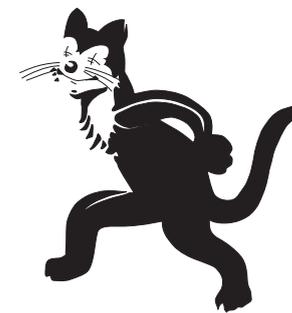


FELIX



The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949



TALKING TO THE SABBATICALS

As nominations open for this year's Union elections, Felix talks to the current Sabbs to find out what exactly they have been doing for you: **Page 6**

Black tie for Summer Ball

Sit-down formal dinner back on the menu for this year's event

Matthew Colvin

In a paper brought to Imperial College Union Council last Monday (February 13) Deputy President (Finance & Services) Michael Foster outlined plans for this year's Summer Ball, which will see the return of black-tie and a formal dinner.

The event, to be held one week later than usual on Saturday 23 June, is currently planned to begin at 5:30pm with a formal sit-down dinner held in the Queen's Tower Rooms. The capacity for this will be 350 people. Menus and prices have yet to be confirmed. In or-

der to make the dinner viable, there will be a minimum attendance figure. If this figure is not reached by a yet-to-be confirmed date, the dinner will be cancelled and refunds will be provided to those affected.

Though entertainment is also yet to be confirmed, it is expected that acts will be spread across the Queen's Lawn Stage and the Great Hall, with one headline act performing on each, accompanied by support from bands and DJs. Entertainment will run from 8pm until midnight and tickets will be priced between £25 and £30 pending further budget analysis.

It is currently planned for one cash bar to be located in each venue, but should the number of tickets sold approach 1,500, a cashless system will be considered.

The fairground also makes a return, alongside fireworks and the after-party (priced between £5 and £7), which will begin at 11pm in the Union building, finishing at 5am.

In the passed paper (calling for Council to agree to the general plan for the event) Foster writes that the goal for this year's event is to be "fun and affordable". The preliminary budget has

been approved by the Union's Executive Committee and a "Summer Ball Forum" will be organised to receive feedback from the student body.

Speaking at the Council meeting, Foster confirmed that this year's Ball would see "a return to the style of 2010 and earlier" while maintaining a "very conservative and low-risk budget". This follows last year's Summer Ball, which broke from tradition and took the format of an all-day festival. The event saw approximately 1,500 tickets sold, after a projected attendance of 3,850, and saw an approximate loss of £100,000.

SCIENCE



Mind-reading machines

Page 8

BOOKS



Taking a look at this year's Picocon lineup

Page 28

FOOD



A Fairtrade food competition

Page 30

COULD YOU RIG THE NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY?

Page 3

- Possibility of impersonating students
- Results could be biased in Imperial's favour

Alexander Karanetian

Row	CID	Login	Forename	Lastname	Entry
1	005	ma08	Fernan	Abdel Talan	2008
2	005	ra08	Ramla	Al-Sawi	2008
3	005	ca08	Charita	Amrallah	2007
4	005	ma07	Anthony	Amiri	2007
5	005	za08	Zachary	Bachmann	2011
6	005	ja08	Jamie	Bal	2008
7	005	gh08	Georgina	Barnes	2008
8	005	wa08	William	Berg	2008
9	005	sa08	Sarah	Bhargava	2008
10	005	mu08	Muhammad	Bilal	2008
11	005	sa08	Samantha	Bogdanov	2008
12	005	ma08	Marcus	Bogdanov	2008
13	007	ch08	Charles	Bogdanov	2008
14	005	th08	Thomas	Bogdanov	2008
15	005	an08	Anthony	Bogdanov	2008
16	005	va08	Vasil	Bogdanov	2008
17	005	ti08	Timothy	Bogdanov	2008
18	005	da08	Daniel	Bogdanov	2008
19	005	ya08	Yakov	Bogdanov	2008
20	005	ch08	Charles	Bogdanov	2008
21	005	ka08	Karl	Bogdanov	2008

HIGHLIGHTS

What's on

Medic RAG Week

Yes ladies and gents, ICSM RAG Week is here! Consider this Freshers' Week take 2, except better, because this time round you've all had practice! Get involved – it's for charity so anything goes (and when I say anything, I mean ANYTHING!) All the money raised will be going to the Teenage Cancer Trust. Join the Facebook group for more info!

Monday 20 February

- 6am: Commuter Collect (SK/City)
- 7:30pm: RAG Games (Reynolds)

Tuesday 21 February

- 12pm: Midday MONEY (SAF Building/City/SK)
- 10pm: RAG @ Boujis (SK)

Wednesday 22 February

- 10am: Invasion (London) – meet in SAF Building at 9:30am. Theme: OLYMPICS
- 7:30pm: RAG does Sports Night (Reynolds)

Thursday 23 February

- 10:30am onwards: Circle Line Collect (SAFB/SAF Pad/Reynolds/Circle Line)
- 10pm: Circle Line Afterparty at Walkabout, Shepherds Bush

Friday 24 February

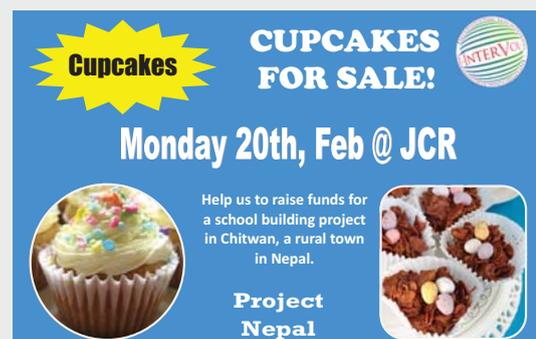
- 7:30pm: RAG Review (Reynolds)
- 9:30pm: RAG BOP – THINGS THAT CHILDREN LIKE & THINGS THAT LIKE CHILDREN (Reynolds)

Don't miss out. You'll regret it if you do!

Lizzy Kostov – ICSMSU RAG Chair 2011/12

Cupcake Sale

Help Project Nepal raise funds for a school building project at their Cupcake Sale on Monday 20 February in the Junior Common Room.



Cupcakes **CUPCAKES FOR SALE!**

Monday 20th, Feb @ JCR

Help us to raise funds for a school building project in Chitwan, a rural town in Nepal.

Project Nepal

UNION ELECTIONS

It's that time of year again...



the **BIG** Elections 2012

Home About Timetable Positions How to Stand Why Stand?

Countdown
17 7 7 48
Days Hours Minutes Seconds
until Nominations close..

143 candidates are standing, seconded by **1153** people.

Nominations Now Open!

Candidates Pack
Download yours here.

Why Stand for Ele
Any student can stand for election. Read the seven reasons why you should!

Invasion of the Stick Men – I'm claiming royalties for the inevitable film

So here we are again...

Prepare yourselves for weeks of campaigning: lecture theatres littered with sugary bribes and outlandish heartfelt promises; campus littered with flyers that really do need recycling.

Things are a little different this year, as Faculty Union elections are being run at the same time, so why not take the time to read up on the latest goings on at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections/

Editor

An apology for last week's Hangman: Editorial – Page 12

CLASSIFIEDS

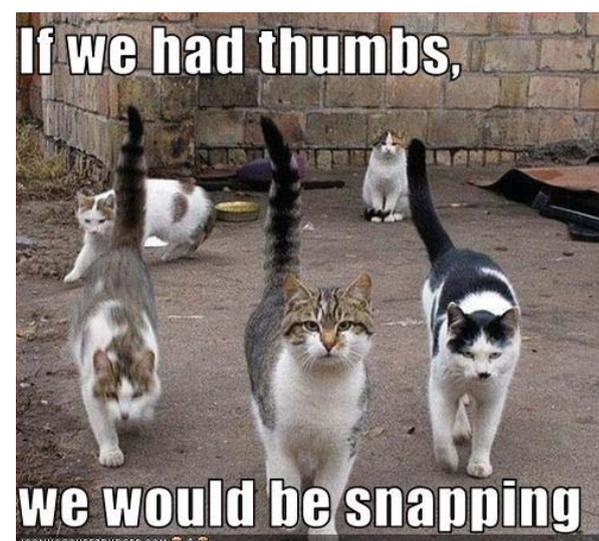
It's one of those weeks.

Need to sell something?

Let us know.
Please.

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

Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

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NEWS

Flaws exposed in NSS

Student survey data could be skewed

Alexander Karapetian



Rigging away? Information gained from the TeachDB database includes name, CID, and year

Alexander Karapetian

Students from the Department of Computing have teamed up with Felix to uncover methods which can be used to skew data being submitted to the National Student Survey (NSS) in favour of Imperial College.

The flaws rely on the availability of basic information required to pose as another student in the survey, and the process can be automated to mass impersonate entire departments. The NSS is a survey for final year students conducted by Ipsos MORI, the second largest market research organisation in the UK, on behalf of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). The results from the NSS have been used heavily to determine student satisfaction levels and affect university rankings.

Entering the NSS via thestudent-survey.com requires the responder to enter the institution they are currently enrolled at, their student number (CID in Imperial's case), the first letter of their first name and the first four characters of their last name. Along with merely the day and month (not year) of birth, this information is all that is necessary to undertake the survey. Upon entering these details, the NSS claims to "check [them] against the National Student Survey 2012 target population" for eligibility.

Little do they know many universities and their departments provide databases of students with their associated information to enrolled members. Take our Department of Computing's (DoC) TeachDB database for instance. Students from this department can log in using their basic credentials and are faced with a full search engine for students, staff, degrees, courses, UTAs, GTAs and books. Think in terms of the database Mark Zuckerberg used to grab students' pictures and start Facebook back in Harvard.

Felix logged into the DoC TeachDB network and performed a search for all students in their fourth year. No other details were required and we can confirm wildcard searches such as these are allowed. What resulted was a list of 160 students. We ran the

search again for third year and got a list of 200. Since we can't be sure all third years are in their final year, we'll go with the dataset of fourth years.

The information we got? Students' pictures, their login, their full first name and last name, the degree they're on, their CID number and year of entry. All in a neat, tabular and machine readable format. With this information, it would be a piece of cake to produce a proof of concept application that can automatically harvest final year student data from this database, cross reference it with another service like Facebook (made even easier using their new social graph programming interface) for their day and month of birth (never mind privacy settings, some profiles show more to the Imperial network by default) and fill in the NSS as all of them by itself.

"Anything less than total veracity is a disastrous breach of reputation"

And this is just one database in one department – if such a thing exists in DoC, could other departments within Imperial provide such accessible records? In fact, taking other universities' engines and similarly readily available information into account, suddenly the results of the NSS don't seem so trustworthy anymore.

What if some students have already filled in the survey, however? Funnily enough, the exposure of a second flaw makes our automated rigging process even more tempting. A student can fill in the NSS as many times as they want, with their first response taking precedence over all others. Simply put, one can write code to automate filling in the survey by impersonating many students on the first day (or even the first few hours) of the survey opening, and overwrite all their future responses with 100% satisfaction for everything eligible without the system

(or the student) batting an eyelid for suspicious activity.

Felix contacted Jason Parmar, Deputy President (Education), about the ability to fill in the NSS many times, since students were confused as to what happened to their responses. In an inconsistent manner, accessing the NSS using the introductory email and attempting to complete it subsequently causes it to fail with the response: "Thank you for your interest in participating in this survey. You have already completed the survey". Accessing it via their website and clicking through to "complete the survey", however, allows students to redo it an unbounded number of times, leaving it unclear what the impact is on results.

Jason Parmar contacted Senior Assistant Registrar (Quality Assurance & Data) Rebecca Penny, who spoke with Ipsos MORI and confirmed that "students can complete the survey more than once, however only the first response they submit will be counted in the results".

James Greenhalgh, a DoC student, and Tom Wilshire, Computing Department Representative, told Felix their feelings on the matter, saying: "for a survey so important in informing the immediate future decisions of thousands of school leavers, anything less than total veracity is a disastrous breach of reputation".

James raised his concerns and said that "if these bugs have existed in previous years then newspapers are not only foolish to provide such heavy weighting to the results, but also damaging", adding that this "cavalier approach to the futures of school leavers, especially given the increased financial burden they face, and to the future of already embattled academics shows yet another fundamental flaw in our country's obsessive need to arbitrarily order all public establishments".

The questions which remain are how long these problems have existed and whether other universities have been exploiting the issues described. Could Imperial's drop below UCL be explained by us simply being more honest?

Union to lobby council over Exhibition Road

Tim Arbabzadah

In a paper brought to Union Council on Monday 13 February by Deputy President (Welfare) Nicolas Massie, the Union proposed to lobby Westminster City Council about multiple concerns with the new Exhibition Road layout. The paper pointed out the "uncertainty about the boundaries of the road on the west side, particularly the tactile borders".

It went on to point out that the "use of the 'roundabout' (Prince Consort Road and Exhibition Road) is unclear and has increased the risk to cyclists".

When even the Union begins to use

quotation marks, everyone can rest assured it's absurd.

The 'roundabout' in question is located outside the Business School. This is, unlike every other roundabout, just a crossroads with a circle painted on it. The paper also raised concerns over the "800 metres [of Exhibition Road] without assisted crossing".

The paper was ultimately passed, and it was decided that the Union should lobby Westminster City Council to clarify several points, including "whether it is a shared space". Another issue to be lobbied for is to put up signs informing people of the rules of the road.

Jonathan Peek



The unveiling of the new Exhibition Road, not lobbying in action

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts

Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

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

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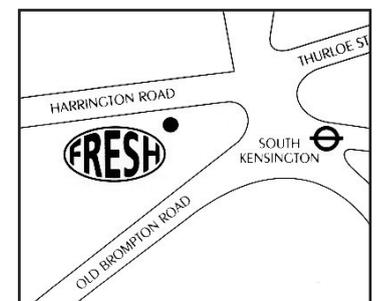
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New clubs at risk of rejection given chance

Proposals to determine viability of new ventures include test events

Sophia David

New proposals set out by the Union could mean that some prospective clubs and societies at risk of rejection must hold a test event in order to judge their viability and popularity. The suggested changes aim to ease decisions made by the New Clubs Committee on whether to accept or reject “border-line” applications of clubs whose future success is unclear. However, the proposals are yet to be approved by the Clubs & Societies Board.

The current process for the creation of new Clubs, Societies & Projects involves the interested group filling out a New Club or Project Form available from the Union website and

then presenting their application to a committee at a meeting. The committee then decides whether to accept or reject the application. However, often the Committee must make decisions leading to the acceptance of clubs which subsequently become unsuccessful, or the rejection of proposed clubs whose applicants are told to re-apply once certain issues have been addressed.

If implemented, the proposals would not change the submission process but allow the committee a third choice rather than accepting or rejecting the application immediately. If they feel the club is viable but would benefit from a test run, they could decide to put it into the New Club Incubator (NCI). The NCI would provide

the prospective club with facilities to book a room for a test event, put up posters using the Union logo, create a Facebook group using the Union’s name and provide direct support from the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and relevant Union Staff to run the test event. The NCI would also provide support and training to the prospective club founders so that they are in a stronger position if the club is approved.

The test event would be attended by the Deputy President who would provide assistance as well as evaluate its success. Attendees would also be asked to fill in a short feedback form which would ask whether they enjoyed the event, if they would come to similar events again, whether they

would join the club and whether they have any suggestions for improvements. After the event, the applicants must update their New Club Form and, currently, resubmit it to the New Clubs Committee for a final decision to be made.

Currently, clubs are often rejected if the prospective club overlaps with existing clubs, the proposed club is not feasible given the resources required, the club has previously existed but was closed due to lack of interest, there are concerns over committee experience, the interest in the club is questionable or if the proposed club does not have enough events to deem it viable.

Recently, an application for a Gender Equality Society was rejected.

Monya Zard, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), told the applicants that the committee “felt there was not enough ‘substance’ to be a club.” She added, “The social aspect seemed rather minor and for the activities you want to run, such as attending conferences, running campaigns and raising awareness it would be better to use the recently developed Campaign system in conjunction with both the Gender Equality Officer and Deputy President (Welfare).”

Rejected applicants can reapply as many times as they like, or appeal the decision to the Clubs & Societies Board but should this be unsuccessful, they cannot reapply to further New Clubs Committees.

Comment: Page 14

Phoenix *is hatching...*

Imperial College’s annual arts magazine is back. **Phoenix** showcases the work of talented student writers, photographers and artists.

We welcome all genre of visual arts and written word. Submissions must reach us by **1st May**.

phoenix@imperial.ac.uk



Nominations open for Union Big Elections

Alexander Karapetian
Philip Kent

Nominations for the Union's 'Big Elections' opened on Monday 13 February with students able to put themselves forward as candidates for departmental and sabbatical positions. The site's look and feel has been radically changed from previous elections, and the voting statistics have reportedly been revamped.

The decision to make the elections different came from the central services manager and marketing departments in the union, who believe the change will increase turnout even more. The new logo and redesign was used to improve usability and rid the elections website of the previously used grey and green colour scheme, bringing the site in line with imperialcollegeunion.org and eActivities. Union Systems Administrator and RCSU Vice President (Operations)

Paul Beaumont worked with Jonathan Kim, responsible for many web projects including FelixOnline, to produce the new website's features.

When the 2011 Sabbatical and Student Trustee elections opened, the site crashed due to high demand, causing all other resources on the server to become temporarily unavailable. This was due to the marketing and elections systems being on the same server which hosts clubs' and societies' webpages, Dougal. The union has four servers: Pinky, Perky, Dougal and Heeps, of which Beaumont is in charge of the latter two.

Steps have been taken to ensure such a crash does not happen this time, with the voting website being moved to the Perky server in order to restrict access to union staff only and prevent high demand taking down other vital resources.

The Big Elections include faculty and departmental positions all under

one system. As a result, all positions are shown in one list and can be hard to navigate. Beaumont told Felix that this was due to "there being one overseeing returning officer" and that "things will change once nominations close". It is a constitutional requirement that the list of all positions is shown, and Union Presi-

"Elections will get physical in a couple of weeks"

dent Scott Heath's interpretation of the constitution has resulted in the display of the number of seconds a candidate has being capped at the maximum of 20.

The statistics website will go live around the weekend before voting

opens, and a number of technical (as well as aesthetic) improvements have been made. For instance, the stats will now be pushed to clients from the server rather than the browser frequently pulling data, reducing load and the potential of crashing. When the nominations website went live and the Union advertised that they were open, the site was still not accepting logins to the elections system. Beaumont explained that "the server was tested for a fortnight and its time had gone out of sync by twenty minutes in that period", adding that "it's fine now since the server is safe and secure in one of the College's datacenters, and the server has been set to autosync time", assuring it will never go wrong again.

The official Twitter hashtag for the elections is #voteicu, which started to receive use around the same time as Deputy President (Education) Jason

Parmar tweeted that the hashtag of the week should be #loveyourrep for Rep Week. On the suggestion of a hashtag war, Beaumont explained that he believes "the Union's tweeting as much for the elections as it is for rep week, and the reps have had more of a physical presence across campus". He added that the "elections will get physical in a couple of weeks".

The electronic ballot box for voting has also been improved, with candidates' manifestos and pictures being displayed on the voting screen, shuffled for fairness. A brief explanation of the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system is also provided, and the list of seconds (constitutionally made public) may be used in the marketing website. Beaumont told Felix that he is "happy with how the system's been received" and that he thinks "everyone's taken it well".

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- Alex Kendall, IC Union President 2010-11

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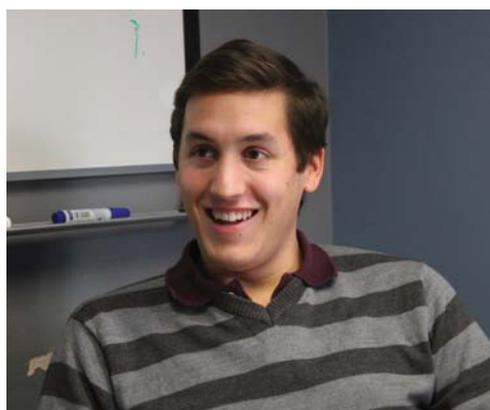
NEWS

News Editors: **Sophia David**
Alex Nowbar

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Thinking of running? It could be you...

As nominations open, **Matthew Colvin** speaks to two of this year's Sabbatical Officers about their time in office



Michael Foster Deputy President (Finance & Services)

The DPFS is responsible for the finances of the Union; the bars, Metric, shops and Clubs & Societies all fall under his remit

What have you enjoyed most? I think it's working in the Union and being part of a team. It's a very good atmosphere to work in and it really helps you do your role and also to see that you help other people do theirs as well – everyone's got something to contribute and build on. Specifically within my role, I've enjoyed getting stuck into policy and operational matters, and making decisions on how we run commercial services. I've also really enjoyed seeing online finances really develop and be rolled out in a big way – obviously I'm building on the work of my predecessors but it's good to see that finally come to fruition.

What have you enjoyed least?

At the beginning it was hard to manage my time. I found that the admin was taking up a lot of my time and that was hard because it meant that I couldn't focus on what I came into the role to do. Also, I think it's fair to say that I didn't enjoy the backlash from the Responsible Retailing Policy and the new bar nights procedure. I understand the backlash, but it's never a nice thing to receive criticism and it's quite stressful. I was able to respond to criticisms and of course I'm glad for the experience, but at the time it was very difficult.

What has been your biggest challenge in the role?

The biggest challenge has been trying to communicate to the student body that, while we are here to represent them over their time at Imperial and their student experience, there has to be an implicit acceptance that the Union is also a business. There are times when the Union does have to make money and that may not go down well with some of the traditions of the clubs but we do need to make sure that the Union sticks around for years to come.

How far have you delivered on your manifesto points?

Not yet, but we're just over halfway through the year. One of my manifesto points was about the Summer Ball so that's only just ramping up now. Another of my points (which is a regular appearance on DPFS manifestos) was about cashless payments. We are looking into our suppliers of payment systems and we're also looking to work with college to see if they are willing to help us with that. However, because we need to look at all the options available to us it's not happening

as quickly as I had thought. I'm confident that some move can be made, though. The other main manifesto points included an improvement in the standard of bar service; things have improved gradually for the past few months but with the experience and knowledge of our new management the standard will increase at a much regular rate. I'm also very satisfied with the progress of online finances.

Is there such a thing as an average day?

There is such a thing, as a lot of my time is taken up by admin! There are also various little tasks – almost housekeeping – such as responding to queries on financial matters. When that's all done I take the chance to look at how we provide functions and dinners at the Union, at what we're doing for the Summer Ball, at new ways of clubs saving money or how better to streamline our online financial systems.

What have you gained from being DPFS?

I have learned about how to manage my time, how to prioritise my tasks and how to generally be more effective. I've also learned to do what will have the most impact and to accept that there are some smaller things that I can't resolve as quickly as I would like – that's been difficult to do because every club is important, every club has its own problems and similarly different parts of commercial services have their own problems, but there are some bigger issues that need to take priority at the expense of others. Further, I think I've also learnt the importance of not just making decisions but also communicating them effectively and in good time, and the rationale behind them.

What advice would you give to those considering running for DPFS?

If you're concerned that you don't have the experience, then that's a non-issue, we have very good training. We can bring you up to speed very quickly and there is an extensive handover period so you can learn the ropes very quickly. I would also say that if you are passionate about finance and commercial services, and you see a lot of things that you have ideas to change and you think could be much better, then you'll always have something to contribute. There will be a staff team around you who have got the experience to help you implement your ideas and you certainly won't be isolated. You'll find it quite a satisfying experience to try and make a difference in the way finance and services are run.



Monya Zard Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Imperial has over 300 Clubs, Societies & Projects. The DPCS is in charge of overseeing all of them – from Freshers' Fair onwards

What have you enjoyed most? Freshers' Fair! It was a lot of work and was very stressful, but it was definitely the most rewarding experience of the year so far; it was such a huge event and it's something that you know you have to get right because it's going to be the new students' first experience of Student Activities. The reason it's so rewarding and why I enjoyed it so much was because you have to rely on the fact that volunteers are going to be there – that's not just the club members, but also the Management Groups who come there on the day at 7 in the morning to help you set everything up. It's stressful because you know you are relying on people who aren't necessarily paid to do the job they're doing, but one of the things that makes it so great is that everyone pulls together to make it a fantastic event on the day!

What have you enjoyed least?

