. My only criticism is a slightly slow start for the first twenty minutes or so, but otherwise *War Horse* just cannot be faulted, and is as good a film as we've ever seen from the director – who is hailing this as one of his finest works.

The film is genuinely emotional, unflinchingly real, epic, and imaginative – an absolute must-see.

Her Madgesty takes on the royal family

W.E.

Director Madonna
Screenwriters Madonna, Alek Keshishian
Cast Abbie Cornish, Andrea Riseborough, James D'Arcy, Oscar Isaac

John Park

Madonna doesn't exactly have a great track record when it comes to the film industry. Both her acting and directorial debuts were widely panned, and subsequent attempts to make a name for herself have not quite worked out. *W.E.* is her second behind-the-camera effort, and whilst it would be wrong to completely ignore her passion project, *W.E.* is unlikely to do wonders for her film career.

The film follows two parallel stories in two different time periods. One is of Wallis Simpson (Riseborough) and her blossoming romance with King Edward VIII (D'Arcy), who later abdicates his throne because his government could not allow a twice-divorced American as the wife of its monarch. Obsessed with this "fairy-tale" love story is Wally Winthrop (Cornish), an unhappily married woman living in modern day New York. Visiting the same "Wallis-Edward" exhibition over and over again, she soaks herself in the atmosphere of their true love and escapes her own miserable life by picturing the life of Wallis and Edward. To Wally, the couple shared the perfect romance – and this belief stems from her knowledge that he gave up so much for one woman. "What must it feel like to be loved that much?" She wonders.

As the two separate strands intersect, Madonna pays no attention to the characters but is

more interested in putting together similar looking objects and events in the two timelines, whilst rushing past so many scenes. She seems to be in a hurry to tell us something – so imagine everyone's disappointment when it is revealed that she does not in fact have much to tell. Random time-stamps on the bottom of the screen try to establish some sort of linear sequence, but when each scene is so annoyingly brief, the audience cannot fully grasp what is going on.

Her tendency to move fast does have one advantage though. It means that we see less of that awful plot of Wally. It's a combination of Cornish's plain boring performance and repetitive narrative that produces something so infuriatingly tacky. There is a fine line between acting depressed, and simply looking dull. For Cornish, it's unfortunately the latter. It gets worse when Wally starts "seeing" Wallis and it's embarrassing when the spirit of Wallis guides Wally as some sort of guardian angel. It's not moving, nor is it emotional – instead it's creepy, and makes Wally look like a lunatic. The existence of her alcoholic, abusive husband means Wally needs a love interest, which she does get (Isaac), although this also is cooked up in such a clumsy way between the two actors who are allowed to share virtually no chemistry, since the script doesn't give them any room to develop.

When it comes to the English romance, D'Arcy struggles to connect with the character of Wallis, let alone with himself, as his flat performance does little to convince of their "Romance of the Century". Only Riseborough is able to make something out of the clunky, wit-free, romance-free script that Madonna also co-wrote. The rising English star is confident and sassy, and grasps the many changes and aspects of her complex

role well, as she acts as the only person holding the film together.

In a recent interview, Madonna was oddly proud that she gave many invasive, nostalgic shots with her narrower lenses (16mm and Super 8mm cameras). Yes, the grainy close-ups that 8mm cameras generate do give off a warm, sentimental ambience, but only when used appropriately. What Madonna cannot resist doing is use it every few seconds. With a massive lack of focus and far too many narrative breaks, it's ugly and chaotic, with headache-inducing camera-work adding hardly any positive qualities to the overall product. Who knew a romantic drama could cause so much discomfort to the eyes?

Good news then, that Madonna nabbed many of the industry's great technical geniuses to make the more obvious aspects look and sound amazing. The costumes, provided by Arianne Phillips, are simply divine. Wallis goes through as many as 83 costume changes, and the variety of wardrobe Riseborough is given is an impressive collection. Abel Korzeniowski's score is a grand, sweeping piece of work that inputs dramatic grandeur to a film struggling to hold your attention. But again, Madonna doesn't know how to show restraint, and decides to include the music in full force whenever it is used. It over-rides the dialogue, and just as you thought the music could not get any more bombastic, Madonna finds a way and makes it excruciating for the ears.

W.E. had some great start-up material, Madonna was armed with pretty costumes, triumphant soundtrack and let's not forget the camera lenses. But she threw them all away to make a superficial, shallow period film, because of her inability to show an ounce of restraint.

An exciting new musical project



Time to play casting-director: the above female looks like a cross between Audrey Tautou, Rooney Mara, and...hmm... Isabella Rossellini (for the hair)

God Help the Girl

Director Stuart Murdoch
Screenwriters Stuart Murdoch

Philip Kent

God Help The Girl builds on from a musical project by Stuart Murdoch (of Belle and Sebastian fame) that resulted in a set of EPs and an album of the same name in 2009. The tracks introduce the story of Eve, a girl with much promise and a bright future, whose life falls apart – culminating with a long stay in hospital. It is an album with a sad story to tell, yet does so in a mind-numbingly beautiful manner. Whilst based on Stuart's band, the songs have an extra punch, making them sound wonderful. Whether this is thanks to the orchestra that Stuart makes excellent use of, or the outstanding voices of Catherine Ireton et al., is left to personal choice.

Following the releases, Stuart joins with Barry Mendel, who produced the six-time Academy Award-nominated *The Sixth Sense*, to release a film, explaining what happens to Eve after her departure from hospital. Stuart always knew there was a story to tell with *God*

Help The Girl – he started writing the screenplay in 2006.

Beyond what we learn from the music, plot details are thin on the ground. However, the character profiles carry on where the album left off, and give us a glimpse into what we can expect to see when the film is released. The story is set in Glasgow around Eve and two new characters, James and Cassie, in what the promotional videos call “the story of a better summer”. In other words, this is the tale of three people whose lives revolve around music.

Eve, as a character, is a wreck. Overwhelmed by the pressure of a University education for which she has little regard, she becomes insular, isolated from her parents and friends, and anorexic. Her parents, horrified, send her to hospital. It is here that the film picks up, focusing on how she builds herself back through music. It is highly likely that this is after Eve runs off after a hospital football match – this is where the story in the album ends.

James is also of poor health, but appears to have more life in his soul than Eve did when she was at hospital. An EP suggests that Eve is fond of James (whom she met at the end of the story in the album), and like Eve, James

is someone who has music flowing through his veins. This is not the only thing they have in common – his health problems also appear to be of the mental type, with the character profile describing him as spending as much time as possible in his “safety zone”, a “small bedsit room”.

Cassie, on the other hand, is vastly different to the other two characters. Her profile describes her as “posh”, living in a castle; yet also having a bubbly personality. Her connection to the others is seen at the start of the film – being taught the guitar by James in a “stilted”, “professional” relationship, while the song ‘I’ll Have To Dance With Cassie’ may give some suggestion as to her standing with Eve! With that said, her lack of friends (the suggestion is due to her awkward posh background) results in her spending the majority of her time with the others.

The film is to be recorded this year in Glasgow with Stuart in the director's chair. Once casting is complete and funding attained, filming can begin in earnest, with a release expected in 2013. The speed of the production is aided by the existence of a completed score and script – Stuart has been working on this project since songs

came to his head in 2003.

The film is funded by a combination of private and public funding, with a target of \$3m set. The Channel 4 Alpha Fund has contributed, with some “financially blessed individuals” worldwide making their own private contributions. One of the more interesting funding mechanisms that the team have undertaken is through use of Kickstarter – a website where people pledge to a project and receive gifts in return. Subject to the goal of \$100,000 being met, pledgers can expect a wide variety of strange and exciting prizes, including pieces of the set, one-of-a-kind rarities, and appearances in the film. This is in addition to other fan-led initiatives, such as website visitors suggesting people to be considered for casting.

God Help The Girl is looking to be a particularly exciting film, even if we only know little of the storyline at the moment. The plot that we have seen is deep and intriguing, and the musical accompaniment from the earlier releases only helps to develop it further, as well as build anticipation of an excellent soundtrack. Definitely a film to keep an eye on as it develops further this year!

Top 10 Box Office films in the UK this week



1) War Horse – 12A – Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Tom Hiddleston

2) The Iron Lady – 12A – Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent

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

4) Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol – 12A – Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg

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

6) The Darkest Hour – 12A – Emile Hirsch, Max Minghella, Olivia Thirlby

7) The Artist – PG – Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo, John Goodman, James Cromwell

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

9) Puss in Boots – U – Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis

10) Shame – 18 – Michael Fassbender, Carey Mulligan

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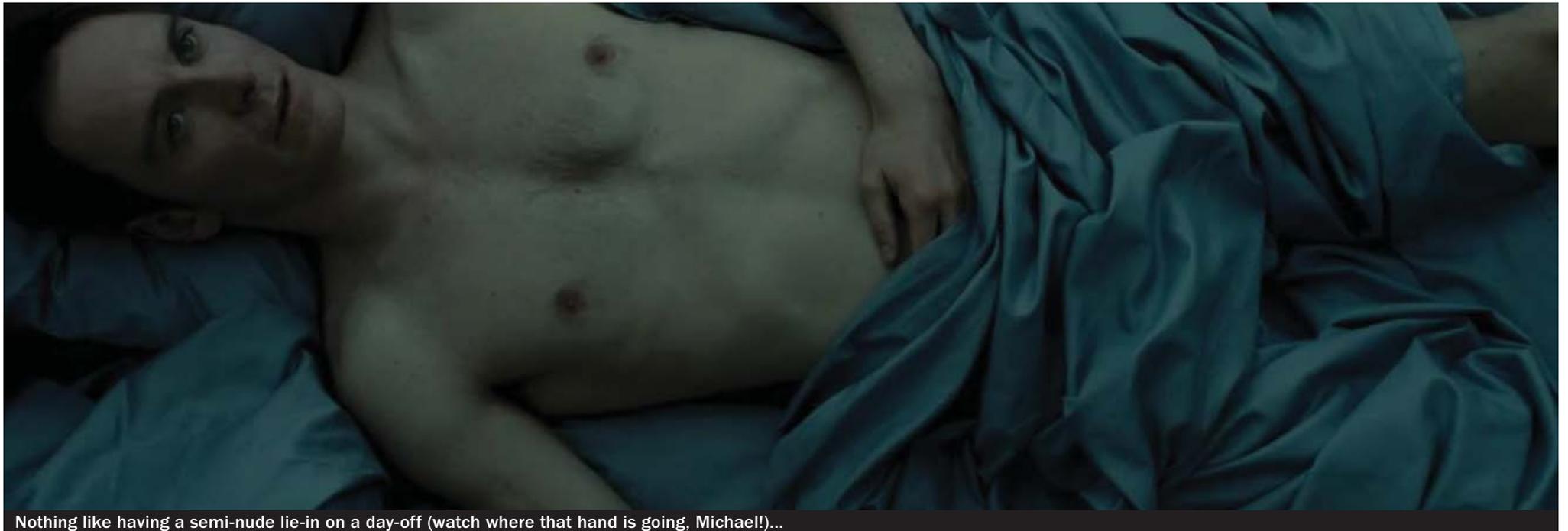


Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

Fassbender just can't get enough



Nothing like having a semi-nude lie-in on a day-off (watch where that hand is going, Michael!)

Shame

Director Steve McQueen
Screenwriters Steve McQueen, Abi Morgan
Cast Michael Fassbender, Carey Mulligan

John Park

For Brandon (Fassbender), sex is what starts and ends his day. He wakes up, walks into the shower and masturbates. At night, the internet gives him access to all sorts of pornography. That's not all. He often enjoys the company of prostitutes, one night stands, and even more masturbation in the men's room of his workplace. On the outside, he's your average good-looking advertising executive. Brandon probably knows that he's a sex addict. He would never admit it, but you can see the pain of a tortured man in his face whenever he tries to satisfy his constant sexual craving that is slowly eating away at him. He is forever tormented – and sex provides that brief moment of relief and satisfaction. This doesn't last

long of course, but this will have to do. And as a single man living alone in his apartment, Brandon seems to be in control of his life.

