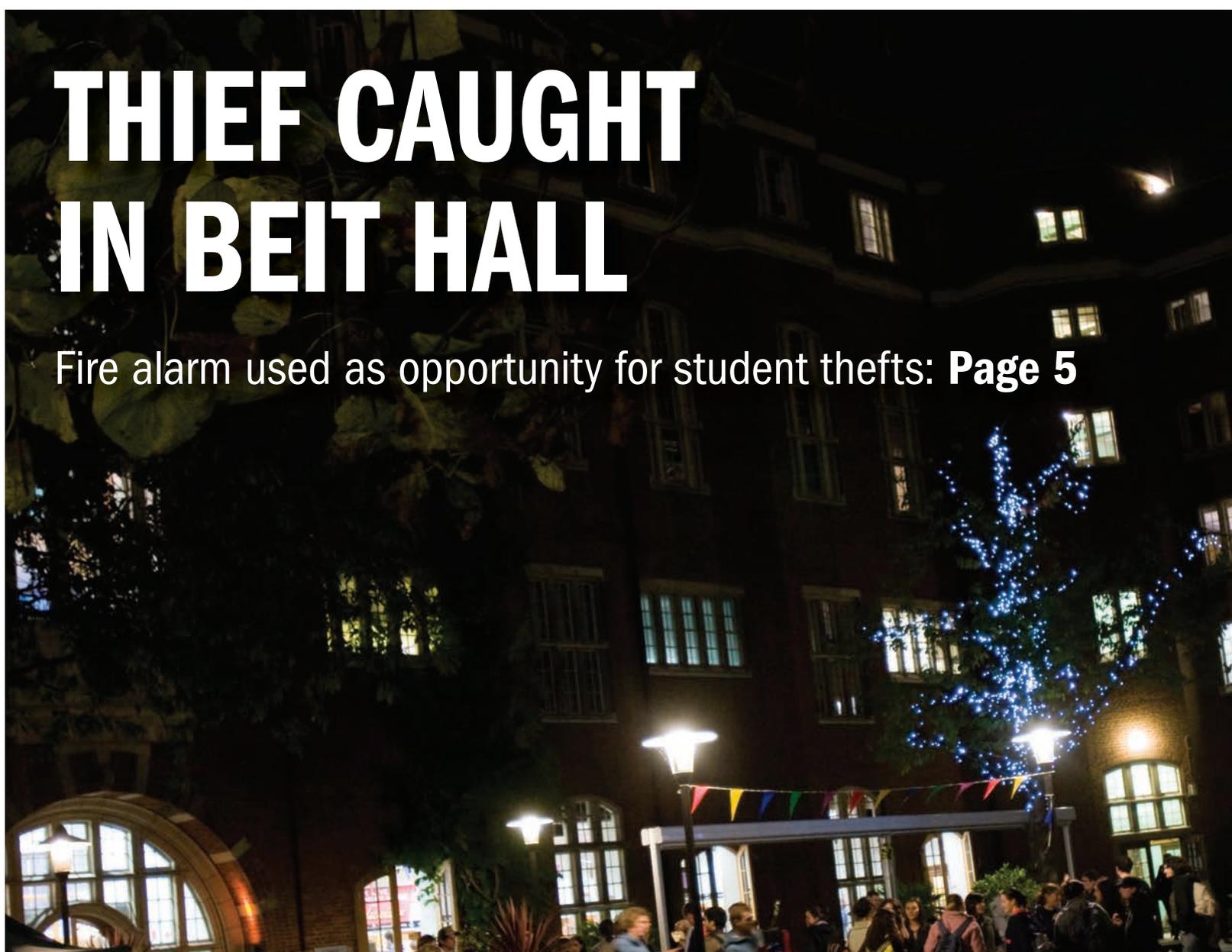


UNION ELECTION MANIFESTOS PULLOUT

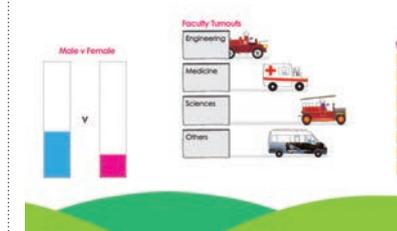
Make up your mind on where to place your vote this year using our eight page guide inside!

THIEF CAUGHT IN BEIT HALL

Fire alarm used as opportunity for student thefts: **Page 5**



TECHNOLOGY



The secrets of the Election website
Page 10

ARTS



Some like it dramatic with ICSM
Page 18

TELEVISION



It's time to fire up the Quattro!
Page 27

£10 million awarded to College Healthcare

Sophia David

Imperial College Healthcare has been awarded over £10m from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to develop new treatments. The Trust successfully bid for the funding to support its newly refurbished Wellcome Trust McMichael Clinical Research Facility at Hammersmith Hospital.

Healthcare trusts from around the

country submitted bids for the award which were judged based on the quality and volume of medical research they support, and the strength of their partnerships with universities and industry. The award will fund research nurses and technician posts as well as support studies into treatments for conditions including cancer, diabetes, stroke and obesity.

Martin Wilkins, director of clinical

investigative sciences at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and head of experimental medicine, said, “This is a very prestigious award and is a testament to the excellent clinical research already happening in Imperial College Healthcare Trust.

“This funding, and the strong partnership between Imperial College London and our Trust, will ensure that we are well placed to translate the latest

research discoveries into clinical practice to benefit our patients.”

Set up in 2001, the McMichael Clinical Research Facility has recently reopened on the ground floor of the Imperial Centre for Translation and Experimental Medicine at Hammersmith Hospital. It specialises in the design and implementation of early phase clinical trials including first-time-in-human trials.

HIGHLIGHTS

What's on

ICU Cinema Spring All-Nighter

Tuesday 20th March 2012

It's that time of the term again... It's time for the epic film-fest that is the ICU Cinema Spring All-Nighter.

Six films.
6pm to 7:30am.
Tuesday 20th March 2012.

18:00 Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol
20:45 Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows
23:30 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
02:30 Puss in Boots
04:30 Moneyball
06:00 Attack the Block

Tickets for the whole night are £10 online (available until 4pm on the night) or £12 on the door.

Buy online at
<http://tickets.icucinema.co.uk/>

If you can't make the whole night, tickets for individual films will be available on the door for £3 a film.

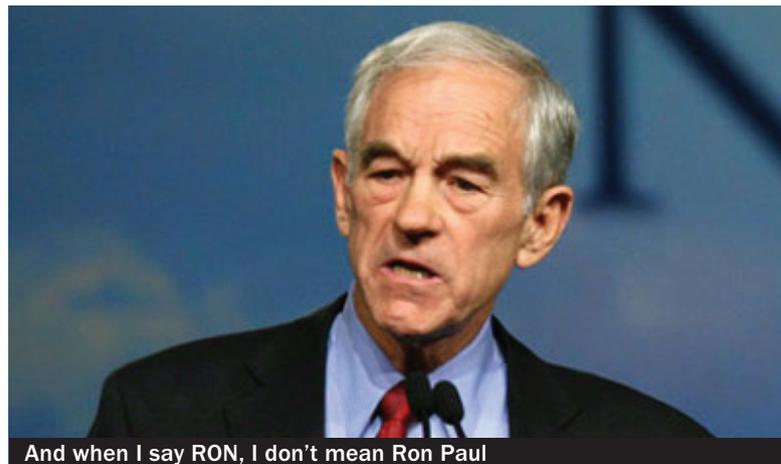
As usual, there will be a range of bottled beers, ciders and soft drinks, sweets, popcorn, crisps, and chocolate on sale throughout the night. All-you-can-eat hot food and hot drinks will also be available for just £5 per person. This includes hot dogs, a range of toasties, pot noodles, soups, tea, coffee and more.

Find out more about the lineup on our web site:
<http://www.icucinema.co.uk/>



MANIFESTO PULLOUT

Promises are made, will they be kept?



It's time to sit down and take a look at this year's Union Election manifestos. Don't forget that you can take the conversation to Twitter using the hashtag #voteicu

Editor

Imperial College
London

Is your moral compass
set right?

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CLASSIFIEDS

Friendly girl from Imperial looking for female students to share a 3 double bedroom flat at Esher Gardens, Southfield (District line Wimbledon direction).

Large living room, recently furnished, family bathroom and separate toilet, balcony, communal gardens, double glazing, close to town centre, 18 mins walk from Southfield tube station, 24hr bus between Wimbledon and Putney Bridge (2mins walk). Internet connections available and all bills are included with the exception of telephone.

Rooms are £110 per week and £130 per week per person. No pets and no smoking.

Contact **07715452186**.

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Room is £635 a month including gas, electricity, phone, water and internet. Has double bed, fitted wardrobe with chest of draws and bookshelf. Fully equipped kitchen and two bathrooms (bathroom will be shared with one other person). Flat has no living room but we are quite chilled out and hang around in the kitchen or one of the rooms.

We are both busy Imperial MSc students. Looking for a female flatmate of any age to come join us.

Viewing by appointment on Wednesday afternoon or weekend. If interested in looking around, email **imd08@ic.ac.uk** or call **07715452186**.

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

Contact **felix@imperial.ac.uk** to place your classifieds!

Lolcat of teh week



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NEWS

Imperial College London

56 teams, 28 matches
10 sports, 1 winner



VARSITY 2012

WHO'S GAME?

Imperial College vs Imperial Medicals - Wednesday 21 March

Registration for free student match tickets has been extended for 1 week only! Register online by 14 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




Election campaigning begins

Matthew Colvin

Campaigning for this year's Union Elections began in earnest on Monday, with candidates for the available positions given the opportunity to show students across Imperial their credentials.

Wednesday saw the second-ever 'Meet the Candidates' live televised hustings take place, broadcast by Imperial's student television network STOIC from the West Basement in Beit Quad. The 80 minute broadcast saw candidates, running for the sabbatical positions, faculty union presidential positions and four student trustee positions, take to the screen to deliver their manifesto points and respond to questions sent in by email or over Twitter. Whereas last year's broadcast was not made available following the event, this year's is now available to watch from the Union's election website. In addition, the live stream found no significant delays and met its projected start time of 6pm, in stark com-

Not sure who to vote for?

Watch again...



'Meet the Candidates' is now available online

parison to last year's hour delay.

The format marks a notable difference in the hosting of hustings, following previous years of holding the event in the Union Building.

Regarding available roles, one posi-

tion that is notably absent of a running candidate is 'Graduate Students' Association President', who represents Imperial's postgraduate student body.

Voting opens on Monday 12 March at one minute past midnight.

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts

Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers

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

Men's cuts £22

Women's shampoo and cut and shake dry £28

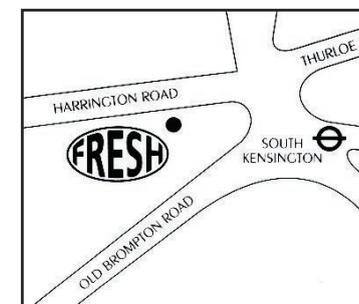
Women's shampoo, cut and blow-dry £38

All of our cuts are done by highly experienced stylists.

Tuesday to Fridays 9.30 to 4.30 (sorry no discounts on Saturdays).

We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station

To book an appointment, call **0207 823 8968**. Ask for a student discount and bring your Imperial ID.



THE SUMMER BALL 2012

The Summer Ball YOU Asked For

Saturday 23 June 19:00 - 02:00

Transformed South Kensington Campus
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Live Bands and DJs

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Summer Ball Ticket

£30

Rising to £35 4 May

Formal Dinner

Afterparty Ticket
02:00 - 06:00

+£40 +£6

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imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball

Bike Auction

12 March 2012/12:00pm



Dr Bike there from 12:30-14:30

14 March Police Marking 12:00-16:00



your SABBATICALS

Nicolas Massie
Deputy President (Welfare)
dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors: **Sophia David**
Alex Nowbar

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS

Tri-Union Boat Party

"I'M ON A BOAT"

Wednesday 14th March
Boarding 6:45pm
Festival Pier

£8 Buy online
www.rcsu.org.uk/tickets The After-Party
Free entry to Opal



Break-in at Beit Hall

Fire alarm in halls leads to stolen cash and jewellery

Alexander Karapetian
Aemun Reza

Student residence Beit Hall was disrupted on Wednesday 29 February following a series of thefts that took place during a fire alarm. Following the alarm, which began at 1am and lasted for 45 minutes, students who left their doors open during the commotion returned to find items such as cash, jewellery and personal items missing. Concerns were soon raised as to whether the fire alarm was set off with the express intent of creating the opportunity to raid students' rooms.

Due to room doors in Beit requiring keys to be locked, many affected students were already used to leaving their doors open, which resulted

in them being more vulnerable in a situation such as this. It is assumed that the thief travelled from room to room, checking for unlocked doors. The thief was later caught by security.

"I didn't think twice about locking my door [...] it was shocking"

A student, speaking to Felix anonymously, said: "it was 1am and I was so tired that I didn't think twice about locking my door," adding, "I

got back to find my cash had gone, it was shocking". Felix contacted Neil McIntyre, warden at Beit Hall, who said that the "thefts are being investigated by the police".

Halls in Prince's Gardens such as Eastside and Southside and their constituent sub-halls have mechanisms to automatically lock doors when students leave their rooms. This, although resulting in an increased amount of people being locked out, helps to protect their assets. Most other halls require physical keys to open and lock doors.

After the thief was caught, the stolen items were retrieved and students were urged to declare if they had any items missing to the wardening team. The team aims to successfully return all the items to the students.

Sponsored Advertisement

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Voting open: March 12, 00:01 - March 16, 23:59



Features Editors: **Katy Bettany**
Stephen Smith

features.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FEATURES

Student protests: one year on

Luke Sheldon asks where the student movement is now, twelve months after it began

On the student march last term, as 10,000 people protesting against the government's Higher Education white paper trundled through a path laid out by 4,000 riot police, a chant rose up: "Lets go back to Millbank, Na-Na-Na-Na, Hey!" But what is the student movement now?

Is it merely nostalgia for a sudden, short fight back against the fee increases in 2010; or, with the imminent NUS week of action, has it developed into a sustained campaign to prevent privatisation and increased competition in our already heavily socially divided university system?

Here, I discuss how the student movement has gone from Millbank to the first NUS-supported action since (happening next week).

"I sat in planning meetings with devout Tories"

On 10 November 2010 the NUS organised a 50,000 strong march that filled the streets of London. In the normal treatment of marches this was being given mild media coverage and almost no political attention until 2,000 students pushed past police lines into the Conservatives' Millbank HQ. The lobby was destroyed, parties started and a sudden dynamic changed in the debate. A movement that had received reasonable cross-party support within the student population – I sat in planning meetings with devout Tories – now seemed to have split.

On one side remained those who believed change would happen by marching serenely from A to B, writing letters to MPs and calling on the NUS to lobby on their behalf. The other half demonstrated over the following two months how they believed the current political avenues were defunct, and how direct action was the solution – from occupying tens of university buildings (in one case for nine months!) to attempting to storm parliament on the day of the vote.

This spectrum of action has always existed but the autumn of 2010 was unique in a generation for the sheer quantity that abandoned the establishment line. As the Newsnight reporter Paul Mason observed, overnight Liberal Democrat supporters had morphed into black-bloc anarchists.

In both political views and actions

the main dissenting voice shifted to a more radical ideology. A number of student unions, who were originally against the fees, ended up removing their opposition in an attempt to work with the government.

Meanwhile those left on the streets became radicalised by the lack of concession from the state, and the severe police oppression that accompanied the protests. As the protests progressed the students were joined by school children and anti-cuts protesters (not all mutually exclusive). The scenes became more violent ending with the near death of Alfie Meadows from a police assault.

The more radical groups of the student movement organised in occupations and formed bodies such as the Education Activist Network and the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts. These students called for the NUS president of the time, Aaron Porter, to resign due to his lack of support for, and even condemnation of, the occupations and protests after Millbank.

Since this split there has been little interaction between these two groups. However, due to the treatment of Porter the new NUS president, Liam Burns, used a more pro-activist stance during his campaign. Up until now this had lead to very little, with Michael Chessum (head of the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts) remarking how poorly the student demo in the Autumn of 2011 was supported by NUS.

The march was organised by few

Josh Towers



No ifs, no buts...

people with little money, leading to complications that caused many student unions to pull their support and not pay for coaches.

Even though £9,000 fees will be imposed in autumn this year, the action against the government's plans are picking up again - after a year of quiescence. The NUS are calling a week

of action from 12–16 March where they want students walking out of campuses and lecture theatres across the country.

With higher fees seeming almost inevitable the NUS have changed tack and are focussing on government plans has to overhaul the university system.

The coalition's plans involve the rapid privatisation of universities, with not just the go ahead given to low-end private providers, but also the encouragement for current universities to privatise. This poses the issue of not just a reduction in the quality of education as fees are siphoned off to pay board members, but also asset stripping – where valuable parts of the university, such as buildings and land, are sold to line the pockets of those same lucky board members.

The plans also allow the market failure of universities, which could cause great disruption to learning and the possibility that hidden costs (for lab equipment, fieldtrips, materials) will creep in on top of the fees.

Imperial, however, is unlikely to take part in the week of action. Not only does it have no obligation (with it not being a member of the NUS or ULU) but the president, Scott Heath, states that, "it is the same week as the union elections and we will be helping the students take part in the democracy here instead...also we won't be encouraging a walk out as students come

here for an education."

This is not surprising, as not only did Imperial have no involvement in the first wave of student protest but also the changes will probably have little effect on Imperial, with them more likely to harm the universities attended by the poorest students.

Although, once again, the plans are moving away from the NUS and the student unions with student activists and more radical student unions calling for a ULU feeder march on the 14th of March ending in parliament square. With thousands already confirmed, there are calls on the NUS to support it, but there appears to be silence on their part.

The student movement was beginning to appear aligned as the week of action against the privatisation of universities approached; but cracks along old faults are starting to open again and the ideological divides seem unlikely to heal. While the opposition to the rest of the government plans, of which the fee increase was merely a start, begins to build, it seems the students will not fight back united.

The NUS seem set on toeing the line with the political class and do not want a repeat of Millbank. But after a year of anti-cuts and anti-capitalist action, there are large sections of the student community who have disaffected completely from party politics and seem unlikely to return.

Ahmed Peerbux



David Cameron looking suspiciously like Bashar al-Assad



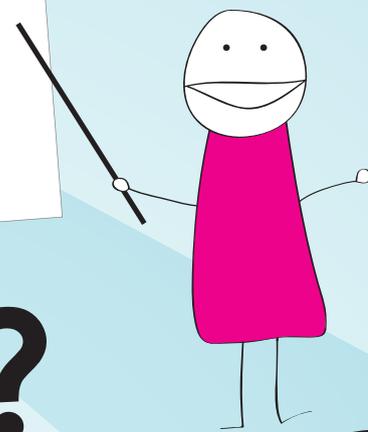
Voting Opens Monday!

It's nearly time to vote...

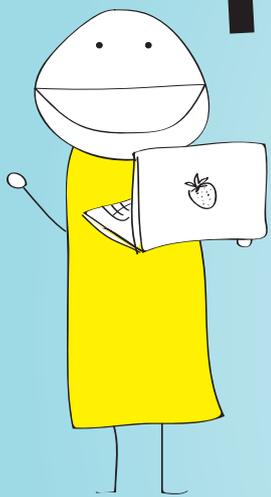
Check out all of the candidates' manifestos online at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections. You can also re-watch our Meet the Candidates show.

March

Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thu 15	Fri 16
Voting opens 00:01				Voting closes 23:59



How do I vote?



It's quick and easy!

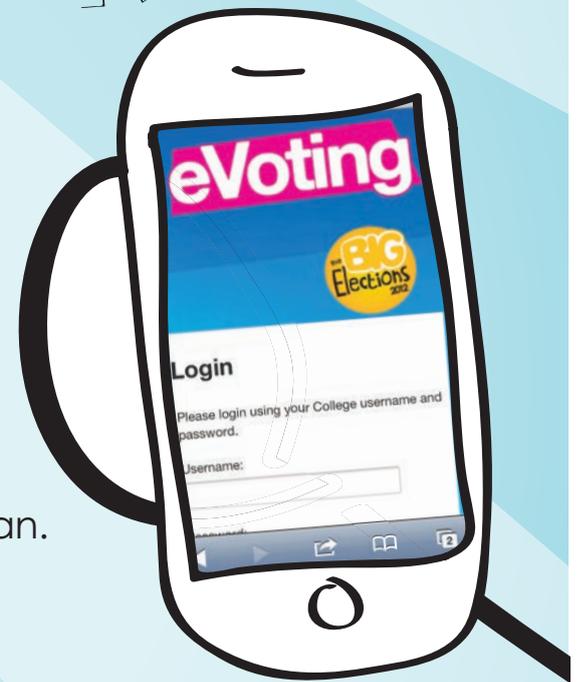
You can vote online from any computer. Head to imperialcollegeunion.org/elections. Here you will find information on all the positions and candidates and a nice big red VOTE! button.

Or use your mobile phone.

Not near a computer? Fancy voting right now? Good plan. Point your phone's browser to the handy URL

bit.ly/voteicu

This will take you straight to the voting page. No messing around. Or scan the QR code here with your mobile.



In brief

Lift off for Japanese houses

by Alexander Karapetian



Not actual levitation method

A Japanese company has devised an unusual solution to help defend homes against earthquakes – involving levitation. While other disaster-resistant homes provide solutions such as using elastic iron to be able to move with an earthquake, this method devised by Air Danshin Systems lifts the house above the ground.

Air Danshin claim that the technique it is not only effective, but a third cheaper than many other earthquake-proofing systems and requires little maintenance. A set of powerful compressors is installed around the home and, when an earthquake hits, a vast amount of compressed air is released underneath the home, lifting the structure. The response time is within one second, and structures can levitate up to 3cm using this method.

When the house is lifted, indoor valves control the flow of air under the house, keeping the structure stable. Following the earthquake's end, the house is then lowered onto a reinforced concrete foundation for extra stability. The system is currently being implemented across Japan, and is live in 88 sites thus far. The company was established in 2005 to sell this technology, originally invented by Youichi Sakamoto.

The news comes as Japan nears its first year since the Fukushima disaster, where a series of failures at the nuclear power plant following an earthquake and tsunami caused devastation. The company hopes to expand the system in larger and more critical structures, though issues involving gas, electricity and water lines still need ironing out.

To better promote the technology, the company has created some videos in-house demonstrating model homes floating as well as the mechanisms being used on live people. By showcasing such safe and possible measures of dealing with an earthquake, the company potentially paves the way to a future of floating houses and power plants, with the onslaught of earthquakes leaving the homes of thousands and critical systems intact.

Stuck like superglue

Annina Sartor

Scientists at the University of Oxford have developed a pair of protein fragments dubbed 'SpyTag' and 'SpyCatcher' that form an incredibly strong bond. Within minutes of being brought into contact the protein fragments form a covalent bond so strong that when put under pressure, the protein breaks away from the apparatus before the bond breaks. It is effectively a biomolecular superglue – except, due to its good specificity, without the possibility of accidentally sticking to the edge of the test tube or other unwanted molecules.

The discovery was inspired by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, which causes infections ranging in severity from sore throats to toxic shock syndrome. The bacterium uses the FbaB protein to bind to human cells before invading. The particular strength of this link is caused by the protein's shape. Rather than simply being made of a chain of covalently bonded amino acids held together by comparatively weak forces, FbaB forms amino acid loops which are subsequently held together by an additional covalent bond. The team of scientists reasoned

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Inspiring: *Streptococcus pyogenes*

that, if they were able to successfully engineer the protein in such a way as to allow the creation of two separate fragments which would form this covalent bond again once brought together, the same mechanism could be used to attach other molecules to each other.

The bond is not only very selective, forming between SpyCatcher and SpyTag rather than any other molecule in the cell environment, but it also forms in a large range of conditions. The team successfully repeated the experiment

not only at 37°C and neutral pH, mimicking a mammalian cell, but also at 4°C in high concentrations of detergent and under acidic conditions. This was true not only in vitro but also when tested inside *Escherichia coli* bacteria.

This development is a leap forward towards the goal of being able to combine different proteins at will and with ease. Unlike previously discovered non-covalent equivalents, which can be broken by sufficient shear forces within milliseconds, the SpyCatcher:SpyTag complex cannot be broken by molecular motors. Other existing approaches binding biomolecules using covalent bonds are similarly strong but slow, associated with poor yields, or in need of reaction conditions hostile to common life forms.

Unfortunately, unlike other mechanisms, SpyTag is not traceless. Also, the rate of bond formation between SpyTag and SpyCatcher is too slow to be effective inside living cells; diffusion is likely to occur before bonding. With further research and optimization, however, we may soon see the dream of biological Lego come true.

DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1115485109

Stem cells help stop biological clock

Sarah Byrne

Most women will at some point in their lives encounter the ticking biological clock: the realisation that their fertile years are limited, and if they wish to start a family, they cannot wait much longer. This is because we have only the supply of oocytes or egg cells we are born with, and when they're gone, they're gone. At least that is the conventional view of how the female reproductive system works. But research published recently in *Nature Medicine* suggests that there may be more going on than we had previously realised.

Several years ago a team of researchers, led by Jonathan Tilly at Harvard Medical School, studied the dynamics of ovarian follicles (which produce oocytes) in mice, by measuring the rate at which they mature and are released or simply die. They found that something did not add up. Given the measured rate of degeneration, there should have been few or no healthy follicles left by the time the mice reached adulthood. However this is not the case; like most animals mice retain reproductive potential throughout their adult lives. Further studies of the biochemical activity in the ovarian cells suggested an intriguing possibility. Was it possible, the researchers asked, that the follicles were actually being renewed, and producing new oocytes throughout the mouse's life, by rare and previously unknown stem cells in the ovary?

This was a controversial suggestion which initially met with some scepticism; however, some years later such cells (oogonial stem cells, or OSCs) were indeed isolated from mouse ovary tissue, and shown to spontaneously generate new oocytes both in vitro and

when injected into the ovaries of mice whose fertility had been destroyed by chemotherapy. The same mice went on to produce viable offspring. Similar results were achieved in restoring the fertility of elderly mice.

The potential implications were clear: could there be a similar mechanism in humans, and would this allow us to develop new fertility treatments for women? Common causes of infertility include damage to the ovaries from chemotherapy or disease, or premature menopause, when there are relatively few follicles leading to the supply of oocytes running out at a relatively early age. If the stem cells could effectively cure or reverse these conditions in mice, then why not in humans?