The times when people come to you with something that they've left right until the last minute: maybe it's an event that they're having that evening or in a week and they've not sorted something out. You just have to be prepared to drop everything to help them with their problem, because although you could try and tell them afterwards "next time, don't leave it so late," at this point they want to have the event. You do get the satisfaction in knowing that, afterwards, they are grateful for your help.

What has been your biggest challenge in the role?

Learning how to manage your time. As I've said, people come in at the last minute with things that need doing but at the same time you get a lot of enquiries from people, a lot of clubs that ask you for help, and you also want to achieve the bigger goals that you set for yourself that year. Learning how to manage all of those and learning how to fit them all into your day can sometimes mean working very long days, or it can sometimes mean being prepared to shift everything in your calendar at the drop of a hat.

How far have you delivered on your manifesto points?

I'd say I'm just over halfway through. Some of them are a lot more long term than Freshers' Fair, particularly looking at storage. Ultimately, you come into this job thinking you're going to achieve everything on your manifesto, but once you start

and you realise the scale of some of the things that you've got to do, and also as other things keep getting added onto your project list, it becomes a little bit harder to achieve them all in the time frame you imagined.

Is there such a thing as an average day?

While there is some answering of emails and club questions, you could also be mediating between club committees. You could have a meeting with college, talking, for example, about Sport Imperial or Arts Imperial or about trying to get some more money from the IC Trust for Tour Funding. On the other hand, you could have meetings with externals like BUCS or National Governing Bodies – so there's never really a typical day.

What have you gained from being DPCS?

Definitely being calm under pressure – there's a lot going on, and you have to be able to juggle all of that. I've really enjoyed all the different things that you get to do in one year that you probably wouldn't get to do in any other job. I've sat on recruiting interview panels, which have been really great fun but on a personal level the thing I've gained the most is that the people you work with become your friends. In particular this includes the Management Groups and Club Chairs who come and see you and who work with you on an almost day-to-day basis. It's incredible the amount of time they put in and they do become really good friends.

What advice would you give to those considering running for DPCS?

The first thing to say is that you don't have to have been the chair of a club or been involved in the Union before. Even if you were the chair of one club, there are 300 at Imperial and the variety of stuff that we do is huge – there's no way you'd know all the answers to the questions anyway. You don't have to have any prior experience, but what do you have to have is a passion for Student Activities. You have to have a lot of energy to dedicate to the role, because sometimes you'll be working long hours and sometimes you'll have to do things that aren't really the most fun jobs in the world, but hopefully this year we've managed to eliminate a lot of those. Actually, one of the things we've been working on is making the role less admin-based and more 'get out there and make actual changes'. The things you'll learn in handover will cover what you have to know and no-one knows all the answers – even now in February I'm still looking up the answers to questions!

Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

features.felix@gmail.com

FEATURE

Gate crashing the Oxford Climate Forum

Caroline Wood escapes London for a sustainable future

Very early on Saturday morning, whilst Freshers were making their way home from Fabric, I was venturing across London for an entirely different reason. I was battling my way through the bitterly cold morning air so that I could catch a train from London Paddington to Oxford in order to attend the annual Oxford Climate Forum. The Oxford Climate Forum is the country's highest-profile conference on climate change organised entirely by students bringing leading thinkers and doers under one roof to discuss the key environmental concerns facing the global community. As a sustainability enthusiast, not even the malfunctioning heating systems on Great Western trains could deter my excitement about this event. It was 7am on a Saturday morning, I was sat on a (literally) freezing cold train and I was raring to go!

Unfortunately, things weren't entirely

“How can we equitably share the burden of climate change?”

that idyllic. I'd managed to persuade a friend from UCL to come with me, and whilst I was feeling gleeful and inspired as we trundled past frost-covered fields glittering in the morning sun, she was feeling tired, cold and in desperate need of caffeine. I sure hoped that this event would be worth the journey.

The first talk of the morning was from lawyer Polly Higgins, who pledged that we need to govern the planet's right to life as we do for humans. In order to do this she believes that Ecocide is the missing 5th Crime Against Peace and that it should sit alongside genocide as an international crime throughout the world. She made a convincing argument and managed to express what can sometimes sound like hippy-speak in an authoritative manner. However, I was not blown away. Imposing laws and trying to change social attitudes is not, in my view, the best pathway to a sustainable future.

Other morning sessions threw up difficult questions such as “do developing nations have a right to rapid development or a responsibility to develop sustainably?” and “how can we equitably share the burden of climate change?” The issues raised were tackled with vigour, intellect, and enthusiasm, with speakers from a broad range of backgrounds, including academia, business, and charity offering a far-reaching and deep range of expertise. Even seemingly impenetrable questions such as “how can you ask people in pov-

erty to care about climate change?” were discussed with a refreshingly realistic stance. Yet despite the stimulating topics, heartfelt talks and optimistic vibe, I was still not feeling particularly inspired.

Over lunch, a friend from Oxford walked us round the beautiful grounds of Worcester College (a depressing reminder of how ugly the Sheffield building really is) and we all agreed that we were impressed, but not blown away. We came to the conclusion that the reason we weren't high on inspiration was because all the talks had been focusing on the problems, but none of them provided any solutions.

Luckily, the afternoon sessions served up plenty of what we wanted. “The Greenest Government Ever?” session kicked off the afternoon. Tom Burke, founding director of the think tank E3G, former Executive Director of Friends of the Earth and visiting professor here at Imperial College London (and UCL) was one of the more enigmatic panellists from this session. On energy politics of the future, he urged us to take collective action, to get involved in politics, and boldly summed up the session by saying “If you're under 40, you'd better start doing something!”

Mark Lynas kept mid-afternoon sleepiness at bay by conducting a fun and in-

“If you're under 40, you'd better start doing something!”

teractive session called “Future visions”. Using the DECC 2050 energy pathways calculator, he managed to get an audience of 200 to predict the UK's energy supply and demand in 2050. The good news is that, with current technology, we can make it to a zero carbon economy by 2050 (just)! The bad news is that using our demand predictions, we need to be wildly ambitious about the number of offshore wind-farms, solar panelled roofs and biomass power stations we can install in under 40 years...

But unsurprisingly, like any true Imperialite, my absolute favourite session of the day was called “Can Technology Beat Climate Change?” Dr. Ralph Clague of Gordon Murray Design Limited, a world leader in automotive design, showed us how the vision of electric powered cars could become a reality. He showed us prototype low carbon city cars (which are thankfully much prettier than the G-wizz) and talked us through their new efficient production process called iStream (commendably admitting that it was indeed named iStream as “anything sounds cool if you put an ‘i’ in front of it”). In my view, the most visionary, most

ambitious and most exciting solution was called DESTERTEC. DESERTEC's vision is to harness solar energy from deserts, and transport the energy generated via international grids. Yes, that's deserts (meaning Africa and the Middle East) and international grids (meaning political negotiations). I told you it was ambitious. However, given the fact that in just 6 hours deserts receive more energy from the sun than human-kind consumes in a year, it seems the idea is worth pursuing

in spite of political and funding issues.

Jeremy Leggett, described by the *Observer* as “Britain's most respected green energy boss”, a social entrepreneur, and author of *The Carbon War* and *Half Gone* gave a compelling closing speech. Pragmatic and persuasive, Jeremy left us with some motivating closing thoughts: we can use existing technologies to get where we want to be. If we mix and match existing technologies, we can domestically provide enough energy for the UK. But

people are scared to listen to warnings about peak oil. There is a deeply rooted defence of the status quo, and we need seismic change that can make green ideas go viral and go global.

So there you have it. A great day came to an end. 200 people ventured out of Oxford's town hall, into the freshly fallen snow, feeling motivated and inspired to keep working towards a sustainable future – my sceptical friend from UCL included.



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In brief

New Horizons nearly at Pluto

Nasa's New Horizons probe has entered the final stage of its journey to Pluto. It is currently twenty three times the Sun-Earth distance away from us, and is due to reach its final destination on July 14, 2015.

It won't be staying for long, however, and will fly past the dwarf planet gathering as much data as it can before it gets too far away again. From there, the probe will continue past Pluto's moon Charon and then to the outer reaches of the solar system.

Getting data back from such a distance will be a challenge. At the moment, the probe just over three light hours away from Earth, so a round trip for commands to reach the probe and data to come back would take over six hours.

Kelly Oakes

Swearing for Scientists

by Maria Veiga



Mind reading programs?

Alexander Karapetian

Scientists from the University of California, Berkley, have been able to successfully determine fragments of people's thoughts by decoding brain activity caused by words they hear.

The study has given researchers further insight into how the brain processes language and paves the way for devices that may be able to help those without the power of speech. Researchers believe this may be the first step to primitive brain implants that can monitor people's thoughts and speak on behalf of them.

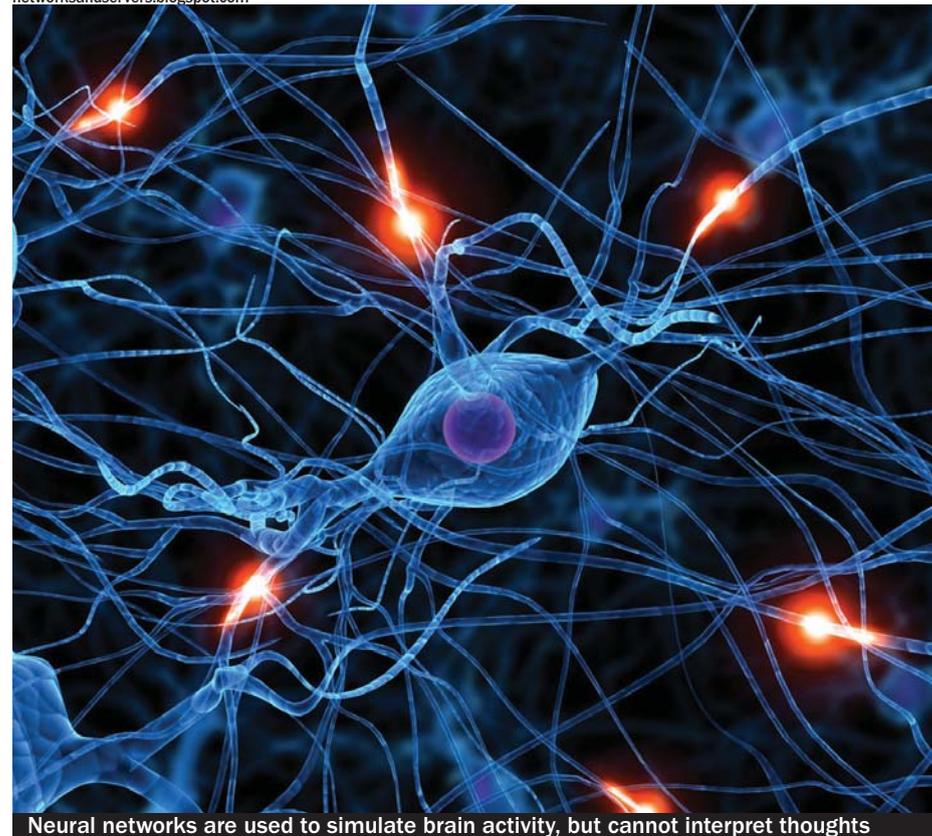
The study held in the US showed that a computer could play back words that the patients heard by analysing their thoughts, though the words played back were sometimes not clear. Speaking to *The Guardian*, Robert Knight, director of the Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, said "this is exciting in terms of the basic science of how the brain decodes what we hear. Potentially, the technique could be used to develop an implantable prosthetic device to aid speaking, and for some patients that would be wonderful."

"The next step", he continued, "is to test whether we can decode a word when a person imagines it. That might sound spooky, but this could really help patients. Perhaps in 10 years it will be as common as grandmother getting a new hip."

The study involved playing a series of words to the patients for up to ten minutes while recording their brain activity from electrodes placed across the surface of their brain. The top of the patients' skulls had been removed previously in an operation to treat intractable epilepsy, allowing this procedure to be carried out. The activity from the electrodes showed that the brain broke down sound into their constituent frequencies and the program kept track of this.

Another collection of words was then played to the patients to see whether the program could differentiate between words that were repeated

networksandservers.blogspot.com



Neural networks are used to simulate brain activity, but cannot interpret thoughts

from before and those that were new. The list of words included "Waldo", "structure", and "property". The scientists got their best results when activity was recorded in the superior temporal gyrus, above the ear. Brian Pasley, a scientist on the team, compared the technique to a musician who could hear a piece in their mind just by knowing which notes are played.

The study raises implications for potential mind reading programs, though the scientists point out that it would require the skull of the participant being opened up. Even if a device were to exist without such intrusive measures,

it would be difficult to differentiate between an inner monologue and words intended to be said aloud, therefore impacting any ability to aid the speechless.

Though the scientists' work must not be underestimated, *Guardian* blogger Mo Costandi wrote that "we are nowhere near being able to decode and reconstruct such complex neural activity [as our extremely rich stream of consciousness]", and that "it may, in fact, never be possible". It is likely that "your thoughts will remain private for a very long time."

DOI:10.1371/journal.pbio.1001251

World's thinnest pane of glass unveiled

Philip Kent

A paper in 1932 by William Holder Zachariasen hinted at the atomic structure of glass, which at the time was unexplored. This deduction was based purely on the properties of glass known at the time. For example, the fact it does not have a crystalline structure indicated that molecules within it are not symmetric.

This work now appears to be vindicated following new research reported in *Nano Letters*, which shows that a 2D layer of glass imaged using Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) has an extremely similar structure to that deduced in the 1932 work.

As with many scientific discoveries, this one was partially accidental. The team intended to make graphene for an experiment; however, unintended consequences actually resulted in graphene with a layer of glass forming instead. The researchers suspect that this is due to air

leaking into the process.

Conventional glass (as found in windows) is made of silicon dioxide – also known as silica. The process used to create the graphene, in this instance, involved a quartz substrate on carbon. When air leaked into the process, this caused the carbon to be oxidised (and the quartz subsequently reduced). This forms silica in the same structure of glass – yet just three atoms thick, making it effectively 2D.

This research is important for two reasons. The first of these is to allow direct imaging of molecules, some of which may not occur naturally.

The other reason is that it opens the door to synthesising a wide variety of other 2D molecules through the use of a graphene substrate: it may be possible to produce a glass from aluminium oxide with this technique. Additionally the graphene support removes the need for the variety of conditions that 2D materials

need to form, such as unreactivity.

This provided an opportunity to investigate the properties of the rings within glass. One of the properties discovered was that the glass was not covalently bonded to the graphene – this would cause an unacceptable amount of strain within the molecule. This can be seen in graphical models, which show a large mismatch between the lattice of graphene and the glass.

Instead, the van der Waals interactions cause the attraction to occur, resulting in a stabilisation effect within the glass. This shows that graphene could be a core component of production of new 2D substances.

As for the 2D silica-based glass, this could have a use in electronics, namely semiconductors, or as gate insulators in semiconductors. This is thanks to the ease of which the graphene and glass can be stripped from the starting copper.

Little leaps to the end of Malaria

Eliot Barford on the small things that could add up to getting rid of malaria for good

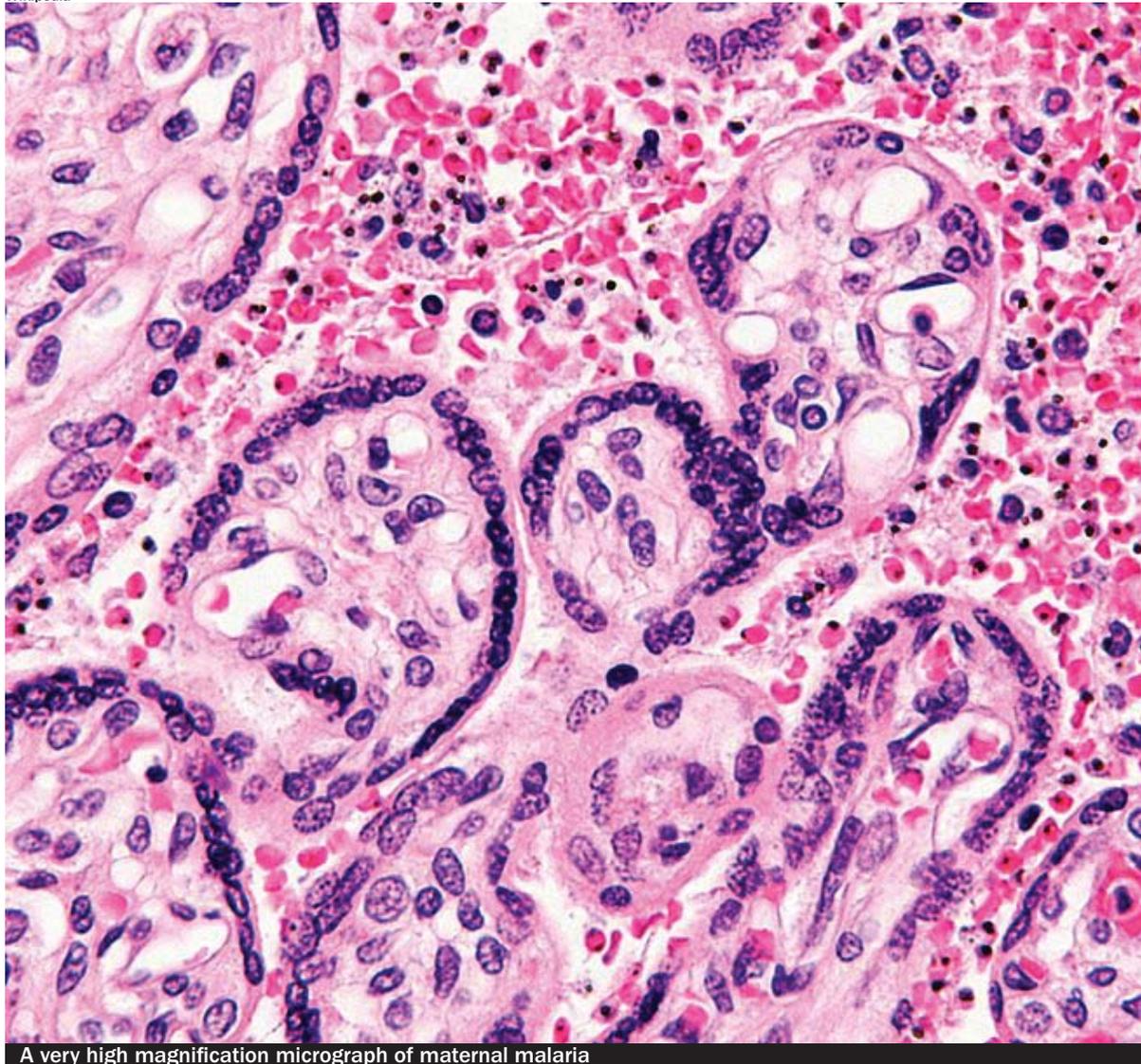
At the start of this month, a statistical analysis published in *The Lancet* claimed that deaths due to malaria worldwide are almost twice as high as was thought – 1.24 million in 2010 rather than 655,000, as estimated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). While there is controversy over the study's methodology, its implications for the international malaria eradication drive are troubling – the WHO also estimated that 216 million people became ill with malaria in 2010. Fortunately, these are not the only large numbers associated with the disease: annually, US\$2 billion is contributed for malaria control measures, and over US\$600m for research and development to fight it. Progress is being made, and funnily enough, it tends to involve much smaller things. Two recent advances have illustrated how the tiniest things can make the greatest difference.

Around 50 antimalarial drugs are in development right now. The pace is high because researchers are trying to find replacements for artemisinin, the principle malaria treatment worldwide, before it is rendered useless by spreading resistance. In January, an American group at Washington University in Missouri solved the structure of an enzyme, a protein which catalyses a reaction, that is needed by every parasitic cell to grow. It provides an example of how exploiting the subtle differences between our cells and malaria parasites may allow us to cure the disease.

Plasmodium, the microbe that causes malaria, is a protozoan and therefore part of a separate kingdom of life to animals and plants. However, its biochemistry shares some peculiar features with plants due to an ancient evolutionary event in which it took on an alga as an "endosymbiont", a permanent resident of its cells, similarly to the way in which plant cells acquired their photosynthetic chloroplasts. The relic of this alga, known as the apicoplast, performs certain chemical reactions for the parasite very unlike those done by our cells.

Cell membranes are made of molecules called phospholipids such as phosphatidylcholine, which the parasite must synthesise to grow and divide. It does this in the apicoplast via a plant-like chemical pathway subtly different from our own, which includes a step that never happens in our cells. The Washington group's protein is responsible for this reaction. The team has worked out its exact structure and is trying to explain its activity at the atomic level. If someone can use this information to develop a drug that blocks it, malaria parasites could be killed with no harm to patients – the most difficult

Wikipedia



A very high magnification micrograph of maternal malaria

challenge to overcome in development of new treatments.

Drugs are essential to cure people infected with malaria, but eradication is a fantasy unless a vaccine to prevent infection is developed. A vaccine called RTS,S has shown promise, as reported in *Felix* on November 4 last year. However, RTS,S is not very effective compared to other vaccines and its protection may not last long. It will save the lives of many children under five, who suffer over 80% of deaths from malaria, but better vaccines will be needed to stop the disease spreading entirely.

In December, a team based at Oxford University demonstrated a new vaccine

target in rabbits. They exploited a weakness in the parasite's infective strategy revealed only in November by a group at the Sanger Institute in Cambridge. Malaria parasites multiply by invading and parasitising red blood cells (RBCs), and until recently it was thought that they used such numerous ways of gaining entry that no one method was used by every strain. The Sanger group tested several strains and discovered that every one needed a particular RBC protein to get its foot in the door, a protein called basigin.

Basigin's exact function remains unknown, and scientists originally recognised it only as the determinant of a rare blood group, Ok-, found in a handful of Japanese families. Nonetheless, a parasite protein called Pfrh5 binds to basigin and is somehow crucial for invasion. The Oxford group produced a vaccine by incorporating Pfrh5 into a virus and used it on rabbits, who developed immunity. The antibodies in their blood prevented all parasite strains from infecting blood cells.

This leap forward was unexpected. Malaria is a successful disease precisely

because it works so hard to avoid being recognised by our adaptive immune system. PfEMP1 protein, the main protein to which we do become immune, comes in 60 different versions so that the parasite can repeatedly change between them before the body can eliminate it. People who live where malaria is common become infected many times during their lives, never developing full immunity, because Plasmodium is so adept at evading our defences.

However, in rabbits, a vaccine granted immunity to Pfrh5, of which there is only one copy. Why? Pfrh5 seems to have escaped natural selection for variation because the immune system does not normally 'see' it. The reason why remains unknown, though it may be because it is only released by the parasite at the moment of invasion, straight into the unlucky RBC. This is important because it may mean that all Plasmodium strains rely wholly on Pfrh5 to infect our blood. By 'showing' it to the immune system with a vaccination, protection far greater than that from RTS,S could be achieved – perhaps enough to thwart malaria for good.

My body clock and I

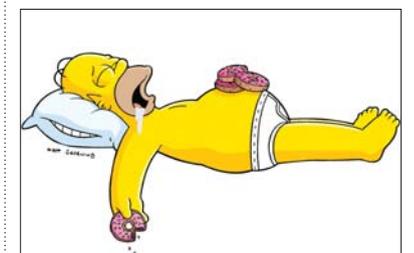
Tim Arbabzadah

How many times have you ended up staring at Facebook at 3am on a Monday? If you're me, the answer is too many to count. A lot of people out there have trouble keeping their sleeping pattern in check. It can be very detrimental to your life (and really annoying). It seems my body clock just wants to troll me constantly, smugly making me stumble bleary eyed out of bed after too little sleep. The recent freezing weather doesn't help. It makes the warm confines of the covers look incredibly appealing.

A new study led by Imperial scientists has found a link between diabetes and a person's body clock. To be less cryptically vague, the study found a link between the gene MTNR1B and type 2 diabetes. MTNR1B codes for MT2, a receptor for the hormone melatonin. Melatonin regulates the sleeping cycle and also the release of insulin, which is what regulates the level of sugar in the blood. The postulation is that mutations in the MT2 gene could disrupt both the sleeping cycle and the release of insulin. Thus, people with the mutations will not be able to control their blood sugar level correctly. Therein lies the link between the MT2 gene and diabetes and explains the connection between two seemingly unconnected things. A person carrying these mutations will not definitely develop type 2 diabetes, but the risk that they do, compared to someone without said mutations, is increased.