This is until the sudden appearance of his younger, troubled sister, Sissy (Mulligan). He is not pleased with this unannounced visitation, but being his own sister, tries to take care of her. But it turns out Sissy is just as damaged as Brandon. Whereas Brandon tends to actively seek out a way to find satisfaction, Sissy is more helpless and relies on others for comfort and company. Her low self-esteem and self-destructive behaviour make her emotionally vulnerable. Hooking up with Brandon's married boss (the excellent James Badge Dale), on Brandon's own bed no less, never cleaning up after herself, the carefully organised New York apartment life that Brandon is so used to and needs starts to fall apart as the unstable Sissy crashes head-on into his life.

What made these characters who they are is not the focus for McQueen. A slight hint only suggests their troubled childhood and other

than that, the audience has to fill the gaps. What *Shame* does so brilliantly however, is the careful examination of its extremely complex characters. Brandon's world, for what it's worth, is a meticulously structured one, and this is shown through the neatly designed sets that surround him. It's almost too clean, to the point that it suggests Brandon cannot afford the time or desire to decorate. His mind is on one thing only.

It's what Fassbender's remarkable performance shows that is truly fascinating; the inner Brandon, the side of him he never shows to anyone. His colleagues don't suspect a thing, and initially, his sister doesn't quite know. Fassbender is an intense, focused presence on screen, and his quiet, blank gaze is unnerving as he seduces women from afar. From his perfectly still, unflinching motion, we can only presume there is no limit to his dark fantasies. McQueen's frequent use of close-ups into the actor's face further boosts his range as the fearless actor finds that delicate balance between superficial charm and disturbing hid-

den sexual appetite.

Brandon even contemplates whether a normal intimate relationship is ever possible for someone like him. This prompts him to approach a co-worker; something that doesn't quite lead to the things he was expecting. It's heart-breaking to see a man so distant from others – he's attracted to no-one and sex is merely a convenient gateway for orgasm, and Brandon is never too fussed about how he goes about this. On one night of desperation, he even goes to a gay bar. There is nothing to suggest that Brandon is gay, or straight for that matter. Building a deep, meaningful connection is not his specialty, and this is all he's ever known.

Acting against Fassbender is the equally effective Mulligan, who shows, among other things, that she can sing too. As she performs a stripped down version of Frank Sinatra's 'New York, New York' in a cabaret bar, it becomes the defining moment that tells us of the pain that Sissy has suffered over the years, captured so exceptionally well by the young

English actress. During this memorable scene, McQueen shifts his camera from Sissy to Brandon, showing our protagonist suppress his emotions. He does have a soft spot for his uninhibited wreck of a sister, but still has no choice but to put his needs first.

Much like his actors, McQueen remains brave throughout the film, and is never afraid to look away even in the most exposed, uncomfortable scenes. His long takes will no doubt frustrate some viewers, but *Shame* is not supposed to be an easy watch. The explicit nudity is necessary to immediately set the tone and McQueen doesn't beat around the bush introducing the central character. We are supposed take Brandon for what he is, but it's hard not to wonder just what it was that plunged him into the world of sex addiction. What happens in the few days of their lives we do get to see is no doubt a gripping one, but you may not leave the cinema feeling fully invested in its characters. But what *Shame* is proud to boast, its top-notch performances and perceptive direction are well worth your while.

Award Season Events to Look Forward to:

Producers Guild Awards: Saturday 21 January
Directors Guild Awards: Saturday 28 January
Screen Actors Guild Awards: Sunday 29 January
BAFTA Film Awards: Sunday 12 February
Writers Guild Awards: Sunday 19 February
Independent Spirit Awards: Saturday 25 February
Academy Awards: Sunday 26 February



2011 actor/actress winners: Christian Bale, Natalie Portman, Melissa Leo and Colin Firth

GAMES

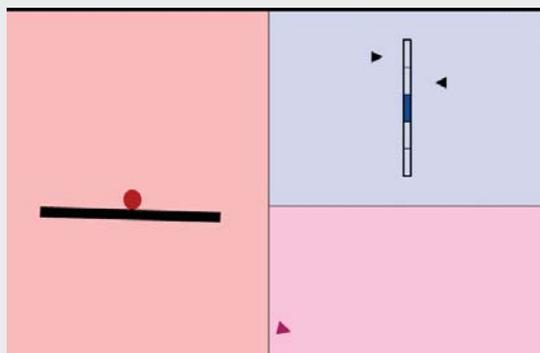
games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Free Web Games

Missed Web Games last week? Yes? Well fear not, we're back again (don't go having a nose bleed from the excitement). As ever here are two totally awesome web games that you can play right now in your web browser. In order to enjoy these you're going to need the Adobe Flash Player plug-in, which can be installed from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

Multitask 2

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/567376>



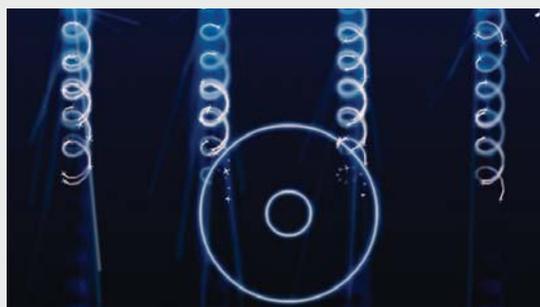
Normally Felix strives for high-quality pictures. If you can get me a good screenshot of this game on your own, send it in. I'll give you £100. Seriously, the second your hand leaves the keyboard it's game over.

Multitask 2 is simple in premise – you start with one simple task, balancing a circle on a plank, before being gradually presented with more and more tasks that need to be maintained in tandem. It's annoyingly addictive, and if you can make it to the fourth task you deserve a hefty pat on the back.

Middle-aged housewives with a husband, three kids and a dog will probably shine.

Stellar Hunter 2

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/587723>



From the frustrating, finger-twitch inducing *Multitask 2* we come to *Stellar Hunt 2*, altogether far more relaxing. Lord knows, you'll need something to calm yourselves down.

Your aim is to collect all the stars forming pretty patterns on the screen, using your star-attracting cursor. It's not what any hyper-intelligent Imperial student would call challenging, but it's an addicting, somewhat hypnotic exercise that's suprisingly fun to play.

Go get your hustle on. For science

Cave Johnson here folks. Shut up and read

Hello, aspiring scientists. Cave Johnson here.

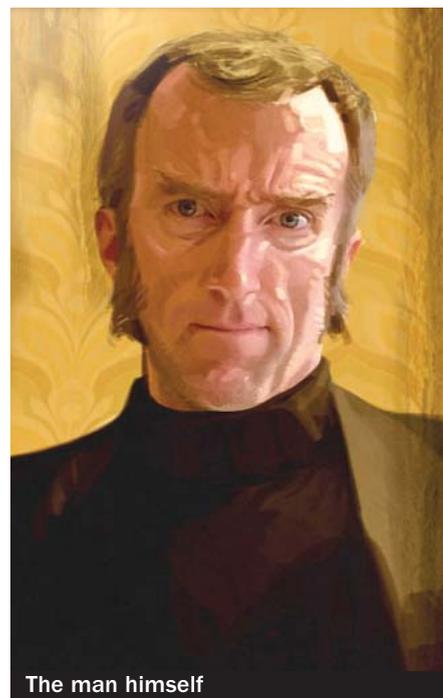
As founder and CEO of Aperture Science, I've been invited by Felix to write about the glamorous lifestyle that awaits you all as attractive, well-paid and influential scientists. Considering the fact that most of you will end up working as drones for money-grabbing suits in the city, who wouldn't know the thrill of scientific endeavour if a time-travelling Einstein told them the secret of eternal life, this should be quite a short article.

Instead, I want to talk to you about the rat-race that is scientific progress, and why we need as many able-bodied scientists as possible. Last week, I gave the boys down in the lab a bunch of contracts to sign, allowing us to use their bodies for some reanimation tests. All I got back was some speech about their human rights, but what about your rights? Don't you and your children have a right to a better life if these tests prove that a concentrated solution of kitten tears is able to repair dead cells?

As a result, my lawyer keeps calling me, saying that I shouldn't be slowly filling their lab with water, but what does he know — he even says I shouldn't be admitting this to you. He's not like you and me. He's not a scientist.

What good are all the letters at the end of your name if you can't even escape from a room slowly filling with water? This is survival of the brightest in action, and we'll have more subjects for testing this way. If they didn't say no, it's implied consent.

Now don't get me wrong — I couldn't get to where I am today without the boys in the lab, and they could not have a more satisfying job. Where else can the outcome of testing the theory behind Schrodinger's cat result in a horde of un-killable kittens (which was coincidentally the start of our reanimation



The man himself

tests)? Certainly not Black Mesa, I can tell you! My contacts tell me that Black Mesa is like kindergarten — lots of crayons and people who steal your ideas. Seriously now, don't go there. Please.

To contribute to science, you don't have to sign your life away, or even the rights to your body parts. Even if you just participate in some tests with us at Aperture, someone somewhere will thank you for your contribution to science. But not me — I only thank those who are married to science. Don't you want to be able to say that you helped dissect the science behind cuteness, or developed the cure to stupidity?

Well, just as a heads up, I've been in con-

tact with the college and the kitchen staff, and we've settled on a deal. As students, we know how much you love free things, so we're going to be giving you all some vouchers to use in your JCR, and over the next few weeks we're going to be adding a bunch of chemicals to the food that you eat on campus. I can't even pronounce half of the stuff we're pouring into the coffee alone, so this is groundbreaking stuff. Don't worry — the boys in the lab were pretty sure that what you will be eating and drinking isn't toxic. That's why you're doing the tests to check. There may be some minor side effects, such as an urge to procrastinate, or not get any work done, but it shouldn't be too serious. You get free food and can contribute to science, so it's smiles all around!

If you also experience the development of superpowers, spontaneous combustion or are abducted by aliens, then that's probably not us, but something to tell your grandkids! Let us know anyway.

“Don't you have a right to a better life if these tests prove that a concentrated solution of kitten tears is able to repair dead cells?”

On the other hand, if you become hard of hearing, start coughing up blood, or develop a case of death, you probably ate some of the food intended for the staff. That's not a problem — just let a test associate know, and we'll fix you up, good and proper. If you want to get even more vouchers, there's the opportunity to try some new methods we've got for re-growing organs. The procedure is painless, mainly as we have to remove your head from the rest of your body first. Initial tests on worms look promising.

If you have any questions for me, then Caroline is waiting to take your telegrams. Send your questions to games.felix@imperial.ac.uk with the subject “Ask Cave” and we'll get right to it.

Get your hustle on. For science.

Questions for Cave?

Do you have any questions for Mr Johnson? If so, email them onto games.felix@imperial.ac.uk and I'll pass them onto him for answers. Responses will be published in Felix.

So go do as the man says people. Write in — **for science.**



Drink up now. We're pretty sure partially-attenuated phoneutria nigriventer toxin-3 is completely harmless

The Problem of Piracy

Online piracy is a growing problem, but planned, potentially disastrous US legislation is not the way to tackle it. Laurence Pope discusses

Some readers may well be familiar with the acronyms SOPA and PIPA, both of which have been bounded about in the news over the last few months or so. They stand for the Stop Online Piracy Act and the closely related Protect IP (Intellectual Property) Act. Both are bills that are currently being considered, respectively, by the US House of Representatives and the Senate. As their names suggest, they are aimed at combating online piracy. The issues surrounding these proposed laws are both numerous and complicated in nature, as are the arguments wielded by its supporters and critics; if you're spurred into action by this piece then there's a wealth of information that can be found in the very medium the bills will impact – namely, the internet.