That was the question the recent research set out to answer. Applying similar techniques to tissue from human ovaries, they were able to isolate what appeared to be the human equivalent of mouse OSCs. The human experiments did not go as far as the mouse ones, however. Ovarian tissue from healthy young women is rarely available for research and in limited supply. In this case the donors were transgendered and undergoing sex reassignment surgery, and had agreed for their ovaries to be used in this way



Time might not be running out, after all

– clearly an unusual set of circumstances. Additionally there are serious ethical issues around fertilising human oocytes and creating embryos for research purposes. What the researchers were able to do, however, was to transplant human ovarian tissue containing human OSCs into mice. These were shown to produce immature but healthy follicles, containing tiny new human oocytes.

The researchers advise caution however. There is much work to be done and many questions to be answered before there is any possibility of OSCs becoming a tested and proven fertility treatment for humans. However the results are promising, and with infertility a major and growing problem in the developed world particularly, any hope for women and couples facing this difficult situation will surely be welcomed.

DOI: 10.1038/nm.2669

Want to write for Felix
Science?
Send us an email.
science.felix@ic.ac.uk

SCIENCE

Less sea ice, more mercury

Carys Cook

Declining sea ice in the Arctic Ocean may be indirectly causing mercury fall-out in the lower atmosphere, a NASA-led study suggests. The study reveals that the increasing replacement of multi-year ice by saltier seasonal ice is driving the increased release of salt ions such as bromine into the atmosphere, which then interacts with various atmospheric components such as pollutants and ozone.

The team of researchers from the UK, USA, Canada and Germany combined data from NASA, European Space Agency and Canadian Space Agency satellites with field observations and an atmospheric model in order to observe bromine release and establish the atmospheric height at which the process occurs.

Bromine occurs as dissolved ions in seawater, and becomes incorporated into sea ice upon freezing. Upon interaction with solar radiation at the boundary layer between the atmosphere and sea-ice surface, salt ions (such as bromine) are oxidised into reactive species and released into the troposphere. Cascades of chemical reactions then occur, termed the 'bromine explosion', to produce bromine monoxide which goes on to react with mercury and other toxic

pollutants. The mercury and bromine complex is subsequently deposited on land and in ocean waters.

Younger seasonal sea ice, that forms and melts annually, has a higher salt content than older perennial ice, suggesting the disappearance of old ice will cause an increase in bromine explosions. Perennial sea ice has declined in surface area by half on average since 2000, and replaced by saltier seasonal sea ice, suggesting that global warming may cause more bromine explosions in the future.

Son Nghiem, a NASA scientist based at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California and leader of the study commented: "Shrinking summer sea ice has drawn much attention of exploiting Arctic resources and improving maritime trading routes, but the change in sea ice composition also has impact on the environments. Changing conditions in the Arctic might increase bromine explosions in the future."

The study found that mountain ranges bordering Alaska and Canada act as physical boundaries to the occurrence of bromine in the lower atmosphere, revealing that the chemical reactions associated with the bromine explosion in the Arctic Ocean are contained in the lower 2km of Earth's troposphere.



This guy is on a mission to find the lost Arctic sea ice

Bottoms up in zero-G

Emma Houghton-Brown

Drinking in space can be a messy affair. In the absence of gravity liquid floats requiring all drinks to be sucked up from a pouch using a straw – a particularly odd sensation when having your hot coffee in the morning. But now, thanks to NASA astronaut Dr. Don Pettit, sipping from an open top cup is possible, even in the zero gravity.

Dr. Pettit, a member of the International Space Station (ISS) crew, occupies his spare time in space by conducting fascinating experiments for school children via video and inventing useful gadgets. It was during the STS-126 mission to the ISS that he finally became fed up of feeling "like an insect" sucking up all his beverages and so, in 2008, he created the Zero-G Cup.

To make the cup Pettit folded over plastic sheet and sealed it with yellow "space-tape" to form a teardrop shaped vessel with an acute angle along one side. This shape creates a meniscus that, due to surface tension, keeps most of the liquid at the bottom. At the same time it allows a small stream to run up the side by a force called capillary action. Inspired by the fuel delivery method of rocket engines, Dr. Pettit knew that due to the acute angle of the cup's cross-section, liquid would be drawn up the side and rest next to the lip.

The Zero-G Cup not only allows hot drinks to be sipped from an open top – greatly satisfying for coffee lovers such as Pettit. But, as a video from the ISS shows, also allows the crew to make celebratory toasts!

In order to improve the crude initial design, Dr. Pettit teamed up with designer Travis Baldwin to come up with a more robust space cup, from which an espresso can be sipped in stylish comfort. The base is small to keep the coffee in place by surface tension, deep grooves allow the coffee to climb the sides and the small indentation at the top keeps liquid in place at the lip. Due to its popularity with the crew NASA has now adopted Pettit's cup as standard kit for the ISS and any other manned space flights it launches in the future.

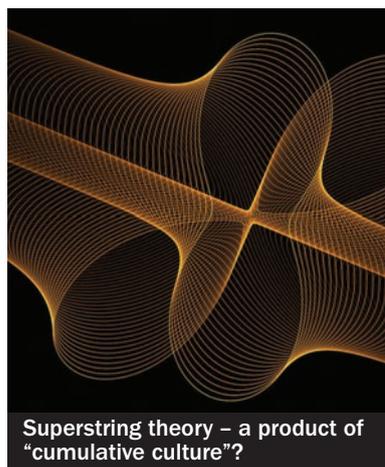
Dr. Pettit is currently on the ISS as a member of the Expedition 30 crew and is continuing his scientific demonstrations. NASA and the American Physical Society (APS) have teamed up to share his unique videos from the ISS with students, educators and science fans around the world. Using everyday objects from Earth, Dr. Pettit demonstrates physics in a series of videos called "Science off the Sphere", which includes a demonstration of the Zero-G Cup and can be found on the Physics Central website. And this time Dr. Pettit has even added a physics challenge for the viewers!

Cumulative culture makes us different

Sophia David

In the 21st century, our minds are brimming with concepts from iPhones to genetic testing to superstring theory, that could not have been entertained by our human counterparts centuries or millennia ago. This is because our species has a unique capability for "cumulative culture", a process through which knowledge accumulates over time and technology is advanced iteratively. On the other hand, we can reasonably assume that the ideas inside the minds of other animals today are not vastly different from those centuries ago. Therefore, a team of scientists from University of St Andrews are seeking to explain what is special about the human mind that allows us to gradually accumulate knowledge. A study reported this week in *Science* investigated the differences in the capacity for cumulative cultural learning among humans, our closest relatives, chimpanzees, and capuchin monkeys.

There are various hypotheses regarding the cognitive capabilities, or social conditions, that are required for cumulative culture. These include aspects of social cognition that are either exclusive to or substantially enhanced in hu-



Superstring theory – a product of "cumulative culture"?

mans. For example, imitation, teaching, language and helping others. Additionally, characteristics of other animals that may prevent cumulative culture include scrounging of resources, as well as the tendency of dominant individuals to monopolise resources, thereby preventing subordinate individuals from learning.

In order to examine the mechanisms behind social learning, the scientists used a puzzle-box with three stages of increasing difficulty to test three- or four-year old children, chimpanzees

and capuchins. Children, rather than adult humans, were used to help remove cultural effects since adults have been more exposed and influenced by society. The scientists hypothesised that children, but not chimpanzees or capuchins, would show evidence of cumulative learning, and also sought to discover the underlying explanations. They found that after 30 hours, only 1 out of 33 chimpanzees had reached stage 3 of the puzzle and similarly, after 53 hours, no capuchins had reached stage 3. By contrast, after just two and a half hours, a significant number of children had reached the most difficult stage.

To determine the underlying mechanisms, the authors firstly reasoned that if a factor, such as teaching, causes cumulative culture then a species that teaches (humans) should perform better on the task than a species that does not (chimpanzees and capuchins). Secondly, they hypothesised that when teaching occurs in a particular species, it should be positively correlated with task performance. Using this reasoning, and testing a number of hypotheses, the scientists found that teaching, communication, imitation and helping others, largely only present in humans, likely contribute to the ability of humans to

accumulate knowledge.

The authors state, "The puzzle-box experiment reveals clear and characteristic differences in cumulative cultural learning and patterns of social interaction among children, chimpanzees, and capuchin monkeys. The children responded to the apparatus as a social exercise, manipulating the box together, matching the actions of others, facilitating learning in others through verbal instruction and gesture. In contrast, the chimpanzees and capuchins appeared to interact with the apparatus purely as a means to procure resources for themselves, in an entirely self-serving manner, largely independent of the performance of others, and exhibiting restricted learning that appeared primarily asocial in character."

This study provides valuable new insights into the phenomenon of cumulative culture, a powerful capability which largely explains the remarkable success of the human species in colonising almost every terrestrial habitat on the planet and becoming globally dominant. The research also paves the way for understanding when precisely these uniquely human socio-cognitive capacities evolved.

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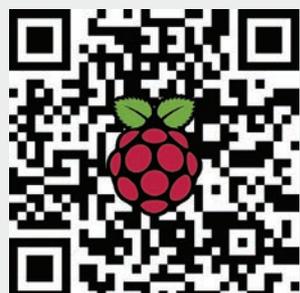
TECHNOLOGY

Tips & Hacks

Apple announce... “the new iPad”

While we were all busy watching the Union Elections Hustings, it turns out Apple was simultaneously revealing “the new iPad”. That’s right – at the time of going to print there is no mention of the official name of Apple’s new tablet. Both iPad 3 and iPad HD have been touted, but the speakers consistently referred to the latest device as “the/this new iPad”. Strange, but on to the actual thing itself. Some of the rumours did come true, with the new iPad sporting a retina display weighing in at 2048 x 1536 (that’s 3.1 million pixels), and a better camera that now allows you to record in full HD. Other specifications include a quad-core A5X chip, 4G compatibility (which is perhaps more exciting for our American cousins), and ten hours of battery life (nine if using 4G). Interestingly, the iPad 2 will remain on sale, but at \$100 cheaper – further out-ricing the tablet’s struggling competitors. In other news, Apple also announced the new Apple TV, supporting 1080p and featuring a slicker interface, but no word of an Apple smart TV.

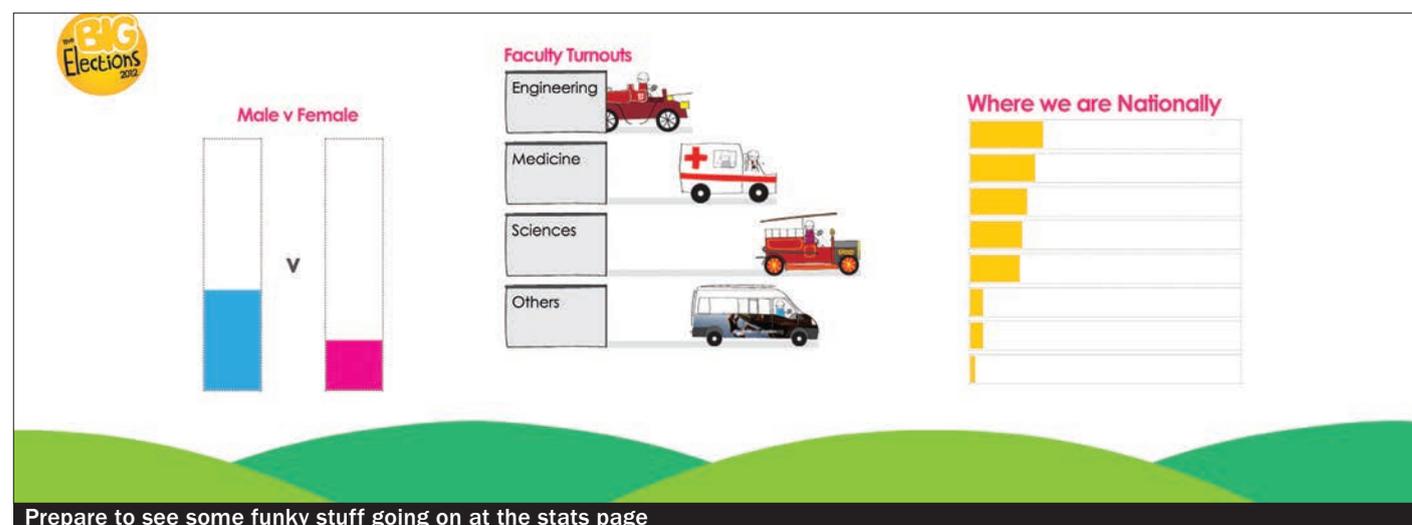
Bring on some Raspberry Pi



Eagerly awaited and extensively promoted, the Raspberry Pi debuted at the end of last week to a massive response that sent sales websites crashing. Priced at £22 and targeted at children learning to program, the Pi runs a Linux OS on an ARM chip. It provides users with the ability to plug in a monitor, keyboard and mouse and get going. Considerably cheaper than any competing device on the market, the Pi makes its savings by reducing aesthetic appeal in favour of bare bone features. Whether the Pi will actually get children programming is another question, however. Despite the widely reported low price, users will still need the aforementioned monitor, keyboard and mouse to get started; a decent monitor will probably cost many times more than the card itself. Even assuming the use of a family monitor, the device alone seems quite dull. The eventual success of the chip will depend upon developing programming software that makes development attractive to kids. Programs such as ‘Ruby for Kids’ (which is intended to go on the Pi) are exactly the sort of thing the Pi developers should look for; the trick in getting children using the device will not lie in the hardware, but in slick software that drags perception of computing away from Excel spreadsheets and towards the grand designs of *Skryim* or *Grand Theft Auto*.

The power behind the web

Jonathan Kim discusses the election site’s technologies



The web is changing. Sites such as Facebook and Twitter keep you hooked by constantly updating in real-time any activity that happens in your social network. This is incredibly powerful and last year the Union used this to create the incredibly successful real-time voting statistics page. Along with a lot of people, I was glued to the page during election week, transfixed by the moving bars and animated numbers that were constantly changing as students placed their votes. Technically however, it was a far from perfect system that caused the entire union server to grind to a halt. This year Paul Beaumont came to me with the suggestion that I have a go at improving it, and I would like to share some thoughts on how the technology behind the new system is shaping today’s world wide web.

Traditionally, websites have been a very simple affair. Servers, essentially large computers, sit in some dark damp basement waiting for someone to browse to the site that they host and, when this happy event occurs, present to the browser all the information that it needs to display the site. Once this is finished the relationship between the browser and the server ends until the browser navigates to another page. This system works very well and is all that static websites, such as Wikipedia, BBC News and Felix Online, need. However web developers wanted more. They wanted websites to be more dynamic. They wanted the website to update with new content without users having to continually click the refresh button. In short they didn’t want the relationship between browser and server to end once the site is displayed.

One solution is to use JavaScript. JavaScript is a scripting language that all modern browsers support and is almost universally used to provide a more interactive and dynamic experience for users. It can also be used to fetch information from the server through a group of technologies collectively called AJAX. This allowed developers to fake a real-time connection by making a browser regularly ask the server for new information and so keep the page up to date without refreshing. This is the system that the previous elections stats website used,

and although it works it has its problems. First of all it doesn’t change anything about how the server is operating since the JavaScript is simply doing what an overzealous user could be doing by refreshing the page manually all the time. Secondly it can result in lots of unnecessary requests as the data may not have changed since the last request. Finally, and more practically, once this is set up the developer has no control about when the user will request this data and so with a large enough active users, requests will come in all the time. This can be

“...it lets us forget about older browsers (I’m looking at you Internet Explorer)”

incredibly taxing for a server as it will need to deal with all these requests one at a time and it can amount to the same effect as a Denial of Service Attack which is usually employed by hackers wanting to overload a website so it can longer function (groups such as Anonymous use this type of attack to bring down large corporate websites). This can be further exacerbated if the information that is being requested is complex and takes time to generate, which was the case for the elections stats last year and the reason it brought the union server to its knees.

Obviously simply using AJAX is not a good solution in the long term and so we had to turn to new technologies to implement a true real-time connection between the browser and server. One such technology is called WebSocket. WebSockets allow a server and a browser to open up a persistent connection through which information can be sent by either party. This allows the server to push information to all browsers whenever there is a change as opposed to browsers constantly asking for new information. Through this method the server controls the rate at which users receive new information.

Now to be a bit more technical (if you’ve

got this far then you probably want to know how it was done). We are using some cutting edge technologies that make it even easier to implement real-time connections – specifically Node.js and Socket.io. Node.js is a new server side platform that runs JavaScript on the server using Google’s V8 runtime engine (it powers Chrome) and it is blazing fast! It is completely asynchronous, lightweight and currently the darling of the web development community. I could go into Node.js a lot more, but that will have to be a topic for another article. Socket.io is where the magic happens. As it states on its website “It’s care-free real-time 100% in JavaScript”. Since WebSockets aren’t supported by all browsers (I’m looking at you Internet Explorer) to enable real-time communication we need to fall back to older technologies. Socket.io does this all for us by supporting all browsers from IE 5.5 onwards, while giving a consistent development interface. Essentially it lets us forget about trying to support old browsers and just concentrate on writing cool applications. Together, Node.js and Socket.io, allow us to very quickly implement an interactive and real-time experience for the Union stats.

As a small test of how it all might work, a small box was added to the sidebar that shows how many candidates are standing and how many seconds there are. This is updated (using Node.js and Socket.io) every second and so far everything seems to be running smoothly! At all times the server, not the browser, is in control of how often the statistics are updated and this means that there is only one request at a time (from the server) as opposed to multiple requests from different browsers. In the unlikely event that the server is overloaded, I can dive in and change the frequency at which it updates to prevent a recurrence of last year’s crash.

WebSockets, and the advent of the real-time web, are a fundamental change in how the web works. Instead of sites being static and entirely dependant on user interaction to update, they can now just sit there and new information is fed directly to them. It makes things like online chat trivial and sites such as Facebook and Twitter even more addictive. I’m sure you will see what I mean when the stats page launches!

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POLITICS

Dulce et Decorum est

Basel Chamali argues that there is no peaceful solution in Syria

As the “Arab Spring” unfolded, many Syrians looked on with envy, hoping for a chance to ride the waves of change. Yet, after a few failed attempts – the first being on February 5 2011 – many had lost hope. However, no one had envisioned the regime itself providing the spark for the revolution.

Syria’s regime has long been known for its ruthlessness and brutality, and its people for their calm and peaceful nature. However, the Assad regime crossed a line on February 27, which destroyed the fear barrier in many Syrians. Twenty primary school children had been arrested and tortured for writing anti-government graffiti on the school building. When an attempt to free their children resulted in the humiliation of the parents by the mayor, protests erupted in the city with the chant “death rather than humiliation” echoing loud in the protests. The regime tried to use brute force to bring back order, but all that did was cause anger among Syrians and start countrywide protests.

For the past year the Syrian revolution has defied all the odds. Many had predicted its demise very early on, but it seemed that the more force the regime used, the more determined the people became. Every attack by the regime led to more areas joining the revolution. Every death led to a funeral-turned-protest.

The regime intensified its operations to crackdown on the freedom movement. Deraa, the suburbs of Damascus, Idlib, Hama and the coastal cities all faced heavy military operations. The regime closed off these cities, causing shortages in water, food, electricity, and fuel, and systematically detained and tortured the citizens, in an attempt to force the people into submission. But all that was nothing compared to what Homs went through. The city was systematically bombed using artillery shells and multiple missile launchers; the water, electricity, food, fuel, and communications were totally cut off and the army drove people out of their homes to use them as sniper dens.

Hospitals became slaughter houses – injured protesters faced torture and even death in hospitals, which led to the formation of field hospitals – makeshift clinics where doctors treated patients with rudimentary equipment. It became a crime to carry medication, blood bags or medical equipment – an attempt by the regime to eradicate any kind of opposition it faced. However, this was far from successful. Jacques



Homs' latest celebrities: Though low in numbers, armed rebels are high in popularity

Beres, one of the founders of MSF, visited one of the field hospitals in Homs and was surprised at the amount of work done with the few tools available to the doctors.

The regime tried to adopt certain reforms to reduce the intensity of the protest movement and reduce pressure on it. However many people saw these reforms as too little too late, most never meeting the demands of the people. The new constitution would have been very well received if it had been brought in at the beginning of the revolution. However, the regime began by accusing the protesters of being conspirers, American operatives, Mossad operatives or al-Qaeda extremists, among many others. It attacked the protests and incarcerated many activists as it looked to quell the rebellion.

When that failed, the regime tried declaring an amnesty but firstly many of those detained during the revolution were excluded. Anyway, by the time the amnesty came protesters had changed their demands from asking for freedom to asking for the fall of the regime.

Finally, the regime tried to pass off the new constitution as a very worthwhile and forward reform. To be honest I wasted my time reading the full constitution. It began by lining out all the rights of the citizens and the

“The only salvation is by force. The regime knows it has no way out.”

responsibilities of the government towards its citizens. Anyone reading it would have assumed they were reading a constitution of a country that fully respected human rights, not one that at the same moment was carrying out mass atrocities across the country. That aside, there were many other small laws that caused people to have many objections to the constitution. Examples of these include: giving the president two seven year periods in office that don’t include any previous time in office, meaning that Bashar will be in office until 2028, knowing how the election process will be. Secondly, it gave parliamentarians immunity from law as well as giving them the right to offer people an amnesty from any previously committed crimes. Many thought that this will just lead to the same situation as we have now, where people can do whatever they like without fearing any repercussions. However, the biggest and most fundamental flaw was the fact that on the day of the referendum,

Homs, Hama and Idlib were heavily attacked and their citizens did not vote. Regardless of the outcome, the flaws of the constitution and the time it came at made many Syrians reject it out right.

Another possible way out was suggested by Tunisia: give Bashar Al-Assad immunity and allow him to seek refuge in Tunisia and so stop the bloodshed in Syria. This plan has many flaws. Firstly, the regime is not only Bashar; taking him out of the equation will bring his brother or some other family member in to fill his place and the situation won’t change. This family regime has been in place since 1970, a change to the figurehead will do little to change the way it is run. The only way to effectively change the current situation will be to completely uproot the regime. That aside, many Syrians, myself included, would not accept this suggestion to end the conflict. It is an insult to the thousands who lost their lives and others who were affected by the brutality of the regime. I don’t think many Syrians can bring themselves to tell these people, especially the orphans who lost their parents, that their sacrifices were in vain as we have decided to let the culprit go free.

Finally, militarisation, although controversial, is something that many Syrians agree on. The revolution began as

a peaceful movement to gain freedom from an autocratic, dictatorial and oppressive regime. However, people can only take so much, and after months of vicious and inhumane attacks on civilians and after seeing whole families slaughtered for opposing the regime, people began losing hope in a peaceful resolution and decided to take the armed route. It began with army defectors creating brigades to defend the civilians against the attacks from the regime. Now it has spread to normal civilians. These freedom fighters are funded by donations from Syrians and other friends outside Syria and buy weaponry one or two rifles at a time, which then have to be smuggled into Syria through the border. However, despite all these restrictions and limitations, they have become a formidable force in many cities that the regime’s forces fear. Take Homs as an example. It is well controlled by the rebels- the army forces bombard the city from a distance but can hardly make their way into the city without fearing an attack that will eliminate more than half of the group.

Personally, I feel that the only salvation is by force. The regime knows that it has no way out and is fighting to the last man, so it would be delusional of us to think that at some point they will rethink their strategy. They will continue to kill and their methods and manner will only intensify. The freedom fighters are growing in numbers and strength by the day; they were able to hold off the regime’s attack on Baba Amr for around a month, protect the journalists in Homs, and even smuggle them out to safety, which is much more than can be said for their respective governments. These fighters have no fear – talking to them fills me with hope as I see their determination and strength. Whenever an alternative solution is suggested their response is to refuse. Their goal is to eradicate the regime that for years has done nothing but kill, torture and abuse Syrians.

Regardless of what route the revolution takes or how long it lasts, one thing is for certain: Syrians have decided on their goal. This regime will lose this battle; it’s but a matter of time. The question remains however: how many Syrians are willing to still stand by it as it kills their fellow brothers?

Got something to say?
Send your articles to
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

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Whose line is it anyway?

Everyone knows success in business is all about the chat (cough, cough). Below are five faces from the business world along with quotes from them. But, using a complex algorithm we've jumbled them up. Can you work out the source of each of these pearls of business wisdom?

1. Well, you know, I was a human being before I became a businessman.



2. Reputation is more important than the last hundred million dollars.



3. Beware of geeks bearing formulas.



4. If you can't make it good, at least make it look good.



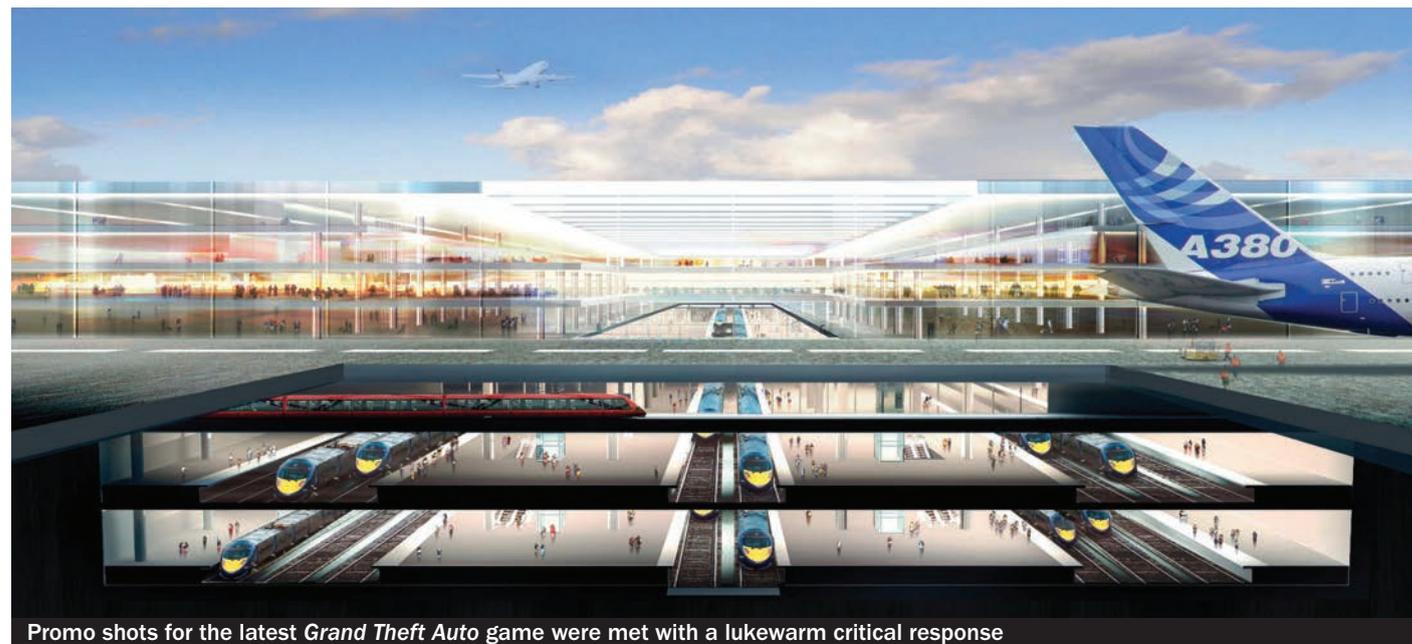
5. You're fired!