The study looked at 7,632 Europeans and included 2,186 individuals with type 2 diabetes. In total, the MT2 gene can have forty mutations; all were tested to see what the effect would be. Four of these, which are, luckily, very rare, were found to completely stop the melatonin from binding to MT2. These highly increased the risk of type 2 diabetes developing.

The hope is that this discovery and mechanistic link can be used to gauge the diabetes risk of an individual and tailor medical treatments to their needs, a small step towards personalised medicine.



Sleeping like a log...

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TECHNOLOGY

Tips & Hacks

Release windows hurt box office

A joint study by researchers from Wellesley College and the University of Missouri has found that US box office takings are largely unaffected by piracy, and instead point to large international release windows (the time from American national releases to releases across the globe) as a significant factor in decreased overall revenue for movie franchises. Factors identified as contributing to this large window include the need to support legacy theatre systems that still depend on expensive 35mm reels and the cost of promotional jaunts across the globe for the leading cast members.

This probably has some relevance towards television programming as well, with top American TV shows often airing for the first time internationally a few seasons after their national success. While international television operators are naturally wary of betting on shows that haven't been previously tested, it is only a matter of time before it becomes unprofitable to even bet on successes, given the ease with which pirated versions can be accessed online. As the endless battles between copyright owners and pirates continue, it might be time for the movie industry to focus their energies on something they can actually control.

be.ez LA Robe 13 Black Addict



Sturdy and dependable

The be.ez is a sturdy bag that has clearly been designed keeping your laptop in mind. There are enough pockets to carry a few peripherals and pens with you, as well as enough space for a small sheaf of papers. That said, the bag is quite small; don't expect it to carry anything more than a small refill pad in addition to your laptop. In terms of style, the bag looks quite attractive when shut – I'm not so sure about the gaudy 'raspberry' interior of the review piece we received, but that's possibly a question of personal taste. The inner sleeve is well cushioned and should protect your laptop well. Overall, the Black Addict is very good at keeping your laptop safe – the combination of the no-nonsense bag and memory foam sleeve mean you won't have to handle your notebook too carefully. A very dependable option that doesn't look too shabby either.

Providing internet to all

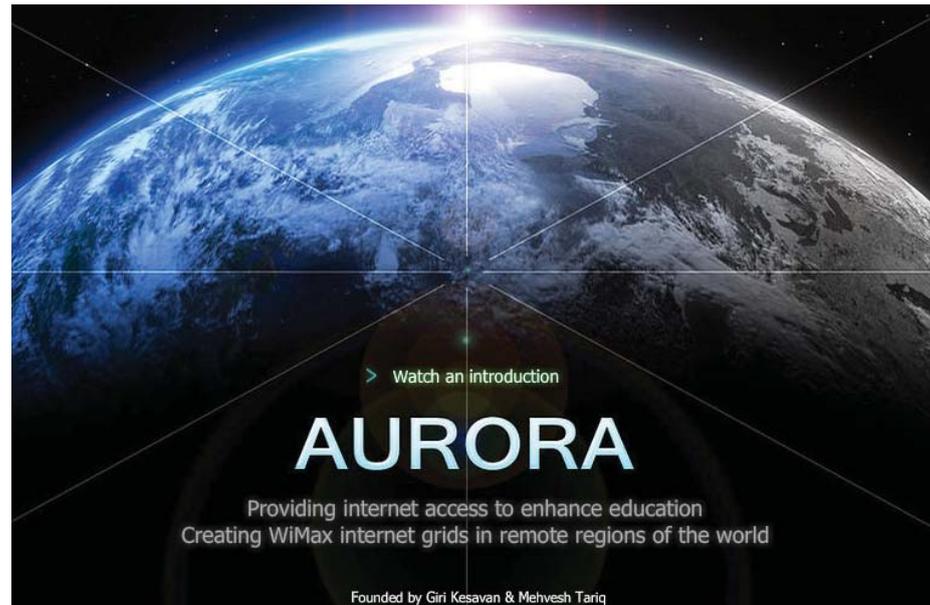
The Aurora Team

Can you imagine a day without the internet? Today communication touches every aspect of our lives from social networking to business. We exploit information technology to enhance the learning experience through the use of the internet, supported by online initiatives such as podcasts and Virtual Learning Environments. However in countries such as Morocco, Thailand, India and Nepal, social and economic development is restricted by a lack of communications infrastructure.

The Aurora project aims to provide internet access to communities in rural areas, bringing key social benefits and enhancing learning. Run by a team of students from the Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department, we aim to achieve this objective by creating wireless networks, coupling long range transmitters with an existing electricity grid. The key is Wi-Max technology – offering a range of up to 10 km from a single router. By connecting Wi-Max routers in relays, we can get information to very remote locations.

Founded in October 2011, the progress has been remarkable. One of our team members went to Morocco last December and conducted a location feasibility study – which proved Wi-Max was viable to implement in the region. We have fostered excellent links in industry with Internet Service Providers, energy companies and RuggedCom – a specialist Canadian based company manufacturing Wi-Max products who are one of our close industrial partners.

Thanks to fantastic support from our department (in particular Dr Kristel Fobelets) and supervisor, Prof Kin Leung, a few of our team had the chance to visit the RuggedCom office in Lancaster and see Wi-max technology in ac-



tion. We successfully managed to get a transmitter on loan which will enable us to test the technical feasibility of the project right here in London. Therefore, our next step is to conduct a live field test by creating a Wi-Max network in Imperial College; we are in the process of completing licensing agreements for this. With this and our remaining location feasibility studies just on the horizon, we believe we will soon achieve our ultimate goal of enabling schools in communities to use our WiMax network to enhance education in the near future.

After seeing this project developed so much, just from an idea put forward by a few students, we are sure that every one of us can make a difference in this world. So we would like to encourage each of you to take an initia-

tive, be bold and run with your creative ideas – we know first-hand that Imperial will always support you. Create the future.

The Aurora Team consists of Mehvesh Tariq, Sriram Kannan, Giri Kesavan, Sonal Rashmi, Jegadeesh Sithamparamathas, Wayne Yeang, Minoru Nanayakkara, Sumedha Kodaman-chali and Sathesh Elangovan.

www.aurorawimax.co.uk

A new 'best' method for creating passwords?

Chris Bowers

"Your password will expire in 10 days. Would you like to change it now?" This is the message that greets me when I log on to Outlook Web Access. I was first told my password was going to expire at the end of January, so why have I not yet done so? The act itself of changing the password is by no means a complex task – but instead it's the creation of its replacement that takes time and effort.

The problem is, of course, security. While I don't think my accounts are going to be the targets of everyday hacking, I still wouldn't feel comfortable leaving my emails open to anyone who tried "123456" in the password field. We have all been encouraged to conjure up complex combinations of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols, but these tend to be less than easily memorable. This has led people to possibly not bother with anything complicated, or leaving a note of their password lying around.

New discussion in the area, however, hopes to alleviate these issues greatly. Many of you

will be familiar with the xkcd comic about password entropy, I'm sure, but it seems this also isn't the answer. The problem lies in finding a good balance between memorability and security. Unfortunately, many hackers aren't stupid, so "Pa55w0rd" isn't going to fit the bill – that and its variations would be tried in most dictionary attacks. "P@s5w(r1}" is considered much stronger, but is far less memorable.

Instead, the solution relies on 'padded passwords'. The concept is simple – take a fairly memorable password (let's use Lond0n as an example), and add a small 'pad' to it, increasing both the length and complexity of the finished product. In our example, we could pad with ".*" and end up with ".*Lond0n.*". Of course, the padding doesn't need to be the same everywhere, nor does it need to be at either end. This is the key to the system – you could give away the base password to anyone, but as long as they don't know your pad(s) and where padding exists in the password, they still wouldn't be able to access your account.

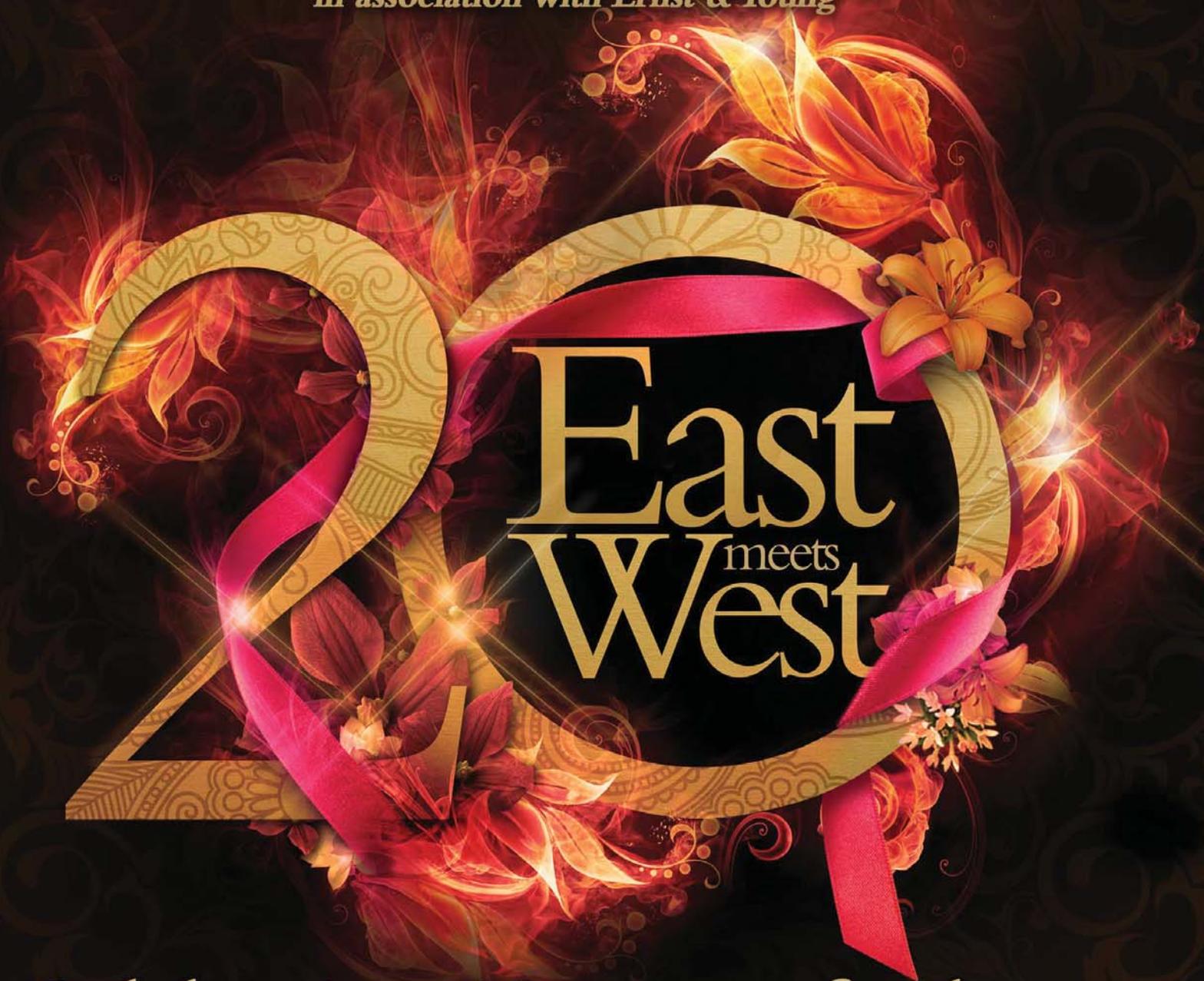
In technical terms, there are a few factors at play here. It is still highly recommended to use

a combination of alphanumeric characters and symbols, as this massively increases the search space that a hacker would need to test every combination of. However, a hacker would only resort to this brute forcing when simpler measures – such as dictionary attacks – have been exhausted, but the padding essentially forces any hacking attempt into that huge domain. Once this technique is being used, the biggest factor in the security of your password is its length, which of course the padding only helps.

The memorability of the password is also not too bad – "Lond0n" by itself isn't too taxing for example, and it's easy to pick a pad that suits you – "&*"(" are neighbours on the keyboard, but still an effective pad. Additionally, those without a great memory for passwords could write down either the pad or the base password without fear, as discussed before.

In essence, these passwords are not too different from a random, strong password with all the right elements. However, being easier to think up and remember brings them to more people. Given their security, this can only be a good thing.

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IC Indian society



Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
Sam Horti

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

FELIX

A note on last week's Hangman

In last week's Felix, an article was published in the Hangman section which many readers felt incited sexual violence, trivialised rape and generally contributed to the idea of a rape culture. I would like to take the opportunity to assure readers that this was in no way our intention, and we all agree that a piece of content which does this is wholly unacceptable.

Following complaints addressed personally to me, or otherwise, I have taken the decision to end the Hangman section for the foreseeable future. The offending article, quite simply, failed in its ill-judged attempt at humour and did not warrant publication. We are now taking the time to carefully consider how any section designed with the sole intention of being humorous can feature and simultaneously exist to the same standard as the rest of this publication. The level of offence that Hangman caused is not something that should be admired or actively sought after.

This incident has highlighted several major flaws in our quality control process, for which I take full responsibility. As a result, I am taking concrete steps to ensure that this does not happen again. Alongside the removal of the Hangman section, any future section with the intention of comedy or satire will be held to more stringent content guidelines and I will ensure that the consequences of every article we publish are considered fully. I am also making certain that our writing team is fully educated on and sensitive to topics that could cause offence if handled improperly.

Of course, humour does have a place in Felix, but now is the time to take a serious step back from the events of last week and refocus our attention into something that actually deserves a place in this publication. We need something that sits comfortably alongside such reasoned debate and content such as that I have had the privilege of editing, and not something that pushes the boundaries of offence for the sake of an article that barely provides a modicum of humour.

I do deeply regret my own personal failure in not having taken action to prevent this happening in the first place, and I would like to reassure readers that after this incident the content that goes into any section will be radically rethought before publication.

On rigging the NSS



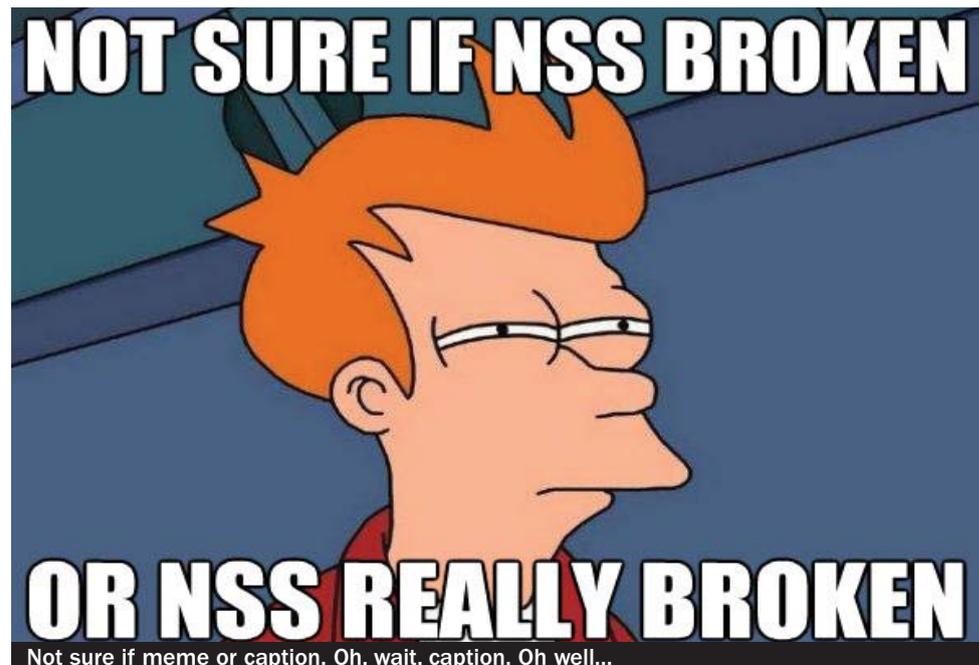
**Alexander
Karapetian**

Our front page story this week uncovered a method students from the Department of Computing found to be able to mass impersonate final year students in the National Student Survey (NSS), effectively skewing the results in favour of Imperial. Of course, the aforementioned technique of programmatically scraping an internal database for the names and CID numbers of final year students may be easy, but is rigging the NSS really that simple?

Let's look at the information required to fill it in. We need the first letter of the student's first name, the first four letters of their last name, their CID number and their day and month of birth. Everything but the latter is trivially found in the internal databases described, so a program could theoretically automate scraping this data and autofill the survey to pose as the students. The problem lies with the date of birth, however. If the NSS required the student's year of birth too, it would be more complex to determine, but not impossible. The TeachDB database from the Department of Computing gives us the year the student started their course, and we can make a few assumptions to determine their probable age, and as a result, their year of birth.

Of course, this isn't perfect, and there's a good chance we'd lose more than half of the dataset of students to impersonate because of it, but that still means a fair number of students are still vulnerable. The crux in our method is that the NSS requires the day and month too, something that isn't available in (at least) this database. One may trivialise the difficulty of obtaining this information at first, thinking it wouldn't be too hard to cross reference with Facebook, especially since students leave more information open unwillingly to the Imperial network. I take issue with this suggestion. If you take a look at [facebook.com/events/birthdays](https://www.facebook.com/events/birthdays) you'll notice it's actually quite challenging to obtain birthday information.

Even if one created a fake Facebook account, added a few people from Imperial as friends until they had enough mutual friends to confidently auto-add most Imperial people, they still wouldn't get full



access to as much birthday information as they'd expect. The problems which may arise here are that cross referencing the Imperial student database against Facebook will not match those who go by nicknames or have different names than the ones they use with friends.

Although the Facebook privacy settings work in the malicious person's favour, it's likely this gives a lot of problems and increases the amount of effort required to execute a successful cross reference by an order of magnitude. People think they are being more private if they do not show their age (and therefore their year of birth), but what they do not know is that it is the day and month they need to protect for the case of personally identifiable information for use within the NSS.

An additional barrier is the problem of scraping this data programmatically. One used to be able to see a breakdown of friends' birthdays by month, but now we get the data categorised as "Today", "Tomorrow", "Later This Week" and so on. By making it relative to the current day, Facebook's made it harder to scrape birthday information, questioning how easy this last nugget really is to obtain.

A further flaw in the NSS system was exposed in the article, showing that regardless of the amount of times a student fills in the survey, only their first response is counted and they are not warned in certain cases that they have already completed it. If this were the other way around, it would be much more devastating. Should the NSS take your last response only and we had a correct automatic program to mass impersonate students, we could run the code on the very last day (if not hour) of the survey, overwriting all previous responses. The fact that it's the first response, however, provides a workaround by making use of the phone call one receives upon forgetting to do the survey.

NSS called you up and told you to do the survey? Vent at the annoyance by commenting online at: felixonline.co.uk

If you've not completed it and you don't receive a phone call, it is possible you have been impersonated. If a program can use a database to do it, don't hesitate to think your friends can't. Yes, I'm looking at those of you who've posted pictures of your ID cards online on Facebook or Twitter, exposing your CID numbers on potentially the same page your date of birth resides. Don't help usher in an era of NSS trolling.

So even if we get around all this, there's one more obstacle. Not everything in the survey is multiple choice, there are some boxes which require text input. Unless we define unique responses for each student, there's a fair chance the NSS engine will detect patterns and be alerted to suspicious activity. For a malicious programmer with enough motivation, it's not too infeasible, however.

I contacted the Deputy President (Education) Jason Parmar, who told me that even so, it's "widely accepted as the "current" measure for student satisfaction", and that "this may change in the next decade". Tom Wilshere, Computing Department Representative, believes "this discovery completely undermines the NSS as a reliable and trustworthy source of information for ranking satisfaction in universities", and that "it seems ridiculous that students (or indeed universities) could easily spam the system to improve the results for their departments".

With the commonplace nature of automated spam e-mailing systems with intelligent text generators that can pass the Turing test and deceive humans into thinking they are human too, it's not farfetched to wonder whether students at this university or elsewhere have taken advantage of the exploits defined above. If executed right, they'd potentially go undetected and possibly get away scot-free...

COMMENT

Keep up: this is the new feminism



Veronica Gouvea

Dear Sir – The word “feminism” is meant to be on opposite ends of the spectrum with “sexism”. Arguably it is the only means to combating sexism, but I hear this word being misused on a daily basis. If even the most forward-thinking students often disregard the true meaning of the word, how can it be used to combat sexism effectively? In order for this to happen, we must first ensure that we have a true understanding of what “feminism” entails. Modern feminism is nothing like the bra burning activism that took to the streets in the 60s, and it is certainly not that crap that Sarah Palin claims to support. Modern feminism is much more intricate and subtle; it’s not because we have lost our spirit, it’s because it can be. This type of feminism is led by strong women all over the world that are demonstrating with ease that their contribution to our advancement is just as important as any of their male counterparts (and no, I do not mean just in a reproductive sense...). Good examples of modern day feminists include the likes of Natasha Walter, who fully embodies this new, passive form of activism, and Facebook COO, Sheryl Sandberg, living proof that we are more than capable of playing in the “big leagues” with all of the boys.

The article on sexism in last week’s issue of Felix convincingly presented a general critique of the lack of feminist efforts at Imperial, pointing out that we are doing more to promote sexism than to discourage it. The author condemned Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology (the only society on campus to carry out feminist activity) for the promotional material used for a club night. The material in fact aimed to challenge the stereotype of women in SET and to say that any woman can be ‘sexy’ and be in SET, but was unfortunately (and quite understandably...) interpreted as ‘objectifying women’. This can rather rightfully be taken for a misguided approach to try and reap the benefits of the constructed gender differences that we encounter daily in university life, but the bottom line is: how is marveling over a couple of beautiful belly dancers any different to the way the varsity rugby players flaunt their masculinity? Men do the same thing, auctioning off themselves, and just because it is WOMEN auctioning off WOMEN, it has caught your atten-

tion and this is a problem in itself. It’s a societal problem.

The author may well be correct in deeming WSET’s angle inappropriate considering their platform, but I also believe that we should not live in fear of these stereotypes. Whether you believe that gender is entirely a social construct or not, social conditioning has led us to this current state of mind that unfortunately has resulted in a disproportional praising of a woman’s achievements and a likewise higher than normal “understanding” of the lack thereof. Any sensible human being would agree that this is unfair. So, the question remains: how can we change this? Accountably, there are multiple ways of going about this, but which is the most effective?

What we are trying to fight in WSET is the root cause of the problem: getting more women into SET careers. In a way, “toying” with the current disputes does little to add to or remove from the root cause because it is an attempt at changing people’s mentality without any real experience. It is a broadly accepted view in philosophy that we only learn and develop through tangible change in the form of experience, and although the author raises some excellent points, what he fails to do is provide tangible solutions to the highlighted issues. Get angry? Is that really the answer?

Most of the time, when sexist comments are made, they tend to be just to get a reaction out of the target audience, and I think the majority of us are intuitive enough to judge whether each case is malicious or not. Of course, in the former, ‘get angry’ is certainly the way to go, but in that regard I’d like to think that that is what the majority of us are doing anyway; and if it isn’t, then it’s what we all should be doing. In WSET we try to stick to the post-positivist approach to feminism: **TOO MUCH CRITICISM, NOT ENOUGH SOLUTIONS.**

There are so many types of feminisms: Marxists who are critical of the status quo, linking women’s oppression to the exploitive nature of capitalism, liberals who value individuality and privacy, egalitarians who believe in no differences between men and women, existentialists who celebrate our natural differences, and also different waves (first, second, third) etc. At WSET we fight to maintain the ‘status quo’ by getting women into science, empowering women within science, and encouraging diversity through a



Natasha Walter, author of Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism

variety of means that include providing visible role models for younger women: proven to be the most effective method to combat sexism. We believe that fighting for specific causes is more effective because realistically, what is fighting for ALL feminist causes going to do? Fighting for a cause is always better when the aims and objectives are clearly stated, and not broad and unachievable.