At the time of writing, SOPA has lost most of its momentum following a statement from the White House claiming that, whilst internet piracy needs to be curbed, “we will not support legislation that reduces freedom of expression, increases cybersecurity risk, or undermines the dynamic, innovative global Internet.” This, along with the hugely negative response from internet giants such as Google, Twitter and Wikipedia, has effectively clipped SOPA's wings. That is not the end of the story however. PIPA still exists, and there is nothing to say that modifications of SOPA will lead to it being passed silently by Congress. This is not an issue to be ignored.

But why are these bills so dangerous? Why did they prompt Wikipedia, Reddit and other sites to co-ordinate a shut down on January 18? Surely they only aim to combat piracy that is, at the end of the day, an illegal activity. There are laws at the moment, such as the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which protects copyrighted material, but SOPA and PIPA would target sites hosting the material. It would allow the US Justice Department to target overseas sites committing or facilitating piracy, as well as force US internet companies to cut ties with said websites and block them from searches. Theoretically this could target and shut down sites with a single link to any site deemed to be violating said laws. This could potentially affect large sites such as YouTube and Facebook.

The ambiguous wording of the bills and their worryingly broad nature has come under fire, and a major worry is that large corporations will have the power to sue smaller start-up companies whom they believe aren't filtering their searches well enough, start-up companies who could have gone on to be the next Facebook. Entertainment companies already have the power to take down copyrighted material. The major concern is that a precedent will be set-up, leading to the empowerment of the entertainment industry online and increased censorship.

So what do SOPA and PIPA have to do with gaming? Quite a lot as it happens. Many game and tech companies, who you would initially assume to support the bill, have spoken out against it. Mojang, creators of *Minecraft*, underwent a



“Spore, shipped with aggressive anti-piracy protection, became one of the most pirated games in history.”

site blackout on the 18th in protest, and NVIDIA blogged that “...we oppose piracy ... However, we do not support SOPA. We don't believe it is the right solution to the problem.” Other companies echo this sentiment.

The question remains however: if piracy is something to be combated, but SOPA and PIPA are too Draconian, then what is the solution? The answer does not lie in sweeping, misguided legislation. The internet is full of very intelligent people, and blocks, takedowns or other anti-piracy measures can be easily navigated around. Information spreads quickly; soon enough, any measure enacted will be counteracted and the battle will begin anew. Legislation, certainly poorly worded and such broad legislation as SOPA or PIPA, is akin to applying a bandage to an axe wound.

DRM (Digital Rights Management) is often used by media distribution companies such as game publishers to protect their property from being pirated. Put simply, DRM is an umbrella term applied to any technique that stops films, music and games from being copied (or ‘ripped’) and distributed freely. The problem is that it's not all that effective at what it's supposed to do.

As mentioned previously people are clever. Pirates have found, and will continue to find

ways around DRM restrictions, forcing companies to continually upgrade their protection if they want to stay ahead of the game. ‘Cracking’ DRM protection costs time – updating it costs both time and money and forces companies into a battle that they cannot possibly win. Another issue with DRM lies with format and standard changes. DRM-restricted content is not always perfect, and often content that the owner has paid for is lost in the changeover. It's just not a good anti-piracy system, as proved by the now infamous game *Spore*.

Spore, a single player God-game, was released in 2008 by EA Games. The game featured an overly Draconian DRM system, requiring internet activation and a limit of only three installations. Any more than that and you had to contact EA for an added activation, which they were not obliged to grant you. The result? Hilariously, with over half a million downloads across vari-

ous BitTorrent sites, *Spore* became one of the most pirated games in history. As if to rub salt on the wound *Spore* also became one of the lowest rated games on Amazon, mostly down to its DRM system. If there's ever a case for aggressive DRM failing to do its job, *Spore* is the one.

One solution to piracy comes from Gabe Newell, cofounder and CEO of Valve, the company responsible for the digital distribution platform Steam. Newell claims that piracy is predominantly “a service problem and not a pricing problem,” and has to be combated by providing a better service than the pirates. A pirate, who can provide a copy of a game 24/7, globally and digitally, is going to be taken up on his offer far more often than a company who requires you only buy it from a store, three months after its main-region release. By providing such a well thought-out service such as Steam, giving users access to regular updates, chat functions and achievements amongst other features, Valve has reached the point where piracy is “basically a non-issue.” Regular readers may have noticed my slight bias towards Valve in the past. This bias is not without good reason.

“Paradoxically, the answer to piracy lies in doing away with anti-piracy protection.”

The answer to piracy lies in doing away with DRM, not passing bills like SOPA or PIPA. To some this may seem counter-intuitive, but as the *Spore* study shows DRM alienates many players and causes them to turn to piracy; it's the online equivalent of flipping the bird. People lose respect for companies that support DRM, and crack their protection and distribute it simply because they can. “So what?” the line of arguing often goes, “They're big companies, they make too much money anyway.” Enter the Steam service model. Valve is just as big as many of its competitors, yet commands more respect than most. The result is that their games are pirated far less frequently, and Steam continually rakes in massive profits and millions of players.

In a digital age companies need to focus on good customer service to keep existing customers and turn around pirates. Services like Steam and Netflix already operate in this manner, and moves by Apple to start relaxing its DRM protected music on iTunes are a good way forward. At the end of the day piracy will always exist no matter what you do, but it can be curbed in a way that benefits everyone.

As for SOPA and PIPA? They're complicated bills, and this article can only hope to spark up your interest in them. Educate yourself, and tell others.

Currently PIPA is planned to undergo a procedural vote in the Senate on January 24. One can only hope that it does not pass.

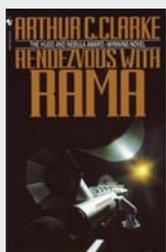


The failure of *Spore's* anti-piracy protection does little to back up the case for increased usage of DRM technology

BOOKS

Recommendations

With so much literature out there it may be difficult to know where to start so, to celebrate the re-launch of the this section, we present you with a list of books that you're sure not to regret picking up.



Rendezvous with Rama

Arthur C. Clarke

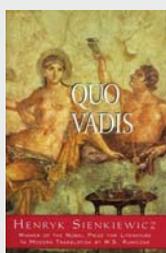
Often regarded as Clarke's masterpiece, this is the quintessential hard science fiction novel about mankind's desire to understand the unknown.



The God of Small Things

Arundhati Roy

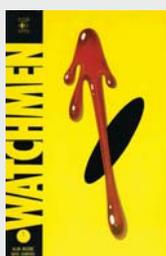
A moving and tragic work exploring love and prejudice on the Indian subcontinent.



Quo Vadis

Henryk Sienkiewicz

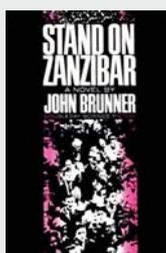
For those looking for something different – a historical epic from a Polish Nobel laureate.



Watchmen

Alan Moore

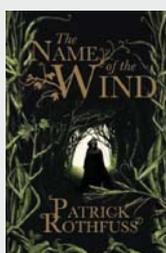
If you do like superheroes that this is the graphic novel for you. Smart, exciting and brilliantly drawn.



Stand on Zanzibar

John Brunner

A powerful exploration of overpopulation, greatly helped by its unusual writing style.



The Name of the Wind

Patrick Rothfuss

A brilliant new fantasy. Not especially original but very readable.

Do you have a passion for books? Do you want to write about literature? Contact us at books.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

An epic quest for truth

An unusual biography of a fascinating philosopher

Maciej Matuszewski

Logicomix is a rather unusual book – an exploration of the early development of mathematical logic, interwoven with the profound story of the life of one of the greatest thinkers in the field – Bertrand Russell – all told in graphic novel format. A tall order for any work, but *Logicomix* manages it admirably.

While it does give a fascinating outline of the basics of the field of logic, the main strength of the book is its human focus. Russell's story is, when it comes down to it, a very simple one of a man searching for meaning in the world and, as such, it is eminently relatable. The effective presentation of Russell's life rests in no small part in the fantastic framing device. I've always found older versions of the protagonists telling somebody about their lives an effective storytelling device, but *Logicomix* goes a step beyond this by having fictionalised versions of its creators discussing a lecture Russell gave on the eve of World War II, in which used the story of his life to explain why, despite his pacifism, he did not object to war with Nazi Germany.

This allows Russell's early life to be analysed in a very natural way from both the point of view of his older self and of external observers. While the writer's narration provides



Russell-ing up some serious artwork

a much needed objective view on his life, Russell's narration helps us get into his head – helping us to understand him and sympathise with him. We get a real picture of a principled, driven man who sacrifices so much of his personal happiness in a quest for mathematical

truth.

Equally well developed are Russell's colleagues, friends and family – who add much depth to the story. Of course, given that the book has less than 400 pages and covers several decades of Russell's life, some changes to real life characters and events are inevitable – most noticeable being the complete absence of the protagonist's brother Frank. Most of these, however, are explained by the writers in the external framing device – meaning readers are not misinformed, while allowing the story to fit into the limited space and maintain narrative coherence.

Equally worth mentioning is the artwork. Superbly drawn by Alecos Papadatos it is striking in its realistic clarity. At times amusing, at times moving, it always serves to support and add to the story and is one the book's greatest strengths.

Logicomix is a brilliant work. It strikes me as sad that there are still people who refuse to treat graphic novels seriously. While certain genres might not be to everyone's taste, I find it remarkably immature and snobbish for some people to reject an entire medium outright. If these people gave *Logicomix* a chance, they would quickly see that good graphic novels don't have to be about superheroes or newspaper comic strip characters.

Holmes like you've never read him before

A Victorian Lovecraftian mystery

Maciej Matuszewski

Given the latest upsurge in popularity for Sherlock Holmes, and the recent film and TV adaptations, I think that the time is right for a review of a Holmes story in this section. I'm not a huge fan of Holmes but I have read all of the stories Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote about him. It's hardly a huge achievement – there are sixty of them, and only four of these are novels. However, despite this small number, and Doyle's clear and engaging writing style, the Holmes tales are very repetitive. After a few dozen one inevitably becomes bored and stories begin to all run together. Therefore, if asked for my favourite work about the great detective, I would have to point to the only story that I have read that really stands out for me, a story not even written by Conan Doyle: Neil Gaiman's *A Study in Emerald*.

Gaiman's pastiche reimagines Doyle's hero in a Cthulu Mythos setting but, despite this radical change, this remains recognisable as a Holmes story. Gaiman emulates Doyle's style perfectly and a great deal of the appeal of the story comes from the juxtaposition of the somewhat dry, matter-of-fact narration and the horrifying subject matter. Just a few paragraphs in the narrator, reminiscing on his

military experience, calmly writes how "the gods and men of Afghanistan were savages, unwilling to be ruled from Whitehall or from Berlin or even from Moscow". It's also fun to see how the writer imagines life would be like if humanity had been conquered by Eldritch Abominations. If you want to see Queen Victoria as a tentacled Great Old One this is the story for you.

"If you want to see Queen Victoria as a tentacled Great Old One this is the story for you"

Prior knowledge of both Doyle's stories and the Mythos is helpful as *Study in Emerald* is filled to the brink with both. Knowledge of Conan Doyle's work in particular will allow a careful reader to guess the solution to the mystery pretty early in the story, and at least a cursory acquaintance with the stories' main characters is required to fully understand ending. Casual readers, however, shouldn't be



Gaiman with his favourite Great Old One

particularly put off, as the mystery and the deductive skills of the protagonist are more than enough to carry the story.

In short, this is a fantastic story, well deserving of its many awards. It is also available free to read on Gaiman's website – beautifully laid out and illustrated by Jouni Koponen to resemble a 19th century paper, complete with humorous advertisements based on 19th century horror stories. Check it out now.