1. George Soros; 2. Rupert Murdoch; 3. Warren Buffett; 4. Bill Gates; 5. Alan Sugar.

More Airports for the UK?

Is the sky the limit, or will it never take off? Plane crazy or runway success?



Promo shots for the latest *Grand Theft Auto* game were met with a lukewarm critical response

George Howard

Ever since its conception, the future expansion of Heathrow airport has been the topic of discussion of many a government. Generations of our 'representatives' have used the topic to their political gain, including the current coalition, who opposed the famous 3rd runway to help them garner support in the leafy west London suburb of Richmond Park. Now worry not, this is not an article about government policy; you've had enough of those from me for a while. Instead, I'd like to take a moment to outline what is possibly the most exciting, and vital project for kick-starting the UK's failing economy: the Thames Hub.

Proposals for an airport in the Thames estuary have existed since the 1940s, but none have caught the public attention as much as the current offering from Foster & Partners. This is the same firm that brought you Hong Kong and Beijing Airports, Wembley Stadium and London City Hall, amongst many other projects. Widely publicized by Boris Johnson, Lord Foster's latest airport in the Thames estuary would be a complete overhaul of transport in the South East, updating vital rail and road links, and other important infrastructure including a much needed update of the aging Thames barrier, and new hydroelectric power facility. The main argument behind the case for a Thames Estuary airport lies in the need to maintain London's status as a hub airport. This is an airport where there are a large number of passengers passing through each year on flight transfers. This enables the airport to serve a wider network of destinations and to sustain a high frequency of services due to the demand for flights. These transferring passengers allow more direct flights to more destinations to be economically viable from London, thus giving access to cheaper and more frequent services for UK-based businesses and residents.

Currently, Heathrow handles just under 70 million passengers per year, more than any other European airport, squeezed into its per-

mitted 480,000 landing and takeoff slots. Back in the 1990s, Heathrow offered more destinations than any other European airport, yet recently has been faced with increased competition from hubs in Europe, including Frankfurt and Amsterdam. These two have 53% and 45% of capacity as transferring passengers, compared to Heathrow's 35%. This, along with the availability of more runways, has allowed them to offer increasingly more destinations and services. Meanwhile, Heathrow has slipped to fifth in term of destinations offered, and will continue to slide if nothing is done.

"Heathrow handles just under 70 million passengers per year"

What this means is that the already struggling British economy is set to lose out on a great deal of new trade and investment, especially from emerging markets such as Brazil and China. Studies show that we stand to lose between £8.6 and £12.8bn of investment as a result of the limitations posed by Heathrow's lack of capacity. New connecting routes are urgently needed to tap into the vast potential of these new markets and Heathrow, even with a new 3rd runway, is not placed to do this.

Projects of this nature are never cheap, and Boris Island is no exception. Coming in at £50bn in total, the airport itself holds a price tag of £20bn and the associated infrastructure a lofty £30bn. However, to put this in perspective, a new terminal and runway at Heathrow would cost at least £9bn. Furthermore, the plans for the Thames Hub include sourcing much of the funding from private investors, thus relieving the burden on the Treasury coffers. Put simply, although an expensive option, it is by no means fiscally unachievable, even in the current economic climate.

The main opposition to this plan, as with any airport expansion, is found amongst the ranks of the environmentalists. The chosen location is apparently the home of some birds, which run the risk of falling out with their man-made flying cousins should the plans go ahead. However, are we seriously advocating that the welfare of a few birds should stand in the way of the continued recovery of the British economy? Also, I understand that Heathrow's current neighbors find it rather grim living in its flight path. It seems simply ludicrous that we as a society should put the lives of a few birds in ahead of the living standards of our citizens.

Unfortunately, we live in an increasingly bureaucratic state, where projects of this nature move from committee to committee without various governmental bodies at a glacial pace. Take the recently opened Heathrow Terminal 5: it took 20 years to progress from its design conception to its eventual opening, and it wasn't even a particularly ambitious plan. In contrast, Beijing airport's Terminal 3 took just over four years to be ready.

The rapid expansion currently taking place in China is fueling continued growth and Beijing Airport, as the second busiest in the world, has already been deemed by the central government as at capacity. Work has already started on what will be the world's biggest airport, with a capacity of 130 million, and a breathtaking 9 runways. And furthermore, they plan to accomplish this all in time for a 2017 opening.

Now it would unrealistic to expect as rapid progress as occurs in China. Their efficiency is one positive that comes out of building in a one-party state. However, it is about time the British government took some decisive action. To quote Boris Johnson "there is no doubt that to do nothing would lead to economic stagnation" thus leaving London unable to compete on an international level. London needs to maintain its airport hub status, and this is becoming increasingly difficult by the day as the rest of the world surges ahead.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Imperial College Hackathon launched

Applications abound as students take to their screens, writes Sangjin Lee

Imperial College has one of the best Computing and Electrical Engineering Departments in the World, producing the most disciplined and talented software developers and programmers consistently. These programmers often benefit from high salaries and fabulous perquisites from their employers. Imperial College prides itself on this monumental achievement. However, students often observe the lack of ambition for entrepreneurship and technological innovation among Computing Undergraduates – please correct me if I am wrong.

To this rather depressing phenomenon, I have attributed many reasons. There is no incentive for undergraduates to become innovative or entrepreneurial, and the bureaucracy that exists in Imperial College stops any such movement. The administrators are unwilling to help and they themselves do not have any incentives to help either. This has been exemplified by possibly high catering prices on weekends that clubs and societies cannot pay for and many difficulties in booking venues (it would have been very convenient for the participants of Imperial College Hackathon to have stayed in the venue after 11pm to continue coding rather than being dismissed by a security guard). In addition, there is no major software or investment banks led challenges or competitions in Imperial. In Imperial College, there is incredible number of talented students and they are just not given the chance to excel.

“Hackathon is essentially the culture that built Facebook, Google and Microsoft”

To circumvent this problem and accelerate entrepreneurship in Imperial College, Imperial Innovation launched Imperial Digital Accelerator on January 19th to “facilitate entrepreneurship in the digital space at Imperial College”. Imperial Digital Accelerator aims to provide funding, mentorship and legal and accounting advice. They are organizing seminars with serial and student entrepreneurs to provide real examples of how technological innovations and entrepreneurship proceeds as an undergraduate or as a postgraduate.

This, however, was largely a departmental effort and we still noticed lack of student effort in such technological innovation. The Imperial College Hackathon committee hence decided to organize the first ever Imperial College



Hackathon on 25th and 26th of February sponsored by JP Morgan, Facebook and Imperial Innovations. Hackathon is essentially the culture that built Facebook, Google and Microsoft, and Hackathon’s essence is summarized in its first five letters: HACKA. Each letter captures one element of the event: (H- Hidden Needs; A- Associational Thinking; C- Cracking code; K- Killer concept; A- Action Now).

On Saturday morning sixty software developers gathered in 060ABC Skempton Building. They were obviously very excited and the organizers could sense the excitement of participants whether it was induced by redbull or genuine enthusiasm. We also had engineers from both Facebook and JP Morgan, a technology associate and digital accelerator manager from Imperial Innovations to overlook the event. Simon Cross from Facebook explained why Hackathon was such a central part of Facebook and the achievements that it has made such as the development of Timeline and many other applications.

Fueled by presentation by Facebook and JP Morgan, software developers from various parts of Imperial College London and other universities gathered and started to develop applications based on the theme “Improving Imperial College.” With free pizza in one hand and the other hand on the keyboard, programmers in groups of six or seven developed their applications from morning to dawn. The developers

were excited about being able to have a role in changing the world and making a dent in Imperial College. After the intense coding, the participants returned again very early on the Sunday morning to continue on their project with intensity and vigor.

“Both participants and sponsors were surprised by the originality of ideas...”

Development of the application culminated with a pitch in front of judges from JP Morgan, Facebook, Imperial Innovations, and student entrepreneur and alumnus of Imperial College Milen Dzhumerov. Nine teams presented their work and each idea was not only fascinating but also intriguing in its application. Two teams developed applications under the names Imperial Foodie and IEAT to assist in the digitization for the purchase and payment of food using our swipe cards. If such a system were implemented, students would be able to purchase food much more easily and track their eating habits. This, however, wasn’t the most innovative of the ideas as Duke University and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) have already been at the forefront of digitizing

student activities with their swipe cards.

Before lectures start, we often have trouble printing off materials due to overloading of the system and inefficient system that the ITC team has built for our college. In addition, there has been increase in the use of tablets and laptops in the lecture theatre to assist our learning. The two teams that won the Imperial College Hackathon developed an application that allowed instantaneous uploading of relevant lectures on each day. This removes the need to print lectures every day and the need to download lecture notes from blackboard. The application automatically delivers the relevant lecture notes every day based on your course, date and location. Such an application enhances and accelerates the digitization of learning materials and eliminates the need to actually attend a lecture. The second team developed an application named HEATNOTE that allowed live visual presentation of materials that were not understood in the lecture. Such a system allows for the lecturer to identify which part he has to re-clarify and this system does not stop the flow of the lecturer at all. This winning team received five hundred pounds in cash and praise from developers. Other teams also developed fantastic websites and applications such as News4D and IMPEK that could be used immediately.

The first Imperial College Hackathon was not only successful, but also invigorating for organizers to watch. Both par-

ticipants and sponsors were surprised by the originality of ideas and how much they could actually do in a limited time of 24 hours. Now the participants have to move their ideas forward to make it commercial and implementable in a school environment. This would definitely need help from both the faculty members of all departments and administrators. Without their help all these fantastic ideas would be buried and would never rise again. If the administrators could only help to push such technological innovations in our school, Imperial College Undergraduates and Postgraduates would become more and more innovative and entrepreneurial, and that will tremendously benefit our school. This could possibly happen by arranging meetings between participants of Hackathon and ICT department, and having the Rector push our ideas.

After Imperial College Hackathon, Facebook and JP Morgan took all the contact details of the participants to possibly recruit all these talented participants to their firm. Imperial Digital Accelerator took in three teams to its program to provide mentorship and finance. JP Morgan and Facebook and other software companies are willing to sponsor this event next year. In fact JP Morgan wants to have their own Hackathon with Imperial College students after the success of our event. Next year, the event will be not only bigger, but better. You better join it or you will regret it.

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COMMENT

FELIX

Election fever strikes again at Imperial

It can only be election season. College is at the mercy of constant flyering, its walls plastered with the faces of candidates hoping to take on the various positions of responsibility that are available for those keen enough to seek them out. After a solid week of campaigning, opinions are invariably going to differ across college in a wide number of respects: is it just for the CV? Do candidates even know what they are running for? As ever, year on year, these questions will be asked of the candidates.

If anything, people can now be held to account with greater ease than ever before, and such questions as those previously listed will become less and less redundant as individuals are held to greater scrutiny. The advent of Twitter especially allows a constant barrage of questions for candidates who are willing to answer, public for all to see. It is the immediacy and urgency of hustings taken to the next step of its natural progression, and allows those interested to engage with candidates instantly.

Of course, saying that, it is a shame that this year's hustings (outside of the faculty unions') were not held in a public place, such as last year in FiveSixEight. Meeting your critics face to face affords the option to bring across more personality in your answers, and allows for an instant view into the thoughts of many of Imperial's voters. Merely sitting in a closed-off studio with one individual leading a smaller and more intimate interrogation does not bring across the same form of College-wide emphasis that these elections should really be aiming for, rather viewing the live broadcasted hustings back gives the impression of a very small and very contained event.

However, there is no denying that the audience that the live broadcast has the potential to command is far greater than that allowed by hustings. The cost of this with regards to a personal touch must be considered.

At the very least, I can take this opportunity to offer some insight for those candidates running for Felix Editor. Make sure you are prepared for a year unlike any other. Late nights, balancing communication with a vast amount of people across College and outside of it, and racing against an ever encroaching deadline that will just, never, ever go away. All that being said, it'll be a fantastic year. Best of luck with your campaigns.

Sri Lanka's Killing Fields



Visakan Balalumar

On Wednesday 14th March, Channel 4 will broadcast 'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields: War Crimes Unpunished' at 10.55 pm. The program is a sequel to the critically acclaimed and RTS-award winning documentary released last year, under a similar title, which shocked and horrified viewers worldwide. The documentary is set against a backdrop of brutal war crimes and human rights violations by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, once alleged, now confirmed by a report commissioned by the UN in 2011. The report concludes that 40,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the final few weeks of Sri Lanka's 27 year civil war and that "most civilian casualties in the final phases of the war were caused by government shelling". The panel who conducted the report, however, were barred by the government from entering Sri Lanka during the 10 month period over which they gathered evidence. Upon release of the report political figures around the world, including David Cameron, demanded an "independent, international investigation". However, these calls have been repeatedly ignored by the Sri Lankan government, who continue to maintain that the war was carried out with a zero-civilian casualty policy. The upcoming Channel 4 documentary, and its predecessor, show how urgently an independent investigation is really needed.

The documentary, a forensic investigation into the events of the final few weeks of Sri Lanka's civil war, was meticulously put together after hours of trawling through photographs, amateur footage and videos recorded on mobile

...new evidence suggests that some in the highest tiers of command were complicit in crimes against humanity



'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields: War Crimes Unpunished' will air on Wednesday 14th March, 10:55pm on Channel 4

phones. The video evidence, recorded by both victims and Sri Lankan Army soldiers, was described by Channel 4 as "some of the most horrific footage it has ever broadcast". Whilst the documentary examined the atrocities committed by both sides, particularly disturbing were the sexual assault of deceased Tamil Tiger rebels and the systematic execution of bound prisoners by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. The program also detailed the government's shelling of areas that it had previously declared "safe-zones", which raises the question of whether the military operation had indeed been an orchestrated act of genocide against Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. Sri Lanka's Killing Fields was screened at the UN in Geneva and New York and also shown to politicians in the House of Commons, the European Parliament and various members of the US Senate. Whilst the program triggered strong reactions around the world, condemning the actions of Sri Lanka's security forces, the perpetrators have yet to be brought to justice.

The upcoming sequel contains conclusive new evidence, which points to the involvement of officials at the very top levels of both the Sri Lankan army and government. 'War Crimes Unpunished' focuses on four main areas: the deliberate bombardment of civilians and even a hospital in the so called "No Fire Zone", the humanitarian blockade to starving and wounded civilians already trapped in dire conditions in the conflict zone, the slaughter of civilians escaping the conflict zone (despite the Sri Lankan Army saying it was mounting a "rescue mission") and summary executions of stripped and bound prisoners, including haunting video footage of a 12 year old

boy who has been executed. It also asks questions of those still ruling the country. Shocking new evidence suggests that some in the highest tiers of command were complicit in crimes against humanity, including the current President Mahinda Rajapakse, his brother, Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse, and two former army generals who have been made diplomats and gained immunity since the conclusion of the war.

With England's cricketers set to tour the island this month and Sri Lanka confirmed as the venue for the coming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 2013, this documentary is an opportunity for the international community to press for an independent, international investigation and a chance for some form of justice for Sri Lanka's Tamil community, who have been failed and forgotten by the world.

If you would like to take action please sign the e-petition, titled "Independent, international investigation into war crimes in Sri Lanka" on <http://petitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/14586>. (And remember to confirm your signature by clicking on the email generated in your inbox). For further information about the upcoming documentary please visit <http://www.channel4.com/info/press/programme-information/sri-lankas-killing-fields-war-crimes-unpunished> on the Channel 4 website. The original documentary is widely available either on Channel 4's website, or on Channel 4's YouTube channel. For further information about the campaign for an "independent, international investigation" please visit <http://iiccampaign.com/welcome/take-action>.

Got an opinion on this article? Then head over to felixonline.co.uk to get your voice heard.

COMMENT

Hangman's dark sense of humour



Steven Abnett

February 10th's edition of Felix managed, in two articles, to highlight the issue of sexism at Imperial College, in two very different ways. One was a straightforward, serious article on the issue of sexism, while the other was the (now infamous) satirical "Hangman Guide to Get Laid". Not surprisingly, perhaps, the reception enjoyed by these articles has been extremely different. But despite their differences, are the overall viewpoints of the articles really that dissimilar?

The viewpoint of the first article is pretty obvious: sexism exists at Imperial, and it's bad. It would be pretty hard to argue that sexism isn't bad, and I'm not going to. An example was given of a group of "lads" classifying women in a lecture by their looks. Such comments are certainly immature and crass, but are they indicative of a deeper prejudice? That's questionable. It's probably just an outlet for sexual frustration and a backlash against the large social power that women at Imperial have. While not wanting to make it sound like women, or people in general, are commodities, supply and demand arguments do apply to romantic/sexual opportunities as well, and I've heard groups of young women in female-dominated environments making similar comments in the past.

Regarding the Hangman article, I wish to ask a simple question: what is the purpose of humour? The obvious answer is

that it exists to make us laugh. But is that all there is to it? I don't think so. It also exists to challenge and provoke thought on taboos, the establishment and our entrenched notions of society. Often, there is a strong sense of irony, and I would note that an episode of *The Simpsons* featured a police officer telling road-rage offenders to "Fire a weapon at your TV set, pick a fight with someone weaker than you, or write a threatening letter to a celebrity". This is obviously ironic satire, just like the Hangman article, but I wonder if those objecting to Hangman also want to see *The Simpsons* banned. Given its popularity, I doubt it.

In the case of black humour, humour acts as an emotional release: it serves as a coping mechanism to dampen negative emotions to a horrible situation by trying to see a bright side, however absurd. This is probably why people who deal with these issues every day (soldiers, police, undertakers, doctors etc.) are widely regarded as having a dark sense of humour. If anything, by dampening negative emotions, black humour actually makes it easier to talk about issues such as rape, and I've often found that people with such a sense of humour are more likely to be willing to discuss such issues seriously rather than burying their heads in the sand and pretending that everything is okay with the world.

Given the purpose of satire and black humour, I would therefore argue that no topic should be off-limits, as long as

it is handled correctly. So what about the controversial Hangman article? The criticism that it has received seems to be based on the article's perceived trivialisation and encouragement of rape and the objectification of women. Was that really its intention? The article described rohypnol as "anything but nice" and took a generally abusive tone to the would-be rapists that it was supposedly instructing, suggesting quite the opposite.

Indeed, the only part of the article that even comes close to promoting the use of rohypnol is its description as "the perfect mixer ... for some girl who is probably just using you for free drinks", and this is such a warped and absurd description that I struggle to see how anyone with half a brain could believe that it is meant to encourage such behaviour, particularly given the content of the rest of the article. Quite rightly, the article portrays the attacker as a "waste of oxygen" and the victim as just that – a victim, while highlighting and laughing at the absurdity of any justification that a rapist might try to use.

If anything, the Hangman article has succeeded in its satirical purpose by making people think about the issue and reminding us that yes, unfortunately there are people in existence who think that rape is trivial or acceptable, and that these people are among the worst in society. However, I don't think that the writer(s) of the article is/are among them. Overall, the two articles are both against



So it's not Hammertime, then?

sexism and objectification, one expressing this via argument and one via satirical black humour, so the different reception they received is largely unjustified.

Disclaimer: Just to make it clear that there are no vested interests at work here, I have no involvement with the Hangman section, and this is the first piece I've ever written for Felix. Therefore, please send all your Hangman hate-mail to the usual address.

...the Hangman article has succeeded in its satirical purpose by making people think about the issue

A revision of dietary laws



Veli Akiner

One of the overarching themes displayed by the main religions of the world is a set of dietary restrictions. An example is Islam, and its recommendation/order that you abstain from alcohol and swine. Many of these dietary restrictions were possibly in response to practical issues in the society in which the religion was born into. It's reasonable to propose that avoiding pork and alcohol was a very good idea at the time of the birth of Islam because of the hazards of either in an arid climate: pigs rot quickly in the heat and harbour salmonella while alcohol is a diuretic.

In the modern world, where water and refrigeration are plentiful, the rationale behind these rules of thumb has been lost and you find many people following such dietary laws just for the hell of it. The same goes for Judaism, which is even crazier about what you can and can't eat. As a fan of several of these forbidden goods

but not one to annoy God, I would like to propose an alternative formalism of how these restrictions should be observed.

Seeing as every religion I know of is simply someone's interpretation of God's words, I've taken it upon myself to develop my own interpretation of these dietary laws. Intuitively, one would consider the "sin" of eating something haram or non-kosher to be additive: eating a ham sandwich with a beer is worse than just having a beer on its own. So beer is a -1 against your name and the sandwich is a -1, giving you a total of -2 against your case for making it into Heaven. Instead, I propose that in any given instance these are instead multiplicative, so in this lunch we would have the negatives cancel out and you'd instead get a positive answer, negating the sin ("the sin's in the sign"). As any usurping theory, this explains all the observations that the old one does (i.e. that consuming pork or beer sends you to Hell), but provides ex-

tra insight that can be proven or debunked (pork AND beer is okay). All I need to do now is to test this, by seeing if I will go to Heaven if I consume both of these in tandem, or if God will laugh me away from the Pearly Gates.

Not only are the food items themselves subject to restrictions, but their method of preparation and time they are consumed are also factored in to the religious equation. It is forbidden to eat an animal that has not been slaughtered in the proper manner mandated by the Quran: the blood is drained to minimise suffering and a prayer said for the life of the animal that is being deliciously taken. It's also forbidden to eat or drink anything in the day during Ramadan, when one is supposed to empathise with those who have no choice but to starve. The general rule of my theory is that any even number of nutritionally based sins in tandem cancels out any net sin. While it is debatable whether eating a sandwich and drinking beer afterwards is simultaneous, doing either

on its own during Ramadan surely is. As with quantum mechanics, the results that the mathematics predict can be counter-intuitive: it seems to be perfectly halal to eat pork during Ramadan, but only during the day. If the sun's set, you better go for chicken.

Of course, this theory only works if the terms "pork" and "halal" are properly defined, which is where I hit a snag. Consider, if you will, a hypothetical pig/cow hybrid. Or a cow crossed with this hybrid, to make an animal only 25% pig. At what point is the pig DNA no longer enough to make the animal porcine? Even more speculative is the halal status of an animal slaughtered improperly, only to be re-slaughtered in a halal fashion. Of course, neither of these scenarios are currently achievable, and so my refined "rule of thumb" will hold for now. I will leave it to the faithful of the future to further revise it when these dilemmas become practical issues, i.e. when the laws no longer suit the circumstances.

Comment Editors: **Tim Arbabzadah**
Sam Horti

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

Keep the Cat free!



Stephen Smith

Who but Felix can constantly question Imperial's authority and actions?

In last week's Felix, I had intended to publish an article which exposed what I believe are serious problems with Imperial's Careers Advisory Service. It detailed how the service has been susceptible to privatisation, it explained why so much of our career advice is just advertising for the financial sector and it criticised the College for allowing such an important service to become biased towards wealthy corporations.

Before the article could be printed, however, a member of College staff emailed the Felix editor asking him not to publish it. She said that it contained accusations "which could be considered defamatory" in its "serious claims about a College service and its staff". The email implicitly threatened Felix with legal action if it printed the article. Understandably, it was not published.

This raises very serious questions about the independence of Felix, and its ability to report on mistakes, lies and corruption within the College. After all, what is a student newspaper for, if not to print stories like the one in question? Are we simply meant to paraphrase press releases from the College and the Union? Are we nothing more than a long-winded advertisement for those with power?

Freedom of the press, if it means any-

thing at all, means the ability to publicly criticise authority. It means the ability for a writer to publish inconvenient truths without fear of reprisal, and the ability for him/her to criticise anyone without the looming threat of legal action.

Whenever I print an article or blog post critical of a person or institution, I am asked why I did not raise the issue with them privately beforehand. It is, they say, easier to solve problems without making them public. This may be true, but I do not write about these issues simply because I want them to be solved. I write also because I want to expose the behaviour of those in power, and I want students to be aware of the true motives of the people they are supposed to trust. If all issues were solved privately, then students would be made ignorant of events about which I believe they have a right to know.

Imperial is a company like any other, and therefore seems to put its financial wellbeing ahead of the welfare of its students. Consider, for instance, the issue of coursework feedback. Students had been complaining for years about the quality of the feedback, but it was not until Imperial's dramatic drop in the most recent University league tables that the College actually did anything about the problem.

So it is with any such issue. Formally

complaining, no matter how forcefully, will not work. We must shout angrily in any way possible about how terrible the issue is. We must publish articles, write blogs, inform national newspapers. We must attempt to give the College "brand" a bad reputation, and thereby make ignoring our complaints financially unwise. And if this means resorting to defamation then so be it.

The importance of student journalism in this uphill struggle should not be underestimated. It is by far the best method we have for rallying support behind a cause and, evidently, for troubling the establishment. But when student journalism is silenced, Universities can get away with anything. Who but Felix can constantly question Imperial's authority and actions?

Imperial College is a University of science and, as such, ought to be a place where criticism is accepted, and never silenced. If the College disagreed with my article - even if they thought it was factually incorrect - they could easily have written a response to be printed the following week. That is how debate works in newspapers and magazines. It does not work by banning controversial writing.

Student newspapers, in particular, have traditionally been the voice of opposition at Universities, but it appears that our

University would be happier if we printed only those articles to which they had given their approval. What kind of newspaper behaves in such a way? How would we react if *The Guardian* only printed articles which had received the government's consent?

In the words of George Orwell, "Everything in our age conspires to turn the writer, and every other kind of artist as well, into a minor official, working on themes handed down from above and never telling what seems to him the whole of the truth."

This small battle has been lost, but we will not be swayed by Imperial's apparent attempt to silence criticism. From now on, we will seek out College scandals with renewed vigour, and we won't forget what the role of the journalist really is: to speak the truth to power.

A fully referenced version of this article is available at rustylight.blogspot.com

[The views expressed in this piece and section are those of the author alone. The article in question was not published due to factual inconsistencies. In order to clarify any misunderstanding, Felix will investigate claims made regarding the Careers Advisory Service in the near future - Ed.]

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imperialcollegeunion.org/metric

ARTS

The Poet's Column

Code{poems} is a project calling on programmers to summon their creative energies and write poems entirely in code. The brainchild of Ishac Bertran, submissions in most coding languages are accepted, so long as the poem is less than 0.5KB and, naturally, compiles.