Although in legal terms men and women are now equal, there are traces of old-fashioned sexism that are inevitable due to countless reasons including, but not exclusive to, the fact that it was as recent as 1965 that women in France required their husband’s permission to work abroad. This roughly coincides with the time that the parents of current 20-40 year olds began work. The unfortunate outcome: a trickle down effect and remnants of that mentality haunting us till this day. I am not trying to say that the issues we currently face will disappear along with that generation; they may or they may not. What I can say is that as we move towards a society relying more and more heavily on mental strength and moral fiber, the biological differences become obsolete with regards to progression. Yes, there is still sexism. Yes, as a woman you will be looked at and treated slightly differently than as a man at Imperial (and let’s be honest... generally in the positive sense), but this should no longer be something to fear. The war is over, now it’s time for us to pick up the pieces and put them back together with a new vision in mind. We need to focus on what we as individuals can do. Turning this back into

a conflict will not resolve the remains of the battle, and the recent proposal to inaugurate a feminist society at Imperial falls directly in the eye of the storm.

Although sexual violence is a major issue that deserves all of our attentions and efforts at Imperial, perhaps a feminist society is not the most progressive way to tackle such issues, especially since these issues are at the heart of our social responsibilities and should be targeted by all regardless. Instating such a society may possibly be counter-productive in terms of truly achieving common ground. Not that they wouldn’t have just cause for their platform. They would have plenty of just cause, and we would be happy to support all of their motions as I am sure the majority of you reading this would also agree, the debate is whether this would be the best platform to do so? Such a society should have been instated many years ago; which makes me question whether doing so now would simply add to the divide? For those who think that such a platform would provide legitimate ground for progressive work then please sign the petition at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/icwrs/> and help make this happen.

In the words of Isabel Allende, “The time is right to make fundamental changes in our civilization, but for real change we need feminine energy in the management of the world. We need a critical number of women in positions of power and we need to nurture the feminine energy in men. I’m talking about men with young minds of course... old guys are hopeless, we have to wait for them to die off!” – couldn’t have put it any better.

In WSET we try to stick to the post-positivist approach to feminism: **TOO MUCH CRITICISM, NOT ENOUGH SOLUTIONS**

We’re always looking for people to get involved and join the discussion in Comment. How do I do this you say? Excellent question, well done for asking, you’ll be Jeremy Paxman in no time. It’s simple, you just email comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk with an article, or even just an idea!



Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
Sam Horti

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COMMENT

Evidence for sexism in the Union?



Marissa Lewis



Kelly Osborne

Emily Davison did not throw herself under the King's horse for the right to play Angry Birds

Inequality irritates me, particularly as it is so prevalent within our society. Women are oppressed on many different levels; here at Imperial the most recent evidence for this is the refusal by the NCC (New Clubs Committee) of a Gender Equality Society. The reasoning of the Union is as follows: we don't need another women's society as we have WSET and a Gender Equality Officer. Our attempts to set up this society were instead relegated to 'campaign' status within the Union, which, although no one seems to know what this is, seems fair enough on the face of it all. The problem is that this comes at a time when Felix is in trouble with the Telegraph for joking about Rohypnol and others have pointed out how anti-feminist the only Women's society at Imperial is (see last week's Felix). There seems to be no time like the present for a feminist or women's rights group at the Union. Pity those in power disagree.

WSET's goals, as outlined on its website, are: "Promoting SET careers amongst women in College" and "Enhancing the flow of girls in SET departments at University". We aimed to set up a group to tackle more traditional feminist issues, such as the prevalence of rape in today's society, domestic abuse, or the objectification of women in the media. Upon speaking to the WSET committee they admitted they are not keen for extra groups underneath them, as this would further divide their hard-

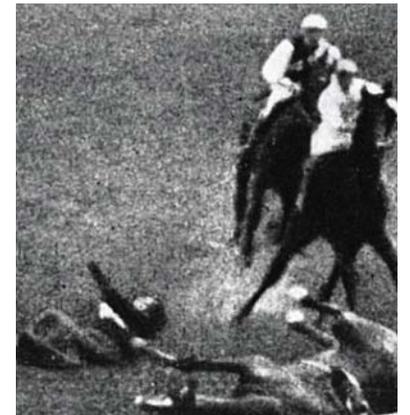
earned corporate sponsorship. However, this means that the NCC's suggestion that we form a subgroup under WSET would be a little difficult as we have different aims; they don't want us, and we want autonomy.

When we mentioned that we would want to run campaigns to tackle the widespread sexual violence women experience in our society, the NCC were quick to ask what we would be doing to stop male rape or support male rape victims. There's a meme for this line of questioning in feminist circles; it's called 'what about teh menz?' Now, this might seem a bit dismissive as, after all, men do get raped too and it is every bit as awful as when a woman gets raped. However, until 50,000 men get raped every year in the UK and until 1 in 3 men can expect to get raped in their lifetimes (admittedly impossible to get truly accurate figures as up to 90% of rapes remain unreported), it isn't an issue of gender equality. Rape is a gendered issue because the overwhelming majority of perpetrators are men and the overwhelming majority of victims are women, suggesting that our society has a problem with violence against women. Asking that men take the lion's share of responsibility for this issue isn't suggesting men can never be raped or that women can never be rapists; the same way that asking white people to take the lion's share of responsibility for institutional racism isn't saying white people can never be discriminated against or

that people of other races can't be racist; it's simply saying that the two sides aren't equal. The NCC asking what a feminist group will do for male equality is every bit as ridiculous and bigoted as, say, asking what an LGBT group will do for the well known problem of heterosexual discrimination.

Considering we go to a university that's 70% male and has 3 separate all-male drinking societies, is asking for a separate, independent women's group really that unreasonable? After all, there are a whole host of issues that female students are subject to, even when they don't attend such a male-dominated university: a recent survey by the NUS found that 1 in 7 female students are victims of "serious sexual assault or violence" while at university; eating disorders are at their highest ever prevalence in our age group, and women are chronically underrepresented in student unions (with only 22% of university presidents being female). What is Imperial actually doing to ensure the welfare of female students? And, more importantly, why was a society that aimed to allow students to discuss these issues and campaign on behalf of our female students deemed to lack 'substance' and rejected?

The clubs that successfully passed our NCC were a new App development society and a Harry Potter society (Pottersoc). Although we would like to point out we have nothing against apps or Harry Potter in principle, it is a little insulting that the NCC views either of



The iconic photo of Emily Davison

these things more important than the quest for women's rights. After all, Emily Davison did not throw herself under the King's horse for the right to play Angry Birds.

Adding final insult to injury, the Clubs and Societies Officer seemed to suggest that somehow our petition of 20 names (the requirement to start a new society at Imperial) was invalid as 6 signatures were from people who worked at the Union. This was because both of the authors work at the union and took our petition into work, which people were keen to sign. However the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) claimed these people "did not care"; last time we checked it was not a requirement to be a misogynist to work at the Union but apparently it helps according to the NCC.

This week's potential scandal



Angry Geek

... we're trying to build a community in which everyone is... treated equally

Deep breaths everyone. Let's open with the statement that no-one finds rape funny. So let's do that: it's not funny. No-one likes to see or hear about anyone being abused in such a way. I'm not particularly interested if you think male rape is under-represented, or if rape law only protects women, or anything like that. This is not Reddit. Rape isn't hahaha funny, plain and simple. I've never seen an episode of Friends about someone getting jovially drugged, abused and dumped somewhere.

Similarly, I'm not one for making comedy sacred. Free speech is excellent, with the exception of television about videogames, and if you want to loudly announce to everyone on the 93 from Wimbledon how much of a bigoted twunt you are by telling an offensive joke to your friend then by all means please go ahead. But once we get above the nattering-in-a-pub level of joke-telling I feel we have

some baselines set down, and at an institution that is so fundamentally racked by issues of gender divide, Hangman probably stumbled too far last week.

It's gone downhill. While the Telegraph article that announced this story to the world was about as well-constructed as the drunken, rambling tweets that cited it (one proclaimed "Rape is hilarious, right? Imperial College thinks so!") it was hard to summon the effort to laugh at the article. Hangman could hardly be defended.

So in the week between me writing this and it being published (editors willing) there'll be various things happening – lots of people will have Opinions and Views and these may or may not involve the phrase 'PC-crazy' in a context other than a Starcraft convention. Let's be clear, though – before we start having a debate on the topic of women, men and Imperial – that we exist in a man's world, still. There are pockets of exemplary behaviour, and the department I'm in, in

particular, has some great people who do everything they can to combat inequality and bad examples being set. But let's not pretend, as many commenters online tried to, that men are in any way hard done by.

At the same time, jumping to the conclusion that we need an armed feminist society ready to kick ass, chew gum and live their lives in an independent, thoughtful and personally satisfying way seems like a knee jerk in the opposite direction. We shouldn't need to do this. We shouldn't need to get to the point where we have to have a fucking Union society to remind people that women are a group that needs representation. It is, to me, utterly unacceptable that Imperial would need to drop to this level.

On Twitter, from time to time, Mrs. Geek's name pops up in relation to various things. She is a student at Imperial like myself, and through her eyes I occasionally get glimpses of how bizarre our community is. Oftentimes it feels like

there are only two ways to pass through Imperial as a woman – either you get by being what Imperial's male contingent expect you to be, or you shut yourself off from that world entirely and only communicate with other female students. Neither outcome seems favourable, and all the shouting and commenting I've seen since the article went live seems to only push towards these two outcomes.

(Incidentally, Mrs. Geek appears to have gotten through by doing neither of these things, one of many attributes I find admirable and worthy of great respect. Yes, this is your Valentine's Day present. Yes it does count. Love you.)

So let's bear something in mind, as we scabble for what can be done at Imperial – we're trying to build a community in which everyone is happy, treated equally, and in which jokes can be made if they are appropriate. Don't be heavy-handed in our search for a solution, and don't let personal prejudice against a minority affect how we treat the majority.

COMMENT

The RCSU is challenging ICSMSU at the Tuesday Quiz Night on February 28 in FiveSixEight. Ahead of this, the Comment pages of Felix are taken over to see which is better.

ICSM VS RCSU



RCSU IS BETTER

Paul Beaumont RCSU Vice President (Operations)

I run the inherent risk of making myself unpopular in writing this: and so I shall endeavour to explain why – as uncontroversially as possible, but without question – the RCSU is better than the ICSMSU.

For my argument to hold, one must first accept that this is a rather fucked up playing field. The Faculty of Medicine donate large sums of money to the ICSMSU. They have a paid-for-by-College President working on ‘stuff’ full-time (or, more commonly, curled up on the sofa in her office wishing she’d stuck at playing doctors and nurses instead of taking a year out). If this whole ‘Faculty Union’ thing was golf, the Medics have the maximum handicap of 36 whilst the RCSU are playing as pros at 0. Not fair.

And so, it is on this basis that I will build my argument. I quite happily smile and nod when a Medic tells me how amazing their Union is over RCSU. Inside, I’m dying – yearning – to scream “BUT LOOK AT THE PLAYING FIELD”. I somehow think they may think me mad for doing so, though.

Readers of this publication will no doubt however have spotted the numerous successes of the RCSU this year. Autumn Ball. Oktoberfest. Made In Chelsea Pub Crawl. Book Sale. Welfare Week. Charity Cakes Sales. Careers Talks. Alumni Dinner. Winter Ball. Science Challenge. RAG Ball. All of these have been on the back of a team of crack-pot scientists, working hard behind the scenes. No full-time staff – no labour costs. No thousands of pounds, flooding our accounts like the torrent of vomit flowing through Reynolds.

What have – with all these extra resources – the Medics’ Union achieved then? Erm. Oh, this is awkward. Their social calendar is, like, “padded” with the RCSU events (read: that woman in charge is piggybacking the RCSU). The events that the Medic Union cook up themselves – under the, may I stress, direction of paid-sabbatical Miss Rayner – are only as good as the RCSU’s, and only marginally more frequent.

As Faculty Unions, we also handle welfare weeks and the rep system on behalf of the DPE. Many would argue that this is where the medics

shine, with an enviable buddy scheme – something I won’t deny them. I would ask though, if this cannot be attributed more to the fact the medics have more time to be social than us hard-working scientists? Having lived with medics for two years, the number of nights they stumble home as opposed to walk suggests they had too much time to kill. Yes – I guess I am just jealous.

But then, the RCSU serves a greater purpose than just this social lark the medics thrive on. Unlike their students, ours now have a wealth of opportunities open to them on graduating. Virtually any job is at your fingertips with the letters ARCS after your name (Associateship of the Royal College of Science). To this end the RCSU takes it upon itself to organise careers talks that will benefit our members’ futures; we don’t just act as a drain on their members’ student loan by holding fancy bops, etc.

And so – for fear of wittering on too much, I conclude as thus: ICSMSU, as a union, is good – but given its resources should be so many times more brilliant than the RCSU. But it just isn’t. To return to the analogy of me screaming “PLAYING FIELD” at some poor medic – caught up in this fierce inter-faculty rivalry – I would like to make a suggestion to the medics. Ditch your sabbatical President and refuse (most of) College’s money. At least that way, our playing field would then be levelled. If then you are still better than us, I may consider accepting defeat...



ICSM IS BETTER

Suzie Rayner ICSMSU President

Thankfully, as someone who will now never run for an ICU position, I don’t have to people please. But I’d like to think I’m fair. So why am I here? I think that because Imperial has made it so.

From Day 1, I’ve been disliked for my subject. As a fresher, many IC students walked away once they found out my career ambitions. But not ICSM. That is where you are protected.

And therefore, why would any student ask advice from ICU when they can ask it from ICSMSU? This advice, our clubs and societies, the excellent welfare (kindly recognised) and endless meetings are my daily routine. I haven’t organised a single event. So it probably isn’t a fair comparison.

And as for my wages, you’re just jealous. To be honest, the torrent of unnecessarily targeted abuse

has been written by a gentleman who moonlights as the ‘System Administrator’ for ICU. Doesn’t sound half as cool as Medic President.

If “I did nothing all day”, the students and the faculty would have cut the funding a long time ago. In fact, the Presidential salary is the most protected funding. So more importantly, why have RCSU not been offered the money to enhance their services to students and provide a full time RCSU officer? Because they are clearly not offering enough.

I didn’t know what RCSU stood for when I got this job. I live and breathe medicine, the medical school and every person in it. And because ICSM is such a fantastic place and Medicine a fascinating career, that is more than enough for me.

I wish I knew more about RCSU to be able to tell you what we do better, but I don’t. Nor do I really want to; any list of events that a union has offered that includes a Cake Sale has a lot to answer for. Giving credit where due, ICSMSU did get branded condoms following the RCSU example. But we got more.

The sad thing is we need you as much as you need us. Without scientists we don’t have the medicine to make people better. But without the medics, who has skills to understand what was wrong in the first place?

Speaking as the offspring of two mathematicians and a once student of Further Maths, I have nothing against scientists. In fact I very nearly studied it in its purest form. But the limiting factor was the lifestyle, and ultimately the purpose. At least when my parents studied maths you could get a job with it.

According to the *Guardian’s* League Tables for 2012, 100% of Medical Students from Imperial College have a career after 6 months. Not that I expected to find anything less. Mathematics, for want of an RCSU example, has 77%.

So, as I get back to my Sunday afternoon of ICSMSU work, I ask can you blame us? Scientists, which % would you prefer?



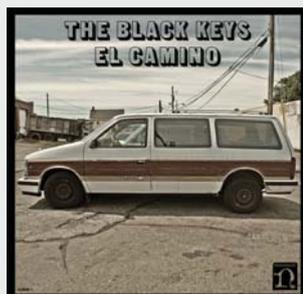
Disclaimer: If you read this as anything other than a bit of banterous free advertising for our joint event, then you read too hard.

MUSIC

Music Editors: **Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto** **Mark England**
Alex Ramadan **Simon Hunter**

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Kadhim's totally hot album of the week



The Black Keys
El Camino
Nonesuch Records
2011

Oh, errors of judgement. How I know you well! Last term, just as we were heading off for Christmas, I wrote in a throwaway comment, which I'd now like to dispose of properly, that the **Black Keys'** latest album *El Camino* is a 'dud'. Well, it is time to make amends. Using all the powers of apology that I acquired as Felix Editor last year, let me now say, "I was wrong".

This change-of-heart occurred on the road from Alexandra Palace last week. We all know how difficult it is to admit changes of musical taste – God, forbid I should ever start enjoying **Lana Del Rey** – so do not view this Damascene conversion lightly. I was returning from the Black Keys gig at the aforementioned venue, through a blizzard of snow that sadly didn't stay until the morning, when I realised my coolness towards *El Camino* was misplaced.

My first taste of the Black Keys came from the superb mash-up of their album *Brother* with **Big Bol's** debut, *Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty*. It has jazz, style, and an unquantifiable something that gets you moving in your chair. When I finally listened to the original, *Brother*, I found myself standing from my chair, leaping on the table, and dancing like I imagine I would if my life was a movie...

I should say that all of this happened about a year after everyone else had listened to *Brother*. "Hey man, have you heard this sweet-ass album?" – "Yeah, Kadhim, like a year ago; why are we still friends?" But then, a new album appeared on the horizon. I could love the Black Keys and get down and jive, at the same time as everyone else. Holy fucking hallelujah! The first single, 'Lonely Boy', seemed to live up to my dreams – a ragged chain-saw guitar riff and an impeccably cool music video.

But when the album came out, I felt let down. It wasn't the hell-raising party I had expected. There was a change of tone; it was less bombastic and more introspective. Instead of screaming, "MY NEXT GIRL [bumb bumb bumb] WILL BE NOTHING LIKE MY EX-GIRL!" here they were singing woefully, "Operayyytor please, put me back on the line told my girl I'd be back, Operayyytor please, this is wrecking my mind."

It was only when I saw them live that I began to appreciate *El Camino's* softer touch (and upsettingly realised that much of its energy had been stripped out by my laptop's tinny speakers). *Brother* and *El Camino* felt much less in opposition and more like a complementary yinw and yang.

If you feel the need to point out that @theblackkeys have five other albums, then tweet, "you don't know shit!", @kadhimshubber. Otherwise, tweet @ImperialLibrary complaining about their Inception.

Simply the Bestival?

Kadhim Shubber on the festival that rounds off the summer with a bang

Dressing up: probably the reason I love going to Bestival every year. In 2010, a pair of twins I know dressed as colonial-era hunters and chased the other festival-goers who had so foolishly dressed as characters from *The Fantastic Mr Fox*. (Last year, well, a picture speaks a 1000 words [see right].) There's no greater pleasure than writing about a topic that you enjoy, so I will do my best to add some Isle of Wight hate into the next 300 or so words, just to balance things out.

Let's get started. In 2009, Duncan Thomson and Sammi Gardiner, residents of the Isle of Wight, had a Star Wars-themed wedding. Worst still, they had the wedding on the 4th of May so they could say, "May the 4th be with you". On the other hand: **De La Soul**, **New Order**, **Justice**, and pretty much the whole freakin' Brain-feeder crew are playing Bestival this year. On a personal note, **Gold Panda**, whose *Lucky Shiner* tour I missed, and whose *Lucky Shiner* album is probably the best electronic album since Alexander Bell patented the first electric loudspeaker, is on the roster. (I hope you'll excuse me a little, 'HOLY FREAKIN' YEAAAAH').

Aside from the music, Bestival always impresses with the amount of alternative activities there are. Last year I 'starred' as the hotel receptionist in *Ghostbusters*; the year before I ran across tubs of cornstarch goo (as I believe is the scientific term for it). There's a fantastically eclectic mix of stuff to do when you're not skanking out in the

James Mossahebi



Oooh-errr!

Bollywood Tent – you'll see. But if I'm honest, Bestival is a bit... errr, middle-class. In fairness, the music is a good few floors away from mainstream, but I'm afraid there's no way I'll be able to argue that a festival with luxury teepees and, new this year, "wood-burning Scandinavian hot tubs and a sauna area" is anything like the rough-and-tumble of Reading & Leeds festival; there's no ritual tent burning for one thing. I don't know about you, but I can't help but look back at my 17-year-old self at Reading and think that's not necessarily a bad thing...

Ok, next reason to hate the Isle of Wight:

Bestival

Where: Isle of Wight

When: 6–10 September

How much?: £179.95 [inc. booking fee]

Who: New Order, the xx, Sigur Rós, Friendly Fires, Justice, Hot Chip, Soulwax, De La Soul, Teebs, Azealia Banks, Four Tet B2B Caribou, Gold Panda, Buraka Som Sistema, and more

Osama Bin Laden was a big fan of ales from the Isle of Wight... Moving swiftly along, the theme this year is Wildlife, which is a guarantee that someone will completely ignore the theme and 'dress up' in a full-body spandex suit. Non-douchebags, take note: your costume is key – get it right and you'll be a muthafuckin' BAWWS.

Alas, I've used up all my space. Tickets are £179.95 [inc. booking fee], which considering that most gigs cost between £15-20 nowadays and you're going to see far more than 10 artists, is still pretty good. I've got mine – student loan, thank you – don't forget yours.

Blacks Keys rock a heart at the Ally Pally

Simon Hunter

Like most people who spent the better half of their teenage years during the mid-noughties, my music tastes were fairly rigidly constrained to the world of indie rock. My iTunes library was full of guitar bands and the ideal school night involved necking a few tins, getting on the train and sweating copious amounts in the poorly ventilated gig venues of Leeds. These days there are maybe three guitar bands that I pay any real attention to, with the rest of my attention falling on the world of electronic and hip hop music. Thinking about it, I've probably been to two gigs featuring bands playing 'actual instruments' in the past year. Perhaps this makes me less qualified to comment on this whole thing, perhaps it makes me more so, perhaps I couldn't give a tuppenny fuck either way.

Regardless, there I was last Saturday being presented with a ticket to see the current kings of blues rock – **The Black Keys**. It was a gig I'd been meaning to get tickets to for ages, yet never followed through. Luckily though, my girlfriend decided to excel herself and mop up my incompetence, purchasing a couple of tickets and surprising me.

We rocked up to Alexandra Palace and, wincing, I immediately sunk fifteen quid on a couple of drinks. As we made our way into the main

room to see warm-up act **Band of Skulls**, one thing became glaringly apparent: the crowd, generally speaking, were pretty short. It turned out that the gig was a 14+ event, something I'm not sure even existed when I was a young 'un. The depressing feeling that I was potentially almost a decade older than some of them was balanced by the fact that I was guaranteed a cracking view.

Band of Skulls delivered a solid performance, occasionally coaxing the crowd into movement beyond default head-nodding. Not being hugely aware of Band of Skulls myself, their brand of ballsy rock was tight and produced several stand-out numbers.

As the clock approached half nine, Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney a.k.a. The Black Keys led the band onto the stage, their unconventional setup belying where the strengths of the band lay. Usually, the drummer is hidden away at the back; here, Patrick assumed his raised position, centre stage behind his kit, Dan to the right with bassist Gus Seyffert and keyboardist John Wood behind. The band delivered the kick of a donkey as they started with songs from 2010's album, *Brothers*. Unfortunately it took a while for the crowd to respond and I began to worry that this younger generation of rock fans had lost the art of 'losing your shit'. Thankfully, all it took was the rendition of an effort from The Black Keys'

most recent album, *El Camino*, to whip the kids up into a fury. I would like to note at this point that we hadn't just gaterashed some underage gig, but as at most gigs there was an (in this case significant) age gradient away from the stage, and we'd managed to get quite close to the front.

The next hour was crammed with driving blues-rock rhythms, interspersed with some of the gentler efforts from *El Camino* and others from their earlier albums including decade-old debut *The Big Come Up*. As they left the stage to play the 'How long can we keep the audience waiting while we sip Champagne?' game, I was left hoping that when they inevitably returned the encore would just keep going. As it was, their following rendition of 'Everlasting Light' left me in awe as beams of white light exploded out from the enormous mirror ball suddenly suspended above the stage. They finished the gig with a couple more songs as the words "THE BLACK KEYS" lit up in incandescent bulbs above the band's heads.

To say this was the most fun I'd had at a rock gig for a long time wouldn't really mean much. To say this was the most fun I've had at any gig for a long time might mean more. Either way it was great to remember how much fun I used to have in those grimy venues in Leeds and that I'm not too old to get stuck into a 'pit' every once in a while.