Food Editors: **Anastasia Eleftheriou**
Michael Krestas

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FOOD

2012: A Food Odyssey

Michael Krestas shares his top ten resolutions for a healthier, tastier year!

1. I shall not skip breakfast again

You might have been told over and over again about breakfast being important. But it's damn true: breakfast is the most important meal of the day and without it you're like Justin Bieber without a fringe.

People tend to miss breakfast either because they're in a rush or because they think that this will help them lose weight. Either way, lack of energy and gain of weight will be the inevitable results.

When you wake up, your body has been without fuel for about 8-9 hours (for Imperial students, 5-6 hours). Refueling properly will help you function efficiently and perform as best as you can.

2. I shall not waste food

No, I don't mean to eat whatever you have in your fridge and cupboards before it expires. You should always buy based on your needs (and wants). Never overdo it. Make a list of things you need and stick to it once you enter the doors of the super market. Offers may be tempting but you are a good boy/girl and have a resolution to fulfill. Try it and see for yourself; you'll end up spending less money and your fridge won't get this weird smell that you never want to find the source of.

3. I shall not visit the minimarket

The corner shop can destroy you health-wise. There are plenty of reasons to avoid a visit: it's more expensive than super markets; it offers less choice; and you usually end up

alegriphotos.com



Stock those cupboards with delicious goods, but remember to clear them out once in a while, yeah?

buying crap like biscuits, crisps, soft drinks and chocolate bars. I'm not telling you to give up chocolate, that would be a crime! However, it's not hard to realise that once you enter the local store you will leave with things you certainly didn't want to buy before you went in. Keep it only for emergencies...

4. I shall drink more wine...

...responsibly.

Wine has a strong personality other drinks don't have. Whether you're having steak, chicken, fish, pasta, or even just a salad, a glass of the appropriate wine does make a difference. Do your research, compare prices, and you will see that the options are limitless.

5. I shall grill, not fry

Fried chicken, fried bacon, fried sausages, fried eggs. You gotta love 'em.

However, it's 2012 and this is a resolution to be respected. Grilled food is generally healthier than fried. When you fry food in butter or vegetable oils you receive a big amount of extra saturated and trans fat, both of which are no good.

On the other hand, when you grill food, chances are you will use a marinara instead of other sauces to give taste which is again healthier. Also, excess fat will slip through the grooves in the grill compared to the fry-pan where all the fat stays (and makes the food delicious).

6. I shall take advantage of my family

Make a list of meals you can't cook by yourself either because you're incompetent or just because you "can't be bothered" but your mother, sister, grandmother or anyone else in your family do well. Once the term ends and relief hits you what better than enjoy hot, fat, homemade food?

7. I shall cook more

Cooking can be very creative and most importantly it can be stress relieving. Following or even creating your own recipe makes you forget anything outside the kitchen. Presenting and tasting your dish will fill you with a feeling of pride and happiness.

Try baking a cake. Decorate it. Show it to your friends, maybe offer them a piece or two. Enjoy it in the morning with coffee, tea or milk.

Tip: Try new recipes: attempt to make it lighter by using fewer eggs and less butter, or even no eggs at all. Avoid icing and other toppings; they will just fatten the cake without adding any special taste. Use fresh or compote fruits, like strawberries and pineapple.

Once you have perfected your cake send your recipe at food.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

8. I shall go out

Let's face the facts: Firstly, you live in London. Secondly, you study in South

Kensington. Go out! Once every week or fortnight visit a restaurant you've been thinking about. The choice is yours. Italian, French, American, Greek, Chinese, Turkish; the choices are unlimited. Gather your friends and have a nice dinner out... now that you have time – May is not far away!

9. I shall have a full fridge

No, I don't mean hitting the supermarket, spending £100 and filling up your fridge. Keep your fridge 'updated' with healthy foods. Always have milk, fruits, vegetables, mustard (which is low in fat), low fat cheese (e.g. mozzarella), eggs etc. That way, even if you get back from college late at night, or you're too bored to go to the supermarket, you won't get into the temptation of ordering a delivery and making a snack with what you have.

Tip: Fill your fridge every once or twice a week according to your diet and needs and try to have it emptied by the end of the week. Your goal is to receive the correct amount of fruits, vegetables, milk and other foods you always neglect to get.

10. I shall contribute to the Food Section

Is food one of your strongest passions? Got something to share with Imperial? Want to become the number one Food Section writer of Felix? Who doesn't? Send your contributions to food.felix@imperial.ac.uk and see your work printed on these very pages! In addition, contact us if you'd like the opportunity to review London restaurants absolutely free of charge! It's an offer you can't refuse, you know you want to.

Dessert of the week: Cake Baking 101

Yiango Mavrocostanti

Ingredients

For the cake

2½ cups all purpose flour
4 tbsp corn flour
1½ tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
⅔ tsp salt
⅔ cup sunflower oil

1 cup sugar
2 cups soy milk
2 tsp white wine vinegar
4 tsp pure vanilla extract

For the filling

1 cup strawberries
¼ cup sugar
½ tsp vanilla extract

For the icing

2 tbsp water

1 cup powdered sugar

Preheat the oven at 180 °C. Oil a 22cm round cake tin (preferably one with a hole in the middle, as this makes the cake easier to decorate).

In a bowl mix together the soy milk and the vinegar. After 2 minutes add the oil, vanilla extract and sugar. In a separate bowl mix all the dry ingredients. Then, add the liquid mixture in the bowl with the dry ingredients. Mix until just

combined. Do not overmix.

Place half of the cake batter in the cake tin. In a small bowl combine the filling ingredients and then place them in the cake tin. On top of the filling pour the rest of the batter. Bake for about 40 minutes or until you insert a toothpick and comes out dry. Let it cool for at least 15 minutes before removing it from the tin.

To make the icing mix the sugar with the water. Decorate the cake with the icing and some strawberries.



Serves: 1

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Travel Editors: **Dushi Arumuganesan**
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TRAVEL

Picture-perfect Prague

Dushi Arumuganesan sees in the New Year in the buzzing Czech capital

In Prague, New Year's Eve (or Silvestr as the Czech would say) is a major celebratory holiday. With three days to experience Prague and see in 2012, my main concern was that I'd become one of the many that are inevitably frustrated by, or caught in, the tourist trap that Prague is famed for being. However, in a city that is over-run with visitors 365 days of the year, this is difficult to avoid – particularly over the New Year period. In the final couple of days leading up to the countdown, Prague is extraordinarily animated with an air of anticipation settling over the city.

“...Prague Castle, lit up stunningly and looking not unlike a Walt Disney creation...”

The best way to see Prague and soak in the ambience is to walk the entire city, spending a day on each side of the river Vltava, breaking each day up with stops at any of Prague's abundant cafés and coffeehouses to people-watch. In fact, you could blow almost all of your holiday budget on coffee and still see most of Prague worth seeing. The cafés in Prague are definitely worth dedicating some time to. One that is popular largely among internationals is the Globe Coffeehouse; a regular haunt of exchange students, ex-pats and longtime travellers, the

coffeehouse doubles as an English-language book shop. Café Slavia is another famous watering hole, and this one holds the distinguished claim of being the oldest café in Prague. Due to its proximity to the National Theatre, one can usually spot a D-list Czech celebrity or two sipping on their cappuccinos here. Indeed, it was a favourite of Kafka's himself.

Public transport in Prague is cheap, but unnecessary for anyone halfway fit and mobile; the real beauty of Prague is in its architecture – something best seen on foot. The city's legacy of buildings and landmarks manage to touch on almost every architectural style of the last thousand years from gothic, through baroque to cubism. Old Town Square seems to be home to buildings spanning all of these styles, from the renowned Astronomical Clock to St. Nicholas' Church.

Fancy a stroll across Charles Bridge? No problem – as long as you don't mind a view of the backs of hundreds of people (especially if you're as vertically challenged as myself) for the entirety of the half an hour it will take to crawl across the bridge. There is no time of year that Prague doesn't draw thousands of tourists, artists, entertainers, and vendors to grace its arguably most famous landmark. So when to take full advantage of the breathtaking views of Prague's landscape offered from the vantage point of Charles Bridge? For those of you willing to make the effort, waking up before dawn ought to guarantee you'll have to share the bridge with only a very small number of other keen tourists. For lazier travellers more akin to myself, late evening (although not on New Year's Eve!) makes for just a slightly busier



An 'independent' NYE firework display at the gates of Prague Castle

but more romantic picture of Prague Castle, lit up stunningly and looking not unlike a Walt Disney creation.

At the northern end of Charles Bridge is a stairway leading down to Kampa Island, which is the site of Prague's contemporary art museum. It

is also home to many small pubs and eateries selling authentic Czech food and beer. Whilst spending my first afternoon wandering around the island, I accidentally stumbled upon a 'lovelock bridge' – a phenomenon that is fast becoming popular in Europe.

For anyone else as fascinated by these universal declarations of love as I am, this one is found very near to the John Lennon wall on Kampa Island – something else worth a visit.

Prague Castle itself is where I was at the start of the New Year – and I don't believe there was a better place for it. Firework displays, all beautifully synchronised, could be seen right across the city from Charles Bridge below to Petrin Hill above. The backdrop of the castle lent the night a magical touch, and the atmosphere among the assembled revellers was relaxed and fun. Walking back to our hotel post-festivities led us through the city's other major gathering points on New Year's Eve. Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square were evidently the livelier places to see in midnight – even with champagne bottles smashing and fireworks going off mere inches from our faces, we were only catching the tail-end of Prague's most raucous celebrations.

The morning after, the clean-up operation starts early; but for the odd few stacks of bottles and cans haphazardly left on street corners, by midday the city looks just as it would any other day of the year. Most businesses begin trading at their usual hours. The first day of a new year is a slow one, but one sight worth getting a head start on other eager tourists for is Petrin Hill. The arduous hike (okay, slight abuse of artistic license there) to the summit of this hill, which stands at 1043 feet tall, is accordingly rewarded by the panoramic views of Prague from the top. One's final moments in Prague are well spent just quietly observing from here, and reflecting on the year that has passed, and the year to come.



One of a few hidden European lovelock bridges – on Kampa Island



The view of Prague from Petrin Hill

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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

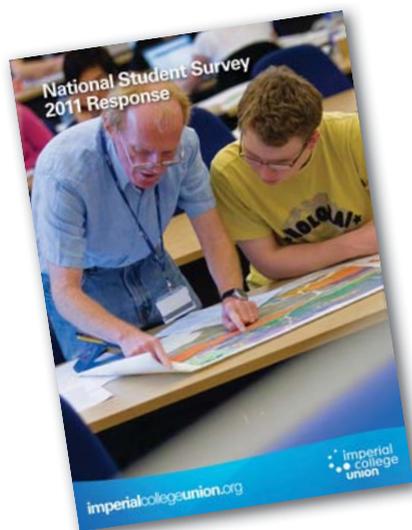
Definitely Disagree

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.



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Have you heard about Raincatcher Imperial?

Then look no further than Imperial's Erasmus scheme

Pavitar Devgon

We all take for granted that when we switch on the tap, clean, drinkable water will pour out. Sadly, for millions of people around the globe, this is not the case.

The Problem

In many countries, state-funded municipal supplies are expensive, leaving the poorest billion people in the world with no choice but to fend for themselves. While some are able to dig their own wells, many rely on community-shared sources that cannot sustain a large population. This inexorably leads to perennial droughts. Furthermore, the quality of this water is not guaranteed and the lack of a well-maintained system allows disease to spread very quickly amongst the population.

Our Solution

Our solution is Raincatcher Imperial – a university society-turned-charity founded in 2009. We are a branch of the registered UK charity Raincatcher and work closely with the local Tanzanian NGO, Caritas, to provide a reliable source of clean water for the people in the region of Tabora by building rainwater harvesting systems.