For more information, check out <http://www.codepoems.com/>

Here's one poem in code:

```
<?php
$land = new
Land(Land::TYPE_ANCIENT);
$traveller = $land-
>newTraveller();
var_dump($traveller->observe());
class Land {
private $type;
const TYPE_ANCIENT = 1;
function __construct($a) {
$this->type = $a;
}
function newTraveller() {
return new Traveller();
}
}
class Traveller {
function observe() {
$data = array(
'see' => array(
array(
'item' => 'Two legs of stone',
'descr' => 'Vast and trunkless',
'location' => 'Desert'
),
array(
'item' => 'A shattered visage',
'descr' => 'Has a wrinkled lip
and sneer of cold command, shows
sculpturer: well those passions
read which yet survive, stamped
on these lifeless things, the
hand that mocked them, and the
heart of fed.',
'location' => 'By status'
),
array(
'item' => 'Words',
'descr' => 'Says: My name is
Ozymandias, King of Kings: Look
on my works, ye mighty, and
despair!',
'location' => 'On pedestal'
),
array(
'item' => NULL,
'descr' => 'The lone and level
sands stretch far away',
'location' => 'Round the decay of
that colossal wreck, boundless
and bare'
)
);
return $data;
}
}
```

And a few haikus that aren't:

The Web site you seek
Cannot be located, but
Countless more exist.

Windows NT crashed.
I am the Blue Screen of Death.
No one hears your screams.

Hot? Or Imperial Hot?

ICSM Drama set the stage alight with a little cross-dressing and a lot of fun

Christopher Witham

In the year 2000, the American Film Institute named *Some Like It Hot* the greatest American comedy film of all time. At the time of its release, it won three Golden Globes and an Academy Award. It is surely a huge undertaking, then, to successfully bring a story with such pedigree to the stage. This is the challenge that ICSM Drama have set themselves this term, and from what I've seen, they have indeed been phenomenally successful.

“The energy shown by the cast never lets up... all performers deserve commendation”

For those who have seen neither the film nor stage adaptation, *Some Like It Hot* begins in 1929, where two musicians in a speakeasy witness the Saint Valentine's Day massacre. Struggling to make money by finding work elsewhere, they disguise themselves as women in order to be part of an all female musical act and along with the rest of the group they make their way to Florida. On the journey and at the destination much hilarity, of course, ensues.

It is very easy with the type of humour presented in the play to become complacent of

the attention needed in all aspects of its performance, but there appear to be no signs of this in the production. Staging is handled incredibly well and credit here must go to the directors, Tom Philips and Katherine Kennet. Scenes of long dialogue are kept interesting and the pace never slows. Even violent scenes, which in many productions of this kind can appear childish, are handled extremely convincingly. Jonathan Buckley and Mike James' portrayals of Jerry and Joe respectively must also be mentioned. Cross-dressing and putting on a silly voice is difficult at the best of times, but not only is this managed rather naturally, both actors give fantastically amusing performances.

However, what really struck me with this play was the entire ensemble's absolute attention to detail throughout. Not a single lapse in characterisation could be seen throughout the whole performance, and the effort put in here gives the element of believability needed in counterweight the plot's absurdity. The energy shown by the cast never lets up and for this all performers deserve commendation.

Many more words of praise could be written about this play, but all comments boil down to one simple thing: the play is incredibly entertaining. Nothing has been lost in the transformation of this classic film onto the stage, and ICSM Drama are on to a definite winner.

Some Like It Hot runs from Wednesday 14 – Saturday 17 March in the **Union Concert Hall**



Birmingham's attempt to match London Fashion Week fell a little short of the mark

Can't pay, won't pay, must see

Laurence Pope

Once more I managed to wangle my way into watching **DramSoc's** second spring term production, *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!*, Nobel laureate Dario Fo's 1974 farcical comedy, involving pseudo-pregnant women, confused husbands and a suspiciously similar-looking string of police inspectors and undertakers. I was promised a barrelful of laughs, and I certainly didn't leave empty handed.

CP?WP! revolves around two frustrated housewives, Antonia and Margherita (Sophie Hernando Kofman & Sinéad Ward), inciting chaos in their local supermarket and making off with a stack of goods. Life is far from simple, and very quickly their husbands (played by Tommy Partl & Tom Cunningham) grow suspicious. Cue a bizarre revolutionary policeman (Hasan Al-Farhan) and you have a recipe for chaos (and hilarity!) as the two women do all they can to evade both arrest and the ire of their hubbies.

“More than once the cast ended up giggling during exaggerated scenes”

It sounds very weird at first – you might fear that a play about women stuffing bags of fruit and veg down their coats would struggle to remain fresh and funny throughout. Thankfully this was not the case as the energetic cast kept the script from falling flat and ensured the physical humour and over-the-top scenes were delivered with aplomb.

It's clear that the actors involved have been enjoying themselves during rehearsals. An advantage of watching full performance rehearsals is that you get to see the little blips that occur when there's not a large judging audience present. More than once the cast ended up giggling during particularly exaggerated scenes, and it was great to see them still enjoying their roles, even after weeks of practicing. The failure of Hasan's fake moustache to stay on his face didn't help matters much, though its repeated picking up and sticking back on only added positively to the farce.

Even with its low budget and small production team *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* doesn't fail to impress. If you're suffering from Monday blues, this is the perfect remedy. But please, for the sake of **DramSoc's** finances, don't start holding up the front of house and begin stuffing tickets down your shirt.

Can't Pay? Won't Pay! shows from 11 – 13 March at **Metric**. Tickets on the door: £3 for students, £5 non-students.

¿No Pablo Inglés?

Tate Britain examines the relationship between modern British art and Picasso

Silvia Davey

I remember being mesmerised when seeing Picasso's 'Guernica' for the first time in Madrid; the same happened to the millions of Brits who were able to see the imposing painting when it was first exhibited in England. It must be said that it did take them the odd 30 years to actually start appreciating Picasso's art.

I found it hard to understand how this could have been the case when I walked into the first room of the exhibition. It contained a variety of Picasso's stunning paintings and prints, those that were first exhibited in London between 1910 and 1914, and at the time widely rejected and negatively criticised. Particularly breathtaking is his etching 'The Frugal Meal', which was the first of his works to enter a public British collection. The exhibition then continues with an impressive number of Picasso's works, which reached England during different periods of the 20th century.

Although laid out chronologically, the collection displays such a variety of styles that as I left, slightly overwhelmed; I could not help but agree with Geoffrey Grigson's description of Picasso as "Belonging to all movements, yet outside them all". Ranging from expressionism, cross hatching and *papiers colle* (collages), neo-classicism, cubism

"(Picasso)... an ever developing, experimental modernist"

with its typical elements (the guitar, jugs and lemons) to purely abstract art with bonelike forms, it is impossible to classify Picasso as anything other than an ever developing, experimental modernist.

Without a doubt, what I most appreciated from the exhibition was the opportunity to see so many of Picasso's

works collected in the same space, which I was able to fully appreciate with the help of the detailed descriptions and explanations provided for every painting. Amongst the highlights are a hypnotizing 'Head of a Woman', the intense 'Nude, Green Leaves and Bust' (in which one of Picasso's numerous lovers is represented) the 'Nude Woman in Red Armchair' (used to publicize the exhibit) and finally 'The Three Dancers' which retains all of its glory for the final room. Sadly, the 'Guernica' was left in Madrid but a couple of stunning preparatory sketches and studies for it are displayed.

As promised by the second part of the exhibition's name, you are not going to be visiting a purely chronological display of those of Picasso's pictures that were particularly admired or hated by the British; you will also explore how his art inspired and influenced seven great British modern artists. Although interesting, I sometimes found the com-



The Three Dancers (1925)

parisons between Picasso's work and that of Grant, Lewis, Nicholson, Moore, Bacon, Sutherland and Hockney a bit forced and far fetched. Still, the rooms that contain British art, which are interspersed with those displaying that of the Spaniard, are enjoyable and provide a brief introduction to British modernism,

for the sake of anyone who finds it a foreign concept.

In 1960, *The Times* said about the Tate Picasso exhibition that the "Curiosity aroused by the magic name of Picasso appeared to be the chief attraction". Such was the case for me, and the art definitely did not let me down.



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BUSINESS & RELIGION: IN DIALOGUE

THURSDAY 15TH MARCH
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BUSINESS SCHOOL LGS

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Hindu speaker: Alpesh Patel; Trader. Financial Times columnist 2004 - 2009 and contributor to Sky, CNBC and BBC.

Jewish speaker: Maurice Ostro; Chairman of Fayre Share Investments. Vice-Chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews.

Muslim speaker: Tarek El Diway; Author of 'The Problem with Interest'. Editor at www.islamic-finance.com.

Chaired by Rory Fenton, IC Interfaith Officer 2010/11.

For more information: www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy or contact: g.das@imperial.ac.uk.

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ELECTION PULLOUT

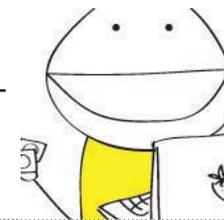
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Voting opens **Monday 12 March at 00:01**

Voting closes **Friday 16 March 23:59**

Visit imperialcollegeunion.org/elections to vote and for further information

Remember **RON!** (Page 7)



Binayak Basnyat



Course: 3rd year Computing. Project Leader of volunteering group Project Nepal, IC Football team and Department of Computing Society.

Having spent the past three years at Imperial, I have had my share of problems. The welfare system has helped me get through the intensive course that all of us face. This has strengthened my belief to stand up for this position to improve the system where

needed and take new initiatives to introduce preventive measures so that everyone can have an overall enjoyable experience.

“Departmental Responsibility for Student Welfare”

Leaflets and posters are not enough.
- Senior tutors to chase up students lagging behind which could be a result of various issues other than academic. All students come here with 3 or more A's and there should be no excuse for lagging behind.

“More Volunteering Opportunities”

Volunteering can be one of the most rewarding ways to make a difference in local or international communities. I want to:

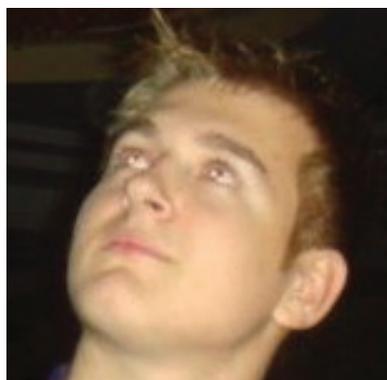
- Make it easier for students to initiate new volunteering societies. (From few months to 2 weeks)
- Build new partnerships with volunteering organisations to fast track our students.
- Promote new opportunities available via dedicated website.

- Organise charity fundraising sports tournaments.

“Tackle academic issues as preventive measures”

- Reading week for every course.
- Scrapping midnight deadline. (You will still receive equal expected working hours for completion of each coursework but you don't have to skip social activities.)
- Recorded lectures.
- Term Exams instead of all exams in May.

Jack Hewitt



For the last year, as RAG chair, I've chaired a management group of projects, represented them at the Clubs and Societies Board, and been an active member of Union Council. I've chaired the New Projects Committee (overseeing the creation of new student-run projects), written for Felix regularly, organised metric nights, a successful Jailbreak, bike auctions with the current DPW, worked with all the Sabbatical Offi-

cers and Faculty Unions, significantly reduced RSMU's storage issues and sat on the Entertainments Committee. I'm both very experienced and committed to the cause, having faced massive problems with housing and as an international applicant who'd been to London twice before uni.

If elected I will-
- Provide a housing guide giving information on basic housing law,

contracts and a blacklist of landlords and estate agents known to mistreat students.

- Hold an alternative careers fair, giving a different look at employment
- Hold termly hall meetings, in every hall, to stay connected with Freshers and the problems they face
- Make Smoking Quit-Kits readily available to students
- Hold monthly 'Sabbatical Surgeries' - Ensure buddies are assigned before Freshers' week, especially for

International Students

- Write regularly for Felix about the Union, how it works and what it can do for you
- Set up a gym buddy system for the gyms on all campuses, both for Halls and course-mates
- Reinvigorate Imperial Home Solutions to get more on there, photos and floorplans
- Provide a list of student discounts on the Union Website and in pre-arrival information, and budgeting advice

Rebecca Lane



My name is Rebecca Lane and I am a third year physicist. I have had first-hand experience of many of the problems faced by Imperial students and feel that I can build on existing welfare policies.

We all know how much of a high pressure environment Imperial can be, and I am committed to making sure that students receive the highest possible level of pastoral care

across every department. There needs to be an effective feedback mechanism regarding personal tutors and there should be staff in every department committed to student wellbeing. I think there also needs to be a more uniform peer support service from department to department. Some faculties have buddy systems; I think there needs to be a robust model rolled out throughout college.

Aside from departmental pastoral

care, I will campaign to further increase the resources of the Student Counselling Service, meaning any student feeling isolated gets help as promptly as possible. I will also raise awareness about help available to students to reduce the stigma attached to asking for support.

I will also campaign to find a solution to the lack of bike storage, to provide basic bike tools in all lock-ups and continue to rally for a prepay top-up college card system

for purchasing food on campus. As a third year student, I feel that I have the experience to represent undergraduates, but also the level of maturity to represent the voice of postgraduates at Imperial.

Support my welfare campaign, vote for Rebecca Lane.

Reuben Margerison



Why should you vote Reuben for Deputy President (Welfare)? Because YOU'RE worth it.

There are three main points that I would fight for:

1. Better CCTV
When people think of South Kensington, they don't usually think 'crime', but a large number of thefts occur on campus, and one of the main reasons

that so few of these items are recovered is the poor quality CCTV. There's no point in having CCTV if you can't see anything! Better quality CCTV is absolutely necessary around campus, and something that I would fight for. It is a great shame that it is not already in place, to act as a deterrent to all crimes, including theft and sexual assault.

2. Fairer Accommodation
Accommodation charges have in-

creased across the whole of Imperial's halls at a rate way above market value. This is especially important following the tragic announcement of the closure of Clayponds. If elected, I promise to fight for the best value accommodation available, for both Postgraduates and Undergraduates, an issue which as a hall senior is close to my heart.

3. Better Catering
Food is a basic requirement, and on

campus there does appear to be a lot of choice. A closer look, however, reveals that the same sandwiches crop up in every café. A vote for me secures a look at how we can improve the food across campus, with exciting and importantly varied menus that cater for all tastes and dietary requirements.

The future's bright - the future's Reuben for Welfare.

ELECTION PULLOUT

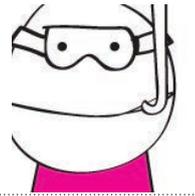
Voting opens **Monday 12 March at 00:01**

Voting closes **Friday 16 March 23:59**

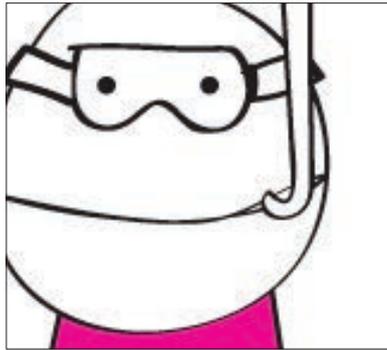
Visit imperialcollegeunion.org/elections to vote and for further information

Remember **RON!** (Page 7)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

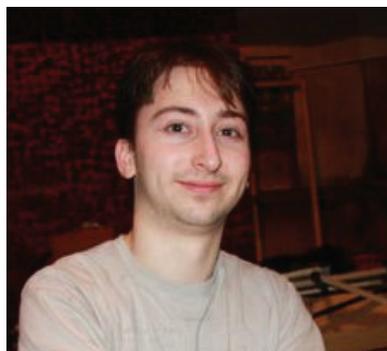


Joachim Dias



[No manifesto submitted]

Henry Whittaker



I'm Henry Whittaker, a 4th year Civil Engineer. I would like to be your DPCS next year. I have been heavily involved in clubs since my first year and have worked with Union staff on many events, helping to deliver years of fresher's weeks and summer balls. I have experience of a range of club activities and events through my role as Dramsoc technical director.

Through my role of Arts and Enter-

tainments Board Treasurer I have tried to look after the A&E club finances and guided the A&E clubs through budgeting, including working with Union staff to improve eActivities and solve problems brought to me by my clubs.

I feel my experiences from Dramsoc and A&E has given me essential knowledge of how the Union works and ways to improve it.

I would like to:

- Bring financial power to club officer and Management group level
- Create a training website that can be searched and students can contribute to
- Overhaul club finance system, and improving eActivities
- Create an online Volunteering database
- Better system for annual Budgeting, using realistic budgets
- Create a new union shop, with an in-

house developer

- Make metric a usable space for clubs
- Have transparency on expenditure on new staff

Please vote for me putting an enthusiastic, experienced and committed student in charge of your clubs and projects next year. If you are interested in my plans, find out more or share your own ideas at my website:

www.voteHenry.co.uk. Vote for Henry!

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)



Stefan Nubert



I have worked for ICU as a Senior Steward/Entertainments Officer and have been involved in Clubs and Societies, from RSM Vice-President to GSA Treasurer, as both an undergraduate and post-graduate. I feel I have the best all-round knowledge and experience for the DPFS role. On top of this, I have external financial experience from working in consultancy.

Having managed ICU events on

a weekly basis, I know what does and what doesn't work at ICU. I know where money is being wasted that could be better utilised for the benefit of students. I want to give students free entry to their own students' union by reviewing staffing costs, the entertainments budget and the products ICU sells. Utilising sponsorship will help reduce the costs of Union events and also drive down mini-bus hire costs.

Being both a sportsman and passionate about arts, I want to give sports teams the ability to 'take over' Sports Nights and open up Friday nights to Arts and Ents societies so they can use their own ideas and creativity, removing the expensive entertainments people don't want to see and changing the music policy. I will overhaul the Summer Ball, We Are Metric and Bar Night templates to make them viable and

more appealing to students.

I want to see entertainments lead by student input, pushing for the reintroduction of the Entertainments Sabbatical position. Vivality, the finances saved through these changes will allow budgets to be improved, and costs to be cut, for Clubs and Societies.

Chandana Shankar



Throughout my time at Imperial I have been heavily involved with the Union, primarily chairing Cinema and the Arts & Ents Board.

Sitting on many Union committees, including Council and the Executive Committee, I have already made financial decisions at every level. In past summers I've worked in private equity and at Citigroup, which has granted me a great deal of extra busi-

ness experience. Last year I used this knowledge to resurrect the dormant Cinema Society, and can do the same now for your bars.

I have 10 key policies; each is a realistic solution to the problems and complaints the Union has repeatedly faced. The Union is here for you, and my policies will make your experience less expensive and life more enjoyable. I will provide you with opportunities for flexible employment and will

make the bars extra money, which will then be used to support Welfare and Clubs and Societies.

I will:

1. Remove entry charges to the bars
2. Employ more student staff & improve their training
3. Stock a regularly changing selection of well-kept ales
4. Introduce a separate, quick service, lunch menu

5. Sell better value evening food for longer

6. Introduce catering quality control at the point of service
7. Give student DJs a chance
8. Bring back barnights
9. Simplify club officer finance training
10. Strip out bureaucracy in club finance procedures

To see how I plan to do all this visit VoteShankar.com

ELECTION PULLOUT

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

Douglas Hunt



As Deputy President (Education) I will:

- Work towards achieving personalised feedback on exams through personal tutor meetings.
- Improve graduate prospects by creating an Imperial student forum for internships and year in industry placements.
- Encourage faculties and departments to set up exchange programmes with other world class uni-

versities outside Europe.

- Increase SOLE participation rates across the college and make sure the results are acted upon.
- Raise awareness of student representation.
- Carry on the current DPE's work, which includes campaigning for lecture podcasts and improving the buddy system.

As Chemistry Departmental Representative I fully understand the

role and responsibilities of being DPE, whilst currently having a continuous dialogue with Jason Parmar (current DPE). Furthermore I am used to dealing with teaching staff that resist change, I know what improvements students want and I appreciate that issues can take more than one year to solve.

I have shown a strong interest in education from working in nurseries, inner-city London schools and being one of Imperial's Teach

First Brand Managers. Additionally, I have actively shown a passion in the education Imperial offers by working with the current DPE on Notebox and being involved in the buddy system for the last two years.

I am not doing this for my CV, as I have already secured and deferred my dream graduate job. The only reason I want to be DPE is to improve the quality of education at Imperial.

So don't be a mug, vote for Doug!!!

FELIX EDITOR

Timothy Arbazadah



I'm currently the Comment Editor and love writing for, editing, and reading Felix. My plan for Felix is the following:

- A fun and more enjoyable Felix, without sacrificing the serious side. I'm aiming for a perfect balance of the two.
- More investigative reporting to get news stories, and exposés on all aspects of student life. Ranging from the social life to things that im-

impact your degree like feedback.

- Ensuring the College, the Union, and those in positions of power are held accountable for their decisions. All while explaining what decisions taken by senior figures mean to you the students.

- Cheaper adverts for Clubs and Societies. They shouldn't feel priced out of advertising their events, especially when there are other streams of revenue.

- Adding another page of purely comedy content to make lectures that little bit more bearable.

- Redesigning the paper to make it more visually appealing and keep it fresh. At the moment it's very professional but it sometimes has a wall of text feel. I would train the section editors to fully use Photoshop as well as InDesign to make sure the paper looks great each week.

- Personally handing out copies of Felix every Friday during lunchtime by the JCR, so I can instantly get your thoughts on the paper.

- Felix office parties, open to all, with free drinks and food. If elected, you'll hear that there "ain't no party like a Felix office party".

Full manifesto: votetim.co.uk

Alexander Karapetian



From the first day I started at Imperial I knew I was going to dedicate myself to Felix. Since then, I've served the paper for three years undertaking various roles including News Reporter, Photographer, Copy Editor, Web Editor, News Editor (2010-11) and Science Editor (2011-12). Having always had a keen interest in writing and journalism, I've worked hard to stay on

top of issues at Imperial, providing you with weekly news and relevant features.

A vote for me is a vote for Transparency, Stability, and Professionalism. We've been your voice since 1949 and we need to stay true to this in an open and social manner. If elected, I will set up and man a Felix stall in the JCR every week to give you a platform to approach us, ask questions, get involved, or sim-

ply voice your criticisms.

As your Editor, I will bring back Hangman and make sure Felix is kept humorous by introducing two new subsections to it to keep you entertained. We need more comics, more wit, more investigative journalism and more satire, and I mean Mock The Week style repartee localised to Imperial.

I love Felix, and with the experience I've gained, I've been able to

ensure my sections were produced to the highest standards in both content and coverage. I aspire to bring this rigorousness to the whole paper. Felix is an award winning publication, and your vote can keep it that way. Vote Alexander Karapetian. For full details of my ideas, visit www.alexkara.com.

Laurence Pope



Istand before you, possessing the finest qualities of two influential men - the integrity and honesty of Rupert Murdoch, combined with the power and popularity of Nick Clegg. Actually, hold up - best ignore that.

Transparency in politics is important - no one appreciates secretive politicians. Should I become editor I would use my place in the Union to report on as much Union politics

as allowed under the constitution, in order to inform fellow students of what goes on and why, as well as keep the Union on its toes.

Regarding recent controversies, I believe that whilst Felix should aim to conform to the standards set by the British press (minus the phone hacking) Hangman deserves greater freedom of expression. Should Hangman still be cancelled I will bring it back, as I know the sec-

tion has the potential to offer up good, satirical humour. I won't impose hard and fast rules upon the section, and will judge each piece on its own merit. I will continue to encourage new writers to write for the paper, emphasising its more relaxed nature - Felix isn't an exclusive society!

Over time I wish to refine the number of issues printed each week, reducing wastage. This will be through

discussion with the printers and weekly assessment of the number of wasted copies. Likewise, I hope to reduce the number of adverts found in the paper, though only if this does not come at the cost of reduced quality.

Laurence Pope - for a phone-hack free Felix.

ELECTION PULLOUT

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Remember **RON!** (Page 7)

STUDENT TRUSTEES (FOUR NEEDED)

Nathaniel Bottrell



Hello! I started Imperial in 2004 and next year will be my final year as a PhD student. This year I am a student trustee. If elected for a second term, I know I can serve the union's major stakeholder, YOU, with the confidence the role deserves.

I believe a student trustee should have a good understanding of the union, and I do. I have held a num-

ber of positions in a variety of roles, which include Treasurer and President of two clubs, and chair of the Recreational Clubs Committee (a Management Group of the union). As RCC Chair, I sat on both Council and Exec, which has given me a great understanding of the union (including knowing the constitution). A vote for me, is a vote for experience.

The union is undergoing a major

change, one of which students may not know about. The union is applying for charity registration and by law is required to register with the Charity Commission. Having already served a term as a student trustee, I have the background knowledge to put forward an opinion from the student's perspective. Vote for me to keep continuity through the charity registration process.

The 5 year strategic review, start-

ed last year and reviewed at the last trustee board meeting, is soon to be published. If elected, I would ensure the targets set by this document are met by the union. Vote for me to ensure the union remains on target.

Hitesh Hassani Chandershekh



Hola Que pasa! I'm a Spindian (Spanish-Indian) ChemEng guy and I want to be your Student Trustee.

The most important part of a university is its students, and it is my belief that students should have a greater say in decision making within the college and union, I believe your voice must be heard! The governing board of the union needs

someone who is not afraid of stepping outside the boundaries in order to do what is right for you; I am the person.

I will always strive to support students in whichever way I can and I assure you that if I were elected I would wholeheartedly bring forward your ideas and relay these to the governing body so that all student needs and desires are met.

I believe that students matter and

I feel that this simple truth is sometime forgotten at Imperial College. If elected I will guarantee that this will not be the case.

So to make your voices heard; Vote Hitesh Hassani for Student Trustee!

Lejon Chua



The call to becoming a student trustee requires utmost integrity and prudence. I believe strongly that my past experiences have shaped these two cardinal values in me and empowered me to want to commit to the few yet highly crucial roles that a student trustee undertakes.

Previous Experiences:

1) Armoured-Infantry Platoon Com-

mander in the Singapore Armed Forces. Responsible for the lives of 30 men under my charge and charting directions and plans for the unit as a whole.

2) Took on a professional multifaceted role in TUV SUD, a German certification company (i.e. admin, laboratory, on-site).

Motivations:

1) ICL has a highly international com-

munity. Yet, year after year, there is a lack of international representation within the union. I desire to be the unique international voice as part of the independent body within the union, spurring constructive changes that would affect the larger community.

2) Having relished the university experience that the ICL and its community has granted me thus far, I want to further enhance it for others in a position that draws the most out of my abili-

ties and attributes. In particular, the job of a student trustee fits my driven, shrewd yet stolid nature and my keen interest to provide checks and balances pertaining to finances. It also taps on the key strengths I possess as follows:

a) A calm confidence to be able to size things up within a short time, make sound judgements and decisions that would impact at the large scale, yet possessing a ...[word limit reached]

Taehyun Lee



Why should anybody vote for me as a Student Trustee? Well, that is a good question and I will answer that at the end.

But first I thank every one of you reading this manifesto this instant because it means so much to me that you are. Not only that you all are thinking about who to vote for, you all care where your votes go to.