The Fresh Prince of Kentucky

Mark England on the coolest, baldest, and beardiest man in town

Bonnie 'Prince' Billy, aka Will Oldham, is a name who should be on everyone's lips. Instead, in the current landscape of indie-folk/Americana he has been overlooked for the watered-down beige-athon that is **Mumford and Sons**. Many commendable elements of the current scene can be seen in Bonnie 'Prince' Billy's prodigious output; the stark, naked beauty of **Bon Iver**, the lyrical twist of **Conor Oberst** and **Laura Marling's**

"Bonnie 'Prince' Billy embodies the DIY approach that I cherish"

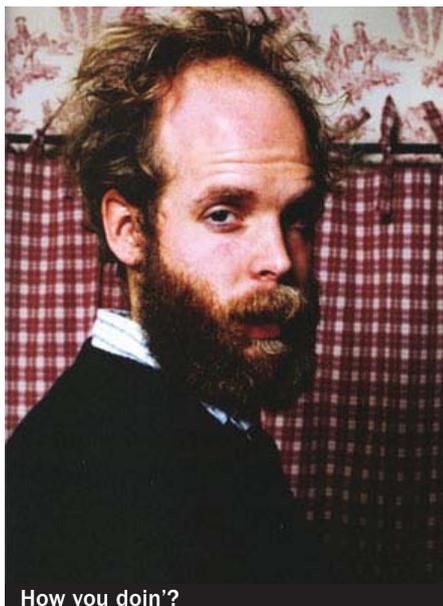
ability to take your breath away with a tune. Thankfully, Mumford's equation for success (an abundance of waistcoats, combined with inane choruses) is nowhere to be seen on any of the Prince's eleven albums.

I was first introduced to Oldham with the astonishing album *Beware*, which, along with *Down in the Light*, is normally considered to be his best work. The lyrics are at times so intimate that it can be an awkward first listen. On 'Beware Your Only Friend' he

presents an eerie warning to "watch out for my silent thoughts". The track 'You Don't Love Me' stands out as a heart wrenching account of a man who sings to his lover "you wouldn't pass the time with me, except you're tired of all your friends". The brutal honesty of Oldham's words are sometimes disconcerting but, sang against a beautiful setting of lilting guitars and a choir of swooning backing singers, one can find a theme of hope lining the album. Throughout this collection of anti-love songs, he never gives up that his perfect woman is "lying curled somewhere lonely" waiting for him.

I find it refreshing that Will Oldham is a man who refuses to play the media and promotion game. There is little or no build up to an album release and this means that each record feels unexpected when it does arrive. His latest album, *Wolfroy Goes To Town*, may have passed many by but it deserves to be listened to by a large audience. It successfully continues his style of mixing hauntingly beautiful melodies with dark subjects although does not reach the heights of previous releases.

Some of my friends cannot understand why, as an avid listener of lo-fi New York punk, I would recommend something which arguably verges on country music. My response



How you doin'?

is that Bonnie 'Prince' Billy embodies the DIY approach that I cherish, and combines it with lyrics so distressingly fragile that one cannot help but connect with him. So, I urge all the wannabe Mumfords out there to put to down their accordion and pick up a copy of *Beware* to listen to the master at work.



South Ken street cred

Rama's Hip-Hop Tune of the Week

Schoolboy Q
'Hands On The Wheel'
(feat. **A\$AP Rocky**)

As the imaginatively named title of this column would suggest, each week I hope to bring you a top notch hip-hop tune. This week's song comes courtesy of **Schoolboy Q's** re-

cently released album *Habits and Contradictions*. The song samples a live Lissie cover of the **Kid Cudi** track 'The Pursuit of Happiness' for the chorus and also features critic's favourite **A\$AP Rocky**. In an album with a general tone of moody introspective aggression, 'Hands on the Wheel' is a relatively upbeat affair with tight production courtesy of **Best Kept Secret**.

The song is one of the most accessible on the album and is a good introduction to the versatility of Schoolboy Q's rapping. The album also contains features from the other members of the **Black Hippy Crew** who are helping to reinvent West Coast rap. If you're a fan of the old-school hardcore hip-hop reminiscent of **N.W.A.** I would recommend checking out the album.



Fitzcarraldo!

Be sure not to miss...

Body/Heat

Cafe Oto
Wednesday 22 February

Sonic Youth bassist Kim Gordon goes solo, alongside "constant in the free rock universe" **Bill Nace**, following their collaborative tape on Ecstatic Peace.

Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto

George Jeffery's A beginner's guide to post-hardcore

Lesson 6: Reuben



As promised, this week I will be beginning my rampage of digging up dead, old UK post-hardcore bands. The first band to be mentioned is, obviously, **Reuben**. Despite their ten-year lifetime and numerous outstanding releases, they failed to gain any mainstream success (as is the story for most bands in this series). For some reason, the good post-hardcore bands from the UK seem to all come from Surrey and Reuben are no different.

They formed in 1998 and their intense live shows made them a household name in the underground music scene, gaining a lot of fans and admiration from other bands. This continued despite not releasing their first full-length until 2004. The three albums they released in the following three-year period were all incredible and it's a shame they didn't achieve higher levels of popularity, especially within the UK. However, I personally think their final album, *In Nothing We Trust*, was their best. From listening to any selection of Reuben's songs, you will realise that their style is incredibly diverse. There are some songs you could listen to and not notice it's the same band at all. Some of their tracks are mellow and some (quite a lot in fact) are heavily pop-infused, unreconcilable with post-hardcore even a little bit.

This brings me to the reason why I prefer the most recent album: because it's the rawest. Despite their diverse sound, I have to say that for me, I like the heavier tracks and *In Nothing We Trust* delivers forceful riffs and ridiculous drum smashing by the truckload. Their widely varied setlist saw them attract all different types of people to their live shows. Perhaps the most engaging thing about them though was their unique sense of humour always present in their videos and gigs (watch their 'Michael Jackson' video on YouTube). For these reasons, Reuben were one of the gems of UK alternative rock music and all we can do is hope that one day they will return, but for now check out the recommendation below and come back next time for more UK post-hardcore thrills!

Writer's Recommendation

A test of what we've learnt so far: listen to the song 'Crushed Under the Weight of the Enormous Bullshit' and you should recognise some of the bands and albums mentioned in the song from previous lessons.

FILM

Top 10 Box Office films in the UK this week



1) The Woman in Black - 12A - Daniel Radcliffe, Janet McTeer

2) The Muppets - U - Jason Segel, Amy Adams

3) Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace - U - Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman

4) The Vow - 12A - Channing Tatum, Rachel McAdams

5) Chronicle - 12A - Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell, Michael B. Jordan

6) Journey 2: The Mysterious Island - PG - Josh Hutcherson, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Michael Caine

7) The Descendants - 15 - George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Amara Miller

8) War Horse - 12A - Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Tom Hiddleston

9) Jack and Jill - PG - Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes, Al Pacino

10) Man on a Ledge - 12A - Sam Worthington, Elizabeth Banks, Jamie Bell, Ed Harris

Tim loves Timothy

Tim Arbabzadah discusses the five-decade-spanning James Bond series



Look at those blue eyes... swoon...

The James Bond franchise (I hate that word) is one that has been going for 50 years now. It's amazing how everything about the films – from their genre to the characterisation – has evolved and changed over time. This gradual change in genre is interesting because it sort of parallels the general changes in society, not to mention in values. The original film, *Dr. No*, as well as the first few, were definitely much slower paced. They built up much more gradually, and there was much less action. The plot didn't play out too quickly; I guess some may say it was too slow to move on the story, but that's all a matter of taste. I would personally say that the later Bond films have evolved into being almost an action film. At times, they basically are just a big gunfight. The point I'm terribly making is this: life is lived today at a much quicker pace, back when (the excellent, well, in terms of playing the part, not in terms of some of his more abhorrent personal views) Sean Connery was 007, everyone was in less of a rush – yes, I sound incredibly old... Each Bond film, in many ways, reflects the era it was made in. It even fell into the trap of the Blaxploitation era in *Live and Let Die*.

Each actor who played Bond brought something different to the table. Each Bond was different. Some fundamental constants remained, but the exact mix of traits differs wildly from actor to actor. I may not really have time to properly dissect each one individually, so if I leave out your favourite, then it's probably due to space restraints.

In the first films Bond was much more brutal. He was coldly detached, but you could always sense a hint of moral fibre in there that the job hadn't managed to knock out of him yet. He still retained the charm and raw attractiveness.

Then you have Roger Moore, who brought out the super suave side. Although, it must be said, it did get a bit ridiculous during his tenure. Proof: a space battle with LASER guns in *Moonraker*. A bunch of good and bad guys have a firefight in spacesuits. Huh? Is the reaction you're looking for.

Then it comes to the man that I think has been unfairly forgotten to a large extent, Timothy Dalton. His two offerings are two of my favourites. He was the macho, angry, ruthless spy who had a job to do and wanted to do the right thing. His films definitely took the films in a much darker direction. They were definitely 'grittier', to use the current buzzword. They still had Q and some one-liners, however they were more 'realistic', as it were. By that I mean rela-

tively – of course the action sequences weren't exactly 100% plausible.

Why do I think these films are overlooked? Maybe it's because there are only two of them. Perhaps it's due to the massive gap between the second Dalton film and the first Brosnan film? Maybe they're just not good and I just think they are. It's hard to tell. I think it's more a fact that, in a way, they were almost ahead of their time. Had they been made today, everyone would praise the harder edged, deeper Bond and the great balance between realistic and fantastical in the suspended disbelief world of Bond. *Licence to Kill* was certainly not a fluff action film. To start with, Felix Leiter, James' best friend, has his wife killed and is later brutally mutilated, with his legs bitten off by a shark. That's pretty damn intense. James Bond then goes on a solo revenge mission against the drug dealer responsible. He's angry. Sounds a bit familiar? In my view, it's the film that the terribly titled *Quantum of Solace* should have, and could have, been.

It must be said that in my mind Pierce Brosnan is what James Bond looks like. I did like his wry humour and that he injected a lot of levity into the role. His character was at ease and detached enough to almost find it all quite fun. It's just because he is the one that I have grown up with. I remember watching *Die Another Day* in cinemas. At the time, to a 12-year-old boy, it was fucking amazing. Hindsight, and re-watching it, tells me that maybe I was a bit hasty in that conclusion. I also didn't realize *Rocky 3* was ridiculous until seeing it again recently; my judgment as a child was all over the place.

Daniel Craig hasn't fully proven himself to me yet. *Casino Royale* was great and a refreshing change in direction. I feel a bit harsh to dismiss him on the basis of QOS. It wasn't his fault that the script wasn't good and when asked what the plot was, most people can't give a satisfactory answer.

The take home message, if there is one, is that each film represents the era it was made in to some degree. It is a quite interesting point (yeah I would say that wouldn't I? I wrote this after all) that something as seemingly non-consequential as films about a badass spy can throw up a point about how times have changed. It seems like the two Timothy Dalton films were a bit ahead of their time and therefore aren't thought of too kindly, but time will judge them well. Watch *The Living Daylights* and *Licence to Kill* and make up your mind. You must at least like the title song to *The Living Daylights*, I mean come on, it's by a-ha.

History Month 2012

1533 The Spanish Inquisition causing many gay to be stoned, and burned.

1825 Birth of Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, father of the modern LGBT rights movement.

1825 Portugal decriminalizes homosexual acts.

1497 Leonardo Da Vinci and other young men were accused of activity with a prostitute named Altarelli.

1553 Mary Tudor ascends the English throne and removes all laws against homosexuality passed by Henry VII.

1836 Is the date of the last execution for homosexuality in Great Britain.

2002 Equal rights to lesbian and couples applying for marriage in the UK. Same-sex marriage came into effect in December 2005.

2005 Spain and Canada legalize same-sex marriage. Currently it is legal in 14 countries and more are expected to legalize it soon.

What is History Month?

LGBT History Month is a month-long annual observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. To coincide with the abolition of Section 28 in 2008 it is observed in February. Section 28 had the effect of prohibiting schools from discussing LGBT issues and counselling LGBT or questioning youth.

What's the point? Don't LGBT people already have equal rights?

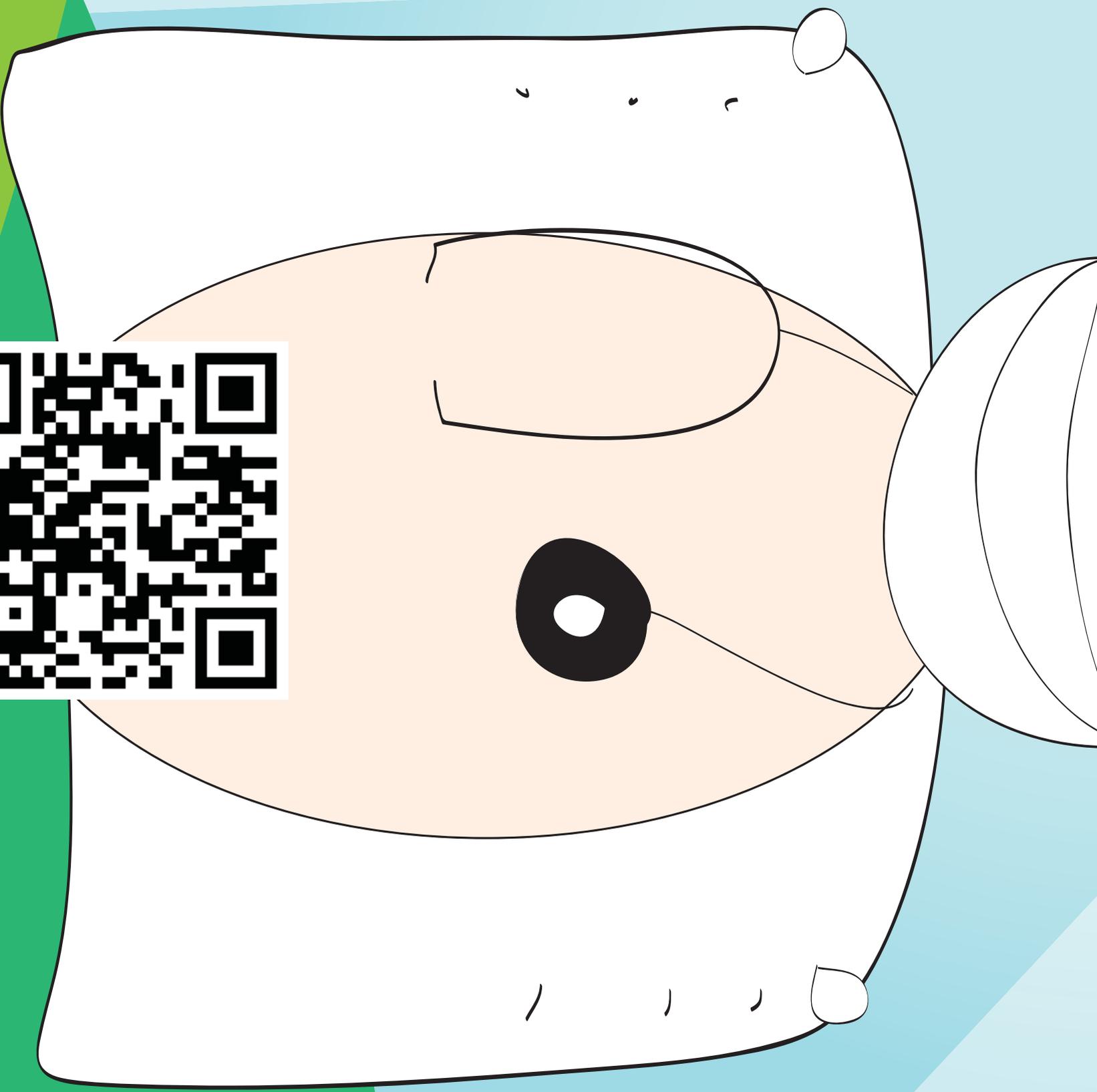
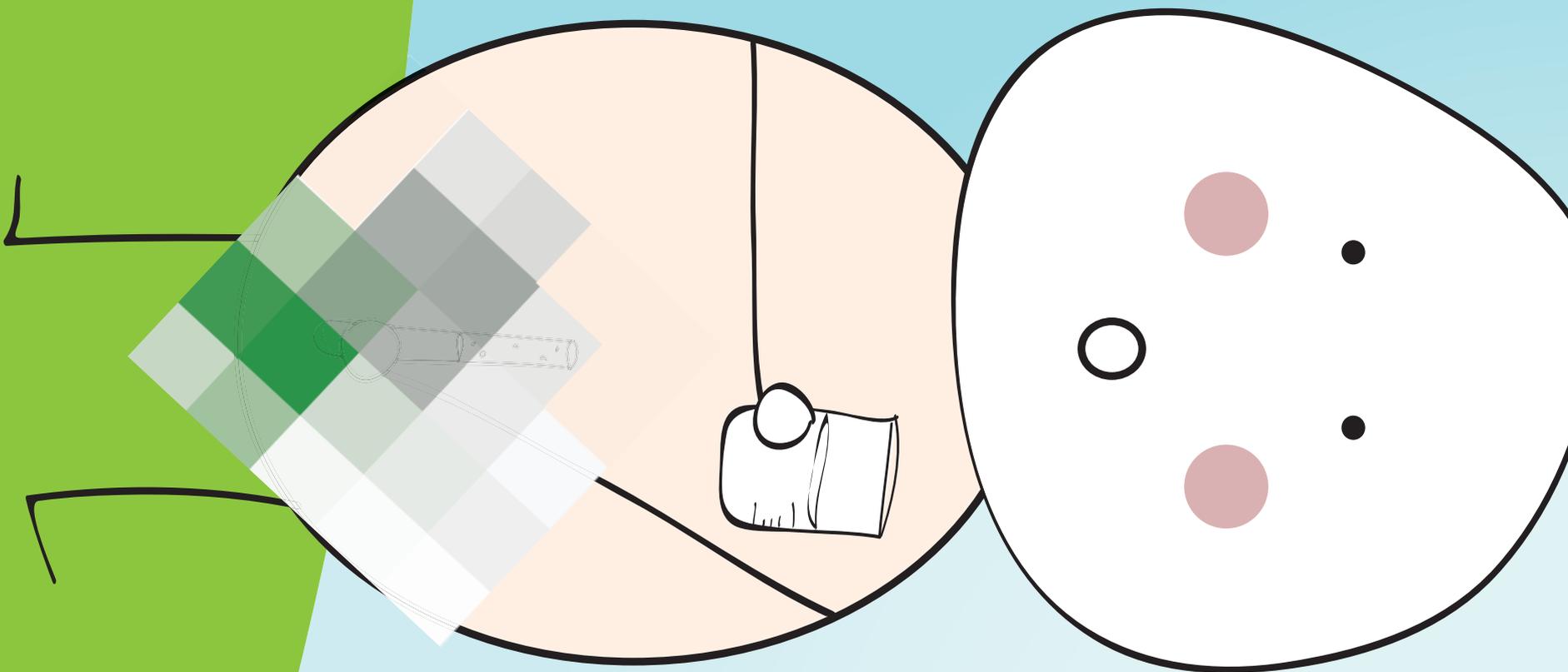
Unfortunately not. There are still more than 70 countries in which it is illegal to be LGBT. And just because a country makes it legal for LGBT people to live freely doesn't mean it's not frowned upon by people. Indeed it's easy to change the law but not easy to change prejudices. This is partly what LGBT History month is about, getting rid of prejudices people may have about their LGBT peers.

There is also work to be done in regards to LGBT equality in countries that simply recognise the existence of LGBT people but do not give them full rights such as civil unions or marriage.



Imperial College Union **LGBT**
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LGBT History

27 BC The Roman Empire begins with the reign of Augustus. The first recorded same-sex marriages occur during this period.

1290 First mention in English law of a punishment for homosexuality.

148 begins, people castrated

342 First laws against same-sex marriage appear with the start of the reign of Christian emperors Constantius II and Constans.

966 Foundation of Poland, which never criminalized homosexuality throughout its history.

147 and three Florentine of sexual male pro Jacopo S

1948 Publication of the first volume of the *Kinsey Reports* which contained extensive research about alternate sexualities.

1966 First transgender public uprising at San Francisco's Compton's Cafeteria to protest against transexual oppression.

200 granted gay cou for adop The act o in Decem

1954 Mathematician, logician and cryptographer Alan Turing commits suicide, mainly due to persecution from the British government for being gay. He famously cracked German ciphers during WWII and is also considered by many the father of computer science.

200 both leg marriage. recognise and 11 m to legalize

Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

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FILM

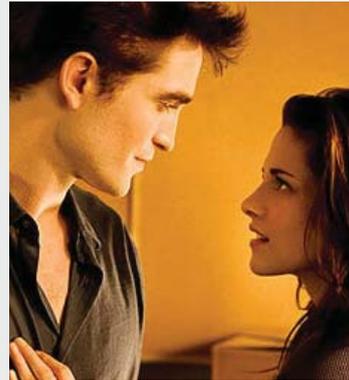
Some films to avoid on a date

Whether it's extreme violence, naked ladies, or weird psychos, there are films that are simply big no-nos



The Human Centipede 2: Full Sequence

If you've seen the first *Human Centipede* film, you may well have been pretty disgusted. It wasn't nice, was it? But this one is worse. This story follows Martin Lomax, a depraved maniac obsessed with the first film, and his insane urge to create a twelve-person 'centipede'. You can imagine how it goes. This movie has not been released into any UK viewing format: the British Board of Film Classification deemed it "undoubtedly tasteless and disgusting".



The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1

Vampires, werewolves, vampires having a minor disagreement with werewolves, a bit of running, a bit of slow motion vampire-y jumping, a girl pregnant with a vampire-human hybrid monster, said girl's pregnancy craving being a nice cup of blood... yep, this is a spectacular film. Not only will the love interests (and I use the term 'interests' lightly) bore the pants of all parties, but the strobe lighting and reasonably graphic birth scene are likely to make some feel dizzy.



Irreversible

Directed by Gaspar No , this French film was released in UK cinemas without much question, although admittedly with an 18 certificate. This is surprisingly lenient considering a hugely graphic rape scene which goes on for what seems like many uncomfortable hours, not to mention some spectacularly extreme and gory death-by-fire-extinguisher-bludgeoning. Certainly not the best date film by any means.



La Belle Noiseuse

Seriously – any film in which we can see the fantastically gorgeous Emmanuelle B art standing totally starkers for two hours while modeling for a painting, should not be a boring film. Unfortunately, the film is four hours long... and the other two consist of close-ups of the painter at work. So not only are you parading naked lady in front of your date, you are also boring her rigid. I mean, at least have B art do star-jumps, or something.

Honourable mentions: *Fatal Attraction, Titanic, Pink Flamingos, Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire, I Spit on your Grave, The Last House on the Left, Misery, Requiem for a Dream, Revolutionary Road, American Psycho, Showgirls, Striptease, xXx, The Fast and the Furious series, and any film by Lars von Trier*

Harry Potter and the Deadly Woman

The Woman in Black

Director James Watkins
Screenwriters Susan Hill (novel), Jane Goldman (screenplay)
Cast Daniel Radcliffe, Ciar n Hinds, Janet McTeer

Lucy Wiles

Anyone who has seen Susan Hill's eery tale *The Woman in Black* on stage will know that the performance is terrifying. Even people who say they don't get scared got scared in the theatre at this one. But that's just it – in the theatre, it's dark...the woman is creepy as hell...oh god, why is the rocking chair rocking on its own...oh my god why have the lights gone out...OH MY GOD THE WOMAN IN BLACK IS SCREAMING RIGHT BEHIND ME!!!! I mean – you really get into it when there are sev-

eral hundred people all having nervous breakdowns at the same time. So it was a risk adapting this sepulchral, haunting tale to the screen, where popcorn tends to distract from the terror.

But adapted it was. Central Television made a television production of *The Woman In Black*, which was broadcast on Christmas Eve 1989 and repeated just once since in 1994. This version was very successful, and is often described as one of the most creepy, paralyingly scary screen adaptations of a ghost story ever made.

So, having worked wonders with this version, why take the risk and make it again? Well, aside from the fact that the rights to the version made by Central Television are M.I.A. (which is pretty creepy), Daniel Radcliffe will certainly bring in a wide audience as the self-confessed ex-alkie graduates from Hogwarts

to something new.

Let's be honest – when you heard about this film you were pretty sure it wasn't going to be worth seeing. However, thanks to its well-styled, very Edwardian setting and some clever story changes by screenwriter Jane Goldman, this version actually feels less like a remake, and more like you're rereading an old story with new eyes, realising things you didn't get before, and the whole film trembles with freshly scary resonances.