Every year since 2009, we have sent

out a team of Imperial College students to Tanzania to build these water collection systems and to provide essential water sanitation training to the local population. These systems provide easy access to uncontaminated water by storing rainwater from the rainy season for use during the eight-month-long dry period of the year. In total, nearly a million litres of water storage has been set up in schools, universities and community buildings. The project is supported purely by charitable fundraising through the effort of its team members and supporters.

This Year's Project

This year, we are going to take one step further in reaching our goal of setting up a sustainable water source for the Tanzanian population by carrying out two simultaneous projects.

The first project is to build tanks to collect, filter and store water in the town of Igunga that will provide water for two schools – St Leo's Primary School and St Margaret's Secondary School for Girls. At the moment, the municipal supply of water is unaffordable and the only other option is for students to walk over 10 km to collect water from an alternate source. Our tanks will have capacities of 20,000 to 100,000 litres and an estimated lifetime of over 40 years, providing a free, sustainable supply of clean water.

The second project aims to provide

various training schemes for people in local villages. We will be focusing on topics such as water sanitation, hygiene and conservation. We will also teach families how to construct their own smaller-scale water storage containers, built from easily available or locally-sourced materials. Further, in collaboration with Caritas, we aim to train a select few to carry on teaching their fellow community members after our departure as part of our 'Training of Trainers' scheme.

Get involved!

So what can you do to help? Just look out for the many fundraising opportunities Raincatcher will be putting on throughout the year. Each one will be creative, fun and for a good cause. We're hoping to raise £20,000 this year, and have raised as much as in the past.

All the money we collect will go directly to helping the Tanzanian people and personal costs – such as flights and accommodation – are paid for by the team members themselves. Get involved with one of our four departments – Research, education, fundraising or public relations – by sending us an email now at raincatcher@imperial.ac.uk.

To find out more, or to donate money to us through Virgin Money Giving, follow this link:

www.raincatcherimperial.org



Brave New Financial World

Derivatives are on the menu at Finance Society conference, held at Bloomberg HQ

Inderjit Birdee

In March 2011, Imperial College Finance Society Conference held their first ever finance related conference at the prestigious Bloomberg HQ, called the New Financial Worlds Conference. The conference was well anticipated and attracted over 200 people from a range of academic backgrounds. Ultimately, last year's focus audience were members within the finance society along with members from other leading universities. After a rigorous selection process, candidates who attended the conference were able to enjoy presentations of the highest quality associated with financial markets.

The idea behind the conference was to provide the audience with an over-

all understanding towards determining how psychology has affected the markets in ever changing market conditions whilst providing a broader understanding towards the mechanisms associated within the certain markets and asset classes such as Commodities, Equities and Fixed Income. The impressive speakers list devoted to delivering such presentations included executives from leading investment banks along with internationally recognised academics and leading market specialists. Beyond this, there were exciting panel discussions and interactive workshops which gained tremendous feedback. Members who attended the conference also had the opportunity to network with a range of top industry experts out of a typical recruitment atmosphere encompassed

at standard company presentations on campus, enabling more ideas about the markets to be discussed in detail.

Last year's undoubted success means that we can now aim to compete with other leading London universities to produce and deliver a conference that will add value to the entire city. After a huge thought process and many meetings between large numbers of people associated with the Imperial College Finance Society, it became apparent that we had to develop a unique selling point which has been overlooked by other universities.

Exclusively, the theme for future conferences held by the Imperial College Finance Society will be Derivatives with a specialisation each year. The Derivatives market in the last decade in

particular has ignited some of the most extraordinary events in financial history across the globe, most notably the financial crisis witnessed a few years ago. Since the development of such tools within the financial sector, investors can use Derivatives to obtain exposure to certain asset classes, mitigate risk and speculate on the markets. There is a variety of underlying asset classes to which the overall Derivatives market operates on i.e. Foreign Exchange, Equity, Commodity and Interest Rate Derivatives. It is our aim for this year's conference under the new name of New Financial Worlds – Derivatives Conference to provide the audience with a greater understanding of more complex issues surrounding Derivatives whilst increasing the awareness. We believe

this can be accomplished by having a range of presentations dedicated towards such products, their mechanisms of use, and their implications within the markets.

In particular, the specialisation for this year's conference will be Credit Derivatives, i.e. Credit valuation Adjustment (CVA), counterparty credit risk and risk management. Counterparty credit risk is crucial when determining the fair value of any derivative portfolio. In past years, it was common to mark derivative portfolios to market without considering the counterparty risk associated. However as a consequence of a number of high profile defaults in 2008, there has been a growing interest towards CVA, as this can be considered as the difference between

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

For the dead and for the living, we must bear witness

Andrea Levy implores you to take up this opportunity to hear a first-hand testimony from Mrs Ruth Barnett, a Holocaust survivor, at Imperial College

Holocaust Memorial Day is a day of remembrance held annually on the anniversary of the liberation, by Soviet soldiers, of the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 1945. Auschwitz was the largest of the Nazi killing camps, where approximately 1.1 million men, women and children, including Jews, gypsies, the handicapped, homosexuals, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, were killed, out of a total estimate of 11 million assassinations throughout the Holocaust across Europe at the hands of the Nazis, from 1933 to 1945. However, what meaning do these figures hold, with no knowledge of the personal experiences of those involved?

“What meaning do these figures hold, with no knowledge of the personal experiences of those involved?”

Ruth Barnett, aged 4 and her brother Martin, aged 7, were sent, without their parents, from Berlin to safety in Great Britain, on what is known as the “Kindertransport” in the months between the Kristallnacht Pogrom of 9-10 November 1938 and the start of World War II.

It was as a result of the efforts of the British Jewish Refugee Committee, which appealed to members of Parliament, that a debate was held

in the House of Commons, where the focus switched from “immigration concerns” to “rescue” of the children suffering at the hands of the Nazis, “to save the young generation and to mitigate the suffering of their parents”, as Foreign Minister Samuel Hoare then stated. Even though the British government had just refused to allow 10,000 Jewish children to enter Palestine, the atrocities committed by the Nazis towards those they deemed “inferior” and particularly the Kristallnacht Pogrom, swayed the government to permit an unspecified number of children under the age of 17 to enter the United Kingdom, according to the recently founded “Kindertransport Association” (KA). Kindertransports in fact managed to save around 10,000 children, from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. None of the children were accompanied by their parents and a few were babies carried by children.

“The survivors need our memory, our compassion and most importantly our commitment”

On Thursday 26 January, it will be an honour to have Ruth Barnett among us at Imperial, to tell us her experiences. Hers is an unconventional story, who suffered the Holocaust from afar and lived a different trauma to that most often heard about in the media, of those who faced the immediate horrors of the concentration camps.

Furthermore, her story is intimately related with Britain, making it easier for us to understand and identify with her experiences.

Why listen to her story? As Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel famously said, “for the dead and for the living we must bear witness”. He explains in an interview with a representative of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, that the purpose of Holocaust Memorials, is to honour the memory of those who were murdered and to remember, in particular, for the living, who need us now. Indeed, “the living”, the survivors, need our memory, our compassion and most importantly our commitment. A commitment to keep alive the memory of the past, in the name of those who suffered, which is undoubtedly essential in order to build our own future. We, also, are “the living” Elie Wiesel was referring to and must remember for our own sake.

“Genocide is evidence for what can happen when hatred is left unchecked”

As spelled out clearly by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, genocide is evidence for what can happen when hatred is left unchecked. This year the motto for the Memorial is “Speak up, Speak out”. After the Holocaust, even though the world said “never again”, the twentieth century saw genocide in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Mass murder in these countries is little

known or of little interest and media coverage is negligible. Media coverage of Holocaust remembrance is no doubt only worthwhile if it is a call to action and a call to raise awareness of current genocide, to speak out against hatred around the world and in our own backyard and to push our governments to act, like the British Jewish Refugee Committee did back in 1938. Ruth Barnett, as an activist herself in raising awareness, will link her experience to the persecution of Gypsies today, the last bastion of culturally accepted racism across Europe, which in her own words is “a manifestation that we have not learnt from the Holocaust”.

“It lies in our hands to take forward the lessons taught by history”

We are approaching a time when Holocaust survivors and other eye witnesses of mass murder in the midst of our own continent, will no longer be alive. Thus, as the last generation who will be able to hear their direct testimony, it lies in our hands to take forward their stories and the lessons taught by history.

Come while you can.

Ruth Barnett will be talking about her experiences, followed by a Q&A session – Thursday 26 January, 6.15pm, Blackett LT2. For more info contact jsoc@imperial.ac.uk.

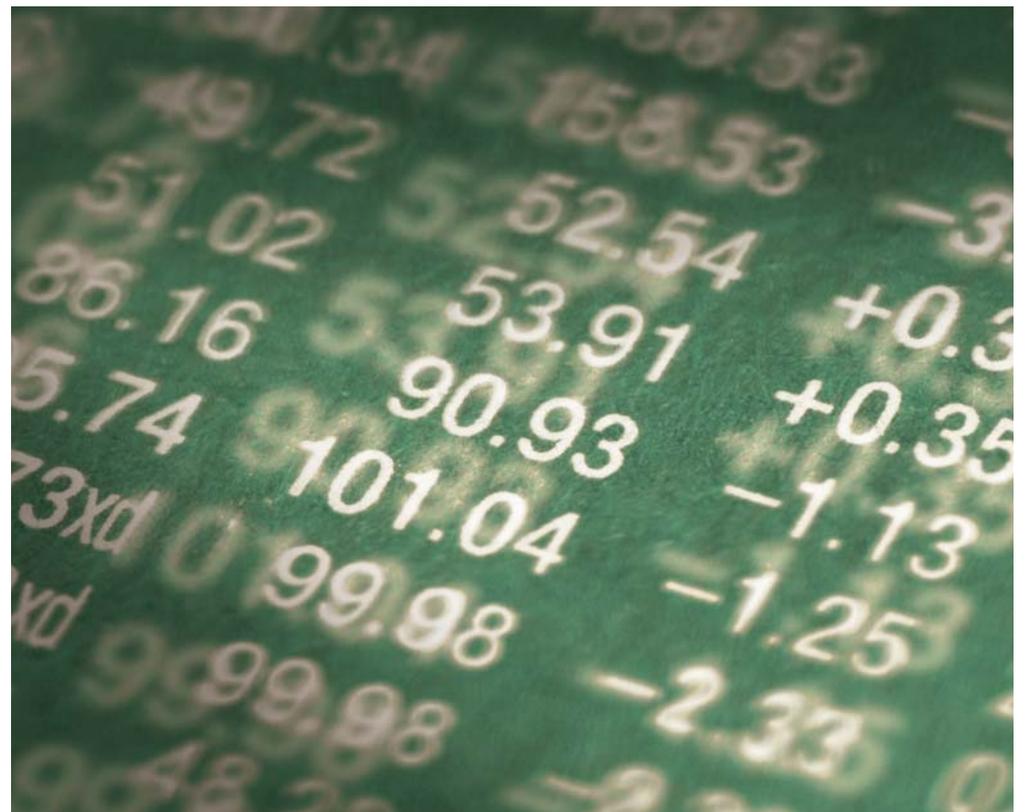
risk-free portfolio and true portfolio values taking into account the risk of default. Ultimately, CVA is an important tool as essentially it is the monetized value of the counterparty credit risk.

The venue for this year’s conference will again be the Bloomberg HQ, to be held on 10 March 2012. This is a fitting venue as Bloomberg is a cutting edge financial information provider. The designated conference room has been host to a number of politicians such as Gordon Brown and David Cameron along with substantial finance professionals.