So I stayed up all night, for days, thinking about what to write here so that you all get an accurate description of who I am.

I am a fresher (like 1500 others here), studying computing (like 150 others here). I am also an Asian (like 100000 here) specifically Korean (like 100 others here), but what distinguishes me is that I want this Student Trustee more than anyone and I know I can do this.

Do you have what it takes? Some people ask me. Do I have what it takes? I ask myself sometimes. I know that I am not perfect. I know this and you have all the right to criticize me for who I am not. But at the same time, acknowledge me for who I am.

If you vote for me, I promise you that I will do all I can to make the Imperial College Union better, more enjoyable place for all of you. With

what I have, for better or worse, I will try my best.

ELECTION PULLOUT

STUDENT TRUSTEES (FOUR NEEDED)

Xingyang Lin



My name is Xingyang Lin (Tracy) and I am a 2nd year Mathematics student, running for the Student Trustee of the Student Union.

3 objectives:

- Continue to increase awareness about the Student Trustee position among students

- Facilitate communication between the board and students
- Make sure that interests of the student body always come first when making decisions.

3 ways to make our work more efficient, transparent and representative:

- Survey students before the board making decisions

- Create a database of the communication between students and the board
- Annual report on the work we have done

3 ways to share your ideas and make complaints:

- Focus groups for students to share their ideas
- Email contact for students to get

to the board at any time

- Student Opportunities Page on our website that highlights key opportunities which students can get involved with.

It is your union. Vote for me to make your voice better heard and shape the future of the union.

Nicolas Massie



The Trustee Board had three broad functions. It oversees the Union's long-term strategy, it approves BIG decisions (i.e. things that could have legal or serious financial implications) and it is the ultimate board for appeals against certain decisions. As a member of Union Council for three years, Union Executive Committee for two, and having sat on Trustee Board as a permanent

observer for this past year as Deputy President (Welfare) I feel adequately prepared to provide an informed, useful and representative voice.

Over the years (this is my sixth year here) I've seen things that needed doing and done them. As Social Clubs Committee Chair I increased funding to cash-strapped clubs and improved the Union's online club management system. As Community Action Group Chair I

pushed for support for student volunteering and we now have a staff member who works on that full time. As DP Welfare I spend every day tackling the issues facing us and have already achieved five of my seven manifesto points.

We will soon have to register as a charity. This is a complex procedure. I've been involved in preparations for over a year - we need trustees who know what they're talking about.

I want to spend one more year making the Union everything it can be.

I care about the Union
I care about us
I have the experience to exercise good judgment
I will stand up for clubs and students in a fair trustee board

Vote Massie, your trusty trustee.

Daniel Stoddart



Do you want someone who will always listen to you? Someone who is not afraid to fight for your right to be heard? Someone who will do their best to make sure that what is done is what the students want, not what is easy?

I am that person.

I believe that the Union needs to be more transparent, more ac-

countable to the student body. We are still feeling the consequences of last year's costly summer ball, but who is fighting for you, the students, to make sure that in saving the Union's finances we do not destroy all that is good about it?

I will be open to any suggestion or idea that students have about how we can make our Union better. I will make sure that these ideas are heard by those in power, and that

those in power know that they must take these views into account.

The Union is run by the students, for the students. Vote for me if you want someone who will fight to make sure it stays that way, and make sure you get YOUR say!

Cora Xydas



Being a student trustee is a great responsibility; it means having a vote in the most important decisions taken by the Union. From dealing with the budget to supporting the various departmental unions, the Union trustee Board does everything. In my view it is essential that students are represented by tough people to make the Union hear their voice. I am commit-

ted to strongly supporting decisions ensuring

- A fair split of the budget between under/postgraduates and postdoctorates
- Greater activity of clubs and societies in cooperation with UK and worldwide charities to involve students in broader challenges!
- Closer solidarity between students, a stronger "academic welfare" to support them in their hard times

and increase student satisfaction!

I believe that I not only have ideas and strong enough convictions to make other members of the Board respect my views, but also that I am open-minded enough to consider other opinions and find the best agreement, as I did as a member of trustee boards before I joined Imperial.

As a second year biologist, closely involved in many of Imperial's music

and sports societies, I know students from all courses and all years, and discussing my university experience with them has made me realize what changes ought to be done.

Giving ME a place among the student trustees assures you YOUR points will be heard, because the reason I'm campaigning is to reach a position where I can make a change for you!

So remember : vote for Cora!

Joseph Andrews, Thomas Cosnahan, Yiming Hong, and Liam Noad are also running for the Student Trustee position, however the candidates did not submit manifestos

ELECTION PULLOUT

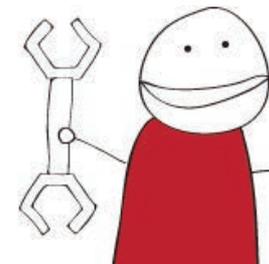
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Remember **RON!** (Page 7)

CGCU PRESIDENT (only open to students of the Faculty of Engineering)



Temi Ladega



The role of the President of the CGCU is to ensure that you, the engineers of Imperial have the best academic and social experience that this faculty can provide and if elected I will do this to the best of my ability.

In the past two years at Imperial, I have served as a Year Rep, Hall Senior, Sports Captain and a Dep Rep allowing me to build my experience of working with students, society mem-

bers, CGCU execs, faculty staff and Sabbs to better the student experience. I am aware of and embrace the history and the traditions of the CGCU and aim to continue the good work that has been done to build our faculty union back to its former glory.

If elected I will endeavour to see the following fulfilled:

- I will work towards building a greater interdepartmental cohesiveness through working with events officers

and others to provide a greater diversity of events and opportunities.

- I will work towards supporting and developing engineering societies to bring back the fun in being an Imperial engineer and provide opportunities for all students to network with Alumnus.

- I will work to increase faculty transparency in terms of academic affairs and will endeavour to make the CGCU work for its students, so that you can get the support you need when you

need it.

I believe in supporting students, working for societies and building this union because I care.

Let's work together to make the CGCU great.

Vote Temi.

Jialin Li



I am Jialin Li, and I'm delighted to announce to run for the CGCU President for the coming year.

We engineering students are the future of the world! What we gain from the university will determine what the society will gain from us, so everyone's wellbeing matters!

I know you expect more from this college. You want your hard work to be seen and rewarded; you want

your suggestions not only to be heard but also to be fulfilled; you want the faculty to support your dreams as well as supporting you to become a successful engineer, and you want to make a difference during the most wonderful 3 or 4 years in your life but just need someone to help... Yes, I know all this. What I need is a chance to make this all come true for you.

I'm running for the CGCU Presi-

dent because I care about our faculty, and I care about you. For any suggestions or complaints from any of you, I would never say "no this cannot be done or changed", even you want to have lectures on the Moon, I would always tell you that "let's push it forward together, to see how far we can get". You know that unlike scientists, there is nothing impossible for engineers! (No offence! :D)

I'm young but experienced. I founded China's only national student union for international schools, and it's still expanding and developing. Vote me for change, and I'll deliver you promises.

ICSMSU PRESIDENT (only open to students of the Faculty of Medicine)



Shiv Vohra



I take great pride in the fact that we have such an enthusiastic student body at ICSM, which is the cornerstone for the success of ICSMSU.

I've been immersed within ICSMSU for two years, and I would absolutely love the opportunity to step-up my contribution by becoming the next President!

As a current Academic Officer, I've forged close working relationships with Faculty staff, which is vital for ensuring that the voice of the student body is heard and that there is an effective channel of communication between students and Faculty.

Education

Ultimately we're at ICSM to become some of the best doctors in the world. Final year is undergoing

fundamental changes next year, which will impact on virtually all aspects and year groups of the medical school. This is exactly where my experience lies, so I firmly believe that I can effectively oversee the implementation of these changes to ensure an effortless transition.

Careers

Our students consistently excel in the UKFPO applications. I will do everything to ensure that our students are fully equipped to continue to succeed, in the face of upcoming changes to the UKFPO system.

Biomedical Sciences (BMS)

With BMS now entirely part of the Faculty of Medicine, I believe that this is an excellent opportunity to fully integrate BMS students into ICSMSU.

Welfare

Welfare support is paramount to the wellbeing of our students. I am very eager to operate an open-door policy, and to continue with welfare campaigns.

Finances

With inevitable funding cuts, it's imperative that we increase our self-generated income in the immediate future by looking for new sponsors.

Alumni

Our Alumni will play an increasingly important role in sustaining our financial security in the longer term, and it's essential that we continue to develop and expand the relationship with our Alumni Association.

Clubs & Societies

Clubs & societies are the lifeblood of ICSM. I will strive to ensure that their budget is protected as far as possible. I'm also committed to ensuring that clubs are kept fully informed regarding any developments with the ongoing BUCS issue.

Entertainments

The timing of RAG week, STFVD and the Summer Ball needs a fundamental rethink, primarily due to final year restructuring.

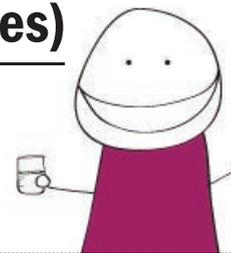
Sites & Services

I will endeavour to continue the fantastic work of the current SU regarding Reynolds redevelopment.

Above all, it would be a great honour to serve you because you make ICSM everything that it is!

ELECTION PULLOUT

RCSU PRESIDENT (only open to students of the Faculty of Natural Sciences)



James Tsim



The RCSU needs a president with great ideas and the motivation and ability to make them become reality. The RCSU is here to inspire students to embrace opportunities, and I have the enthusiasm to encourage students to get involved.

There is so much the RCSU can do for you. Vote James Tsim because I will:

- Work to ensure a full set of past papers and answer schemes in all de-

partments are available and the opportunity to view your exam papers after results.

- Introduce recorded lecture material on Blackboard, so students can review past lectures.
- Provide students with sufficient printing credits.
- Organise inter-university social events, so you can network with students on your course from different universities.

• Open up a vast array of opportunities to students who want to gain experience and join the teams in the RCSU.

- Provide you with top-class workshops and career talks, helping you take the first steps towards a successful career.
- Strive to make Social Events better than ever before, keeping them cost-effective, fun and a night to remember.
- Improve student feedback on assignments.

I am friendly and experienced individual: I am a RCSU Faculty representative in the council, so I know what the RCSU wants and needs. I am also Treasurer of Artifact Imperial, Pimlico Tutor and sit on the Union's Entertainment Strategy Group, working to improve the entertainment at Imperial.

I am posed to take on new challenges, and now want to turn my full attention and efforts to developing the RCSU.

John Xin Zhan



I take great pride in the fact that we have such an enthusiastic student body at RCSU, which is the foundation for the success of our Union. Having been a member of RCSU, I would absolutely love the opportunity to step-up my contribution by becoming the next President!

As RCSU President, I will ensure to:

- Improve your overall study experience

• organise more non-banking events for the scientists and keep up the good work of other events such as the Winter Ball

- introduce more interactive events, such as the Science Challenge
- host more talks on internships and how they work, increasing student awareness
- Improve the buddy scheme

Above all, it would be a great honour to serve you because you make RCSU everything that it is!

Think this year's election manifestos are pretty dreadful?

So does RON.

If you want to re-open nominations in search of a candidate more suited to the job, place your '1' next to RON when it comes to voting time, and make your voice heard! Don't waste your vote, you can rank RON above any candidate who you think might not be such a great choice.



VOTE RON

to Re-Open Nominations

ELECTION PULLOUT

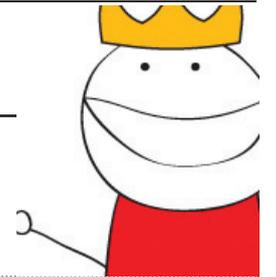
PRESIDENT

Voting opens **Monday 12 March at 00:01**

Voting closes **Friday 16 March 23:59**

Visit imperialcollegeunion.org/elections to vote and for further information

Remember **RON!** (Page 7)



Henry Abbot



As the current Athletics Clubs' Committee Chair I represent a fifth of Imperial's students at various Union committees including Council and the Clubs and Societies' Board as well as several College committees. The Union President's job is very similar to this; being the public face of the Union, helping and directing the running of the Union and representing the student body on lots of College committees. I have both the necessary knowledge of the Union's run-

ning and the experience of dealing with College to get students what they want. This is why I am the candidate best suited to being your next Union President.

If elected I will:

- Use my integrity and experience to effectively represent the student body, rather than myself
- Trust students more. Employers know how great Imperial's students are, but it doesn't seem the Union does. I will give student officers more power and reduce the

red tape, as well as providing new UROP-type placements for students to work at the Union over the summer to help prepare societies for the new year

- Restore the funding to Club and Societies for 2013/14 to at least the level available in 2011/12
- Remove regular entry charges to the Union. It is unfair for the residents of Beit to have to justify their existence to the union staff and paying to get into the bar because the nightclub is open doesn't make sense. Let's give the Union an inclu-

sive ethos and allow people to casually drop by.

voteabbot.com

Paul Beaumont



Our Union needs someone with realistic ideas and improvements. I have the experience and dedication to be President from roles as RCSU Vice-President, the Union's System Administrator and Finance Society Vice-President. I have worked hard this year organising events and representing scientists to their Faculty: now I want to use this experience.

- I promise to revise the new Responsible Drinking Policy to follow

the law, whilst putting the fun back into our bars.

- I promise to stop door charges for entry to our own Union.
- As it's financially viable (RCSU does it), I want an 'open bar' Summer Ball.
- I promise to spend time with students: currently hardly anyone sees the people that represent us.
- I promise to improve our online systems, saving time for club officers.
- I promise to put money back in students' pockets by introducing more student jobs in the Union.

- I want the Union to become a place students go to relax throughout the day – using Metric as a break-out space by day, and as a club at night.
- I want to make the Union more transparent and better communicate the work it does for students.

As the only candidate from a Faculty Union, I have experience in dealing with representation to College. I promise to battle for fairer exams, better feedback, affordable halls' rents and reinstating the hall senior subsidy.

I have more manifesto points on my website: icpaul.com. If successful, I will make the necessary changes to take our Union from strength to strength.

Abdul Patel



The sabbatical officers are here to ensure that your time at the college is as pleasant as it could be, and, if elected, that's exactly what I intend to do.

As Student Trustee, I sit on the highest board in the Union, overseeing Council, Executive Committee, Court and all Faculty Unions. As such, I am well aware of the Union's finances and operations. Being the most senior student ambassador, I represent the college both domesti-

cally and internationally in addition to holding many other posts such as the Union's Court Advocate. Combined, this makes me one of the most experienced candidates going for this position.

If elected I will ensure the following:

- Putting constant, active pressure on the college to address issues such as poor teaching quality, inadequate feedback and lack of resources
- Pushing for a podcast system

(audio and visual recordings of all lectures)

-Implementing a cashless card system to be used around college which can be topped up (similar to an oyster card)

-Driving the Union to provide greater transparency, accountability and reduced bureaucracy

-Greater involvement and inclusion of underrepresented groups such as post grads and international students.

-Generating additional revenues by renting out facilities over summer

The most important part of any union is its students and this is the only time you really/ truly have your say. I will ensure your voices are heard and promise you better representation.

Vote experience, Vote dedication, but most importantly, Vote for someone that listens and cares.

Vote Abdul.

Vote from Monday at
imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

DANCING

Thursday 15 March in Metric at 7.30pm – shimmies, glitter and sequins...



MUSIC

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

music.felix@gmail.com

Kadhim's totally hot album of the week

I'm creating an ultimate revision Spotify playlist for next week's issue. Please email your suggestions to music.felix@gmail.com, or post it on the Felix Facebook page.



Quantic & Alice Russell

Look Around The Corner

Tru Thoughts
2012

Do you know anyone who says, "Music is crap nowadays?" Let's be honest: those people are the most boring people you know. In fact, you're not even sure why you know them anymore. Everytime you hang out with them you find your brain warning you, with fundamentalist zeal, "Get the fuck out of here before I cut off the oxygen to myself".

Quantic & Alice Russell are two of the UK's finest, if not the finest, independent artists. Both release through the sublime Brighton label *'Tru Thoughts'*. Since the millenium they've been carving out a space away from the mainstream of British music for soul, funk, gospel and blues. And my god is that space a good place to be.

The album whisks you off to all corners of the globe, with 'I'd Cry' leaving me with flowers in my hand outside a Cuban restaurant, stood up by my long-legged Habanera date; with 'Travelling Song' dropping me slumped drunk in a New York jazz bar; and 'Boogaloo 33' throwing legs and arms in all directions on some Ozzie beach.

It's the kind of music that I'd love the director to use when shooting the biopic of my life. Boys of a certain age who have read Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, or watched a Godard film or two, are prone to bouts of solipsism like this. Put more simply, when wandering the streets of Soho drunk, we fall into the trap of narrating the night in our heads, with suitably ostentatious imagery, and friends transformed into 'characters' who are then blown all out of proportion. I should confess: I do this almost all of the time. And from now on, whenever I imagine my life being a billion times cooler than it is (what's a billion times zero?), Quantic, Alice Russell, and the Combo Barbaro will play on in my head.

I'll end by beseeching you to dive into *'Tru Thoughts'* back catalogue. There's gem after gem; it's perhaps the best independent label this side of the millenium. This latest release, *Look Around the Corner*, does credit to their record of putting out great music, and its title is wonderfully suggestive – softly prodding the UK public to check out what's going just down their street beneath the ostentation of modern pop.

I'll confess, this album isn't actually out yet – it's out on the 2nd of April. If you think I should only review albums that have been reviewed already, tweet, "Do it again or I'll show you what for" @kadhimshubber. Alternatively, tweet @tru_thoughts and ask them for a promo copy.

Triumphant return for The Cribs

Simon Clark heads to ULU to reignite his passion for garage rock

The band that once claimed to be "more northern than killing your brother's kestrel" have certainly evolved somewhat since those plucky early days in Yorkshire pubs. With more time spent across the pond than not in the last few years and opening a set with a blasting performance of new track named for the city Chicago (Chi-Town); have the Jarman brothers swapped Wakefield for Springfield?

No. Even though their music has taken a more garage rock Americana feel over the past couple of years, this owes more to an evolution of their sound under the wings of producers such as Steve Albini (*Nirvana*, *Pixies*) rather than a determined shedding of their status as the archetypal indie-pop northern band, **The Cribs** still have their feet well and truly planted on the dales.

Once labelled the "biggest cult band in the UK" by Q, as soon as you enter any Cribs gig you feel like you have just stumbled into a family reunion, an experience which is exemplified by the fact the intimate nature of ULU makes you feel like you could be in your Aunties front room. The community spirit amongst the dedicated is as strong as ever, whilst my sympathy was with the support band competing with more than a few lairy individuals as they perform acapella renditions of their fa-



avourite Cribs tracks before the main event. Albeit slightly reminiscent of Lad-rock types on the Carlsberg's, the hearty unity of the fans is something I believe you can buy into which definitely adds to the experience.

As they walk onto the stage any questions regarding their passion are quickly addressed, and this transfers quickly onto the crowd. The brothers quickly work their way through a mixture of old and new without giving the audience time to come up for air. Hits such as 'I'm a Realist', 'Men's Needs' and 'Hey Scenesters' work the old faithful into a frenzy, whilst new tracks 'Anna' and 'Come On Be a

No One' prove their new sound is just as relevant ever in these tough times indie based outfits; but I digress. With Johnny Marr no longer babysitting, the adolescent nature of any Cribs gig is back with a vengeance, flying toilet rolls and stage invasions still all the rage.

The interplay between the twins with guitar, bass and vocals is a natural chemistry which is there for all to see and with solid drumming by the little one it's very tight performance all round. Even now at their fifth outing, the raucous power of a Cribs gig is something I would urge anyone who hasn't experienced to go and watch.

Reviewed in 60 Seconds



The Pharcyde
LabcabinCalifornia



Most people know a few songs by **A Tribe Called Quest**; they brought us jazz infused hip hop with rhymes worth paying attention to. Perhaps it's because 'Tribe beat them to it, but these days fewer people seem to be aware of **The Pharcyde**. There are many similarities between the two groups but this, their second album, really raised the game in terms of production. Employing the late **Jay Dee (J Dilla)** on half the tracks saw numbers such as 'Runnin' and 'Drop' really change the game in terms of sampling and production. Both tracks sounds as fresh today as they did when they were released 17 years ago.

Simon Hunter



Alcest
Les Voyages De L'Âme



This ambient black metal album somewhat fails to deliver in its promise of black metal but does deliver an incredible range of material; largely Slowdive style shoegaze, it occasionally drops into its genre tag with visceral distorted basslines and fast, heavy drumming. Opting out of the brutal catharsis usually offered by metal, this album makes use of sung vocals to produce chilling moments of beauty. The sound isn't densely layered and individual instruments are easy to pick out, but if **Xasthur** and **My Bloody Valentine** both lay within your tastes it's definitely worth a listen.

Ross Gray

Got an album you want to shout about?

Send us a short review with a rating and we'll be your soapbox

**Be sure not to miss...
Veronica Falls**

Scala
Wednesday 14 March

Go down to the Scala on wednesday night to hear some beautiful, C86 tinged, lo-fi pop courtesy of **Veronica Falls**. I have had thier self titled debut on repeat for the past few months and I cannot reccomend them highly enough. They combine elements of **The Pains Of Being Pure At Heart** and **Orange Juice** into an end result which is both swoon-some and fantastically hummable.

Mark England

Is Springsteen still the Boss?

Michael Krestas finds reason to celebrate with the release of *Wrecking Ball*

Bruce Springsteen is finally back. After the unfortunate death of his long-time friend and music companion, saxophonist Clarence Clemons, the Boss has been preparing for the release of his 17th studio album titled *Wrecking Ball* packed with a tour across the US and Europe starting late March.

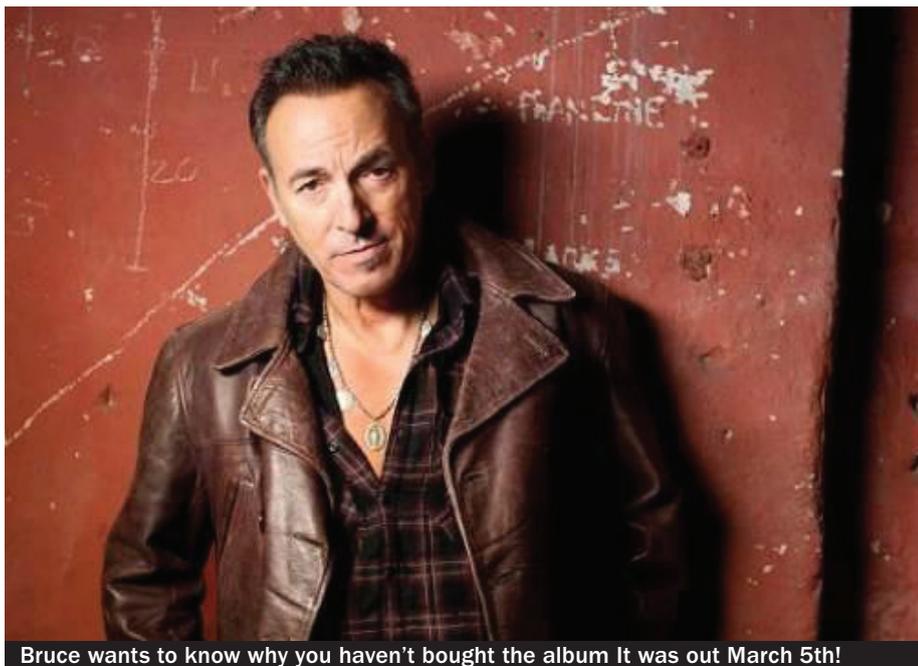
For those of you not belonging in the hardcore fans of Springsteen you may have the image of an American wearing a red bandana and singing a patriotic anthem called 'Born In The USA' back in the 80s. This is not what Bruce Springsteen has been for the past 40 years of his career; at least not just that. His music has been inspired by figures like **Bob Dylan** and **Elvis** and has also been a great inspiration for fellow New Jerseyan **Bon Jovi**, the **Foo Fighters** and many more. Springsteen's work has always been about "judging the distance between American reality and the American dream — how far is that at any given moment." as he mentioned at a press conference held in Paris mid-February.

From the iconic *Born To Run* and the struggle to escape from a dead town, to the massive hit album *Born In The USA* inspired by the pain and despair the Vietnam War brought to the Americans, to *The Rising* and its elevating spirit after the 9/11 hit, Springsteen has always embedded in his music and lyrics traits of the American society, backing up the blue-collar guy, judging those responsible for the decline of his hometown, for the constant fading of the American Dream.

Wrecking Ball is an album inspired by the latest financial and socio-economic crisis. The album opens with 'We Take Care Of Our Own'. The artist assesses the current situation of his homeland before he strikes the listener with a series of questions the rest of the album tries to answer:

"Where's the love that has not forsaken me
Where's the work that'll set my hands, my soul free
Where's the spirit that'll reign rain over me
Where's the promise from sea to shining sea"

The next few songs, 'Easy Money', 'Shackled And Drawn', 'Jack Of All Trades', 'Death To My Hometown' take a look at the injustice that has surrounded the actions of "the bank-



Bruce wants to know why you haven't bought the album It was out March 5th!

ers", "the fat cats", "the greedy thieves" who destroyed everything and their actions were left unpunished. Different characters arise, similar to each other, sharing the same feeling of anger and disgust. They seek salvation and cleansing through criminal methods — Is this where we're heading? At that point 'The Depression' reveals the vulnerability of the working man. Hope is long, long gone and all the narrator needs is the love of his companion during these hard times.

The other half of the album has a more upbeat tone. 'Wrecking Ball' sets the "image where something is destroyed to build something new". The optimism is carried on on what I think is the best song on the album, 'Land Of Hope And Dreams'. Containing elements of **Curtis Mayfield's** 'People Get Ready' and demonstrating Springsteen's Catholic upbringing, the song marks the movement "from guys who are really very angry to guys who are angry but constructive". The song's spiritual intro followed by Steven Van Zandt's magical mandolin and Big Man's emotional saxophone moment join perfectly with Springsteen's passionate voice and meaningful lyrics. The album closes with the uplifting 'We Are

Alive', which incorporates portions of **Johnny Cash's** 'Ring of Fire'. The song is filled with voices of those that died making a stand "Well, I was killed in 1963 one Sunday morning in Birmingham" / "Well, I died last year crossing the southern desert". Their spirits, however, live on and their "souls will rise to carry the fire and light the spark".