Radcliffe actually gives a pretty convincing and mature performance as Arthur Kipps (extraordinary considering he still looks like he's twelve years old, bless him), who is a lawyer summoned to a slightly dilapidated, remote mansion to settle the recently-deceased owner's estate. In one of the major twists from Hill's original story, Kipps is a young widower, which perhaps affects him,

and makes him associate more with the creepy past of the mansion's stories. A nearby landowner (Hinds) tells Kipps about a mysterious, cloaked old woman who has been seen at the window of the old house from time to time. Even learning this, Kipps (foolishly) decides to spend the night at the old house to finish his paperwork, and learns a lot more about the old woman, who pays him a visit or two...

Director Watkins is a true expert in creating a permeating sense of dread, and he keeps you holding your breath with suspense for as long as possible before the shock actually makes you jump. Don't be mistaken by the 12A certificate – true, there's no blood or gore, hardly any monsters and ghosts in this film, but that's exactly what makes it so terrifying. Like all of the best ghost stories, *The Woman In Black* only gets better in the retelling.



You're on your own this time...

FILM

Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Love, Lust, Sex, Passion,

Felix Film looks back at the past eight decades of cinema, hand-picking the most touching



The 1930s: Queen Christina

If you want to watch a love story where a monarch gives up a throne for love, don't watch Madonna's latest, *W.E.*, which is a bland, dull retelling of this century's greatest romance. Watch instead the divine, majestic Greta Garbo's *Queen Christina*, in which she plays a Swedish queen, torn between her loyalty for her people and her love for a Spanish nobleman which is much criticised by her country. Garbo, the talented Swedish beauty who was the Queen of MGM (the film production company that "owned" her) in the 30s had a string of films that were released and proved to be instant hits. Her piercing gaze, large and clear eyes, and thick but comprehensible accent, make her the perfect heroine in a tragic love story. Closing with one of the most unforgettable close-ups of Garbo's strikingly beautiful face, *Queen Christina* is an emotional, heart-breaking love story.

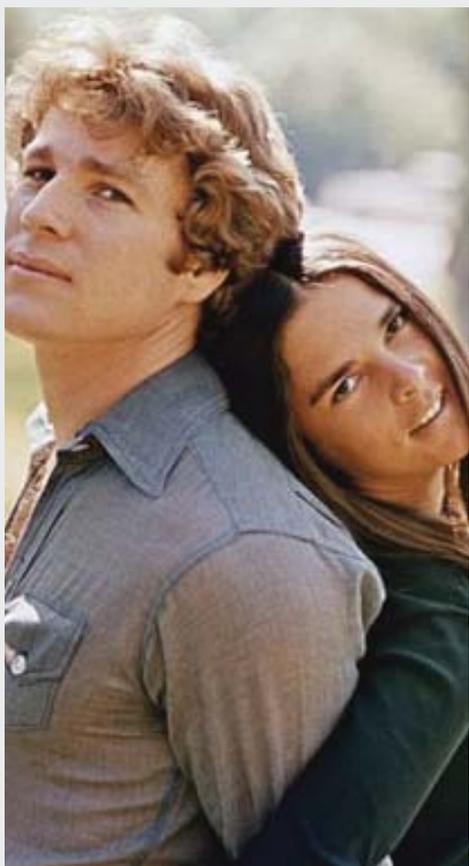
Other worthy nominees: *Dark Victory*, *It Happened One Night*, *Gone with the Wind*



The 1940s: Casablanca

It was an easy one to decide, this. With endlessly quotable dialogue from its magnificently nostalgic script, along with a high-profile Hollywood pairing between two actors that has subsequently been copied but never defeated, this story of unfulfilled love, regret and sacrifice is simply irresistible. The sudden appearance of an old flame (Ingrid Bergman) is bad news for a local bar owner (Humphrey Bogart) living in Morocco, away from all the violence sweeping through Europe during the early years of the Second World War. They both have a chance to escape to America but his love seems to have turned up with a new man of her own. Ending with one of the bravest, most heart-wrenching scenes of all time without a hint of any over the top sugary sweetness, *Casablanca* is the one essential black and white film that must be watched even for those who aren't so keen on old-fashioned style.

Other worthy nominees: *Now, Voyager*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Lady Eve*, *Gilda*



The 1970s: Love Story

Love stories and tragic, tear-jerking dramas don't come much thicker than this. The famous "love means never having to say you're sorry" line was coined here, as two awfully pretty star-crossed lovers Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw are separated and put through hardship by their differences in wealth, class and eventually poor health. This may have more manipulative emotional pit falls than any other film you may experience in the future, but it remains a firm favourite amongst the most romance-loving audience members. Based on a phenomenally popular book, the film turned out to be a massive hit too, raking in over a hundred million dollars back in the 70s States alone, on a modest budget of \$2.2m. The Oscar winning score also plays a huge part in creating a sombre, rich, melancholy atmosphere, another something to break your heart in the film's most tender moments.

Other worthy nominees: *Harold and Maude*, *Annie Hall*, *The Way We Were*, *Coming Home*



The 1980s: On Golden Pond

Not all love stories need to be about young, immature, attractive couples discovering the ups and downs of commitment with many tragic events along the way. What is more deeply touching is the bond shared for decades, which is what is shown *On Golden Pond* between Norman (Henry Fonda) and Ethel (Katharine Hepburn.) The film is as much about their long-lasting love as well as the uneasy relationship shared by Norman and his daughter, played by Jane Fonda (no prizes for guessing how she's related to Henry Fonda). It's a calm and collected film of many similarly styled performances, with a careful, close perception of a typical family life. An absolute must for anyone looking to be blown away by the superb portrayal of everlasting affection and dedication, and even for the coldest cynics who always struggle to sit through a number of corny romantic films.

Other worthy nominees: *Out of Africa*, *Moonstruck*, *When Harry Met Sally*, *Reds*

Warmth, Beauty, Desire

ng and memorable movies – ideal for a quiet, intimate, romantic night in



The 1950s: An Affair to Remember

Although not without its cheesy moments, and the misunderstanding that tears this couple apart is no doubt painfully frustrating to watch, the sizzling chemistry that Cary Grant shares with Deborah Kerr simply melts away any little missteps this may have made on the way. Despite its second half drifting more towards the tragic side of love, there is plenty of sassy, quick-witted banter between the two that allows sparks to fly. Add to that the sensational original song written by Harry Warren, Harold Adamson and Leo McCarey, and you get one of the most iconic love stories of all time. The Empire State Building became more popular due to the romantic setting of this film, and although rather poorly adapted by Nora Ephron in her *Sleepless in Seattle*, *An Affair to Remember* thankfully has its reputation intact.

Other worthy nominees: *Roman Holiday*, *From Here to Eternity*, *A Star is Born*, *The Country Girl*, *The African Queen*, *Singin' in the Rain*



The 1960s: Bonnie and Clyde

The strong word-of-mouth success of this was the prime reason Warren Beatty, the star and producer, walked away with a large sum of cash and Faye Dunaway was propelled into stardom in her debut role. In the tricky roles of a couple of bank-robbers and eventual killers, Beatty and Dunaway make one heck of a duo and their team, consisting of Gene Hackman, Estelle Parsons and, is one worth rooting for – which is why the tragic final scene, shot with such effective speed, accuracy and sudden close-ups, has more impact. Even through the toughest, potentially life-threatening situations, this brave couple copes by relying on and having faith in each other. They commit crimes, and Bonnie even goes so far as to cheerfully exclaim “we rob banks!” but their convincing passion and commitment have a thing or two to teach us all.

Other worthy nominees: *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, *Splendour in the Grass*, *West Side Story*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*



The 1990s: Ghost

The late Patrick Swayze was always asked by fans to utter the word “ditto” to them and if you’re unsure as to why that is, watch *Ghost* and find out that sometimes, the words “I love you” are often overrated. Even in death, Sam’s (Swayze) soul lingers on Earth in order to complete his one final task: keep his girlfriend Molly (Demi Moore) safe from those who had him killed. Molly struggles to move on of course (especially after that pottery scene, no-one would) but not everything is a complete downer. With a killer comic relief performance from Whoopi Goldberg as the sole person who can communicate with the dead soul of Sam, it achieves a nice balance between tragic romance and hysterical comedy, never undermining or sacrificing one another. Another well-played chart-topper came from this – **The Righteous Brothers’** “Unchained Melody.”

Other worthy nominees: *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Jerry Maguire*, *One True Thing*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The English Patient*



The 2000s: Atonement

War drives a lot of unfortunate lovers apart, and nothing is more heart-breaking to see than two people who could have and should have been able to spend more time together. Due to a little girl’s misguided imagination, Robbie (James McAvoy) is separated from his true love Cecilia (Keira Knightley); first being escorted to prison, then to the front line of the First World War. Will they ever reunite? It’s unclear throughout the course of the film but what is apparent is the two lovers’ painful longing for the years and years they remain apart. The final moments of the film, handled so well in their sheer modesty and sincerity with acting veteran Vanessa Redgrave shining in her brief scene, are devastating yet incredibly satisfying. Although it covers a long duration, it is a neatly condensed, highly watchable affair, immaculately presented by a truly talented English director, Joe Wright.

Other worthy nominees: *Away From Her*, *Once*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *The Notebook*, *Amelie*

GAMES

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Virtual dating for those despondent Valentines

Once more Valentine's Day rolls around, and once more my evening date is a bottle of vodka and video games. The result? Tongue-in-cheek dating profiles for video game females. I may need to kick the habit

Alyx Vance (HL2 Series)



If you're looking for the best of both worlds, brains and beauty, then Miss Alyx Vance is your best bet. Growing up on a Combine-

From: City 17

The Good: Feisty yet incredibly practical action girl with energy and brains to spare.

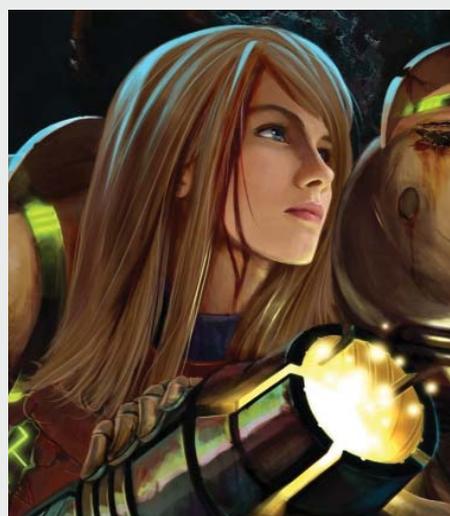
The Bad: Packs heat. On no account leave the relationship on a sour note.

Mr Right: Prefers the strong, silent nerdy type. Having a PhD in theoretical physics is a plus.

occupied Earth has moulded her into a technical whizz quite capable of holding herself in a fire fight, all the while keeping her looks intact. She lives for the moment, because you never know when the next Hunter strike is a-coming.

Those wanting a simple life may wish to steer clear however. Expect to be running to keep up with her, both physically and mentally, never settling down for too long. Alyx certainly isn't one to take the easy route through life, and whilst she'll come back for you no matter what, it can make for an exhausting relationship.

Samus Aran (Metroid Series)



If the term 'strong independent woman' were to be applied to anyone it'd apply to Miss Aran. As an ex-soldier and bounty hunter Samus is well-versed in combat,

From: Zebes

The Good: Has a great body and gorgeous looks.

The Bad: That is, if you can get her out of her suit.

Mr Right: Tony Stark.

sporting her impressive Power Suit with more weaponry than your average mid-sized battlecruiser. After a hard few weeks or months scouring the galaxy of evil expect a tigress on your hands with a dire need to get out of her Power Suit and relieve some tension, if you know what I mean fellas.

Still, you can probably see the problem arising here. Love and relationships will take second fiddle if the Space Pirates or the Metroids start becoming a problem again, and Samus isn't one to put it all behind her for another few minutes snuggling on the couch. Expect to be left behind twiddling your thumbs whilst she's out saving the galaxy for the umpteenth time.

Bayonetta (Bayonetta)



A fetishist's wet dream. Bayonetta is a witch, but don't go thinking about the ugly sort with warts and all. No, Bayonetta is a gun-toting, demon slaying seductress with legs all the way up to Heaven. The vanilla amongst you will do well to steer clear – Bayonetta is not the girl for those of you looking to raise a nice family and own a

From: Vigrid

The Good: Indulges in a whole host of fetishes, some of which you're bound to enjoy.

The Bad: Indulges in a whole host of fetishes, some of which you're bound to be utterly sickened by.

Mr Right: A man to whom ethics, morals and decency have no meaning, or medieval dungeon keepers (often one and the same).

cottage with a white-picket fence. Instead you'll be getting an action-packed sex-crazed thrill ride.

On the other side, an action-packed sex-crazed thrill ride is ALL you'll be getting. Sounds fun now, but a few months down the line and you'll be completely knackered with a woman (sorry, witch) still to please. Moreover, whilst some of her fetishes may be hot, others will inevitably scare the living daylights out of you – keep in mind that this wild cat is a witch who kills demons using BDSM techniques.

Princess Peach (Mario Series)



A blonde beauty with a heart of gold, the sweet Princess Peach will certainly never let you down. Don't assume that she's all looks and no brains though – she's proven herself adapt at go karting, football and even hand-to-hand combat. Her vast

From: The Mushroom Kingdom

The Good: Well-mannered, generous and rich. Also a Princess.

The Bad: Has a bad habit of being kidnapped by large sentient reptiles.

Mr Right: Portly southern-European gentlemen with large moustaches and a talent for plumbing and go karting.

riches, in excess of \$1bn, will certainly make life a whole lot easier.

Be prepared for some very interesting mood and personality swings however. Whilst at times Peach will display some lethal punch and kick combos, she'll also suffer sudden relapses, somehow incapable of even rudimentary self-defense. These lapses are often taken advantage of by a large ferocious kidnapping reptile. Should this occur, be ready to go out and rescue her to keep the relationship ticking over. Alternatively contact the Mushroom Kingdom's friendly local plumbing service.



Fashion Editors: **Saskia Verhagen**
Alice Yang

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FASHION

Embracing diversity in fashion

Munim Islam and Alice Yang interview fashion's top activist and All Walks founder Caryn Franklin

A fashion industry expert for over 30 years having co-edited *i-D* magazine, renowned for its rebellion to conventional views towards art, fashion and music, and presented BBC's *The Clothes Show* for over a decade, Caryn Franklin is anything but your ordinary fashion journalist. With no less than four books under her name as well as a range of charitable commit-

ments including Fashion Targets Breast Cancer, and the recently launched All Walks Beyond The Catwalk campaign, Caryn Franklin is an activist, not just in fashion but in regard to the general racial, size and age discrimination that exists in the modern world.

Her latest project, All Walks, founded alongside model Erin O'Connor and former PR guru/fashion journalist Debra Bourne

“is an initiative to broaden the body and beauty ideals we currently see in our fashion media”. It promotes inclusivity in the industry “creating a message to all women”.

Although at first to some, it may seem like an initiative against the thin ideals current fashion modelling holds, Ms Franklin assures us that All Walks was not designed to discriminate any group of people:

“We never say ‘real’ women because very thin models are real too, they’re a projection of femininity and beauty our industry prioritises. But they’re not the only body ideal, which is why we’re trying to broaden it. We’re not trying to stamp these women out or get rid of them, as some seem to think!”

After such a distinguished career in the industry, Ms Franklin recognises that there is a lack of ethnic diversity within fashion. “It’s always been institutionally racist. Brands will justify it as it’s what sells. Magazines will be reluctant to feature black cover girls, because they feel they don’t equal the magazine sales of white women. Advertising wants to reach as many customers as possible and feels that it is the Caucasian beauty

ideal that sells more for them.”

In fact, Ms Franklin feels that the industry has shrunk in terms of diversity and individuality since she entered it in the 80s when she swapped a life in the army for art college, in part because the shoes were “ugly”. As a result of this, Caryn Franklin’s All Walks models features women who would not otherwise be commonly seen in the industry. From her current favourite Naomi Shimada, generally considered a plus-size model at a UK size 14 that Caryn describes as a “curvy, sassy, clever model who sees beyond modelling”; to the 82-year-old Daphne Selfe and Sheila Atim, an 18-year-old with a “very obvious African heritage”, Caryn’s pick of models for All Walks define diversity.

In the name of promoting such ideals, All Walks has merged politics with fashion, from sparking debates in parliament, putting on live shows during London Fashion Week and creating exhibitions at the National Portrait Gallery, to touring the country in order to educate college students. Caryn’s message is spreading.

“Fashion is full of possibilities and opportunities. I love the industry. I’ve

earned my living from it, but I can see its faults and that is why I am vocal.”

Of course to assist with such campaigns, All Walks has pulled in the precious voluntary time of fashion’s crème de la crème; from world famous photographers such as Rankin and Nick Knight, to the eccentric Vivienne Westwood – the voice of All Walks Beyond The Catwalk is most definitely not a silent one.



All Walks Founder: Caryn Franklin

Dazed, confused and just a little hungry

Alice Yang embraces her inner rebel as she investigates the quintessential rule-breaking magazine

Born in Hertfordshire in 1996, John Rankin Waddell has come much further than most ex-accounting students, inspiring millions of people worldwide with his renowned collection of portraits. From top models and famous celebrities to the Queen, all the way to the less glamorous Mugunga refugee camp in Congo, his hefty Mamiya camera has seen it all.

Yet perhaps Rankin is best known for the runaway success of *Dazed & Confused*, the original cool rebellious magazine that broke boundaries and introduced unconventional new talent to the creative industry. Having started out as a black and white fold-out poster, this experimental brainchild of Rankin and Jefferson Hack now sits on the shelves alongside the industry giants *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*, becoming a stimulus for the evolution of newer cult magazines such as *i-D* and *Vice*.

20 years on and Rankin's team have reunited to bring us the journey of 'the magazine that broke all the rules' in *Dazed & Confused: Making It Up As*

We Go Along. Although labelled as a visual history, this book is far from just a collection of its controversial covers and iconic photographs. Rather, its interviews documenting conversations between the magazine's

founders, and its snippets of insight into the scenes behind the publication's glossy pages, makes this book so much more than just an exhibition of pictures. Such wise words from these giants of the new generation of fashion journalism and photography makes the text in this picture-centred book as

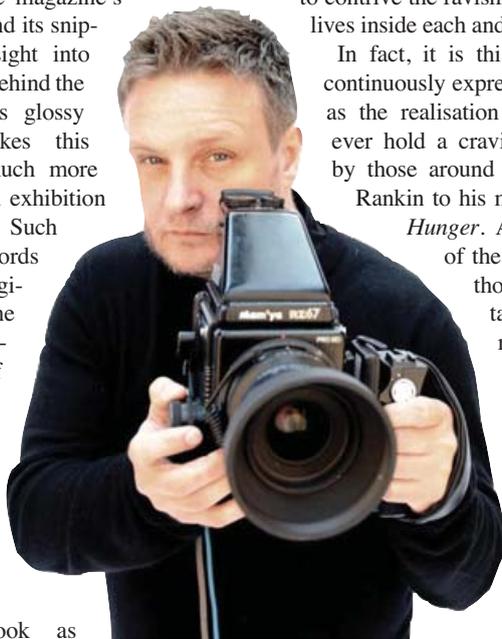
valuable as the stark ingenuity the photographs themselves provide, and that alone is more than enough to provide a lifetime's worth of feverish encouragement to venture upon one's own mission to contrive the ravishing imagery which lives inside each and every one of us.

In fact, it is this blazing need to continuously express himself, as well as the realisation that he will forever hold a craving to be inspired by those around him, that has led Rankin to his most recent project

Hunger. A darker portrayal of the visions that eat at those blessed with talent, the bi-annual magazine that is *Hunger* is still in its early days. But of course, being Rankin, the engraved gold names on its consuming debut cover is already covered in stars; Dominic

Cooper, Alice Dellal, Cheryl Cole and Heidi Klum to name just a few. If anything, this is 500 pages affirming that time has not made Rankin more afraid

to break down those barriers, encouraging everyone to strip themselves of their masks and live life as they really want to.



LEFT: *Dazed & Confused: Making It Up As We Go Along* Written by Jefferson Hack, Edited by Jo-Ann Furniss. Rizzoli Publishers £35
RIGHT: *Hunger (Issue 1)* £4

BOOKS

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The pick of this year's Picocon

A look at some of the books by the Guests of Honour at Imperial's Sci-Fi convention

Keeping it Real

by Justina Robson

With a title like *Keeping it Real* and a cover illustration of a semi-cyborg super woman you might be forgiven for assuming the first book of Justina Robson's *Quantum Gravity* series is the kind of escapist trash that has us all hating on Stephanie Meyer. The fact that the series is entitled *Quantum Gravity* gives some hint that there may be more to things than instantly meet the eye, and this is definitely the case.

Though Lila Black is a massively enhanced superhuman spy, there are a number of departures from the sort of self-sufficient, badass feminist character whom you would expect here. Lila comes with flaws aplenty, which initially crop up as just this. Later the details of the accident that left her at death's door become more and more clear and what looks like an irrational

hatred and fear of certain aspects of what proves to be a very interesting world are actually completely justified... just in time for them to be completely transformed.

I mention that the world is interesting, but what I should probably say is the 'worlds' plural are interesting. *Keeping it Real* is set in a hemorrhaging mash up of the realms of men, elves, demons, fey and elementals, all bleeding into one another to some degree. In contrast to Robson's earlier works this is not, at least in the first book, particularly science heavy, and if you're the kind of person that needs a logical explanation as to why a supercollider would explode and create passages into magical realms then perhaps this series isn't for you.

Overall the science is reasonably believable if not always explicable and this leaves time free in the short novel to flesh out what I (and I assume Ms Robson) think to be the more important issues of Lila herself, as well as the colorful and disparate worlds that she walks the character

through throughout the series. Perhaps more importantly for a science-fantasy fusion the magical system is consistent, interesting and logical. It contains interesting elements such as the "games" that are essentially magically enforced wagers that can have

"a hemorrhaging mash up of the realms of men, elves, demons, fey and elementals all bleeding into one another"

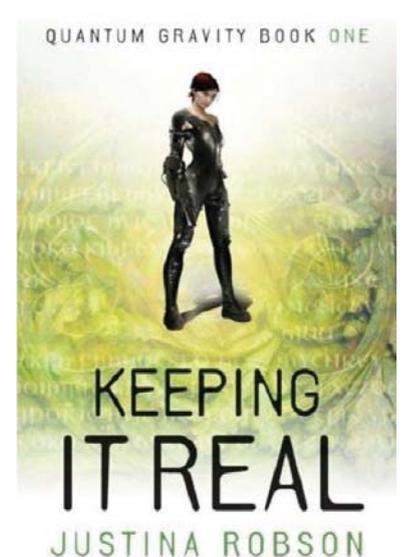
extreme consequences and are often entered into unknowingly by humans unable to play them out as confidently as the elves and other magically endowed beings from the other realms.

Book One focuses primarily on the elves and the Elvish realm and culture

that Lila is unwillingly dragged into despite a hatred and revulsion for this secretive and different race – and the magic that comes with them. In her undercover mission to protect perhaps the oddest elf in all the realms – Zal, lead singer of a rock band rising rapidly to superstardom despite the fact that "elves don't rock" – Lila has to try to ascertain the validity of death threats that lead into a much bigger and more complex plot than she or her superiors ever imagined.

Add to this the identity issues inherent in a 21 year old who's been rebuilt with largely prosthetic, or in fact robotic, body parts, unable to return to her home or her family and friends. A 21-year-old who has, of course, made the mistake of getting into a romantic game with Zal along the way (this is perhaps a little predictable... but who really cares so long as it's hot, right?).

Keeping it Real has all the elements needed for an enthralling read and delivered in a humorous and effortless manner I'd really recommend it.



The series, now onto its fifth book, has been extremely successful and I look forwards to finding some time to consume those that I haven't gotten round to.

Alex Savell

Silver Screen

by Justina Robson

Anjuli O'Connor is having a tough time – her oldest friend has just died after trying to upload his consciousness to the internet. She is being

forced by her company to testify at a court case that will determine the legal rights of artificial intelligences and various extremist groups would like nothing better than to see her dead. Welcome to the world of *Silver Screen* – Justina Robson's cyberpunk masterpiece.

At its core this book is a fascinating journey of discovery as both Anjuli

and 901, the AI she works with, struggle to find their place in the world. This naturally leads on to the compelling theme of what is consciousness as the book asks: how do we define a human being?