I truly believe that the conference offers an abundance of opportunities for attendees. Like no other university led finance conference in the city, this new style of conference evidently has a focus point with a clear aim. By enabling the audience to be comprised on students from excellent universities along with city professionals, speakers will have the opportunity to go in depth while attendants do not feel overwhelmed. This can be achieved by our efficient presentation structure where the first fifteen minutes of each presentation will be dedicated to core facts and knowledge surrounding the topic. The remaining forty-five minutes will be dedicated to more cutting edge and progressive material. Furthermore having speakers mixing with industry professionals and

enthusiastic students during networking sessions throughout the day will provide the ideal opportunity to synergistically share a range of creative ideas and form long term sustainable relationships derived from a common interest.

If you are interested in attending the conference you will be required to submit an application through our revamped website (www.nfwconference.com). The application process open to students will consist of a compulsory submission your CV and a short question indicating your motivation in attending the conference. The process for professionals will be a requirement of a professional email address to indicate current working experience and a short summary of their motivation in attending. Once the candidate is successful in their application, professionals can purchase tickets for £45 with students having the unique chance to purchase tickets at a discounted value at £35. If you would like to know more about the New Financial Worlds – Derivatives Conference, you can visit our website at www.nfwconference.com. In addition, please look out for our themed marketing campaign throughout campus in coming weeks. The Imperial College Finance Society Conference Committee genuinely looks forward to you attending the conference and being a part of something that has never been done before.



HANGMAN



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Drugs. Delicious and mind-bending

Hangman does not in any way encourage the use of drugs because you shouldn't do them. And you shouldn't do them because they are illegal, which is a shit reason but it's good enough for the government. But if you must, here is a guide. We are the mum that packs a condom with her child's lunch because the only thing worse than underaged sex is underaged sex and pregnancy. Or if it's with the PE teacher.

LSD

The world suddenly becomes a Marks and Spencer advert, because everything, no matter how mundane, is a delight to the senses. That's not just last night's pizza, it's Topps Pizza with fragrant bell peppers, ground Argentinian beef with a hint of chilli, gooey golden brown mozzarella and a crunchy crust. This is not just LSD; this is M&S LSD. If anyone ever questions your motives just mention Francis Crick cracked the structure of DNA while "listening" to "Lucy in the sky with diamonds". Tell them you're solving the protein folding problem. Oh, is that Pink Floyd in the background? That's just inspiration.

Alcohol

We've had booze for as long as we've had agriculture (and civilization): take some sugar and yeast, leave for a few weeks and boom! Instant clothes remover. Effects are as varied as the means of consuming it: some just go quiet and sit there, possibly as damage control because last time they got shit-faced they played knock down ginger at the local police station. Others get overwhelmed by the amount of love they

have for the world and proceed to hit on anything vaguely female-looking, taking your shirt off to impress if need be. Or cut straight to the chase and give the object of your affections precisely £12.60 to buy a drink, expecting something else apart from change in return.

Mushrooms

Some people start seeing rainbows everywhere like they're looking through a prism, some see God. But then again, people claim to see Jesus in burnt toast quite regularly so don't be surprised if your God is just a delusion. A small handful of people see every single inanimate object talking to them, but this is most likely just a manifestation of loneliness and the need to talk to someone. When you've eaten more mushrooms than Mario, the bin will make a decent agony aunt in a pinch. Go ahead, press the lever and pretend it's opening its mouth to speak. It is a bin though, so it's probably talking rubbish.

Marijuana

The green stuff has the tendency of turning you into a consumerist's dream: you hit a joint, then mong out on the

sofa while you watch TV that you find entertaining irrespective of quality. To top it off, you just want to eat everything.

Cocaine

Since it's not going to snow any time soon down in London it looks like cocaine's your best bet for seeing anything white and powdery that makes you feel all giddy. It's also the second week of term, so don't even say you can't afford it. Besides, if Scarface has taught us anything it's that the stuff makes you ridiculously bullet-resistant, even for Hollywood standards.

Heroin

Sometimes life really gets you down: deadlines, relationship and financial woes, and the news hardly helps. For £10 or so you can shoot up and let the problems just melt away in an opiate-induced haze. It's a bit like Ocean Finance for problems: it consolidates all your existing problems into one (probably unmanageable) problem: finding a strong enough vein and enough money to shoot up again. Before you know it you'll be giving rimjobs to the janitor

of Sheffield for cash. If things get really bad you might need to get a job at the Union.

Crack

Cocaine's badass freebase brother, not held down by stupid ionic bonds. Apart from its addictive moreish qualities, it gets a bad rap from the people it's associated with. Of course everyone's going to think crack is terrible when you have Charlie Sheen as pretty much its poster boy, who also recommends taking ridiculous quantities. Not to mention "gangstas" from "da hood" who smuggle it wrapped in tin foil shoved up their rectum. Hardly a glamorous way to get high.

Ecstasy

Touted as a "clubbing" drug because it might possibly make the ordeal of going to a club not completely unbearable. You actually want to dance, stop giving a shit about how stupid you look and possibly even have some degree of empathy towards your fellow party-goers, as opposed to wanting to drag their testicles across a rusty cheese grater for getting in your way on the dance floor.

Methamphetamine

If you need your teeth removed but are too scared to go to the dentist, meth will sort that right out. Unfortunately, it's a broad-spectrum antidotal agent so there might be some collateral damage. Don't worry, the gummy look works well with your dishevelled hair and clothes. It will also limit your injuries when you try biting yourself to silence the voices in a schizophrenic episode. Keep tuned for the series finale when you finally die.

Caffeine

Possibly the superhero of all drugs, and legal too. Gets you through all-nighters, and research has shown it increases physical endurance and helps you to burn calories. Or maybe they forgot to take into account that it kills your appetite like watching "Kill it, Cook it, Eat it" should (instead it just makes you crave for meat and murder). You should probably think twice before heading straight for the Red Bull, though: getting the shits really isn't fun, especially when you haven't actually eaten anything. Now you know how an Ethiopian with dysentery feels.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday evening in the SAF building...

Yes Maggie, communicating is a valuable asset. A valuable asset like life sciences. The department you killed.
#scichal

weScichal@Imperial 1 minute ago

Professor Dallman
PRINCIPAL OF THE FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

I didn't realise this launch was going to get political. They should've sent Andrew Marr instead of me.

Lol. I shouldn't appear too amused though, I'm meant to be the Brian Cox of Biology, except more likeable and with a less whiney voice.

Shitfuckshitfuckshitfuck. They were laughing at all the other tweets but now everyone is silent. It's like Carlos Mencia suddenly walked in the room and started making jokes. At least R Wintz over there's having the time of his life. I bet it was him when he was fiddling with his iPhone earlier.



HANGMAN

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Fucking gravity, always bringing you down when drunk. He's clinging on to that bike harder than his last pint

Stuff Imperial students hate



Male

Female

Centrefolds

Nobody bothers reading most of Felix, apart from Hangman/Comment because they're occasionally funny and the cookery section for ideas on what to have for dinner instead of leftovers again. Oh, and the centrefolds. Naked girls are great. Except two things: 1. They are mostly guys. 2. They aren't even naked. The guys mostly get their kit off, but on half the girls you can see a cheeky bit of bra strap. And I'm convinced that the ones that appear truly naked have simply had their straps photoshopped out. On the off-chance that anyone is actually nude the girl will cry over the phone to the editor until he adds in an extra pom-pom to make her "decent". Screw this, I'm going back to masturbating over American Apparel models.

Being in centrefolds*

Whose bloody idea was this? It's alright for the men: they just need one hand to cover themselves, or none if they emulate Buffalo Bill and keep your front to everyone. Both of ours are busy, and we still need another arm to get undressed. We have to perform some ridiculous co-operation with the other girls to get our kit off without exposing our nipples. Note to self: bring nipple tassles the next time I get roped into one of these photoshoots.

*Hello! Yes, you, the one reading. Are you a girl? Think you could provide a better perspective of how girls think in this column? God knows it's hard thinking down to your level. Email Felix if you're interested!

Horoscopes*

*Straight from the spit of a psychic in a back alley. I paid them to swallow, dammit.

Aries

This week, you're Mitt Romney. You make the mistake of reading your own manifesto and watching your speeches. Even you don't want to vote for yourself. Ergh. Oh well, let's look at the centrefold instead. All men, again. Damn. Archives it is. AGAIN.

Taurus

This week, you come to the stark realisation that the only things in life that you really care about are bitches and hoes. They rule your life. You can't think of anything else. Dogs and gardening seem to be all you get up to nowadays. Thug life.

Gemini

This week you're a sabbatical. You get in a lot of trouble with the Union when you are caught masturbating while looking at pictures of your new phone. Your court hearing is coming up. Both the people that know about it are excited.

Cancer

This week your project is at a point where you need to wait until next week before you can make any progress. Therefore, you have nothing of any importance to do. Finally, you know what it's like to be a sabbatical. You get caught masturbating over your phone. That's less satisfying.

Leo

This week you get on the Northern line. You decide that such a noble action is worthy of a song. What do you know about Bank? Well, you put your money in the bank. You also mention that you get laid in King's Cross. If they don't like it they can kiss off.

Virgo

This week someone publicly criticises you live over Twitter during a speech. What the fuck is wrong with them. You're just trolling. LOL people lost their jobs to save a couple of million and then College is going to spend 4 million making cafes. Now THAT'S comedy.

Libra

This week, you're a ship's captain. Apparently saying hey to your mate wasn't a great idea, who knew. You make a mental note to get rid of trip hazards. Nobody believed that you fell onto that massive cucumber arse first, now they won't believe you tripped into a lifeboat.

Scorpio

This week you are Marky Mark. You get the Funky Bunch back together to take flights from London to New York all day, every day in the hopes one will be hijacked. If that happens, you're seriously fucking shit up, Bruce Willis has nothing on you.

Sagittarius

This week, you think you like someone but aren't sure. They don't seem the type to like you in that way. You don't know exactly what to do or whether to risk it. It's a dilemma that's difficult to solve. Oh well, at least Marky Mark and his Funky Bunch are patrolling the skies.

Capricorn

This week you don't see what the fuss is about the whole stuff closing down etc. The sites are "legal". Isn't that the point: to strive to be the minimum possible requirement for you to not be labeled as a criminal? That's quality service right there surely.

Aquarius

This week you get annoyed that the humour in Hangman isn't exactly tailored to your tastes. As humour is not subjective, this means that it is their fault and not a difference in opinion. You masturbate over your phone to cheer yourself up. It works, you cum. You're still hollow inside though.

Pisces

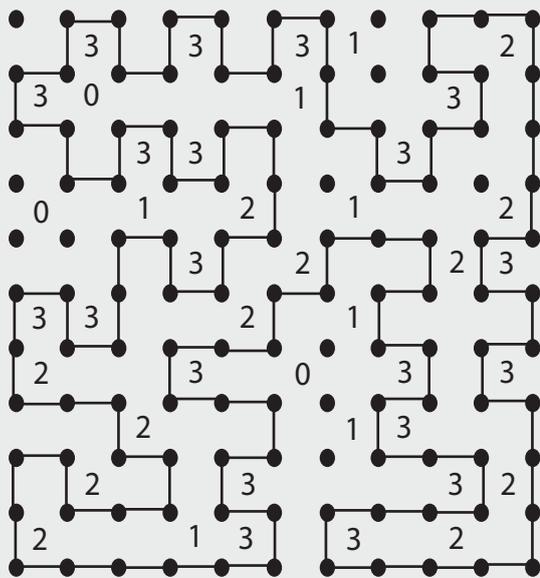
This week you kidnap Benedict Cumberbatch. An actor - can't be that hard to scare him and get a ransom. Next thing you know you're shaking hands with him and apologising for any inconvenience caused. Damn he's good. You then capture Marky Mark. You tell him to put his shirt on.