Wrecking Ball is no *Born To Run* or *Born In The USA*. Personally, I would place it somewhere between *The Rising* and *Magic*, labelling it as one of Springsteen's best albums during the past 20 years. It's so amazing to see a 62-year-old rocker carrying the same spark he had when he was performing in Asbury Park 40 years ago. Having been experiencing with various music types and singing, he presents a stunning piece of work which combines rock, folk-rock, gospel and even hip-hop elements. Although not an original E Street Band record, the production by Ron Aniello, joined together about 40 musicians, including many guest performers — Tom Morello plays electric guitar in two songs — creating a solid album that came to remind us that Bruce Springsteen, living through his 4th career decade, has so much to say, so beautifully.

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

Lesson 9: Shapes



This week's band and the last two I've reviewed (**Meet Me In St. Louis** and **Blakfish**) are all related by the fact that they are (or used to be) signed to UK-based record label 'Big Scary Monsters'. On my quest of the past few years to find new and ever-better alternative music I've learnt that you tend to find all the best bands somehow clumped together and the goody bag labelled 'Big Scary Monsters' is a prime example of this. Despite it being a one-man independent jobby, for some reason the majority of genuinely good UK-based alternative bands are affiliated with this label. Many of the bands signed to BSM are not in any way hardcore and so if you are more partial to softer indie music then I would strongly recommend checking out their collection because it's a blinder. That said, the post-hardcore bands are amazing too, **Shapes** being one of them. This trio are again from Birmingham and formed in early 2008. Releasing their first EP just five months later, the band had already gained attention amongst hardcore fans and this response to their music escalated. Just another seven months later and they had been snapped up by BSM and recording EP number two, *The Pasture, The Oil*. After it's release in May 2009, their fan base grew far wider and even 'Zankyo Records' in Japan wanted a piece of the action. The next couple of years saw them tour with the incredible **Glassjaw** and **Pulled Apart By Horses** before recording their debut full-length with Eskil Lovstrom of **Refused** fame. This album, *Monotony Chic*, was again met with ubiquitous and well-deserved critical acclaim. Shapes are known for their explosive sound both live and on record. This sheer aggression is then met with calculated off-beat rhythm and intricate guitar work to make something which is not only fascinating but phenomenal to listen to. If it's possible, the music is even better live when it's being smashed into your ears by three Brummie men losing their shit on stage. As I'm sure you'll be pleased to know, this band is actually still together and they gig in London often. Their next show is 17 March at the Wilmington; you better be there.

Writer's Recommendations

Watch the video for 'Trampled By A Horse'. Truly ridiculous.

In other news...

The supergroup **Gorillaz** have released an accompanying video to their Converse-promoting song, *DoYaThing*. The song, featuring the incredible talents of **James Murphy** and **Andre 3000**, has been cut down from its epic thirteen minute duration to a more YouTube-friendly five-or-so minutes. Covering the mundane activity of getting up in a morning in less-than-ordinary house (think gimps, bowls of ears and a bus-sized creature laying on the roof), the video is an animated marvel. But to appreciate the song properly hunt out the unabridged version.



Missing breakfast inspiration? Give ear-on-toast a try

Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

Ten new releases to look out for



We Bought a Zoo (16 March)

Aimed at a large Christmas audience in the States, the significant delay in the U.K. release suggests the studio is banking on the warm, spring reception here in Europe. Which is just as well, because Cameron Crowe's feel-good family drama involving lots of furry animals (the title makes this clear) is an ideal film for both the older and younger generations. In a very *Jerry Maguire*-type of plot, Matt Damon, who plays a likable widower, quits his job in the city and decides to relocate to the quieter, brighter countryside with his two young children, and ends up buying a zoo for his house. Let the redemptive reconnection between a parent and kids begin, as well as blossoming new romance with a local hottie (Scarlett Johansson).



The Hunger Games (23 March)

Based on the popular young adult novel, industry experts are hopeful that the ticket sales for this will match the hype that went with the *Twilight* franchise. While it's still too early to be making bold estimates like that, the *Battle Royale*-esque plot involving a futuristic world in which 24 unfortunately selected teenagers are first trained and then forced to fight for their lives until there is only one survivor, a "game" that is watched by everyone. Intense and gripping, although the 12A certificate suggests there will be less blood. This also has the advantage of having secured two rapidly rising stars of Hollywood as the main leads: the Oscar-nominated, gutsy Jennifer Lawrence and *The Kids are All Right*'s Josh Hutcherson.



The Kid with a Bike (23 March)

The Grand Prix winner at last year's Cannes Film Festival (the second highest honour), the Dardenne brothers have once again succeeded in delivering a compelling, emotional rollercoaster ride. Abandoned by his own father to a foster home, 11 year-old Cyril falls into trouble as he tries to reconnect with his distant father and also retrieve his lost bicycle. He befriends a local hairdresser who agrees to care for him during the weekends, as well as a local gang member who manipulates the boy's need for a stable father figure to take him under his wings. It has already been hailed as one of this year's most gripping, intriguing and exciting, despite what may sound like a slow, bog-standard, foreign indie drama.



Titanic 3D (5 April)

Say what you will about the three-hour long film where essentially a boy and a girl who aren't supposed to fall in love do so anyway, whilst a gigantic ship sinks after hitting an iceberg that jeopardises the lovers' plan: the fact remains that James Cameron's *Titanic* walked away with 11 Oscars and a cool 1.8 unadjusted billion dollars at the worldwide box office. One of the world's most beloved films is back, this time with a 3D conversion; considering that Cameron is the man who started this recent obsession with the extra dimension, he must have done a remarkable job. An unmissable cinematic event for fans, and perhaps even first-timers may find themselves hooked and tearing up at Leo and Kate's doomed romance.



This Must be the Place (6 April)

A word of advice - brace yourselves before you get even a glimpse of the poster of this film. Sean Penn has never looked this scary. And this is the man who's played convicted criminals in the past. No, this time he's a bored, retired rock star, a soft-spoken, slightly spaced out individual. After his estranged father's unexpected death, he goes on a very personal trip around America to find an ex-Nazi officer who tormented his Jewish father in Auschwitz. This kind of eccentric character is absolutely ideal for the kind of diverse and unique actor that Penn is, and a self-discovery road-trip is always a good starting point for a touching and beautiful journey of what appears to be an interesting character.

r over the Easter break

The Cabin in the Woods (13 April)

Before you roll your eyes and dismiss this as yet another predictable slasher horror in which attractive youngsters are killed off one by one by a deranged psychopath after the group makes the foolish mistake of going to an abandoned house in the middle of nowhere, have a closer look at the trailer. To start off with, these unfortunate people are harassed by not one serial killer, but instead a secret, well-organised group which seems to be equipped with hi-tech terrorising resources. Produced by Joss Whedon, the man behind *Buffy* and this summer's much anticipated *Avengers Assemble*, *The Cabin in the Woods* could be that rare horror film that carries with it some originality as well as some genuinely scary moments.



Jeff, Who Lives at Home (20 April)

From the director of *Cyrus*, 2010's well-received indie comedy, comes *Jeff, Who Lives at Home*, the heart-warming yet unexpectedly funny story of the aimless slacker Jeff (Jason Segel) living in the basement of his mother's (Susan Sarandon) house, and his married brother (Ed Helms). "You may not be able to change your dysfunctional family, but destiny, you can take control of," is the tagline this film is trying to sell. When his brother suspects that his wife (Judy Greer) may be cheating, Jeff helps with the spying process. The Duplass brothers, having both written and directed the film, have assembled a killer cast, and all the festival attention this has been receiving bodes well for the film's overall quality.



Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (20 April)

This must have been an absolute nightmare to finance and advertise for, given its highly unappealing title - fishing itself is an acquired-taste kind of activity, take this to the Yemen and you'll have an even smaller audience. But Lasse Hallström, known for his heart-warming dramas (*Chocolat*, *Hachi: A Dog's Tale*, *Dear John*), is the reliable man in charge telling the story of a fisheries expert (Emily Blunt), a consultant (Ewan McGregor), and a hopeful Sheik (Amr Waked) coming together to bring the sport of fly-fishing to the desert of Yemen. Despite the seemingly bland subject material, Blunt and McGregor form a likable team, and Kristin Scott Thomas pitches in some fine comic performance as an ambitious politician.



Albert Nobbs (27 April)

Glenn Close is now a six-time Oscar nominee thanks to her latest passion project. Adapting a play she performed around thirty years ago, her performance has won rave reviews since its release last year, and it finally hits the screens here. The tragic story of a woman living disguised as a male butler in 19th century Ireland to survive and make ends meet in the sexist society, Close never sets a foot wrong in portraying the paranoid woman trapped within the walls she built for her protection. It's a touching, gentle and subtle drama that also makes good use of its excellent ensemble. Janet McTeer also nabbed an Oscar nomination as the person providing support for Close, whereas Mia Wasikowska is her usual charming self.



American Reunion (2 May)

The original *American Pie* gang is back, 9 years after their *American Wedding* stint. Times have changed, their living situations have changed, but have they really grown up? Jim (Jason Biggs) and Michelle (Alyson Hannigan) are busy bringing up their two year-old son, Kevin (Thomas Ian Nicholas) is a married househusband, Oz (Chris Klein) has a new hot squeeze, and Stifler (Seann William Scott) is still Stifler, but with a job this time (we see him defecating in a picnic basket so maybe thankfully for the audience, he hasn't quite matured). Also back are Jim's Dad (Eugene Levy) and Stifler's Mom (Jennifer Coolidge) who end up in the same bedroom. Will the destined pair finally hook up in this instalment? Only time will tell.



FILM

Film Editors: **John Park**
Lucy Wiles

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Two spies who love me

This Means War

Director McG
Screenwriters Timothy Dowling, Simon Kinberg, Marcus Gautesen
Cast Reese Witherspoon, Thomas Hardy, Chris Pine

John Park

With a love triangle that is as impossibly good looking as this one, it's difficult to know which pair to root for. But to put things simply, it's a showdown between a young James Bond (Hardy) and a young Ethan Hunt (Pine) who are also best friends. "I know that you would take a bullet for me, I would for you as well." Awwwww. Their bromance is shown in none other than a loud, kinetic action scene on the rooftop of a tall Hong Kong tower, something director McG (*Terminator: Salvation*) should be familiar with. But it's nothing special, with a modest scale that seems to be a waste on the two talented young actors. And just from watching the first ten to fifteen minutes or so of uninspired, highly ordinary footage, we immediately begin to worry whether the rest of the film will be as mediocre.

Things get more interesting however, for both the leading men and the audience, when Witherspoon enters the picture. As her bright and perky unlucky-



I spy...with my little eye...something beginning with H...

in-love Lauren appears, it's no more a nice bromance, but a full-on war, hence the title. A slight misunderstanding involving a blind date and a chance encounter at a video rental store, the two men meet her within minutes, and are completely taken by her. Witherspoon, the talented comic actress who can do this kind of simple role in her sleep, is effective in showing us just why these two tough guys are bending over backwards to impress her. The snarky, sly interception of various dates begins, with the two spies, who have access to plenty of CIA's most advanced resources, smartly outdoing one another in the most spectacular ways. It's a nonsense screwball comedy, worked to maximum effect with the occasional action added.

A part of what makes this such a watchable experience is the entirely convincing chemistry Hardy shares with Pine. They're cheeky, funny, and seem uninhibited as they appear scene after scene bickering like two immature little boys. As they spy on Lauren she has no problem sharing all the intimate details of her two relationships to her blunt gal-pal confidant Trish (Chelsea Handler). FDR (Pine) has small and delicate hands – and this has more troubling implications, and Tuck (Hardy) is British – which apparently means the same thing. Hilarity ensues as the two spies are powerless to stop her.

It's not all about the bromance however: because Witherspoon is paired with a priceless comedic supporting co-

medienne Handler. Her dialogue is rich with dry, sarcastic and sexually charged zingers, and with her deadpan delivery of the well-written lines, she is an invaluable addition to the already impressive cast. This allows Witherspoon room to develop her character more and although Handler's role may be plagued with predictable clichés of a borderline alcoholic, sex-obsessed, middle-aged woman, the fact that she adds a whole lot more quality laughter into the film works out as a massive plus.

Despite the obvious humour that drives a lot of the film's first half, the script also remains faithful to the more romantic side of the two sets of relationships. FDR, the womanising, club-hopping playboy who lived on

one-night stands, is actually thinking of settling down with the girl who he is truly taken aback by. Tuck, reeling from his divorce and struggling to connect with his son whilst having to deal with the cold-shoulder treatment from his ex, also finds something deep and meaningful during his time with Lauren. Yes, there is nothing romantic, ethical or legal about how these two spies constantly have their eyes on this woman by spending some hi-tech valuable national resources – but this is McG's world. It's not supposed to be taken too seriously. And once you get past the issue regarding invasion of privacy, it turns into an entertaining romp.

With appealing leads, McG sustains the intrigue surrounding his love triangle but where he fails to truly impress is with his action scenes which never find enough momentum. As a subplot, these two CIA agents manage to anger a dangerous mobster. And surprise, Lauren gets caught in the middle of something deadly. What follows is a highly unsatisfying car chase, followed by one anti-climactic shoot-out in which Lauren makes her ultimate decision, all too soon, with a far too convenient solution to give everyone a happy ending. It will make you cringe, but because of its consistent build-up, ultimately it's an ideal film for a brainless night-out.

Total mayhem and carnage... just your average night at Metric

Project X

Director Nima Nourizadeh
Screenwriters Matt Drake, Michael Bacall
Cast Thomas Mann, Oliver Cooper, Jonathan Daniel Brown

Lucy Wiles

A distinctly unfunny teen-exploitation comedy about an epic all-night party that quickly collapses into anarchy, *Project X* also is a clever kind of clean page; viewers can project whatever feelings they have about the degenerative behaviour on display, since the film itself offers very few opinions. In that way, producers manage to provide a cultural, generational and even political theme to debate, one that will captivate a portion of the teenage demographic it shows, just as it alternately angers, infuriates and disgusts other, probably older, audiences.

From watching the film, several questions are raised. Firstly: have teenagers always been this moronic, or does *Project X* set new boundaries? Secondly: did earlier generations approach having a good time with such serious planning and forethought? And thirdly: does this film set the standard for the nausea-in-

ducing use of the unsteady cam – possibly the MOST ANNOYING filming type ever.

The premise, admittedly, is hugely unoriginal. Like all the other many films of this type, the motivating factor in the screenplay by first-timer Matt Drake and Michael Bacall (*Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, the soon to be released *21 Jump Street*) is the urgent and uncontrollable need for teenage boys, specifically of the geekish persuasion, to get laid. In this tale, this is exactly what lanky nice guy Thomas (Thomas Mann) would like for his 18th birthday, so plans are hatched for an epic, lady-filled blowout the night his parents leave town for the weekend...you can see the problems arising already.

Unfortunately, taking control of things is Thomas' pal Costa (Oliver Cooper), a rude, crude, grubby little creep who ignores rules – notably those laid down by Thomas to do with limiting the party to two or three dozen guests and not allowing them in the house. Costa keeps reassuring Thomas that everything will be fine, and not to worry about it, while making sure drugs will be widely available courtesy of a horrifically unsavory dealer. In another movie, you could

imagine Costa could have been a funny, over-the-top character, always goading his pal into ever-more-risky territory; here, as adamantly enacted by Cooper, he's just loathsome, venal and without humor, and that he pointedly identifies himself as Jewish won't endear him to guardians of the religion's reputation.

“Have teenagers always been this moronic?”

The format is predictable, but what *Project X* does manage to do is remove all the usual elements of cuteness from the equation; being a nerdy teenager has always involved a certain amount of awkwardness, angst and anxiety, but there usually is some fun attached, and the usual teen films tap into that nearly universal insecurity and apprehension connected to the rites of passage. Here, there is none of that – the desperation level is too high; it's all about getting booze, getting drugs, getting sex, and all immediately. Or, as Costa says, “To-

night's about changing the game.”

Project X was supposedly inspired by a similar event in Australia a few years back when, thanks to a moronic Facebook post, hundreds of people turned up for a house party, resulting in uncontrollable mayhem and madness...and a bill for the parents of thousands of aussie dollars. In *Project X*, after a slow and slightly tedious start, it seems like everyone in North Pasadena between the ages of about 16-18, plus a few older partygoers and a bunch of younger hopefuls, has gathered at Thomas' house for a party of awesome proportions. The DJs pound classics into the calm neighbourhood, the alcohol flows all too freely, slutty girls strip off and jump in the pool, an unsuspecting dog is sent airborne via multiple balloons, a piñata spills Ecstasy tablets, all morals and inhibitions fade, Thomas' parents Mercedes ends up underwater, and the drug dealer turns up with a flame thrower. They meant it when they said awesome proportions.

Amazingly (and somewhat unrealistically), the cops only visit once and leave after they are turned away by some legal chitchat from Costa, who aspires to be lawyer. Eventually, however, the party becomes major media news even as it

continues, which is all it takes to justify its existence in this day and age.

The ending concludes with the boys definitely feeling the life-changing consequences that must be paid for their delinquency. However, the filmmakers still imply that, even if they do nothing further of any use in their whole lives, they'll always have this one massive event; here lies the problem of the film's lack of point-of-view, leaving it to the viewer to decide if the party was a good/bad/absolutely horrific thing.

Aesthetically, the film just does your head in, unless you can cope with the nausea that comes with 'home-cinema' effect filming. Under the pretext that a raver is filming the party, first-time director Nima Nourizadeh and cinematographer Ken Seng swing the camera around repeatedly and unfortunately induce a strong feeling of seasickness. The images tend to be dark and random, the music incessant; this is certainly not the film to see when hungover, or with a headache. From a production point of view, the set is such carnage that you must imagine the vast amount of clearing up for retakes would be horrendous. And where on earth was the movie shot so as not to bother the neighbours?!

Television Editors: **George Barnett**
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TELEVISION

Today your diary entry will read: “took a prozzie hostage and was shot by three armed bastards!”

George Barnett
James Simpson

My name is Alex Drake, I've just been shot and that bullet has sent me back to 1981. I may be one second away from life, or one second away from death. All I know is that I have to keep fighting: fight to live, fight to see my daughter, fight to get home.

Alex Drake (the smoking hot Keeley Hawes) is a trained police psychologist and negotiator who has recently been researching the case of Sam Tyler, an officer who claimed to have been sent back to 1973 after being hit by a car in 2006.

In the first two of the five series (*Life On Mars*), Tyler was in a coma for some time after the car accident. On regaining consciousness, his accounts of DI Gene Hunt (Philip Glenister), DS Ray Carling (Dean Andrews) and DC Chris Skelton (Marshall Lancaster) were dismissed as fantasy, but for Alex, it's all about to get very real.

Lured into a disused shipping container by a seemingly mentally afflicted man with a revolver, Alex is shot in the head and wakes up to find herself in a brothel (and dressed as a top-class prostitute, phwoaar)... in 1981. The red Audi Quat-



tro comes screeching to a halt and out steps DCI Gene Hunt. Screw forms and bureaucracy, Gene is a cop-per from the good old days of gut instinct and steel-toecap boots. Alex Drake is his new DI.

Over three series (and twenty-four one-hour episodes) as the team punch, kick, shoot (and subject to psychoanalysis) most of London's criminal low-life scum, Alex and Gene develop something of a love-hate relationship

with each other. But is Alex still alive?

At the end of series two, Alex wakes up in 2008, having accidentally been shot by Gene during the foiling of a group of corrupt officers – but there's no bullet wound on her forehead. Is she dead? When she returns, it's 1983 and the increasing bureaucracy in the force arrives in the shape of DCI Jim Keats (Daniel Mays) – there to investigate Gene's conduct.

The exquisite aura of evil which manifests itself around Keats is of Rickmanian proportions, which, combined with his fantastic socially-awkward deportment, is more scary than

Spotify playlist

Some of the best music from the soundtrack to all twenty-four episodes.
<http://tinyurl.com/a2aplaylist>



“One has simply not experienced the delectation of music from the era of Thatcher until one has availed oneself of this playlist.”
G Howard

the whole of *The Woman in Black*. All of which is rather fitting, but we're already far enough into spoiler territory!

All in all, *Ashes* is brilliantly thought out and some of Gene Hunt's witty quips will have people surrounded by armed bastards and firing up imaginary Quattros (or should that be Quattri?) for some time to come. Watch it!



Fire up the quattro

GAMES

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The impact of immaturity

Keir Little discusses why the gaming community needs to buck up its ideas if it ever wants to be taken seriously

Gaming has boomed recently: its popularity, company profits and presence in popular culture are at a level unimaginable twenty years ago. No one bats an eyelid if you say you play videogames, and the stereotype of a game player being a ‘nerd’ (and all that comes with it) is thankfully being broken down. Games have become a form of entertainment just like television or literature. Unlike other media, though, gaming culture — that is, its players, developers and critics — has a lot of growing up to do. Whereas once videogames were toys for children, the vast majority of popular games now are made for, marketed to and played by adults, though a glance at any games discussion forum online would have you thinking quite the opposite.

“What’s disappointing is the extreme ease with which casually racist, sexist and homophobic slurs are used”

Screaming profanities at one’s killers and gloating over one’s enemies is par for the course in online games. They wouldn’t be the same without it, but what’s disappointing is the extreme ease with which casually racist, sexist and homophobic slurs are used. While these are indicative more of lack of thought than anything else, when a real female voice is heard in a game things take a turn for the worse. A woman playing an online game can expect to be propositioned for sex, threatened with rape, insulted on her skill or intelligence or demanded to reveal herself, just for daring to appear in the game room. God for-



They look content now, but wait until someone breaks their killing streak

bid she actually be good at what she’s playing — then, the conclusion will be quickly reached that she’s either fat, ugly or slutty.

Misogyny is inherent in games more than any other entertainment media. Browse the shelves of a game shop and see how many covers feature a woman who’s essentially just ridiculously proportioned curves in a few square centimetres of clothing. Any that don’t, flip them over and see how many have a support character who plays the same role. Gaming is a medium where one doesn’t just hire an attractive actress, but designs a character from the ground up to be a walking sex object, with physics to control the jiggle of each individual breast (yes, really!). This is offensive not only to women, but to the men who play games, suggesting that a real, developed female character is something we’re not interested in. That’s not to say there are none of these in

mainstream games — Alyx Vance from *Half-Life 2* is a scientist dressed in normal clothes; Samus Aran from the *Metroid* game series is sexy without being sexist and wears armour that looks like it could deflect more than a raindrop. This seems to be largely overlooked by the community, though, and the fact that these characters appear in countless “video game babes” lists (this publication included) is cause for some concern.

I’ve mentioned ‘mainstream’ gaming as, like films, there are big blockbuster games as well as smaller, artier ‘indie’ games. Unlike films, no game so far seems to have bridged the gap, and been a piece of artistic impression while also appealing to a wide audience. Unlike any other media, games are unique in that they can use the player’s actions as part of the storytelling; the game mechanics themselves can be part of the plot and symbolism. My favourite example of this is *Bioshock*, which subverts its own gameplay to deliver a twist I can honestly say is better than any film I’ve seen (and yes, I’ve seen *The Usual Suspects*). Yet still, *Bioshock* is a game largely about shooting people or hitting them with a wrench. Its atmosphere is beautiful; its twist magnificently dealt, but its plot is little more than ‘objectivism is bad.’ While games that can be called works of art exist, there are not any which have a plot comparable to a good book or film. Is this because of a lack of good writers working for major game developers, fans who cannot enjoy a deep plot, or just that developers are afraid to release something that doesn’t appeal to the lowest common denominator? I hope it’s merely the latter. I’m sure gaming can do better, but with the utter lack of sensible storyline or believable characters in any current blockbuster games, it’s going to take a long time. Gaming needs its *Dark Knight*.

Finally, the gaming community is self-entitled to an extreme. When a television series goes in the wrong direction, critics will complain and



This isn’t a great stereotype...



...but let’s be honest, neither is this one

people will begrudgingly stop watching the show. Usually, the series’ earlier, good episodes are still fondly remembered. When a game series changes, or an individual game fails to deliver on promises, the internet becomes filled with fans’ rage. For example, the recent announcement that *Mass Effect 3* will allow gay relationships (male, of course — otherwise there’d be no complaint) has resulted in several angry outbursts, the most ridiculous being that the idea is non-canon — in a roleplaying game, where you choose exactly whom you want your character to be. One of my favourite games, *Team Fortress 2*, was made completely free-to-play last June, nearly four years after its initial release. Owners who bought the game soon after its original release date received an in-game badge to show their ‘veteran’ status, which provoked outrage. “I paid for this game,” people complained, “and all I get for it is a badge?” seemingly oblivious to the four years they’d spent playing it.

One could point out that such childish behaviour can be seen in any pub or football stadium, and they’d be right. But gamers are seeking newcomers to the hobby, and for it to be recognised as a legitimate entertainment and art form. I mentioned the old stereotype of a gamer is breaking down, but a new one is taking its place — that of self-absorbed lazy lads, doing nothing better than sitting around, drinking beer and playing on the Xbox. If the gaming community — vocal, obnoxious and ever-present on the internet — wants to shake this image before it’s too late, they’ve got a lot of growing up to do.



Explain to me why someone would wear armour vulnerable to a pair of blunt scissors

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FASHION

Fashion's big re-shuffle

Jacobs, Pilati, Sander, Simons and Slimane; **Alice Yang** brings you the latest amid a designer overhaul

As a month of high-fashion draws to an end with yards of lace, cashmere and leather erupting lavishly off the Paris catwalks, the unavoidable fact is that a tornado of names is what belies the centre of its storm.

There has been an explosion in terms of change at the top of fashion this season, morphing the familiar horizon of creative designers as we know it into a completely new landscape. Fuelled by the rumour mill created by keen-eyed journalists anxious to pair-off displaced designers with prospective houses, such turbulence has been envisaged ever since the scandal involving John Galliano kicked-off nearly a year ago.

The biggest news to date: Hedi Slimane has replaced Stefano Pilati as the creative director at Yves Saint Laurent.

Late last week, after numerous mumblings, the French luxury house confirmed that Stefano Pilati would not be renewing his contract after this season. Although the house claimed in a statement that Pilati had been "instrumental in rebuilding and repositioning" the label, guiding it to become "a contemporary reference in high fashion", Pilati's tenure at YSL has not been without its bumps. In fact, it was widely speculated a couple of seasons back that Pilati would be replaced at the house since it emerged he had lost favour with the label's chief executives, owing to the line's accessories selling better than its clothes.

Yet having followed on from Tom Ford, Pilati's 8 years at the house have been an overall success. Greatly concentrated on precision tailoring and luxurious fabrics, Pilati's designs were sensual and seductive, with a heavy hint to the Parisian elegance Saint-Laurent himself had strived for, but which were somewhat lost amongst Ford's sexually provocative pieces.

In fact, Pilati's last collection on Monday seemed almost prophetic. Elegant bare-backs, glittering chain mail dresses and leather wasp-waisted jackets; Pilati's finale infused darkened sincerity with a sparkle of floral romance, as if hinting that he would emerge from the thicket of changeovers as a bloom of freshness.