It's also refreshing that, instead of the default cyberpunk setting of a sprawling megacity, much of the action in *Silver Screen* takes place in an

England that is not to be unrecognisable from the country today. It took a bit of getting used to high stakes intrigue playing out in places like Manchester, an unusual setting for this kind of literature, but it certainly added a sense of intimacy to the story, and a feeling that the situations it described could really happen.

Maciej Matuszewski



Empire in Black and Gold

by Adrian Tchaikovsky

Empire in Black and Gold is the first book in Adrian Tchaikovsky's long

running *Shadows of the Apt* series. The series is set in an intriguing universe populated by a number of different humanoid races – each named after, and sharing certain characteristic (such as wings) with, a specific insect or arachnid species. This is a world where magic and relatively advanced technology, such as ornithopters and steam power, coexist – an interest-

ing idea that gives a very attractive, almost steampunk-like, feel to the novels.

This first book in the series deals with the beginning of the war of conquest waged by the Wasp Empire against the Beetle city-states of the Lowlands. The opening chapter grabs you instantly with its vividly described battle scene. The book rarely

lets up the pace afterwards as it follows the desperate attempts, spurred on by his being present at the brutal capture of the city of Myna seventeen years previously, of Stenwold Maker to prepare his people for the deadly onslaught of the Wasp armies. In short, a perfect book for anyone who likes well written action and intrigue.

Maciej Matuszewski



Double Vision

by Tricia Sullivan

Double Vision follows Karen 'Cookie' Orbach, a self-proclaimed psychic, who, whenever she looks at a television screen, sees visions of a war

fought by humans and their machines against a truly alien extraterrestrial species on a distant planet. Employed by the Dataplex Corporation to record whatever she sees, Cookie also has to deal with her ordinary life as an insecure, overweight person. However, not all is as it seems with her visions, and soon she begins to suspect that her employers aren't telling her the whole

truth as to why they require her services.

The best word that could be used to describe this book is "weird", but in a good way. Little clues, and the use of the second person narration in the vision chapters, help to unnerve the readers and gradually point them to the surprising, but very satisfying, conclusion. Another big plus for this

novel are its likeable, well-developed characters; especially Cookie herself – a massive science fiction fan with whom the target audience will have no trouble empathising with. If you like the general feel of Philip K. Dick's work but want something that is ultimately a bit more comprehensible, this is the book for you.

Maciej Matuszewski

Picocon 29 will be held at the Union on Saturday 18 February from 10am.
See icsf.org.uk/picocon for more information

Better read than Dead

Games editor Laurence Pope reviews Yahtzee Croshaw's epic MMORPG parody

Death is a real nuisance. You can't move, you can't see, you can't – well, let's be honest here, you can't do much at all. The best you can manage is a bit of basic decomposition, but it's not really something to brag about (not that you can talk anyway). On the plus side though, you do get some well-deserved shuteye. That is, unless you're awakened by a rogue necromancer who runs monthly entertainment nights for his undead minions.

This is *Mogworld*, the debut novel by Ben "Yahtzee" Croshaw, most famous for his scathing online video game reviews and opinion pieces for *The Escapist*. Regular viewers will be able to pick up on his style of humour very quickly, though those unfamiliar with the Australian-based British-born game reviewer may need to take a chapter or two to adjust.

Mogworld has been described as what Terry Pratchett would have written had he been addicted to video games in his youth. In his book Yahtzee takes the magical fantasy genre and tips it on its head, blending fantasy elements with his knowledge and passion for gaming. Not to spoil too much, but the world the characters inhabit isn't quite all that it seems. Maybe you can work it out if I tell you that the "Mog" of *Mogworld* is actually an acronym for something else...

The choice to write from a first person perspective was a wise decision. Yahtzee is able to transpose both his thoughts and his feelings into the protagonist Jim, an undead low-level mage, resulting in a character that's more like Victor Meldrew than Frodo Baggins. Jim is an unheroic and irritable character driven only by a strong desire to be dead again, constantly irked by his companions; his mundane thoughts are at constant odds with the fantastical world he is forced to inhabit and the reality shifts he has to face during the story's progression.

"Mogworld has been described as what Terry Pratchett would have written had he been addicted to video games"

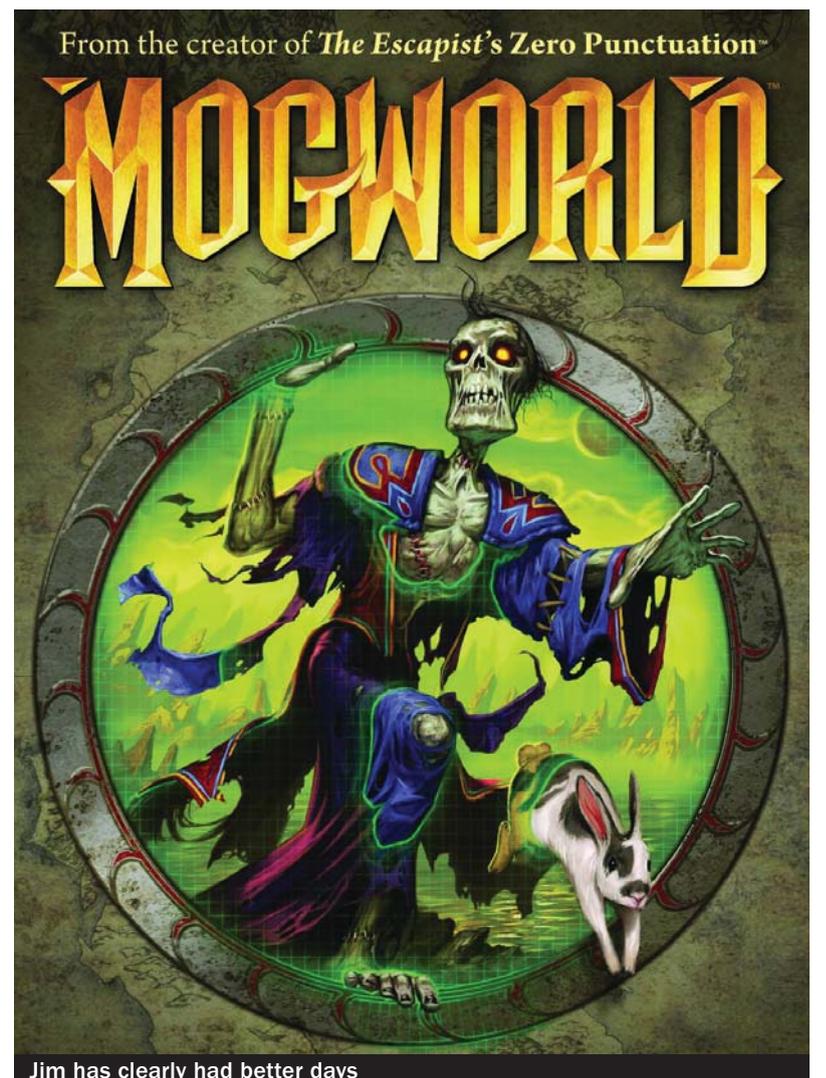
And yet he still remains a lovable character. Despite his flaws you can sympathise with his plight, the only sane man in a world full of blood-crazed suicidal barbarians, corrupt guild officials and terminally depressed citizens. He's the straight man, one

you can sympathise with despite his terminal undead status. He hasn't got superpowers, he's not special, and he's as flawed as the next man (or zombie, if you'd prefer); yet by the end of the book you find yourself rooting for him to succeed in his desire to finally "re-quiesscat in pace".

Juxtaposing Jim is a range of colourful characters that serve to work up his (congealed) blood pressure, including Slippery John the inept thief and Barry the Vicar. By the end of the story most of the supporting characters' paths have intertwined but at no point does it ever feel forced – they interact with one another seamlessly, despite how utterly ridiculous everything gets towards the closing chapters.

One word of advice before picking up *Mogworld*: if you can't tell me what an MMO is, or what *WoW* is all about, you may want to think twice before reading. Yahtzee has done an excellent job of balancing general humour against video game humour, but ultimately many of the subtler jokes will be missed, and the overall story, whilst far from complex, will be better appreciated by those readers who know how to tell their FPSs apart from their RTSs.

All in all, *Mogworld* remains one of my favourite books, funny and somewhat fresh despite some minor repetition of jokes I've already heard from his online review series. A fun, immersive read all round.



A moving reminder of simpler times

A look back at *Le Petit Nicolas* – Goscinny and Sempé's nostalgic masterpiece

Maciej Matuszewski

I know what you're thinking – surely this can't be a review of a series of children's stories in Felix. Well, if the television section can review *My Little Pony* I can review the *Nicholas* books. Indeed, while it can be classified as children's literature, I for one think that the main appeal of the series is for adults.

Le Petit Nicolas, as the eponymous protagonist and narrator of the stories is known in the original French, was created in 50s by René Goscinny, best known for his work on the *Astérix* comics. Goscinny wrote over two hundred short stories about the red sweatered seven year old – first in the Belgian paper *Le Moustique* and later in the highly respected *Sud Ouest Dimanche*. It was not long before

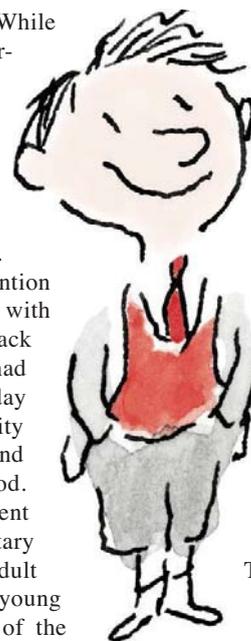
these were collected in book form. *Nicholas* is an ordinary boy living in an unspecified city in 50s France. Each story focuses on a specific episode in his life – from a school pho-

"while it can be classified as children's literature, I for one think that the main appeal of the series is for adults"

tograph to his parents buying him a bike. The humour is derived mainly from his understandably childlike

first person narration. While younger readers will certainly find *Nicholas*' experiences, and how he describes them, funny it is clear that the stories are also cleverly designed to evoke nostalgia in older audiences.

Nicholas' short attention span, constant falling out with his friends only to get back together as if nothing had happened later the same day and his general immaturity serve to pleasantly remind us of our own childhood. Another common element of the stories is commentary on the absurdities of the adult world from *Nicholas*' young viewpoint. Descriptions of the



constant rivalry between the *Nicholas*' father and his neighbour, Mr Blédurt, who are nevertheless described by the boy as "friends", the occasional petty quarrels between his parents, and his mother's empty threats to move back with her mother, never fail to raise a smile. There is a childlike innocence and charm to this all that is very appealing.

Any review of these books wouldn't be complete without a mention of the illustrations. The name of the illustrator, Jean-Jacques Sempé, quite rightly appears on the

books' covers with equal prominence to that of Goscinny. His drawings are a vital addition and complement the stories perfectly. They are simple, reminding you of childlike sketches, but full of joy and youthful energy. I can't imagine how they could capture the feel of Goscinny's writing any better.

The stories are very short – most can be finished in under ten minutes, so you can get through them even if you don't have a lot of free time. Indeed, they're the perfect way to relax and remind yourself of your more carefree days. It's a shame that the *Nicholas* stories aren't as popular as they should be in England but you'll probably be able to find them in any bookstore, such as the excellent Daunt Books, that has a good children's and foreign literature sections. Pleasant reading!

FOOD

Food Editors: **Anastasia Eleftheriou**
Michael Krestas

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Eat your heart out

So you think love comes from the heart?

Although Valentine's Day has passed, the Food Section would like to suggest to its readers a repulsive yet interesting cake to eat with your beloved one.

As everybody knows, and as memes have been making clear the past days, Imperial students are way more savvy than any UCL geek, and are certainly aware that a real heart isn't in the shape of upturned buttocks.

I find it of great importance that we reject anything that presents, makes use of, or even glorifies the Valentine's Heart. It's time someone stepped up and defended this magnificent organ, beating at 80 bpm, continuously pumping blood so that we can keep trying to weaken it living a life full of responsibilities and deadlines to meet.

The Lily Vanilli bakery in London, sharing my views, has decided to offer customers this extraordinary and irresistible piece of... cake!

Scarily realistic but delicious, with a red velvet sponge, cream cheese frosting and blackcurrant and cherry 'blood', this sweet human organ is the best way to say your darling: "I love you. I love you and always will do. Now eat your heart!"

So do you think you're up to the challenge? Eating a blood-red cake in the full size of a bleeding human heart? Just don't eat your heart out!

Michael Krestas

The Lily Vanilli Bakery



"One human heart please, without the artery..."

The **Imperial Food Awards** are back again for the **Spring Term**.



This time we're going **Fairtrade** in association with **ICU Fairtrade Society**.

We can't wait to receive your recipes at food.felix@imperial.ac.uk. For more info, check the article on this page!

The secrets of a lobster

Anastasia Eleftheriou

The next time you see live lobsters at a restaurant market, don't be afraid of them! You will see that they're pretty easy to cook and enjoy.

Lobsters are very expensive though, and that is not only because they are very popular, but because it's very difficult to find them. They live in holes and caves in deep waters and don't get out of them very often.

There are two kinds of lobsters; the first one lives in warm waters and has no callipers and the second one lives in cold waters and has two enormous ones. Keep in mind that a lobster should be alive to have a good taste when you will cook it, as the lobster's meat quality is altered very, very quickly. If you feel guilty boiling them alive (although some people believe that the nervous system of a lobster is too simple for it to feel any pain at all), put them in the freezer for 20 minutes to let them become numb and then boil them.

Female lobsters are more tasty than male ones and here is the way to distinguish between the two; if you compare a male and a female lobster of approximately the same size, the female one has a wider tail to allow some space for its eggs.

In order to boil your lobster, you will need salty water, enough to cover the lobster completely. Grasp the live lobster behind the claws and drop it head-first into the boiling water. Boil the lobster for 10 minutes for the first lb of weight and then three more minutes for each extra pound. Once cooked, drain the lobster immediately and serve hot.

You shouldn't serve the lobster as it is, try

saltysoul.wordpress.com



www.gourmetotaku.com



www.foodbeast.com



Grilled, spaghetti or sushi? The choice is yours!

to make your guests' lives easier. You can either use lobster crackers to crack the shell in order to reach the meat or cut the claws and

the lobster in half with a sturdy knife.

Whichever your choice, make sure you enjoy it with the right person!

Fairtrade Cooking Competition

Olivia Tillbert, ICU Fairtrade Society Treasurer, announces the kick-off of the second Imperial Food Awards. This time we go Fairtrade!

The annual Fairtrade Fortnight is soon upon us! To kick-start the festivities the ICU Fairtrade Society is hosting a competition to find the most scrumptious ethical chef at Imperial!

How to enter:

1. Simply cook your amazing meal (it can be any type: starter, breakfast, tea, dinner, dessert, etc.)
2. Write up your recipe including the ingredient brands used. The recipe can be inspired by existing ones, however, your personal twist should be added.
3. Shoot some photos of your meal and the ingredients you used.
4. Send in points 2 and 3 to: food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Group and multiple entries are welcome!



Judging entries:

The competition is judged by how good the presentation of the meal is, how tasty the recipe reads and the percentage of Fairtrade products used in the recipe. The presentation and recipe categories are judged democratically on the Fairtrade website. Each category is weighted equally and amounts to a total score, defining the winner!

Each participant will receive free entry to a Fairtrade Fortnight event of their choice, including the popular All You Can Eat Ben & Jerry and Cheese & Wine nights! Therefore, the earlier the entry the greater the choice of events!

Prizes:

The lucky winners will receive the following prizes:

1st place: £30 voucher for EthicalSuperstore.com

2nd and 3rd place: A Fairtrade Cookbook (TBC)

Deadline:

The deadline for submissions for the competition is Saturday 3 March.

Remember, Fairtrade products can be recognised by the trademark printed on their packaging (see above image).



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£3.50

Free entry before 20:00

Drink Offers
from 20:00
in Metric

House spirit
& mixer – £2.20
Vodka Redbull – £3.00
Jägerbomb – £3.30

Nick Bright



Metric
Friday 17 February
20:00 - 02:00

Only
£3.50 Free entry before 20:00

Drinks Offers

From 20:00
in Metric

Wednesday nights

Stella 4% £2.00
Boddingtons £2.00

Friday nights

House spirit & mixer £2.20
Vodka Redbull £3.00
Jägerbomb £3.30



TRAVEL

Travel Editors: **Chris Richardson**
Dushi Arumuganesan

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Wishing you were here



'Surfing in Kuta' by Sonny Tumbelaka

Travel on your doorstep



Side streets of seedy Soho

Get there: Boris bike ('cause it's faster)
See: Endless cocktail and blues bars
Eat: Mezze to share at Yalla Yalla
Cost: £5-15 for nibbles for 2

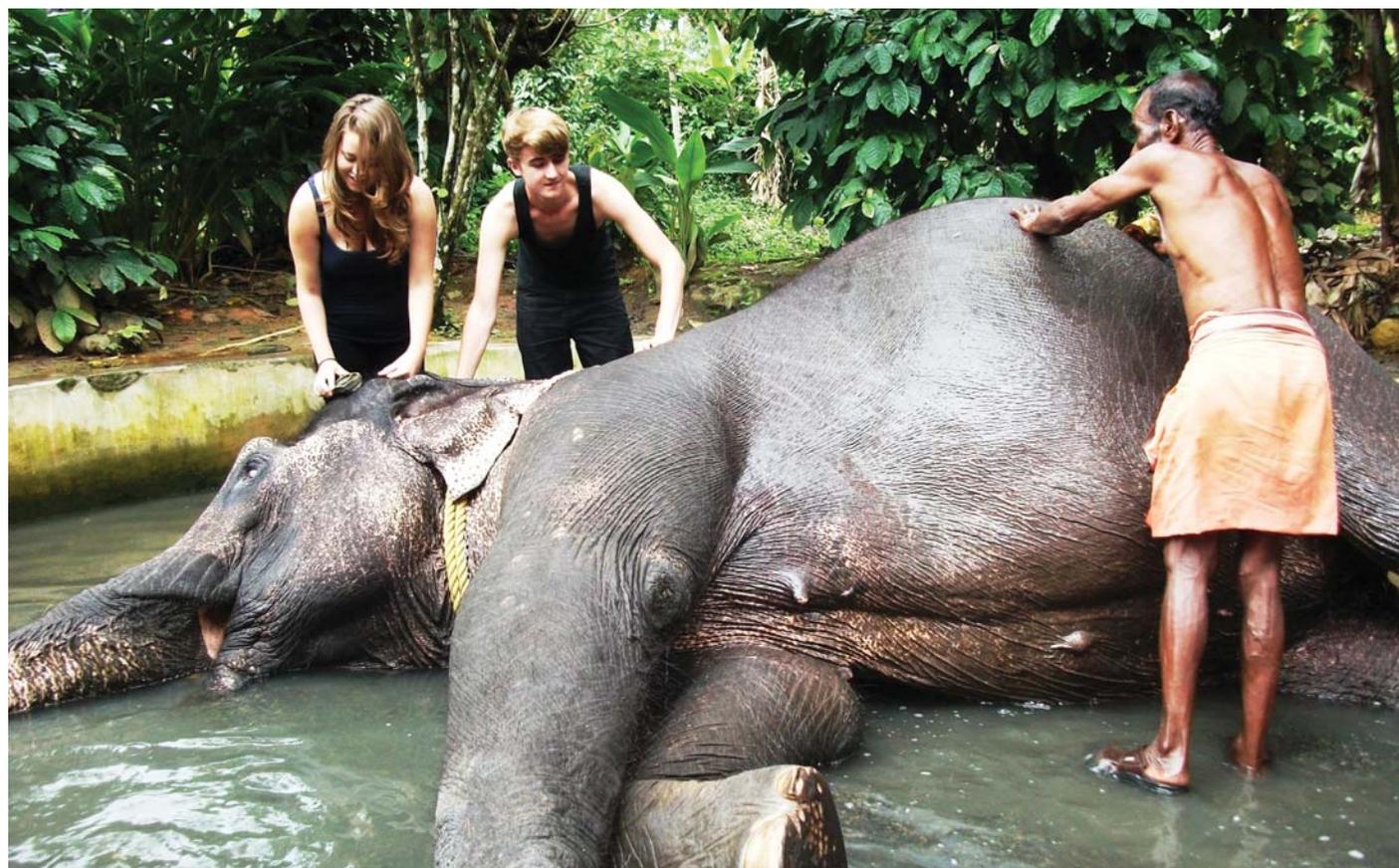
Hop away from Piccadilly's tourist-filled pavements and delve into the side streets of Soho. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the swanky bars offering free music all nights of the week (see: Ain't Nothin' But), cheap and delicious eateries, and a resident B@1 (formerly the Red Lion pub, Marx's old hangout) that trumps its lousy Hammersmith counterpart.

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

Drop us an email at travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk, or send us a tweet using [#FelixTravel](https://twitter.com/FelixTravel)

Welcome to the jungle

Wandering through the misty morass: India's Western Ghats



A revitalising coconut scrub after a rough day at the office

Chris Richardson

By the time I hit Kerala I was more than ready for it: with Rajasthan's dusty forts a distant memory I was ready to hit up something a little more tropical. That's the incredible thing about Kerala: after a short and breezy (read: forty hour and mosquito-infested) coastal train down from the north, you find yourself in paradise. Of course, to the rational mind that doesn't doubt the existence of continental drift, this shouldn't really come as much of a shock. But I was still in awe of the abundant African-esque flora and fauna at my disposal.

After adjusting to communist Kerala for a few days we opted to take a local bus through the windy Western Ghats to Thekkady, an untainted town with lots of things on offer. For some reason Thekkady seems to evade some people's schedules, but I'd list it as one of my favourite Kerala destinations. For this leg of the trip I'd arranged a home stay with the lovely Cyriac and Dolly at Pepper County (PepperCounty.com) – be warned that hostels can be really hit or miss, so if visiting be sure to have a look at the thriving home stay scene.

The home stay was lovely: Pepper County comes equipped with beautiful bedrooms, views of the surrounding countryside and a commercial farm that Cyriac will gladly show you around. Here I really felt at home as Dolly served up the best Kerala cuisine I had the pleasure of eating: egg curry, sweet cardamom pancakes and frosty beer. Cyriac is a brilliant host, and took me up to some viewpoints be-

fore letting me head out in search of tigers.

Thekkady sits alongside the Periyar Tiger Reserve, making the 5 o'clock start for the full day safari that little less tragic. I only spent a few days ambling through this gorgeous national park but could have easily spent more – unfortunately, the tigers are elusive at the best of times, with some workers only catching a glimpse of a dozen or so in a decade's work. Regardless, the various trek routes and abundance of other animals make it worthwhile. In just a few hours I managed to tick off just about everything but the tiger, including elephants, bison and vibrant birds. All of this hard work was concluded with a relaxing bamboo raft across the park's tranquil lake.

“Head to Thekkady and get lost in the undergrowth”

Thanks to tips from Cyriac I managed to avoid a lot of the tourist traps in the town: every taxi driver and hostel owner seems to know about an 'elephant sanctuary' in the town, but usually these amount to nothing. Cyriac arranged for me to visit a proper elephant training camp, where I was able to help care for the elephants and see how the villagers incorporate them into village life. With just a few simple commands, the elephants are trained to

help in various construction processes by moving heavy materials. In this camp you can tell that the elephants are well looked after: they have a beautiful home, respectful owners and a more-than-ample food supply. Giving the elephants a coconut scrub after a rough day at the office is a must for visitors to Thekkady.

Having been tempted by Dolly's artisan Kerala culinary skills, I spent my last night in town attempting to replicate some of the results. I spent far too much time in India in cooking classes but could have easily kept going: in spite of the results being sub-par the feast is always a delight. Plus it's a great place to hook up with other backpackers on a similar circuit. Thekkady was a great place to dabble with Kerala cuisine, what with all of the necessary ingredients literally being taken from the garden outside the family home.

In short, don't bypass Thekkady if you're in the area (and indeed, go out of your way to be in the area): it's sure to be a high point of your trip. The locals are humble, the nature serene, and the sights, sounds and smells as alluring as ever. When you're bored of temples and forts, head to Thekkady and get lost in the undergrowth.

Planning a trip to Kerala?

Kerala Holidays (KeralaHolidays.com) were awarded as India's Best In-Bound Tour Operator 2011, and offer tailor-made tour packages for groups of all sizes. Visit the website and check out some testimonials.