PUZZLES

puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Last week's solutions

Slitherlink



Wordoku

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

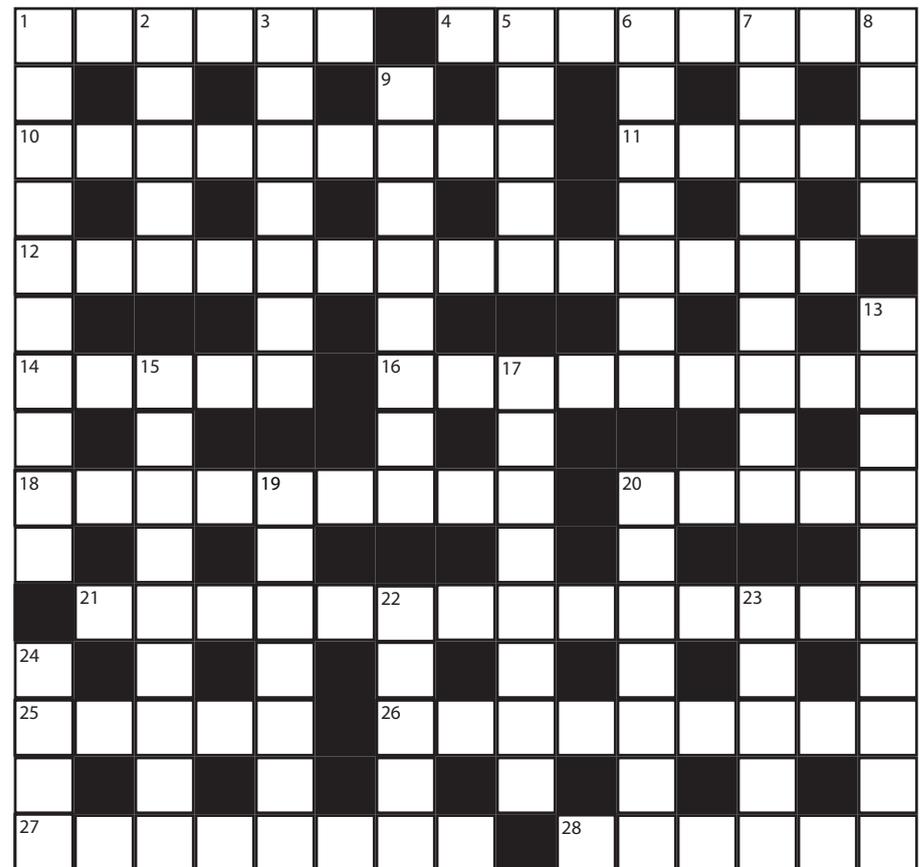
Crossword

Across

1. Tropical plant of the pea family; colour of the rainbow
4. Relativistic boffin (8)
10. Pizza topping (9)
11. e.g. Bond, Orange (5)
12. Participant in A Game of Shadows, The Musgrave Ritual (8,6)
14. Relating to 15th century empire covering parts of Peru, Bolivia and Argentina (5)
16. Appetizer consisting of olives, anchovies, cheese and meats (9)
18. Relating to voice box (8)
20. Tall posts on ships (5)
21. Common rituals representing stages in life (5,2,7)
25. Basic building blocks (5)
26. Person who gets the best stuff by being first to arrive (5,4)
27. In direct encounter, or playing against a single opponent (3-2-3)
28. Small body from space that enters the Earth's atmosphere (6)

Down

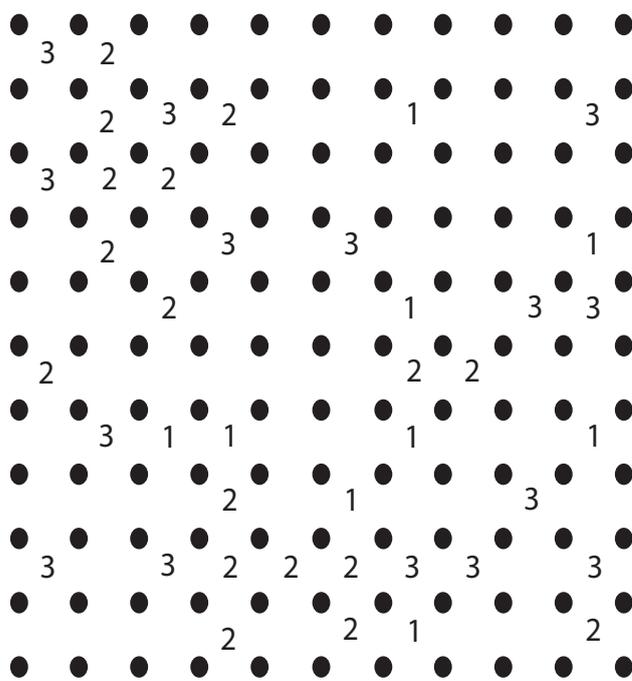
1. Unable to exist (10)
2. Based on two main beats to a measure (5)
3. What appears when you feed a Mogwai after midnight (7)
5. Coffee with a dash of whiskey (5)
6. Edible mollusc (7)
7. A snack similar to afternoon tea, but eaten in the morning (9)
8. Brief record of facts, musical tone (4)
9. A private meeting; the gathering of cardinals in Rome for selection of the new Pope (8)



13. Not-for-profit merchandise designed to entice the purchase of other products (4,6)
15. Animal that feeds on flesh (9)
17. Instantaneously move from one place to another (8)
19. Leslie _____, star of the Naked Gun

- films (7)
20. Make an error in print (7)
22. e.g. Indian, Atlantic (5)
23. _____ with me, hymn by Henry Francis Lyte (5)
24. Circle of light (4)

SLITHERLINK



The aim with Slitherlink is to make one continuous closed loop by connecting the dots. The numbers in each square indicate how many edges of the square are part of the loop, so if it contains a "2", you know that two and only two out of four edges have lines.

That's all the info you need to get the one logical answer (though waiting a week to see the solution will also do). Answers to **puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk**, as the puzzles team receives a little January blues per correct solution.

ChessSoc Chess



White to play and mate in 4

Contributions wanted!

If you'd like to contribute by sending in puzzles, comics or even some editing, e-mail puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Be they horrendously complicated things or funky picture puzzles you think readers would like, do get in touch. General suggestions are also welcome.

PUZZLES

Nonogram - If Jealousy was an Olympic Event...

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 5 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 4 | 5 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 1 1 1 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 1 5 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 1 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 2 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 1 1 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 1 1 1 1 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 1 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 1 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 2 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 1 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 1 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 3 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The cells in a grid have to be coloured or left blank according to numbers at the side of the grid.

The numbers measure how many unbroken lines of filled-in squares there

are in any given row or column. Look at last week's solution to see what a typical solution looks like.

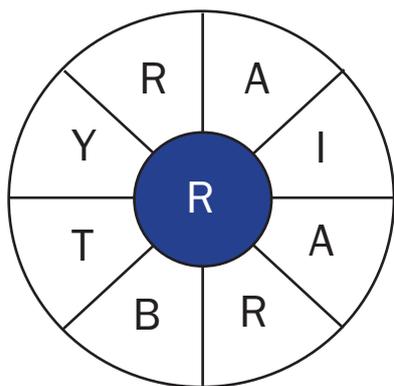
The overall solution should yield some sort of picture, or as good as a

picture can look in monochrome on a 15x15 grid.

As usual, answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Word Wheel

TARGET: 12



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

Word Ladder -

Change one letter as you go down from one word to the next. there are clues to help you along the way

| | |
|---|--|
| It's all you need, according to The Beatles | |
| The world's first sat-nav, as used by Noah | |
| Take a plunge, a fake one? | |
| Where winnie would look for honey | |
| "__ not, want not" | |
| Deep dislike and loathing | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Not too hot | |
| Small, pink and it likes to hide in the dark | |
| Unit of sentence, ya feel me? | |
| It grows on trees | |
| Makes sheep look like walking clouds | |
| Like ice, or someone who is popular | |

FUCWIT League Leader Board

Teams:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Elbowfart | 79 |
| The Jailbaits | 71 |
| Pegasus & Parrots | 62 |
| Paddy Got Bummed | 50 |
| Cum Puzzling Sluts | 26 |
| Ludibrium Lads | 14 |
| Team Nuclear | 11 |
| Individuals: | |
| Jeremy Neale | 82 |
| Wael Aljeshi | 35 |

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.

Why not go ahead and aim for the big time? Don't be intimidated by the grandeur of the Cum Puzzling Sluts and crew. If you're determined to win, you could rack up some serious points.

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

Cryptic Crosswords?

No Thanks!

Having trouble with the Felix cryptic crosswords in the sports section? No idea what it all means or would like to know why some answers are as they are? Contact puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk with the subject line "Cryptic Help". You'll be sent an introduction to how cryptic crosswords work and what to look out for. Each week you'll also receive complete explanations to the answers in the previous week's Felix cryptic crossword.

the 99%



julia

tumblr: multipleimproperintegrals.tumblr.com
twitter: @miicomc



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Imperial College
London

56 teams, 28 matches
10 sports, 1 winner



VARSITY 2012 WHO'S GAME?

Tickets free for Imperial students!

Imperial College vs Imperial Medicals - Wednesday 21 March

Matches at Harlington, Wilson House, Ethos and The Stoop Stadium, Twickenham, home to Harlequins RFC



HARLEQUINS

sport Imperial

imperial
college
union

www.imperial.ac.uk/sports/varsity

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

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Fencers building on success in anticipation of weekend

Women's 2nds dispatch Portsmouth 1sts with ease

Helen Pennington

Fencing
 Women's 2nd 135
 Portsmouth 1st 99

On Wednesday, the Women's 2nd Fencing Team played, and won, the fifth competition in their league, leaving them in third place with a total of three wins and two losses. The competition was the first one of the term, and saw a confident team facing Portsmouth's First Team at home.

The match began with foil, in which Jenifer Mizzen (Jenny), Stephanie Martinez (Steph) and Elanor Oakley (Elsa) fought valiantly. The lead fluctuated between the two teams, with the scores remaining close until Jenny gained 10 points in one match, disheartening the other team and giving a lead of 8 points, which Steph and Else improved upon to win 45-35.

Following foil the team fenced sabre, during which Helen Pennington, Slavina Georgieva (Slavi) and Jing Quek (Jingles) did not lose a single match, winning 45-29. Finally, with their

Indy Leclercq



Off-target! Such a rare occurrence in foil

opponents thoroughly disheartened, and only needing 19 points to win, the women's team fenced epee. Rebecca Razzey (Becky), Helen and Slavi only lost one out of the nine matches

between them, and defeated their opponents 45-35, giving Imperial a triple-weapon-win with a total score of 135-99 - Portsmouth had not even managed to reach triple figures.

Men's and women's 1sts prepare for premiership clashes

Indy Leclercq

The Imperial fencing men's and women's teams stand to win their respective leagues this weekend, the men's and women's Southern Premiership, if they can fight off the likes of Oxford, Cambridge, and London rivals such as Queen Mary or ULU.

The women's team currently stand top of the southern premiership, having won all of their matches in the previous weekend tournament held in Cambridge. Their closest competition is Oxford, who won three out of four. Nevertheless, the girls registered a convincing win against the dark blues last time round, and expect to do so again this weekend. Captained by ISE undergrad Charlotte Levin, and featuring GB hopeful and Sports scholarship athlete Hannah Bryars, the team hope to defend last year's crown successfully.