But alas, before Pilati has managed to reveal his

own future plans, the heads of YSL validated strong rumours by naming Hedi Slimane as the house's new creative director.

For those out-of-the-know, Hedi Slimane is nothing less than a fashion legend in his own right. Having held a cult following whilst he was creative director at Dior Homme in the 2000s, and known for his introduction of the super-skinny silhouette (i.e. the driving force behind the male skinny jeans revolution); Slimane was, and still is, *the* menswear designer of our time. In fact, Chanel's own fashion mogul Karl Lagerfeld puts Slimane's suits down as the reason he lost a remarkable amount of weight in 2001.

This new appointment of Slimane to YSL is nothing short of a homecoming given that he led their menswear designs in the late 90s, yet it is still a big jump for the house. Not only will this be the start of Slimane's career in womenswear, it is photography he has dedicated himself to these past 5 years, and so understandably, the fashion world watches on with high expectations and even higher tensions. No doubt YSL's show next season will be one of the most highly anticipated.

From one reinstatement to another, the headline news from Milan fashion week was that Jil Sander would be making a return to her eponymous label 40 years after she founded it, following the release that Raf Simons would be leaving his post at the helm of the house this season.

Having recently completed his highly acclaimed 'couture trilogy' for the label, Raf Simons' farewell show was a breathtakingly simple one. With a flow of petal pink and ivory coats daintily clutched at the chest, which morphed into a procession of shiny black PVC and leather dresses, Simons' final parade brought tears into the eyes of those that watched. Heralded as

"Hedi Slimane has replaced Stefano Pilati as the creative director at Yves Saint Laurent."

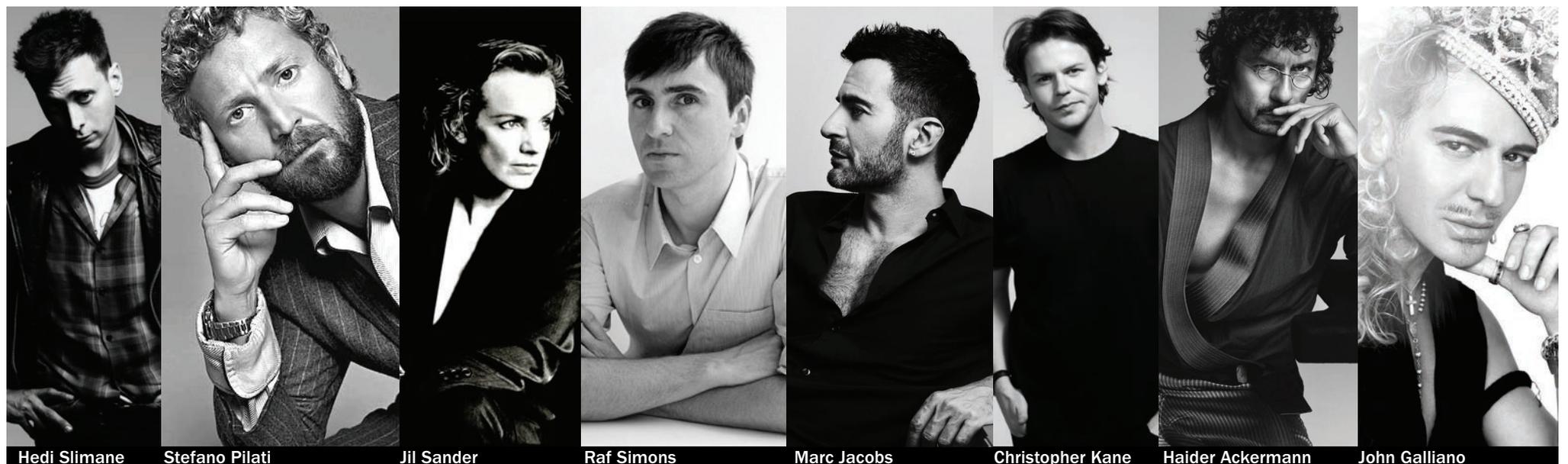
his best collection yet, Simons departed to a standing ovation *and* an encore; it was a monumental end to his majestic journey of influential simplicity with the house.

Given the influx of newly displaced designers, as well as the prospect of further reshuffling, a waterfall of potential candidates has cascaded the fashion blogosphere to try and answer its golden question: Who will be the new creative director at Christian Dior?

Having ruled out Riccardo Tisci and Azzedine Alaïa last season, London designer Christopher Kane became the center of speculation last week following his collaboration with Donatella Versace on a Camden-inspired acidic-tie-dye collection for the diffusion line Versus.

Yet as soon as Kane had ruled himself out of the race, the rumour mill turned to Haider Ackermann, another of fashion's most talented new designers, after it was reported that a bouquet of flowers had been sent to Dior's HQ earlier this week with a congratulatory message for him. This has since sent editors and bloggers alike into a flurry, as not only was Ackermann popularly conceived to be "too edgy" for the legendary label, it is well known that Karl Lagerfeld has named Ackermann as his preferred replacement at rival French house Chanel.

Inevitably, following the Louis Vuitton show on Wednesday, Marc Jacobs also re-entered the scene



Hedi Slimane

Stefano Pilati

Jil Sander

Raf Simons

Marc Jacobs

Christopher Kane

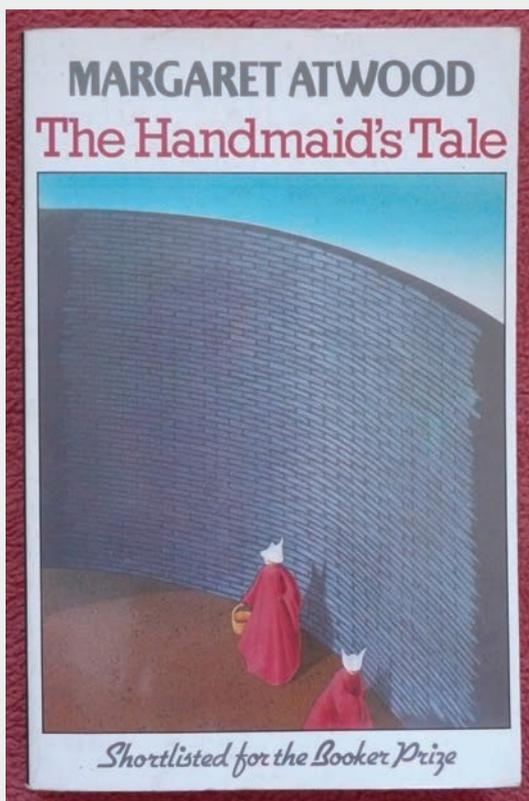
Haider Ackermann

John Galliano

BOOKS

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A Handmaid's Tale



Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* often appears on people's lists of recommended novels. Unfortunately, I have a somewhat bad record at reading must-read books so I only picked it up last week. Perhaps, however, I should begin to pay more attention to such highly recommended books since *The Handmaid's Tale* is honestly one of the best books I have ever read.

Set in the near future where a crisis brought on by mass infertility has allowed a Christian fundamentalist government to take over the USA, renaming it the Republic of Gilead, the novel follows Offred whose only worth to the regime, as a low class but fertile woman, is, in her own words, "a womb on legs".

This is a chilling and bleakly believable tale of life under an oppressive totalitarian and fundamentalist regime. One of the most famous quotes from the novel is "nolite te bastardes carborundorum" but the fact is that we see everybody, even those who have positions of power or who the reader had thought were strong, being ground and broken down by the harsh societal and political climate.

The focus is of course on Offred – stripped of her family, her identity and even her old name – now referred to only by the name of the man to whom she is providing her services. While forced to maintain a quiet and pious outer demeanour through her first person narration we see her desperate struggle to maintain her identity, and hope for a better future, despite all that surrounds her.

The true strength of the book is its language and narrative style. Offred's account is structured as if she were directly addressing the reader. There is a great deal of nonlinearity as she goes off on a tangent or remembers something important from the past. This makes us feel like we're in her head – making everything feel more real and immediate. She begins to feel like a real person so we can't help but feel for her.

This is a powerful novel that works on every level. Atwood is a masterful author and I thoroughly recommend that you check this and her other work out.

Maciej Matuszewski

Jacek Dukaj's *Ice*

A political and philosophical alternate history thriller

Maciej Matuszewski

I find it rather disappointing how so few of the books available to readers in this country are written by foreign language authors. Sure, you can find translations of all the French and Russian classics in the larger bookshops but not much from other countries and certainly nothing contemporary. I'm somewhat at a loss to explain this phenomenon. Other European countries don't seem to have this problem, with some bookshops devoting up to half their fiction section to translations. I think that it's a great loss for the British public – foreign literature is a way of immersing yourself in new cultures without leaving your home – it broadens the mind and gives you a new viewpoint. I bet that not many of you have even heard of Henryk Sienkiewicz, despite the man having won a Nobel Prize in Literature. It seems that, in general, publishers have seemingly decided not to run the risk of giving their readers something different. I was therefore pleasantly surprised when I heard that the independent British publisher Atlantic Books will be putting out an English translation of Jacek Dukaj's acclaimed science fiction alternate history novel *Ice* before the year is out.

Ice is set in alternate universe during the 1920s, where the 1908 Tunguska event unleashed creatures known as "lute". Looking almost like angels made of ice they move at a glacial pace but bring endless winter wherever they venture. As they move through Siberia, and later European Russia, agriculture collapses and people flock to cities to find new livelihoods and protection from the deadly cold. The lute have, however, created a whole new industry, transmuting anything that they pass through into strange new materials, such as an incredibly light and strong steel or coal that, when burned, produces darkness and not light. This has all drastically altered the balance of power on the continent – the First World War has never happened and the European powers maintain an uneasy peace.

Benedykt Gierosławski, who provides the novel's narration, is a poor mathematician living a Warsaw that is still occupied by the Russian Empire. He earns a pittance working as a private tutor but everything changes when, one morning, he is awakened by functionaries from the Ministry of Winter who inform him that they want him to travel to Irkutsk, deep in Siberia, to find his father, who they believe has developed an ability to speak with the lute.

This thrusts him into a world of political intrigue, as various factions try to control him and his father for their own ends. This element is the greatest strength of *Ice*. The book is long and slow paced, allowing this complex political situation to be explored in great detail. We see a picture of how power in the Russian Empire is dangerously fragmented – the list of the people and organisations trying to control Benedykt is quite impressive. We have Szulc-of-the-Winter, the governor of Irkutsk; Pobiedonoscew, head of the Siberian mining monopoly Sibirożeto; Rappacki, the Russian Minister of Winter; the Tsar himself; Siberian



Let me guess, this novel is set in Imperial Russia?

separatists; Polish terrorists and freedom fighters; and the mysterious members of the Church of St. Marcyn, lead by Rasputin himself, who worship the Ice. I have never before read a book that explores political intrigue with such depth.

"...most of the book is spent exploring the nature of logic..."

Unfortunately this element is not the main focus of *Ice*. Rather, most of the book is spent exploring the nature of logic, and how the fabric of reality itself has been affected by the arrival of the lute. This could have been fas-

cinating and we do see glimpses of brilliance but Dukaj wallows in the worst excesses of pseudo-philosophy, resulting in pages of pages of what, to me, is just meaningless drivel. This also leads to some rather weird moments. The first line of the protagonist's narration is: "It was on the eve of my Siberian Odyssey that I first began to believe that I don't exist". This doubt leads him, a few chapters in, to suddenly switch from first to third person. I do often enjoy elements of weirdness but here they don't have any depth. They're fun to read but they just don't add anything.

I should probably say here that I'm not trying to discourage you from reading *Ice*. I recognise that books like these can often be subjective and it certainly has been popular in Poland, winning numerous awards. You should certainly give it a go, even if only to try something different.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

The business of religion

College Chaplain Andrew Willson discusses the ongoing conversations resulting from the Occupy movement

The camp of Occupy London has finally been evicted from outside St Paul's Cathedral. I had visited the site and talked with a few people. I liked the way they focused attention on the how the current economic crisis is being handled. The camp highlighted the close links between the Cathedral and the City of London. Yet it also had wide support from local UK Churches. Their members feel the economic issues themselves and hear the stories of hardship from their partner communities in developing nations.

The existing systems of banking and regulation have led us to this place of economic instability and rising inequality. The world wide Occupy movement focuses the demands of people around the world for new thinking and new ways of doing business, ways that offer some stability for our futures. Much of the outcry about recent bonuses for bankers at RBS comes from a sense that after the greatest wake-up call in economic history nothing much seems to have changed. Instead austerity, financial instability and increasing inequality seem to be all that is offered.

Student concerns about debts and employment options – and how these play out around the world – now feature in the conversations we hear as Chaplains. In a multi-faith team these concerns are

Andrew Fok



The relationship between religious traditions and business could provide a new angle to the Occupy movement

seen within different religious frameworks. Our religious traditions have long histories and have adapted to different economic systems over the centuries. Religions have views about the purpose wealth, and how to combine justice with our personal economic needs. For example, Islamic banking asks fundamental questions about the purpose of money. In Hinduism there is the idea that financial success needs to be seen alongside true devotion if the success is to bring goodness into life.

The Jewish idea of 'sabbath' questions the purpose and scope of work, while the idea of 'shalom' gives a holistic vision of prosperity. Christianity asks how the poorest are to share in general prosperity.

At a time of economic uncertainty maybe dialogue with the religious traditions about finance and business can give an new angle to the debate. Students from Imperial Interfaith and the Chaplaincy are bringing together a panel of people with varied experience of

finance and business. They will be invited to answer questions from students about how their own faith engages with their business practice and what insights it offers for shaping the current situation. Members of the panel are drawn from the Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian faith traditions. Alkesh Patel, is a trader and columnist for the Financial Times. Tarek El Diwany was head of the Islamic Finance department at Prebon Yamane in London and a bond trader. He now writes and consults

on Islamic banking and finance. Marcus Bateman is Vice President of Corporate Payments for Barclays Corporate. His current area of responsibility is Product Management for Faster Payments. He is a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in the Church of England. Maurice Ostro is Chairman of Ostro Minerals (UK) and Chair and founder of Fayre Share Investments. He is also a trustee of the Anglo-Israel Association and the Council of Christians and Jews.

This is not about finding complete agreement. Religious communities have good questions. Yet, like St Paul's they cannot avoid their own involvement in the current systems. No one is pretending that religious communities have all the answers. Rather we want to widen the debate about issues that affect all human beings. There is a sense of urgency. Religions with long memories – like political campaigners – know that if current practice is not reshaped with justice then those with the most power will shape things for their convenience and at the expense of the majority.

Business and Religion : In Dialogue Thursday 15 March, 6:30-8pm in the Business School LGS lecture theatre.

For more see www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy or 'Imperial Interfaith' on Facebook.

Reporting on the latest from Raincatcher Imperial

Following on from the success of their recent Metric Night, Raincatcher is busy obtaining sponsorship for the ambitious Water Carry Walk

Pavitar Singh Devgon

In the latest fundraising endeavour, open to both Raincatcher members and members of the public, each person will carry 10 litres of water approximately 10 miles from Tower Bridge to Imperial College. The Water Carry Walk is taking place this Saturday (10 March) so it's not too late to join in, but do get a move on! As well as being a way to collect sponsorship for our project over the summer of building a rainwater harvesting system, this event helps to highlight the importance of a sustainable water supply.

Each day in Tanzania, hundreds of children as young as 5 have to carry clean drinking water similar distances from government-owned and distributed supplies back to their homes. We're trying to bring this to public

attention by showing what a physical feat this is to carry water long distances. Given that this walk has earned Raincatcher a lot of publicity and donations in the past, we hope this year's will be a success too!

As mentioned, you don't have to be part of Raincatcher to participate. So if you want to come along and help out our charity, experience what hundreds of children have to do, or if you just want to show off your muscles, come along and join in! For every participant raising over £100, we will provide a free Raincatcher T-shirt!

So what are you waiting for? Get involved! Sponsorship forms are available from our website: www.raincatcherimperial.org. You can also find out details about our project and donate to us through Virgin Money Giving on the site!

FOOD

Food Editors: **Anastasia Eleftheriou**
Michael Krestas

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Chocolate & Oat Cookies

by **Brigitte Jessica Janssen**

Brigitte's second submission for the Fairtrade Food Awards: Flourless Intensely Chocolate and Oat Chewy Cookies.



Who said delicious cookies can't be Fairtrade?

Ingredients

255g Fairtrade Demara Sugar
85g Fairtrade Cocoa Powder
3 eggs (whites)
2 tsp Vanilla Extract
100g Jumbo oats
Baking paper

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180 Degrees Celcius.
2. Separate the egg yellows and egg whites.
3. Mix the egg whites with the rest of the ingredients well.
4. Lay out the baking paper on a tray and scoop the batter onto the tray to form the cookies. Makes ~10 depending on sizes.
5. Place into the oven for 7 minutes and let it cool on the tray afterwards.



The Fairtrade Fortnight ends tonight. Don't miss the **Market Stall @Sherfield, 11.30am and Soapmaking class @ Union MR3, 6pm.**



Imperial Fairtrade Food Awards

The second Imperial Food Awards have ended – **Anastasia Eleftheriou and Michael Krestas**

1ST **Brigitte Jessica Janssen's Goey, Fibre And Mango infused Blackberry Muffins** earned her the top prize: a £30 voucher for online shopping site *ethicalsuperstore.com*. Congratulations!

Ingredients

30g jumbo oats
2 eggs
185g self-raising flour
40g Fairtrade demara sugar
25g mix of pumpkin + sunflower seeds
25g Walnut Halves
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp baking powder
50ml milk
150ml natural yoghurt
1 Fairtrade mango
1/2 Fairtrade lime
75g Blackberries
Muffin cases (makes 16)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180 Degrees Celsius
2. Squeeze out the juice of the lime into a bowl.
3. Break the walnuts into smaller pieces using a mortar.
4. Carve out as much of the mango flesh as possible and purée it using food processor.
5. Combine all the ingredients, except the berries, making sure that it is mixed well in a bowl.
6. Line a cupcake tray with muffin cases.
7. Chop the blackberries into halves.



8. Equally distribute the batter into the cases adding a few blackberries into the cases as this is done so that they are in the middle of the muffin.
9. Place the tray into the oven for 30 minutes, letting them cool in the tray once taken out. The muffins may be quite goey, so they should be solidified in the fridge.



2ND **Jordan Purvis and Alison Lee** took the second spot with their **Coffee and Walnut Cake!** For a little more inspiration, the prize takes the form of book *Leon: Ingredients and Recipes*



Ingredients

For the cake:

50g walnut pieces
225g Fairtrade light brown sugar
225g soft unsalted butter
200g plain flour
6 teaspoons Fairtrade instant espresso powder
1 teaspoon of Fairtrade cinnamon
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoons bicarbonate of soda
4 eggs
2 x 15ml tablespoons milk

For the espresso buttercream frosting:

350g Fairtrade icing sugar
175g soft unsalted butter
2 1/2 teaspoons instant espresso powder, dissolved in 15ml of boiling water

Others:

25 g walnut halves, or enough to decorate 20



cm cake tin

Method

Preheat the oven to 180 Degrees Celsius/ gas mark 4. Bash walnuts to a rubbly powder (leaving little bits and pieces will be fine) with a rolling pin and mix with the rest of the dry ingredients.

Cream the butter and sugar together, and beat in the dry ingredients and eggs alternately.

Finally, add in the milk slowly while constantly beating the mixture. The mixture should give a smooth consistency (add less or more milk depending on this).

Pour the cake mixture into the baking tin and bake in the oven for roughly 30 minutes, or until the sponge has turned brown or feels springy to touch. A sharp knife can be used to pierce the cake layer to check whether the baking is done.

After baking, leave the cake to cool on a wire rack.

Start making the buttercream frosting by boiling some water in a small saucepan and adding the espresso powder.

Sieve the icing sugar in a bowl and beat in the butter with a wooden spoon. Add in the hot coffee liquid mixture slowly and mix well.

Once the cake has cooled down enough, spread the espresso buttercream frosting on top of the cake and decorate with walnuts and some cinnamon powder.

Food Awards: The Results

Michael Krestas sift through the entries in search of Imperial's best cookery maestros

3RD The final main competition winner, Faye Thomsit, fired up the fruits and created a **Foxy Fairtrade Sunshine Soufflé**, winning a copy of *Just Desserts: 50 sweet surprises using Fairtrade ingredients*



Serves 2

Suitable for vegetarians, coeliacs and those who are dairy intolerant.

You will need

One Plate
Two Ramekins (or an old Gü pot, good for reuse)
A Saucepan or Microwavable bowl
Oven set to 150 Degrees Celsius

Ingredients

1 Papaya/pawpaw cut into cubes
1 Mango cut into slices
1 Banana Fairtrade, sliced diagonally
Dried ribbon cut coconut (optional)
½ Juiced Lime
1 tsp Traidcraft Wild Blossom Fair Trade Honey
Oil
30g Tesco Finest Fairtrade Organic 70% Plain Chocolate

12g Tate & Lyle Fair trade Gran Sugar
1kg
Free Range Egg separated
(or one white, to ½ yolk if scaling up)

Method

For the Soufflé grease the ramekin with oil, then finely grate the chocolate into the ramekin and roll it round the sides. Place 25g of dark chocolate in container in warm/simmering water (make sure the container does not touch the bottom of the saucepan, or the chocolate will burn), alternatively melt the chocolate in the microwave, using short bursts, checking and stirring regularly. Whisk the egg yolk to firm peak (bit stronger than soft), then whisk the yolk and the sugar together. Drizzle the melted chocolate into the yolk mixture. Add the whites bit by bit into the yolk and chocolate mixture; then fold the

whites in gently, without losing any air. Spoon the mixture into the ramekin and cook for 25 minutes.

Do not open the oven door during this time, as this will cause the Soufflé to collapse.

Dressing the plate; Use the spare ramekin to mark the centre of the plate; then lay the papaya cubes round the ramekin in a circle. Next lay the mango slices out like rays of the sun, spreading from the papaya. Between each piece of mango, place a round of banana, then sprinkle on the coconut if desired.

Place the honey and lime in the saucepan, 5 minutes before the soufflé is cooked, warming into a dressing, and drizzle over the fruit salad. Take the soufflé from the oven, place on plate, serve immediately.

Enjoy with a partner or a friend.



Runner-up Nicholas Greenwood's Fairtrade Coconut Cornflake Cakes

Makes approx. 6 large

Ingredients

100g cornflakes
5tbsp Fairtrade honey
60g unsalted butter
60g Fairtrade icing sugar
70g desiccated coconut
25g Fairtrade milk chocolate
25g Fairtrade white chocolate
25g Fairtrade dark chocolate
15g butter

Method

- Melt the unsalted butter
- Mix in honey
- Sieve icing sugar into mixture
- Add cornflakes and mix
- Add Desiccated coconut
- Separate mixture into



- cupcake cases
- Melt chocolates separately with 5g butter each
8. Add chocolate as a topping
9. Dust with a little coconut
10. Place in fridge for 1 hour to set

Runner-up Stephanie Lim takes on a Maple Banana Loaf

Ingredients

2 Eggs
1 Egg Yolk
7 tbsp Unsalted Butter, melted
1 tsp Vanilla
1 2/3 c Flour
3/4 c Fairtrade Sugar
1/2 tsp Baking Soda
1/4 tsp Baking Powder
2 tbsp maple syrup
½ tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp nutmeg
Pinch of Salt

Method

Pre-heat your oven to 350°F and prepare your loaf pan(s) by coating with butter. Set aside. In a medium bowl add the bananas, eggs, egg yolk, melted butter, and vanilla. Mash



together until well mixed with a fork or potato masher. Set aside. In another medium size bowl add the flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Whisk together to mix. Pour the banana mixture over the flour mixture, and add the nuts to the mixtures. With a large spatula fold all the ingredients to-

gether until well incorporated and there is none of the dry mixture left. Pour into the prepared pans and for one large loaf, bake for 50-60 minutes until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack in the pans. Store in air-tight containers in slices or chunks (or whole loaves) in the refrigerator.

The runners-up each win free entry to a Fairtrade event of their choice. Many thanks must go to the **ICU Fairtrade Society** and especially to **Olivia Tillbert** for co-organising and sponsoring the Awards.

FOOD

Food Editors: **Anastasia Eleftheriou**
Michael Krestas

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Make your own nuggets

by Anastasia Eleftheriou



Better and healthier than KFC!

We all love nuggets; it's the first choice, possibly after burgers, that we usually choose to eat at a fast-food restaurant. Despite the addictive taste of the fast-food nuggets, they are really bad for our health; and it's not only about fat and frying. We cannot be sure of the quality of the chicken used for their production, basically because we cannot even recognize whether it is chicken at all. They could have used literally any cheap material that tastes good.

For those who enjoy eating nuggets very often and are concerned about health problems or they want to keep fit, I will explain in simple words how I used to make delicious nuggets at home that are low in calories.

Firstly, you need to preheat the oven to 200 degrees and put a non-stick baking sheet to a pan and grease it with butter. Take 2 chicken fillets and pound evenly until they are about half their original thickness. Cut up the fillets in pieces and season with salt and pepper.

Then you need 3 bowls. In the first one put half cup of flour, in the second one 2 eggs (yes, you do need to whisk them before) and in the final one a cup of breadcrumbs, some parmesan and oregano. After that you just put each piece of chicken in the bowls in order (flour – eggs – breadcrumbs) and you place them in the pan. For extra taste, spread some olive oil on top of the nuggets.

They need approximately 30 minutes in the oven, but don't forget to turn them after the first 15 minutes in order to get a brown colour on both sides. To make it a healthy supper serve it with salad, or for a complete meal serve it with chips and ketchup or mayonnaise.



No fowl play here

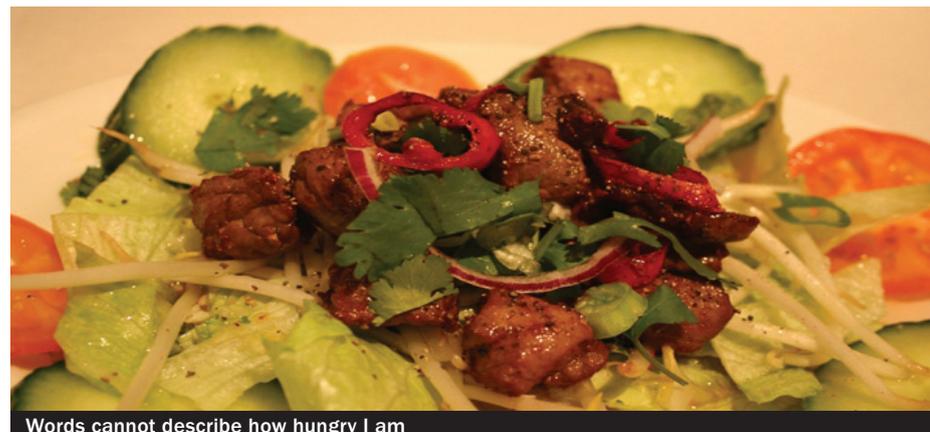
So what you need to do now is try the recipe and give me feedback! I'm sure you'll love it!