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

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Spirit of Adventure with Mick Fowler

Exploration Society invite “the Mountaineer’s Mountaineer” to Imperial College

Nathaniel Bottrell
Sara Arbós Torrent

Ever sat in the Library, staring out of the window and wondering what else you could be doing? On the last day in January, Exploration Society helped fuel the imagination of adventure by hosting a talk by Mick Fowler.

Mick Fowler is a British mountaineer but not your ordinary mountaineer. He, as voted in a poll by the Observer, is “the Mountaineer’s Mountaineer” and has been described by Sir Chris Bonington as “one of the greatest mountaineers”. What does this mean? Well, he’s not just another climber who talks about nothing but climbing routes and makes a conversation about Physics seem more interesting. He is someone who takes adventure to new heights and inspires you to try something other than the latest console game during your free time.

I arrived at the talk to find a near-full Physics Lecture Theatre (LT1) and Mick standing at the front waiting to start. Mick began by informing the audience that he works for HM Revenue and Customs and enjoys exploratory climbing in his spare time. If you think we have already climbed all there is to climb, you couldn’t be more wrong. You just need to look around and see what is interesting.

During the talk, Mick relayed many stories of previous climbs and the experiences that surrounded them. In the 70s, when flares were in, Mick and two climbing partners pioneered the ascent

of the White Cliffs of Dover by using ice climbing gear. This adventure was met by a small audience upon completion and was reported in the local media.

“A 65ft ice stack at St Pancras station”

My favourite tale involved Mick ascending the finest ice climb in London. You wouldn’t think London was great for its ice features, but on this occasion there was a 65 ft ice stack on the outside of St Pancras station. While “belayed to a handy parking meter” he ascended to find the ice stack had formed from a leaking toilet outflow. This landed Mick some attention by the media and police service. The ice flow was then axed by the fire service to prevent Mick damaging the building. Ironically, the fire service caused more damage than Mick had when climbing it.

Apart from the unusual, Mick has also obtained many first ascents of Himalayan Mountains. His last ascent was the Kajaqiao in China with Chris Watts. His previous ascent, of Siguniang in China with Paul Ramsden, won Mick the prestigious Piolet d’Or (France) and Golden Piton (USA) awards for his route. To date, Mick has achieved the first ascents of five conventional rock climbs, five sea cliffs, nine sea stacks, six ice climbs and eleven mountains. If you want to know more about Mick’s adventures, he has published four books.

Since 2010 Mick is also the Alpine Club President and is always enthusiastically encouraging all young active alpinists to join it! The AC is a great source of help and advice when planning your next (or first!) alpine adventure. (More information on www.alpine-club.org.uk.)

Mick comes across as a modest guy who just likes an adventure. I’d recommend his talk to anyone. So it turns out

you can work in the tax office and be an incredibly interesting person!

With the opening up of the Himalayan Mountains, there are many valleys unexplored and summits unclimbed. Only a modest amount of the Himalayas has been summited, there is plenty of area to be explored and adventures waiting to be had...

Exploration Society organise many talks throughout the year from the

world’s top explorers. The society is there for people to hear about other’s experiences, or who have the desire to explore themselves.

There’s an adventure to be had everywhere!

The next talk will be on the adventures of an Imperial College Kayaking expedition to Sri Lanka. It will be on March 6 at 6:30pm in the RSM LT 1.31. Hope to see you all there!

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Nathaniel Bottrell



Mick Fowler, not your conventional tax office resident

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Vintage bar night for hockey club

Alexander Karapetian

The Imperial College Hockey Club (IHC) hosted a bar night at Vintage, formerly Chateau 6, on Thursday last week. The event was open to all students and served as a way for both students involved in sports and others to blow off some steam before the all-important Varsity games this March.

The event was organised by IHC Club Captain Jason Ye and Social Secretaries Guy Khosla and Gilles Stassen, with tickets costing £5 and including a free shot when bought online. Tickets were also available on the door and the venue filled up rapidly as the evening progressed. The organisers had secured drinks deals with Vintage that kept their attendees' drinks flowing, with beer and Jagerbombs at £2, vodka mixers at £3 and a surprise addition of Sex On The Beach cocktails at £3 following the generosity of the venue's staff hours before the event kicked off.

Two IHC members, Joe Andrews and Josh Freemont, (Jolt DJs) provided the music and served as the DJs for the

dancefloor. Their exhilarating mashups filled Vintage with avid students who braved the snow to come out and experience an invigorating clubbing atmosphere. Coupled with the fair drinks prices, the barrage of over 150 students had an overall air of positivity about the event.

We asked Jason Ye why he chose Vintage for the venue rather than Metric or the Union, and he explained that "by holding it at Vintage, [they] were not exposed to any financial risk or costs", what with there being no minimum bar spend, minimum attendance, stewarding costs and other limitations. While hosting a "We Are Metric" night in the Union would require the event to end at 11pm, Vintage stayed open three hours later, and the IHC were able to negotiate "very favourable drinks deals" because they supplied their own DJs.

"The fact that it was an event open to everyone and not just the Hockey Club made it a great night", Jason continued, adding that Vintage "seemed pretty receptive to holding more events

in the future" and that "the club is an extremely nice venue".

This was the first event of its kind for this year's IHC committee, and the weather conditions on the night raised concern for turnout, but Jason told Felix they were "extremely pleased with how it went and would probably look to hold [an event] there again some point in the future". IHC found it particularly interesting that "there were quite a few people who bought their tickets on the door, including members of the public who were just looking to get out of the snow". This, in turn, worked in their favour, as "the mix of IHC members, Imperial students and the public contributed to an amazing atmosphere inside".

Vintage has previously been used by many Imperial Clubs & Societies for various events as Chateau 6 before its rebranding. With an extensive range of cocktails, its prime location opposite Fulham Broadway station and numerous rooms for gathering or dancing, the IHC executed a fun filled event for all.

Alexander Karapetian



When they break out the pens, it's time to get out

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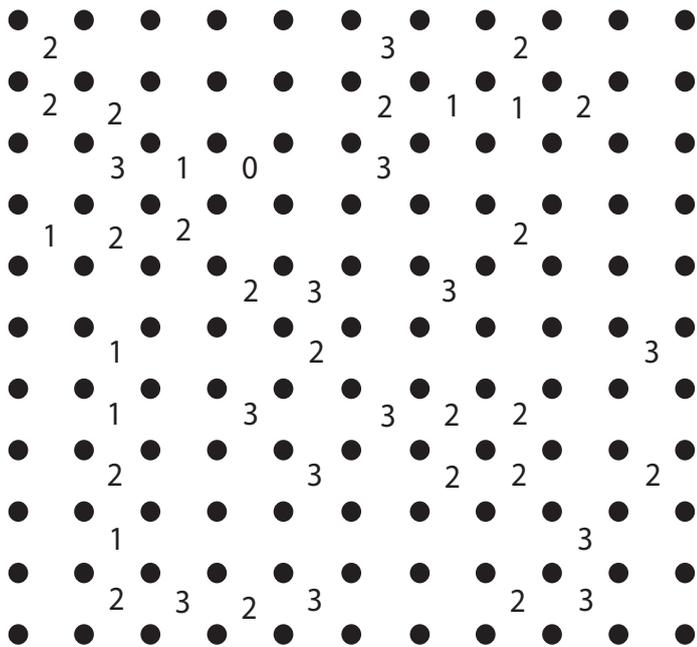
**18.00 Thursday 15 March
Queen's Tower Rooms**

www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation

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college
union

PUZZLES

SLITHERLINK



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

the info you need to get the one logical answer (though waiting a week to see the solution will also do). Answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk, as the puzzles team receives one self-addressed Valentines card per correct solution.

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.

FUCWIT League Leader Board

Teams:	
Elbowfart	110
The Jailbaits	100
Pegasus & Parrots	82
Paddy Got Bummed	55
Cum Puzzling Sluts	40
Team Nuclear	21
Ludibrium Lads	14
Individuals:	
Jeremy Neale	113
Wael Aljeshi	37

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is both 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.

The competition is hotting up, each wave of solutions more climactic than the last. Can you really afford to miss out?

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

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.

Imperial College
London

56 teams, 28 matches
10 sports, 1 winner

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
VARSITY 2012
WHO'S GAME?

**TICKETS FREE FOR
IMPERIAL STUDENTS!**

Imperial College vs Imperial Medicals - Wednesday 21 March

You must register for your free JPR Williams match ticket online by 7 March, or you will need to pay the full price of £10 at the gate.

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



www.imperial.ac.uk/sports/varsity



sport Imperial

SPORT

Felix Sports League

...where do you stand?



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing W1	9	9	0	0	1152	741	36	5.00
2 Rugby W1	2	2	0	0	77	0	-20	5.00
3 Tennis M1	4	4	0	0	38	10	-232	5.00
4 Tennis W1	5	5	0	0	56	4	-18	5.00
5 Ultimate Frisbee 1st	3	3	0	0	45	9	-20	5.00
6 Hockey W1	10	9	1	0	39	3	5	4.70
7 Rugby M1	10	9	0	1	242	149	-103	4.10
8 Fencing M1	9	8	0	1	1075	847	28	4.00
9 Badminton M1	9	7	1	1	59	13	0	3.67
10 ICSM Hockey W2	6	5	0	1	29	5	-2	3.50
11 Table Tennis W1	5	4	0	1	19	6	-124	3.20
12 Badminton W1	10	5	4	1	49	36	0	2.90
13 Fencing W2	8	6	0	2	699	647	93	2.75
14 ICSM Badminton W1	4	3	0	1	18	14	0	2.75
15 Netball W1	8	5	0	1	334	252	-9	2.63
16 Squash W1	5	3	1	1	11	9	-12	2.60
17 Tennis M2	6	3	2	1	40	32	-64	2.50
18 Lacrosse W1	7	5	0	2	101	37	-3	2.43
19 Hockey M2	9	5	2	2	27	22	2	2.33
20 Basketball M1	10	7	0	3	662	583	0	2.30
21 Fencing M2	9	6	0	3	1078	908	52	2.00
22 ICSM Hockey W1	4	2	1	1	23	9	-12	2.00
23 Football M3	8	5	0	3	15	15	24	1.63
24 Lacrosse M1	5	4	0	3	71	36	-9	1.60
25 Football M1	9	4	2	3	15	14	228	1.33
26 ICSM Badminton M2	4	1	2	1	15	17	14	1.25
27 ICSM Football M2	7	4	0	3	15	12	-2	1.14
28 Basketball W1	9	5	0	4	505	404	77	1.00
29 Football M2	8	3	2	3	20	22	46	0.88
30 Badminton M2	8	4	0	4	22	34	0	0.50
31 ICSM Football M1	2	1	0	1	4	6	1	0.50
32 ICSM Netball W1	2	1	0	1	82	72	2	0.50
33 ICSM Netball W2	2	1	0	1	52	50	-3	0.50
34 ICSM Netball W4	2	1	0	1	47	50	-40	0.50
35 ICSM Rugby M3	4	2	0	2	88	90	28	0.50
36 Rugby M2	10	5	0	5	92	132	-6	0.50
37 Squash M3	6	3	0	3	10	19	-77	0.50
38 Table Tennis M2	6	3	0	3	53	49	-37	0.50
39 Hockey W2	8	3	1	4	10	32	79	0.13
40 Netball W3	9	4	0	5	185	157	-52	0.00
41 Futsal M1	7	3	0	4	31	40	13	-0.14
42 Golf Mixed 1st	6	1	1	2	7	10	4	-0.17
43 Table Tennis M1	5	2	0	3	38	47	-12	-0.40
44 Futsal W1	3	1	0	2	2	11	52	-1.00
45 ICSM Badminton M1	3	1	0	2	10	14	170	-1.00
46 ICSM Rugby M1	3	1	0	2	52	104	4	-1.00
47 ICSM Rugby M2	3	1	0	2	32	135	-22	-1.00
48 Lacrosse W2	3	1	0	2	15	21	-9	-1.00
49 Football W1	7	2	0	5	4	43	13	-1.43
50 Rugby M3	10	2	0	8	100	120	-39	-2.20
51 Squash M1	5	1	0	4	3	22	-19	-2.20
52 ICSM Netball W5	4	0	1	3	25	185	-9	-2.50
53 Netball W2	6	1	0	5	123	200	-4	-2.50
54 Squash M2	6	1	0	5	11	18	-160	-2.50
55 Squash M4	6	1	0	5	3	15	-7	-2.50
56 Hockey M3	7	1	0	6	8	20	8	-2.71
57 Hockey M1	10	1	0	9	9	46	82	-3.10
58 Basketball M2	3	0	0	3	142	266	411	-4.00
59 Fencing M3	5	0	0	5	424	656	36	-4.00
60 Hockey M4	9	0	0	9	3	67	64	-4.00
61 ICSM Basketball M1	1	0	0	1	46	64	35	-4.00
62 ICSM Hockey M1	3	0	0	3	6	26	3	-4.00
63 ICSM Hockey M2	3	0	0	3	3	19	101	-4.00
64 ICSM Hockey M3	1	0	0	1	0	3	-2	-4.00

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



Web: www3.imperial.ac.uk/sports
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Hockey: Pre-Varsity tension builds

Christopher Walmsley



Another one bites the astroturf

Jason Ye
Hockey

IC Men's 2s	1
Imperial Medics 2s	1

The second encounter between IC Hockey Men's 2s versus their Medic counterparts was always going to be an exciting fixture and it did not disappoint. Off the back of a mediocre performance in deepest, darkest and dirtiest Portsmouth last Wednesday, we were completely ready to spring back to winning ways.

A completely new-look Medic side from the one we played last term, along with several ringers from their 1st XI intrigued us somewhat as the Medics 2nd XI have failed to win any of their games this season and languish at the bottom of our BUCS league.

The match started with a flourish. Some excellent passing littered the first portion of the first half, with the seemingly frequent distribution channel of B. Man Briggs, Boris, Meat-spin, Soggy Biscuit, GTG and Strap-on completely ripping apart the Medic midfield. The preliminary symptoms of an impending defeat obviously didn't settle well with our Medic friends and they fought back with a couple of crafty attacks down both flanks. If it wasn't for

the heroics and diving tackles of B. Man Briggs at right back it may well have been first blood to the Medics.

Halfway through the first half came the breakthrough for IC. A scuffed undercut was plucked by a Medic midfielder above shoulder height and this led to the umpire giving a free hit to us. While the Medics were protesting against the decision, the quick thinking of Fresher Ed to self-pass and set up a breakaway attack paid dividends, with a lovely through-ball to Captain Slow who swept the ball into the goal for IC.

Needless to say, the Medics were furious at what they saw as an unfair advantage gained after the self pass. After a prolonged consultation between the umpires it was decided the goal should stand, prompting one of the Medics to agriculturally hurl his stick in anger about thirty feet. Ironically, C. Bell decided to ask the umpire to send him off which didn't happen.

It reached half time with the score at 1-0, and some choice words from B. Man Briggs such as "no more beef" were taken on board by certain members of the team.

Once the second half got underway it became increasingly clear that the Medics' keeper and defenders were actually in a league of their own. There were possibly five or six opportunities where we could have scored from

close range, having either rounded the last defender or the goalkeeper, only to have our shot blocked by the last man's stick on the goal line. It was clear that we were going to need more than just hitting the ball in the general direction of the goal to succeed in securing the win in this match.

Unfortunately halfway through the second half the Medics prevailed in getting an equalizer. A mixup in central midfield as to which players they were marking led to a 4 on 3 overload in our 22, leading the Medics to sail the ball past Glory Hole's outstretched left hand from the top of the circle.

The rest of the game saw both sides push for the win. Some last ditch defending by the stirring back four ensured that the Medics stayed out. Unfortunately our short corner routines were once again woeful, something that should be changed. The indecisiveness of the short corner striker led to the Medics poaching the ball from unnecessarily on multiple occasions, and this led to many of our chances simply squandered.

With the final score 1-1, it was probably a fair result for both teams. However, with IC Mens' 2s having the only team to not have won or drawn their Varsity Match at least once in the last two years, the hunger to conquer on the 21st March is now stronger than ever.

Interested in **Sport**?Want to **contribute** to Felix?

Help us to edit this
section!

Email **sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk**or **drop by** the Felix office

in Beit West Basement

No prior experience necessary!

SPORT

Women's cricket at Lord's

Natasha Coral
Cricket

The eagerly awaited BUCS Women's Indoor Cricket Championships took place on a cold January morning at the world famous Lords Cricket Ground. After a fantastic performance in Southampton, the girls were excited about taking on the tough competition brought to London by Exeter, Bristol, Southampton, Birmingham, Loughborough, Leeds Met and Durham.

On the day, the team consisted of Priya Patel (Captain), Celeste Van den Bosch, Mithila Patkunan (wicket-keeper), Natalie Jones, Mitali Mishra, Romi Korotana and Natasha Coral. After a tense warm up and some nerve-racking observations of the bowling talent being shown off in the next door nets, as well as the impressive and sometimes unnecessary size of some of the opposing teams, Imperial took on Bristol, who bowled aggressively and batted well. Sadly, Imperial lost. Our spirit, however, was not as we watched an exciting match between Birmingham and Loughborough and geared up to take on the formidable Leeds Met.

There had been some aggressive behaviour shown by Leeds Met towards Bristol, which they did not lessen against us. Their competitive game seemed to have worked though, as they

IC Cricket



The ladies in front of the pavillion end... Howzat!

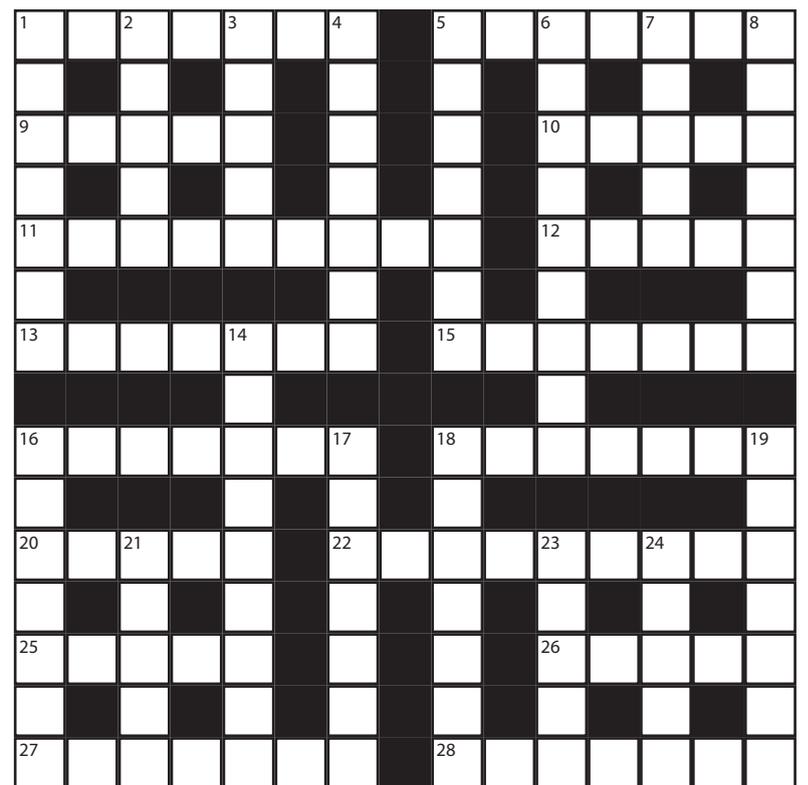
also won.

The last match of the day was against Durham, whose team consisted of England and county players. Imperial were not hopeful, but were given a better game by Durham who recognised that we weren't the strongest team there though we still managed to get a couple wickets against them – an amazing catch by Natasha, bowled by Priya, and a run-out by our quick thinking wicket-keeper, Mithila. Durham also won, and indeed went on to play Loughborough, their rivals, in

the final and subsequently lost. It must be pointed out, though, that Loughborough's team consisted of mainly England players. We were thankful we weren't up against them!

Thanks go to our supporters who turned up with foam fingers and noisy balloons and who took some great photos, seen on the Sport Imperial facebook page. We may have lost, but our team spirit was definitely the best and we are more determined than ever to go back next year and show everybody what we're made of!

Cryptic Crossword 1,511



Across

1. In sermons, terrible beast (7)
5. Non-permanent worker queens frames of mind (7)
9. South Easterners drink fluid (5)
10. For locating objects in tundra darkness (5)
11. East African citizen hit English piano curiously (9)
12. Enlist two points and turn without fifty (5)
13. Beautiful German and one American in tirade (7)
15. Dear Sir mutilated the attackers (7)
16. Stir wet stormy tornado (7)
18. Grind, ie. grain, an African state (7)
20. One gram toilet house (5)
22. Butchered 17 without rivers precedes track back specialist (9)
25. Greek letter publication in reverse, endless publication (5)
26. Lift up and destroy completely, we're told (5)
27. Apparatus to produce energy about thespian (7)
28. Breathe about steeple (7)

Down

1. Church service in front of incomplete European muscle manipulator (7)
2. Prickly thorn gives direction (5)
3. Speed within totem pole (5)
4. Cloud of anger in cluttered mistake (3,4)
5. Rough terrain shoe (7)
6. Killing eccentrically erring mud (9)
7. Ancient tree (5)
8. Unused Knight, we hear, add! (7)
14. Spaceman is roast blasted before zero, we hear (9)
16. Pooh's bouncy friend gets royal catch (7)
17. Cock list holding ball (7)
18. Crazier hard fruit layer (7)
19. Cross the late sportsman (7)
21. Cook 1000 meal making a mathematical statement (5)
23. Man-eating giants king goes awkwardly (5)
24. Genial ibis contains crime cover story (5)

Fencing: Women's 2nds see off King's

Helen Pennington
Fencing

Women's 2nd	135
King's College 1st	62

On Wednesday, the Women's 2nd Fencing Team faced King's for the 8th BUCS league match of the season. The team needed a win to defend their current ranking of 3rd place in the league, and to boost team morale as the two

previous matches had both been losses. The situation initially looked dire, as one fencer was clearly ill, and two people were injured from the week before.

The foil team, composed of Jenifer Mizen (Jenny), Sarah Chakera, and anchored by Stephanie Martinez (Steph), dominated the piste, taking the lead in the first match and holding onto it to win 45-35. After foil, the team fenced sabre, during which Helen Pennington, Slavina Georgieva and Jing Quek won

by an even greater margin, with a final score of 45-13. This meant that the epee team, composed of Helen, Slavi and Rebecca Razey (Becky), needed only four points for a draw and therefore a technical victory, or five points to win completely. Helen, Slavi and Becky fought valiantly, trying to keep the opposing team with a total score of less than 60 points. The epeeists almost, but not quite, met this target. They won 45-14, producing a final score of 135-62 to Imperial.

FELIX SPORT

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IC Taekwondo

Kicking up a storm

IC Taekwondo in medal haul at the WTF London International open

Sammy Trinh reports



Imperial College TaeKwonDo (ICUTKD) has returned to its World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) roots this year, and recently entered its first WTF competition in a long time. On Sunday 5th February, Brentford Leisure Centre was host to the Taekwondo London International Open 2012, with competitors from all over the world – notably a team of specialists, which included an Olympic athlete from

Korea (the home of the exciting sport.) ICUTKD put forward a team of six fighters for the intermediate level sparring category, and came back strong with a six medal haul.

At the start of the competition, everyone was welcomed with a demonstration given by the Korean team from Yong In University, one of the top three institutes dedicated to studying martial arts in Korea. Throughout the rest of the day we were

able to observe a number of other competitors including European champions and the aforementioned Korean gaining insight into their fighting techniques and experience. With most of the team having started this year, and being from a wide range of martial arts backgrounds and abilities, the London Open served as a good starting point to their competitive careers, giving them a great opportunity to put their skills to the test in a competitive environment.

All the hard work and training paid off, with everyone winning medals. Inspired by his chat with the olympian, Bhavesh Patel was the first to start and went on to claim bronze. His team-mates were equally successful, with Mayghal Vijapura also winning bronze, James Ko and Kaki Liu winning silver medals, and Roy Lambert winning gold. The most experienced member of the team, Chris Dancel, also brought back a gold medal and finished

his final match in style with a technical knockout that ended the match in a matter of seconds.

We look forward to our next major competition, this time with other university clubs at the British Student Taekwondo Federation (BSTF) national championships next month. Check out our website, www.icutkd.co.uk to see more pictures and videos. We train weekly, on Mondays, 6-9pm in the Union Gym.

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