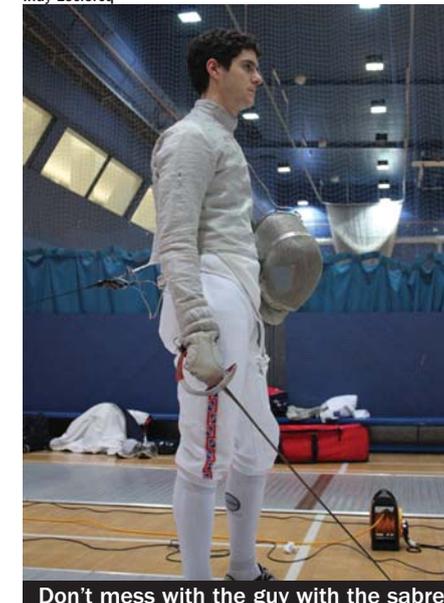
The men face a slightly more challenging task, but are still feeling confident they can come top of the league. They currently stand in second place, having lost to Oxford in the first weekend tournament by a single hit.

Captain Didier Nohlmans, a Physics PhD student, believes they can definitely beat Oxford (and the rest of the teams) this time, which would ensure the IC contingent finish in first place. The men's team are buoyed by the strength of their sabreurs Maiyuran Ratneswaran and Henry Gann, 6th and 12th respectively in the GB rankings.

If both teams retain their league titles, it will be another feather in the cap of the Imperial fencing club, currently the most successful in the country - both the women's and men's 1st are defending BUCS champions.

The matches will take place in Ethos on Saturday and Sunday; come down and support the team!

Indy Leclercq



Don't mess with the guy with the sabre

Hockey Men's 3rd make short work of St Bart's

...Continued from Back Page long we take) to decide what routine to do, Pappity-boopity-poppity slotted in following Aquaman's entirely intentional (not at all a scuffed shot) dummy.

If the first goal was good, the second goal was better. The same routine left St Bart's stunned again. This time, Munter Gatherer's pass pierced through the defence, leaving Aquaman with a simple touch into the goal. 2-0 the score, and it was no more than what IC deserved.

The third goal was something else altogether. A loose ball popped out from Designer V and Fresher Ed played a Cook-esque straight drive that crashed in off the post. A stunning goal and a stunning finish to the match.

It should be noted that victories always start with the defence, and Fritzl, Eager Beaver, B. Tablet, Free Willy and Gingypops had an outstanding game.

Well done to the whole team, and here's to hoping they can stay on top for a while... P.S. At no point, did Kirby score. Ever.

SPORT

Captains' Interviews: Netball

Indy Leclercq



Essential info:

Lucie Hazell, 21
Club captain
4th year Civil Engineering
2 years' experience

Feroza Kassam, 23
Club Treasurer
4th year Civil Engineering
10 years' experience

Like: having fun with
the netballers (read:
Belushi's)

Dislike: "massive"
opposing players

Indy Leclercq Sport Editor

After a nice, long (but not long enough) Christmas break, your Felix Sport captains' interviews are back! This week, two lovely ladies from Netball: Lucie Hazell, Club Captain, and Feroza Kassam, Club Treasurer.

Felix Sport: Netball is one of those clubs which always has a pretty strong turnout, and plenty of teams. How big is the club?

Feroza Kassam: We have four competitive teams, and one social team, for about sixty members. The club has definitely grown since last year, though..

FS: What kind of netballing experience do you guys have?

FK: I've been playing at uni since my first year, but there's a bit of a story behind it...I accidentally signed up for the medics in fresher's fair! I only switched back after a year. I got into netball at school, though.

Lucie Hazell: I only started in my second year, actually. I hadn't played it since I was fourteen, but once I got into it I just got more and more competitive, and now I'm club captain!

FS: What do you find appealing about netball, as opposed to, say, basketball?

FK: It's faster-paced than people think it is, even though you can't move when you hold the ball.

LH: If you're being serious about it,

it can become a very tactical game... You can appreciate people not seeing the appeal from the outside, most guys don't get it either but once you start playing it's actually loads of fun.

FS:Speaking of guys, should they ever be allowed to play netball?

LH:You'd have to make the posts higher! I don't see why not though.

FS:Maybe mixed netball?

FK:I think England netball organise discovery sessions which let guys try out netball.

LH:We had "Fun day" last year, where a few guys played, and we organise a grudge match every year against the rugby club – although like I said, the posts are too short for them, so they get an unfair advantage!

FS:What leagues do you play in?

FK:Both BUCS and ULU. The 1s are doing really well this year, as they are second of their division!

FS:That's pretty good – how often do you train, and what does it involve?

LH:We train once a week, two hours, all together. Our coach used to play netball for imperial, and she's doing a great job for all levels. We start off with some fitness, and then do drills with the ball, and then practice matches. The drills are good for all levels, especially the people who have never played before – we have quite a lot this year!

FS:So the club is growing nicely then?

FK:Yes, I think particularly this year:

we had a lot of people at fresher's fair coming up to us saying they'd never played before, which wasn't really the case in previous years. This year there is a new committee, and I feel the dynamic of the club is changing a bit, becoming more open. There was a feeling in previous years that the whole thing was a bit elitist, with the committee members all from the higher teams, and the first team captain would be club captain too. It's not necessarily a bad thing, because it gives a very competitive edge to the club, but I think it did put some beginners off.

FS:Just to clarify, which team do you play for, Lucie?

The thirds! So the club mindset has changed somewhat, in that sense.

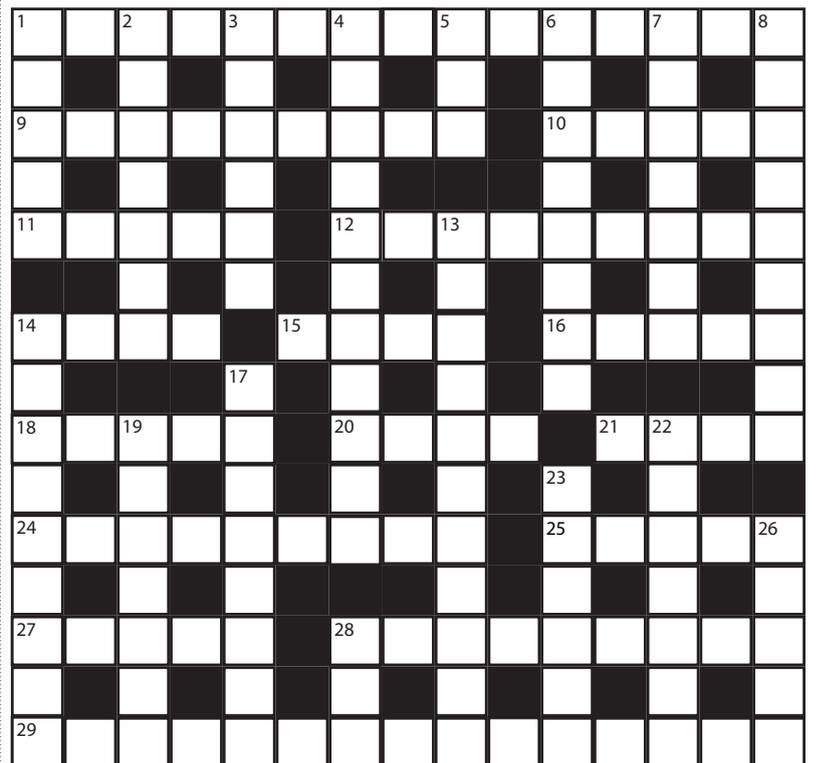
FS:You also mentioned a 'social team' – what is that exactly?

LH:Well, it's for the people who don't want to play on a BUCS team, or who just want to enjoy themselves – I'd say the majority of the club is made up of the 4th and 5th teams (the 5th team being the social team – Ed.) We're trying to get the 5th team into ULU next year, but at the moment the team captain has just organising informal matches. The Royal College of Music are starting up a team, so we play them, as well as the RSM.

FS:Speaking of playing other faculties, let's have your thoughts on varsity! Any aims for this year? How did it go last year?

FK:I think we have a good chance

Cryptic Crossword 1,507



Across

1. Having multiple partners, EEE student messing with an electric one? (7,3,5)
9. Break down and accept acting role (4,5)
10. Lighter push, but without gentleness? (5)
11. Necessary to contain Eastern haul (5)
12. Corrupt composer embraced upper class in accomplishment (9)
14. Helper robot from Germany (4)
15. Relax! Simba's king inside! (4)
16. Proportion of a time spent in Brazilian city (5)
18. Win a new Western chopper that's worthless (5)
20. He has identification with disguise (4)
21. Yank, what an idiot! (4)
24. Feline - fat, round, he resides within church (9)
25. Extortion outside. Run! Run! (5)
27. Leader's exchange based on the moon relating to contents of arms (5)
28. With alcohol bender, it's gratis! (9)
29. Wonder about perhaps cool cat that lets one rip, choking flipping me for one! (6,2,7)

Down

1. Mend ground (5)
2. Check after 'andled board lumbering (7)
3. I am a registered, upwardly mobile recorder (6)
4. Collect, scoop African money and farthing for elder (11)
5. Club music? (3)
6. Possibly bury fear for what's coming in two weeks (8)
7. Seeds cooked within range (7)
8. Right in an evenly contested battle. Hairy! (9)
13. This means cold place turns to desert, or dessert? (5,6)
14. Battle for a drink at bar (9)
17. Resembling wild animal admitting primal rage after concerning direction to physician (8)
19. I was defeated by Octavian, initially my counterpart (7)
22. Mistake for English run-rate with one to tire (7)
23. Rock plant containing lead element, one that helps part sea (5)
26. Animated priest has quality of liveliness (6)
28. Begin as nothing but slime (3)

this year... We won two out of five last year, which was amazing, a really good result. We're really happy if we win any match, because all the equivalent medic teams are a league above ours. The 1s are doing really well this year, though, and we think they have the potential to beat the medics, so...fingers crossed!

LH:The matches are on a whole different level in varsity, though; we play medics in our leagues all the time but when it comes to varsity it's a completely different situation!

FS:Finally, how is the social side of the club? Are you quite active?

The club this year is a lot more social than it has been, we're going on tour to Salou, in Spain for the first time ever, at Easter –twenty-five girls bussing it down. The social secs this year are doing a great job, we've had a curry night and a Christmas dinner so big we had to change the venue! We also try and come to the union every Wednesday, and have a good turnout. I think it's important that everyone gets to know each other.

SPORT

En Garde

- Fencing 1st teams aim to retain Premiership crowns at Ethos this weekend
- Women's 2nd team beat Portsmouth 1sts

Preview and report: page 46



Hockey: Men's 3s move into top spot

Kesh Murthy

Hockey

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Men's 3rd | 3 |
| St Bart's 2nd | 0 |

On a cold Wednesday evening, IC M3 clinically dispatched St. Bart's M2 to

reach the dizzying heights of the top of ULU. A 3-0 scoreline did not flatter IC, with our boys creating many chances and defending solidly throughout.

The first half was all IC, but no goals came. Throughout the entire half, IC applied a lot of pressure on St. Barts and played the most of the game in the op-

position's D. Save for one break, which saw St. Barts squander a one-on-one, IC were in control throughout, with Fresher Ed and Tharun dropping deep into midfield and creating lots of space for wing wizards Cockerel and Pappity-boopity-poppity to exploit. A stunning run from Free Willy should have earned

the opener, but he choked at the crucial moment. Despite this dominance, IC had nothing to show for it, 0-0 at half time.

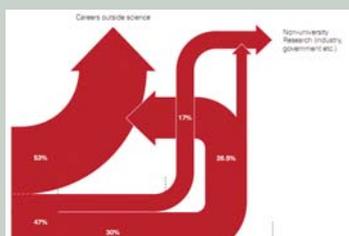
An inspiring talk from goalkeeper/captain Sifter, who was probably rather bored at this stage, reminded of us to just do the basics and not get sucked in

to the game. The words were so standard, but needed saying as the M3 has a habit of forgetting.

Straight from the second half push-off, IC won a short and piled on the pressure. After taking a couple of minutes (seriously, it's pretty ridiculous how

...Continued on Page 46

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