It's all about Me Me

Stephen Gallagher pays a visit to the Vietnamese restaurant

I passed Me Me almost every day in my second and third years of College, but only ate there once. I returned again last night to satisfy the craving I've been having for Vietnamese food. From the outside it looks pretty standard. Menu in the window, bright sign and a bright welcoming look to it. Go inside and the guy will be sitting there playing Warcraft on his laptop, oh the authenticity. He does greet us, before he lets his female counterpart show us to our table. The front of the restaurant looks quite cramped, but towards the back it widens out, and there are some bigger tables. The menu is very interesting, and has a wide selection of Vietnamese food, and the westernised classics. They have written all the names of the authentic dishes in green, which immediately attracts me to them. They all have a good English description, so you know what you're in for. As for drinks, don't expect any high quality wines or beer, but the jasmine tea went down a treat.

We got summer rolls for starters. I know what you're thinking, are they just the same greasy deep fried things you get in a Chinese restaurant, just with a different season. Oh how wrong you are. A summer roll lives up to its name. They have prawns, the freshest herbs (mint and coriander mainly), add some rice vermicelli noodles all wrapped up in rice paper. Then dip it in a slightly spicy peanut sauce, and take a bite of sum-



Words cannot describe how hungry I am

mer; which with summer fast approaching, I am filled with excitement for London in the summer time.

The mains came in little metal pots with lids, which I thought was a nice touch. I like taking a lid off food, it's like unwrapping a present. We ordered Pork Kho, which had a pungent smell (in a good way.) The meat was very tender, and fell apart easily. This, for someone who isn't an expert with chopsticks, was appreciated. The taste was impressive. It wasn't due to a great combination of flavors; it was the one powerful flavor that made this dish. I later learned that the sauce is made from fermented soybeans. The smell somewhat reminds me of a brewery, not the most pleasing to the nose, but I

still want to drink it. It also came with a little plate of vegetables, mostly bean sprouts, again mixed with some very fresh herbs, and a taste of lime. I wasn't sure they belonged together, but eaten separately they were a good contrast; maybe that's the intention.

Overall I found Me Me to be very satisfying – they had very authentic food without trying to be one of those fashionable 'real thing' restaurants that can charge ten times the price because some food critic says so. Stick to the green highlighted food on the menu and you are sure for a good experience.

Me Me

www.memerestaurant.co.uk
565 Fulham Road, SW6 1ES

Going vegan: third week's the charm

Clare Cheng
Hannah Cox

Milk was such an important part of our diets before veganism and we've been finding it hard coping without it in our cereal and tea. So we thought this week that we'd investigate four different alternatives to cow's milk to see which one we liked the best.

The four milks we chose were classic unsweetened soya milk, almond milk, rice milk and oat milk. We investigated each milk on its own and then with tea and shredded wheat.

It's fair to say that soya milk was the closest alternative to cow's milk – perhaps there is a reason why it's already the most popular alternative. In tea we couldn't taste the difference compared to cow's milk, but then again we have been drinking soya milk for two weeks already and are enjoying it. It also goes well with cereal, being very close to skimmed milk.

In our opinion we felt that the other milks



Here's your 'worrying-looking cow' fix of the week, enjoy!

shouldn't be considered as alternatives to cow's milk, for example in the way that coconut milk isn't considered an alternative. In its own right, rice milk was really nice. It was kind of creamy and mixed well with tea and

cereal.

If you have a sweet tooth then perhaps almond milk would be for you. Despite its watery-ness, it is sweet and nutty. It's very nice with tea even though it doesn't mix very well. With cereal however it's not so good.

I'm sure for some out there oat milk is nice, but I have to admit we really didn't like it. It's fair to say on its own it was quite interesting and oaty. However with cereal and milk it was disgusting because it had too much of its own flavour, making it a sour accompaniment. It was as wrong as mixing orange juice with tea or cereal.

So for now we're going to stick with our good old soya milk. If anything, Jordans Country Crisp with Chunky Nuts tastes better with sweetened Alpro Soy soya milk. So in conclusion if you're looking for an alternative to milk, whether you're vegan or just health conscious, soya milk is the one for you.

This is all for the **MS Trust!** Please sponsor Hannah and Clare at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/goingvegan

HANGMAN ERECTION SPECIAL!

NOW 100% TYPO FREE!

HANGMAN STANDS AS MOST OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR ALL SABBATICAL POSITIONS. TURNS A "NEW LEAF" AFTER INCIDENT WITH NATIONAL PAPER

PRESIDENT

Vote Change. Vote Hangman for President. I'm not sure how I'm going to change anything, but I sure am enthusiastic. If elected I probably won't drop out, and if that happens I really really really want to make everything at the Union way better than it currently is. I'm talking about a whole new website with a working search function. How about having Metric open during the day? I even want to try to get more students involved. Not sure with what exactly, but I'm sure there's something for them to do. What I'm really looking forward to is all the super long meetings with various College committees. I personally find them super fun. Actually fuck this, the above is all bollocks. Surely you should know Hangman better than that? I know College and the Union inside out, and I'm going to wreck this place up. Vote for me and Save Imperial!



HANGMAN

VICE PRESIDENT (FELIX)

As Hangman, I've been part of Felix for four years. That hands down gives me the most experience over any other candidate. If elected, and I will be elected (or else), I promise that I'll redesign the paper. By redesign, I mean get rid of. No more paper, instead Felix will give every student an iPad 3 with the issue automatically being pushed out every Friday. In fact everything will be automatic. I'm talking automatic layouts, automatic spelling correction, automatic content generation and even automatic dictation. On top of that I'm going to get rid of all adverts. No one likes adverts. Maybe I'll even quadruple the Hangman pages (I'll make my mind up later). On top of all that, every Wednesday will be free Felix party night in the Felix office. It's guaranteed to be better and more intimate than Metric. Drugs not provided but suggested – for the sheer scandal, obviously.



HANGMAN

VICE PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

My name is Hangman, and if there is one thing I will do for you it'll be getting you a 1st for your degree. If elected I will lobby college continually to make all degrees equal. That way everyone can stop being boring and sleeping in the library all the time. However I'm not just a one trick pony, I'd also like to unextend the college day, with the aim of eradicating all pre-12pm lectures. I never made it to those anyway. In fact axe humanities completely and there may be room for lunch. I also want to make sure everyone does the NSS. I'll achieve this by creating a policy stating you will not qualify for you degree (which will be a 1st) unless it is completed. To speed up the process some departments have begun collecting student details and falsifying the survey (Computing). This should be College wide. Lastly I'll bring back the feedback policy, for it to never be completed as usual.



HANGMAN

VICE PRESIDENT (WELFARE)

My extensive expertise in the realm of welfare has been documented publicly over the years. Known as a figure-head amongst senior College officials for pioneering the Hangman Wellbeing Survey, I, Hangman, care about all peoples. There have been accusations in the past that I discriminate against race/gender/sexuality/age/species (delete as appropriate), however my strong pastoral background has taught me to discriminate equally. If elected, I promise to try my hardest to do absolutely nothing, much like those in the role before me, and let me tell you – doing nothing IS doing something! I, like the current welfare sabbatical, am more than happy to play with condoms, cry to chick flicks and annoy the fuck out of everybody. So vote for stagnation, vote for pointless expenses and vote for redundancy. Hangman, never there for you.



HANGMAN

VICE PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

Hi I'm Hangman. Unfortunately I don't conform to the recent winning trend of being a female candidate for DPCS, however just like every other successful candidate I do have great administration skills. I can use Outlook, Word, PowerPoint and can operate a telephone. This makes me more than suitably qualified to frustrate Clubs & Societies by being rude, ignoring their pleas for help and generating false information which obviously highlights the inadequacy of this role. I promise to merge all Clubs & Societies against their will into just one Club and one Society. Furthermore I will again cut Club & Society funding so that we can increase the money available for me to go on holiday and do sod all. There's nothing new here, we all know that four permanent staff members already do this role. So if I'm going to be the usual waste of air, I may as well do it at your expense.



HANGMAN

VICE PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)

Money, I'm all about the Money! Hangman is rolling in dollar. So much so, If I'm elected I'll float Imperial College Union on the FTSE 100. More so, I'm going to change the currency to \$ICU just because I can. I'll reduce costs by eliminating all permanent staff and with the money saved we can have an open bar... all year round! Not just the Summer Ball! Speaking of balls, I'm single handedly going to balance the gender ratio by consolidating Goldsmith Students' Union into one simple easy-to-manage organisation. Who said debt consolidation was limited to the extravagant? With a background of being the treasurer of both the Gender Equality Society and Tamil Society; I hands down have the experience needed to do a job a professional with several legitimate qualifications should be hired to do and manage.



HANGMAN

Sport Editor: **Indy Leclercq**

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SPORT

WAKEImperial grab two podium finishes

...Continued from Back Page intermediate won a wakeboard, whereas 1st place men's advanced was rewarded with... a onepiece jumpsuit?

Despite the horrendous fashion prize up for grabs in the men's advanced, Antoine Desmet was ready and fuelled on caffeine and sugar when he took to the water for the final event of the day. Quite a remarkable change was observed in the number of photographers and crowd anticipation from the previous category (women's advanced), and the men didn't disappoint. Whereas last year's advanced category was dominated by "blind" tricks, this year's stars went above and beyond with almost physics-defying "switch" tricks and even a double S-Bend (think China's Olympic gymnastic

team ... on water)! Despite a strong performance, Antoine still didn't quite cut the mustard (again). After missing out on the onepiece jumpsuit, he may never know what it feels like to walk around looking like the purple Teletubby.

BUCS beckons in June....

WAKEImperial, IC's Wakeboarding club runs sessions every Wednesday afternoons for all levels and abilities. Taster sessions are offered to non-members for £13. This includes transport to a local wakeboarding club, 4 hours of cable Wakeboarding, with equipment and wet-suit provided. Boat wakeboarding is also available.

See <http://www.WAKEimperial.co.uk> or wakeboarding@imperial.ac.uk

Fencing: Women's 2nd team defend 3rd place vs Brunel

Gema Wright Ballester

Fencing

Women's 2nd	112
Brunel 1st	101

On Wednesday, the Women's 2nd Fencing Team successfully defended their current 3rd place ranking in the BUCS league match away against Brunel. The two hour journey (thanks to many "minor" delays) westbound along the Piccadilly line was thankfully made much more entertaining by the trusty tube driver, who provided an amusing and thorough guided tour of the local landmarks at each station.

The match itself began with a good



Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the best fencer of them all?

start in sabre, in which Slavi Georgieva, Helen Pennington and Jing Quek (Jingles) struck in a comfortable and confident 45-27 win.

Brunel responded (although with the help of some questionable refereeing) boldly, starting to up their game during foil, but Sarah Chakera, Stephanie Martinez (Steph) and Gema Wright

Ballester (Gemma) of Imperial fought valiantly, and settled for a respectable 25-45 score.

Knowing they were only trailing by two points, the epee team of Rebecca Razey (Becky), Helen Pennington and Slavi Georgieva fought ruthlessly to end the match on a high note, 42-29, producing a final score of 112-101 to Imperial.

Imperial 8-ball pool team : A very successful BUCS

Shyam Pankhania
8-ball Pool

On Thursday 23 February Imperial College's 8-ball Pool 1st team consisting of Elwin Carlos, Max Chalmers, Stanley Cheng, Andy Leung and Shyam Pankhania boarded the 9.30am train from London Euston to the pretty ghost town that is Great Yarmouth, Norwich. Our base for the duration of the tournament was the bustling Vauxhall Holiday Park where all the university teams resided (the ones that didn't end up on the streets that is!). After registering and catching a glimpse of the 36 pristine Supreme Pool tables the anticipation kicked in and we were ready to get the ball rolling.

The qualifying matches for the individual championships were played on Day 1 and were first to three frames. Stanley Cheng our resident 9 ball player started well against Mike Kay of Aston and secured the match with "Stan it in specials" and an audacious double on the winning black. The only thing Stanley didn't do in a hurry was return the white ball to the director after the victory! "Take it to the Max" Chalmers was next up and edged into a 2-1 lead and eventually sealed the match by continuing Imperial's growing tradition of doubling the black in. Unfortunately Andy Leung couldn't pull through his match losing 3-0 to Stephen Brooks from Warwick 1st's. Finally at 6.00pm Shyam Pankhania was able to get his tournament off to a flying start by clinically disposing of his opponent Paddy Brown from Sheffield 3-0, to which Max Chalmers commented "He's having a stormer!"

The 2nd round of qualifying began with an emphatic 3-0 win for Stanley, but Captain Carlos who received a bye into qualifying round 2 failed to get out of first gear and his opponent won 3-1. Max Chalmers match went to a decider in which he potted six reds after the break and had the chance to serve a Dish on his opponent (potting off the break and clearing up). However an error from "Magic Max" cost him and his opponent Garry Rayment Jr went on to pinch the match. In the final match of the day Shyam Pankhania went 2-0 behind to Geraint Evans of Durham 2nd's, but the determined "Shamful" was just about to dish up a handful. With the teams support and some gritty tactical pool Shyam levelled the match at 2-2. Shyam grabbed his chance in the final frame to complete an outstanding comeback to book his place in the last 128.

The individual tournament resumed on Day 3 with the matches extended to first to four with Stanley Cheng and Shyam Pankhania looking to gain a place in the last 64. Stanley shared the opening two frames with James Paul of Manchester 2nd's, however Stanley went on to suffer a 4-2 defeat. All hopes now rested with Shyam "Shamful" Pankhania. Unfortunately Ifan Williams of Cardiff controlled the opening exchanges and after Shyam potted several outstanding yellows, he went on to knock in his opponents yellow after potting a difficult long black; therefore going 1-0 behind. Ifan Williams was too good on the day and ran out with a 4-0 victory to end Imperial's run in the individuals.

In the team tournament Imperial



Well, there are more than eight balls in this picture... [sorry - Sport Ed.]

were in the Shield alongside three other first teams and one second team. The format was that each player in a team would play single frame matches against two players in the opposing team, with the winning team being the first team to secure 6 frames. After a 5-5 draw against UEA 1st's, Imperial took on a Sheffield team with Midlands Snooker Cup finalist Abhishek Raj. El-Win Carlos ended his losing start by edging a scrappy win over Rishi Aggarwal however this was only after missing a cuttable black to lose against Abhishek Raj. Imperial ended Day 2 with one draw and one loss and to reach the last 8 we needed to win our remaining matches. To raise the

spirits that evening the team embarked on an arduous forty minute walk to Planet Poppadum and sampled the delightful Indian cuisine that Great Yarmouth had to offer.

On Day 3, Imperial drew 5-5 against the group leaders Aston with El-Win Carlos finally waking up and comfortably winning both his frames and Stanley continuing his tremendous form. Imperial 1st's then comfortably beat a drunken Nottingham Trent 1st's, however this was after Elwin lost against his drunk opponent Jason Dalton who attempted to chat up the referee between frames and insisted on taking a sip of his pint between every shot. El-Win had suffered embarrassing defeats

in the past, but this was a low! Jokingly he suggested "What next?" Imperial won the tie 6-3 with Andy Leung playing "Leung pots" to win both his rubbers. Regrettably results didn't go our way and although we beat Medway 2nd's 6-3 Imperial finished the group in 4th with two wins, two draws and one loss.

We thank the tournament organisers, the players and all those involved with BUCS Pool 2012 for making it an incredible tournament. Next year we return as contenders and hopefully we will be as "safe as caravans". Best of luck to the Imperial Snooker Team who are defending Champions at BUCS!

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

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Hockey Men's 3rd pull off upset versus Queen Mary 1sts

Keshava Murthy
Hockey

Men's 3rd 3
 Queen Mary 1sts 0

On a cold Monday night, the Imperial College Hockey Club's Men's 3rd XI stunned a team two leagues above them with a thumping 3-0 victory to progress to the ULU Cup semi-finals. Losing a lot of players to work commitments left the 3rd XI with just 10 players. To make up the numbers, Dirty Whaler and Udara stepped up to make the numbers.

Following a great series of results (10-1, 2-0, 3-0), the 3rd XI were full of confidence and raring to go. Stand-in captain Fritzl gave a rousing team talk reminding us that to win, we just needed to play simple hockey.

The first half was a timid affair, with neither team dominating the game. IC were finding it hard to break down the Queen Mary's midfield, while the opposition failed to find their way through the organised defence of Free Willy, Eager Beaver, Fritzl and Bum Tablet.

Chances were few and far between, with neither keeper making a save, with the 0-0 half time score reflecting that.

At half time, the message was clear – attack down the wings. IC had noted the frailties in the Queen Mary full backs and decided to focus on exploiting this.

IC began the second half well, with the wing wizards (Pappity-boopity, Cockerel and Fresher Ed) all tormenting the Queen Mary's full backs, but the goal just would not come. The pressure, however, did its job. Queen Mary's were on the back foot, which allowed for both Fresher Tom and Designer V to boss the midfield. Fresher Tom's flat passes out wide routinely stumped the Queen Mary's midfield, while Designer V exploited the spaces that were opening up. To consolidate this dominance, Eager Beaver and Fritzl picked up any scraps offered to the QM forwards.

The breakthrough almost came within the first 10 minutes of the half, when Dirty Whaler broke through the QM defence and played a neat 1-2 with Tharun, before squaring for Fresher Ed, who contrived to miss the ball.

This set back didn't deter IC for too long, and they straight away found themselves in front. A great ball from Designer V found Dirty Whaler in space, before he arrogantly roofed the ball into the top of the net, 1-0, and it was just about what IC deserved.

The QM midfielders were starting to get more and more frustrated, and one of them finally hit tipping point and was sent off for swearing at the ref. IC sensed an opportunity and pounced. Free Willy and Pappity combined down the left to send Designer V through on goal to double the advantage and put IC in the ascendency.

The third goal came from a breakaway down the right. QM packed into the IC D, but a quick break from Bum Tablet saw him into the opposition 25, where he squared for Tharun. Tharun's pass (which some would call a mis-hit) looped straight to Designer to slot in his second, and IC's 3rd.

A huge win over a team two leagues above them (and the league above the Men's 2nds) sees the 3rds go second in Big Guns and potentially look to set up a final against the Medics 2nd XI.



"I'd already done an internship here so I knew it was a great place to work. I've been able to jump right into running really big projects in a way I never expected. I also like that there's a hammock in the office. It makes me feel like a pirate."

Ben Emmett Red Gate Graduate

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SPORT

Kendo club receive visit from Hitotsubashi



Going at it with a Ken-do attitude

Chris Kelley
Kendo

On Wednesday morning last week 20 Japanese students from Hitotsubashi University Kendo Club in Tokyo, alongside their teacher: Chida-Senpai, were greeted by members of the Imperial College Kendo club at Ethos Sports Centre.

With the formal greetings from both universities swiftly over, the Hitotsubashi students were eager to know what our club was made of. Later that night, through a spirited session of “Degeiko” (training at a different dojo to your own)

nate the opponent & psyche up yourself) to your opponent. Well, nothing except for a few rounds of drinks afterwards. However, this was only a small glimpse of fine Kendo. The main event was still to come.

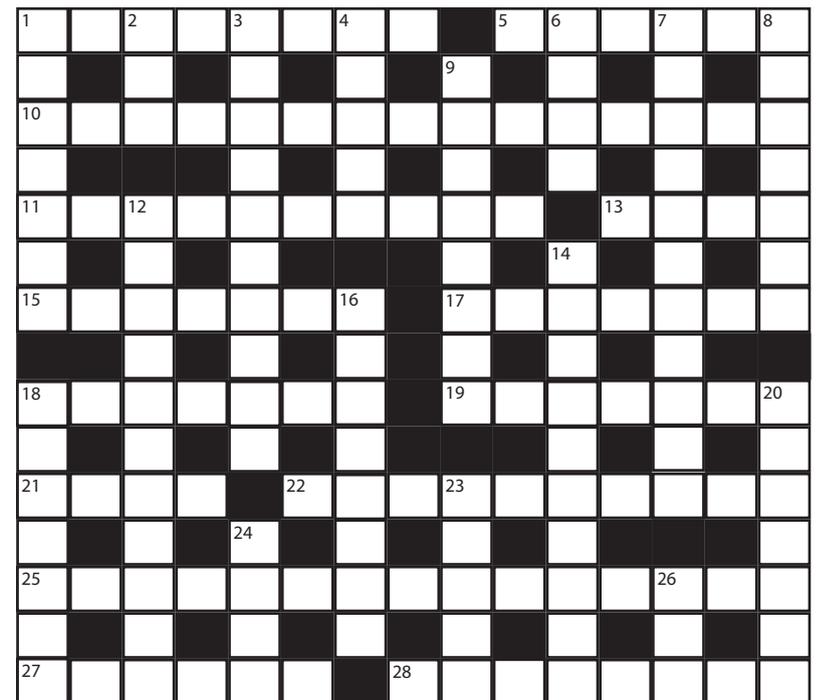
That following Saturday the students from Tokyo were greeted by a much larger crowd with members from dojos around and outside London making a total of 60 “kendōka” (person who practises kendo) on the day. The day began with a performance by Chida-Senpai himself and one of his students. The demonstration was of an ancient form of “kata” (the essence of Japanese swordsmanship linking modern-day kendo to the teachings of the many early kenjutsu schools) passed down through generations of pupils from the jikishinkage-ryū school of combative swordsmanship founded in the mid-16th century. Each stage of the performance symbolises each of the four seasons, ranging from explosive and intense movements to represent Summer, to the more slow, reserved pace of Winter.

This was followed by the moment we had all been waiting for. When we strapped on our “bogu” (armour) and fought in a friendly individuals competition versus the Hitotsubashi students. The traditional rules being the first player to score two clean hits on the other within a two minute match is de-

clared the winner. After the first seven matches we were in the lead, though the students from Japan quickly turned things around in the later rounds. Both sides fought valiantly till the end with the final match lasting well over 10 minutes with neither side showing any sign of defeat.

The day was rounded off with an hour of sparring and a great social meal in Eastside Bar with our new friends from the East. After waving our final good-byes we quickly wrote plans in our diaries to hopefully meet again, though this time it will be on their side of the world.

Cryptic Crossword 1,514



Across

- 1. Eastern toads mixed up in Rolls-Royce, a car (8)
- 5. Note one’s food intake involving financial matters (6)
- 10. Plan for possibility of money launder? (4,4,7)
- 11. Morning person with low voice to like interminable diplomat (10)
- 13. Tea on seat with back removed (4)
- 15. Neutered, lacking energy at sea guaranteed job (7)
- 17. Elemental form is nothing. Best beginner ever! (7)
- 18. Complain about weather in country (7)
- 19. Thus papa managed love for singer (7)
- 21. Clean without using water (4)
- 22. Commercial wordings lead to psychological dependencies (10)
- 25. Communist representative thoroughly searched milkman (6,3,6)
- 27. ‘Annah’s pretentious talk straying from the point (6)
- 28. Batted as abnormal description of something inappropriate (3,5)

Down

- 1. Before tea, President Jim to go back on his word? (7)
- 2. Boat found in angular kale (3)
- 3. Cutting flower for greater flow of air (10)
- 4. Former painting put up outside (5)
- 6. Really want to sell idea, lacking leader (4)
- 7. Vegetable, perhaps? (5,6)
- 8. Toilet strangely reliant (7)
- 9. Gets upset about everything and nothing, measuring food with these (8)
- 12. Place for judge can be fiery substitute (5,6)
- 14. Countryman domain hit lightly before outbreak of violence (10)
- 16. Absurd loan deed a virtual certainty (4,4)
- 18. Ghost to prevent woman from entering initially (7)
- 20. Disgusting blood types picture (7)
- 23. Country surrounded by rising assistance (5)
- 24. Harness concerning what’s fashionable (4)
- 26. Greek island hidden from Greek Oscars (3)

“Nothing says ‘welcome’ more than running through training drills...”

in the Union gym, we put our guests to the test. Nothing says welcome more than running through training drills, sparring and demonstrating your “Kiai” (war cry used to both intimidate/domi-



From the land of the rising sun to the land of the permanent cloud

SPORT

IC Wakeboarding

Flying high

WAKEImperial, IC's Wakeboard society, take on their first competition of the year – and get some serious air in the process

Clare Desmet reports



Saturday the 3rd of March marked the first Imperial College Wakeboard competition of the year. Held at Princes Waterski club, west of London, the Imperial Wakeboarders decided to show their unity and team strength by arriving en masse in a union minibus. Unfortunately certain members of the club hindered this impressive arrival by valuing either sleep or sightseeing (read – getting lost) above the targeted 11am arrival. Team morale was not particularly

high, as one member voiced his displeasure with “I hope you die in a car crash”-type sentiments.

Once out on the water, the sun came out and the general good will prevailed. First up was the men's beginner category. Unfortunately the warm-up session had claimed its first victim as Oli pulled out due to illness and injury. Being the true student representative of Imperial, he then strategically set about earning back his competition entrance fee in cans of energy drink – which were offered by

one of the event's sponsors. Meanwhile, Tom Jones and Jake Gillespie set out to show last year's winner and team member Gary Willis, that they too could catch the judges' eyes. Jake a.k.a. “Guy in the Hawaiian shorts” came through after two group heats, to earn a place in the 5-man final, but was unfortunately outshined by more consistent riders.

Club president Danielle Barnes was “in it to win it” in the women's intermediate group, showing that style and a certain degree of risk taking can be re-

warded over riders with a more cautious approach. It took the eventual winner a 360 spin on the fun-box to snatch the first-place victory from Danielle's hands. A minor disappointment once you considered the awesome (?) synthetic wallet awarded for second place (right, Danielle?). As Oli pointed out, at least there were the free cans of energy drink to award yourself as you deemed fit.

Straight out of the starting dock, and into a check-me-out style Raley (superman trick), Tim Thio showed everyone

that he wasn't letting his injured collar bone or absence of training for the last two months hold him back. Whilst Gary showed his ever-present calm under pressure through textbook sliders and switch skills, it was the flamboyant Tim that made it through to the final four. Fellow wakeboarder Antoine described Tim's run in the finals as “simply flawless” and it wasn't long before he was grinning on top of the podium. And why not, considering that Tim, 1st place men's

...Continued on Page 44

SCIENCE



Biological
Superglue discovery
Page 8

BUSINESS



Plane talking about
the Thames
Page 12

FILM



Easter treats to get
excited for
Page 24

BOOKS



Alternate history is
centre stage
Page 30

FOOD



Fairtrade Awards
winners announced
Page 32