

FELIX

"Keep the
Cat Free"



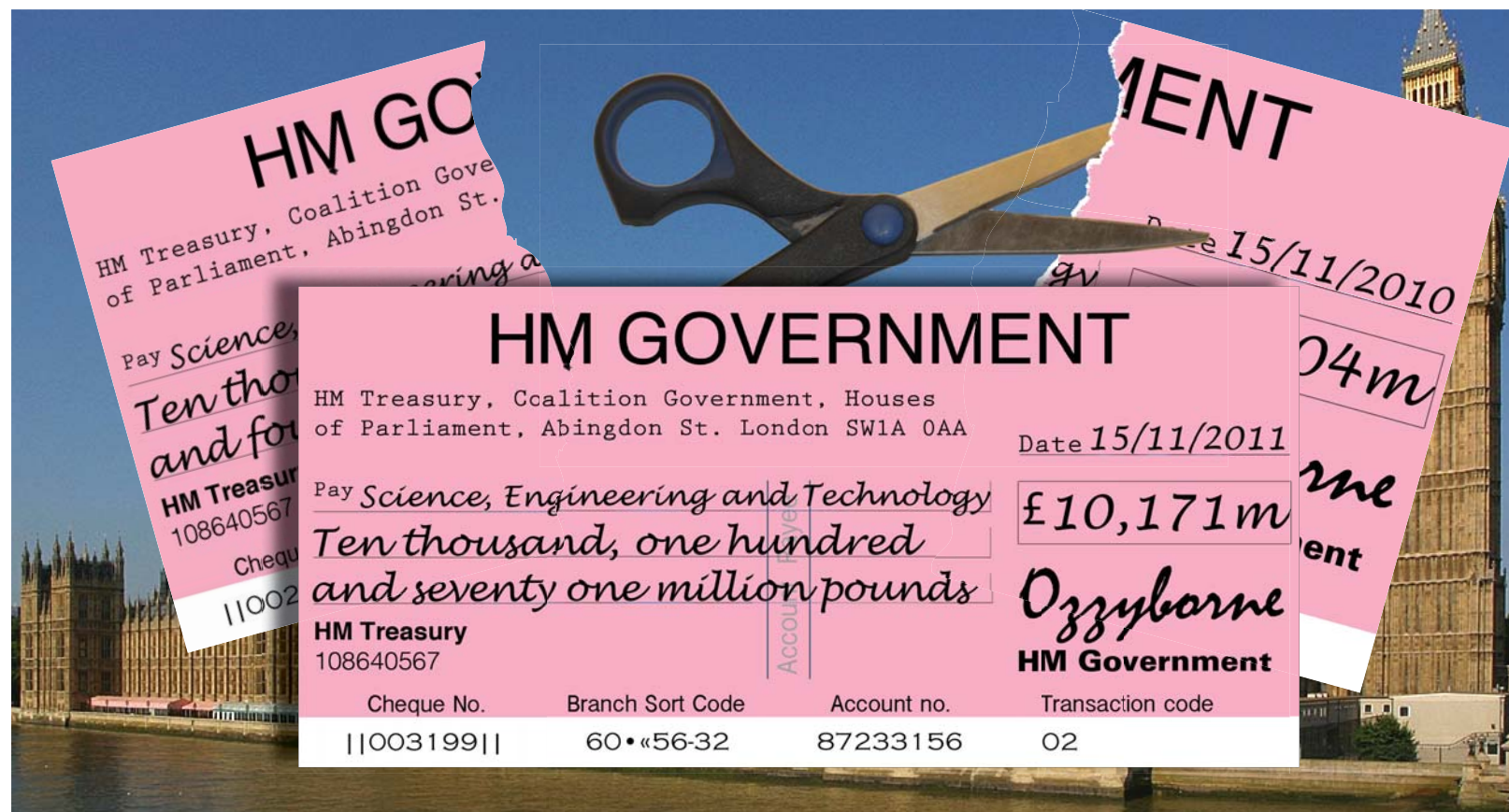
16/11/12
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£18,574 and counting...

RAG have been going hard this year. See a quick report on their latest activities. [Page 3](#)



Sciences are sliced



Nida Mahmud News Editor

Overall government spending on Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) has fallen in real terms by £733m.

The drop from 2009-10 to 2010-11 (which is the most recent figures released) is the first fall since between the 2005-6 and 2006-7. The years between 2006-7 and 2009-10 have all seen an increase in overall spending on Science, Engineering and Technology.

The change means that spending is now, in real terms, which means that inflation has been taken into account, the lowest it has been since 2001-2002.

Public spending science cuts have

been increasingly feared by the science community, especially over the last few years of austerity. These fears are now becoming a reality, as shown by the figures released by the government; even though the coalition government had previously promised to protect the science budget amid the massive spending cuts. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills's (BIS) core science budget for universities and research councils is not aligned with inflation. This results in a real-term reduction in spending, particularly due to inflation in these technology sectors tending to be higher than the average. Recent figures show that in the first year of the coalition government, through individual departments there has been a 7.6%

decrease in government spending on science. The government spend constitutes approximately half the public support for Research & Development (R&D) and innovation. The total spending on science activities during 2010-11 fell by 6.4% when inflation is taken into account.

The shadow science and innovation minister, Chi Onwurah has requested the government to publish long term figures. These in turn will enable scientists to plan better for resources. Onwurah said: "It's worse than we thought. We know the pressure is on departments to cut [and] this is something they can do relatively silently. There is more to fear from further cuts coming." Further figures published by the BIS show large cuts during 2009-11. The de-

partment for Transport slashed spending on science and R&D from £82m to £54m, representing a decrease of over one-third. The Ministry of Defence is the department that spends the most on R&D, and they cut its budget by £239m, which is approximately 13%. BIS is responsible for the core science budget, yet the individual departments make decisions on wider spending for R&D and innovation.

Professor Stephen Curry, a structural biologist from Imperial College London has commented that these are "tough times for UK science if we are to protect our world-leading reputation, we need to reverse this trend as soon as we are able."

In 2010, the government demanded a flash cash settlement for [»4](#)

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Moving artwork

Some really emotional photography at the Barbican is reviewed in Arts this week. If only I was allowed out of my cage in Beit to go and see this.



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Good films that suck

Following on from last week's feature on truly awful films that are still loveable, the more contentious 'great' films that are a bit crap.



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Right to be wrong

Comment is always pretty lively, and, this week, Pietro Aronica explains why he thinks you should be allowed to be incorrect.



CLASSIFIEDS

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Prezie Ambassador: See Tech for information (page 17)

Science and relaxing

Tim Arbabzadah
Editor-in-Chief



Freshly cut

This week, the front page contains a story about science spending cuts. It's all a bit economics heavy, but the gist is that, in real terms, science spending was cut by a lot in the 2010-2011 year.

At a science university it is not exactly a contentious point to say that science, and research and development in general, is very important. It will be pretty interesting to see what the next move on this is. Will the spending plummet further? It's taken quite a hit from what figures show, and, given that in real terms it is the lowest it has been for a while, it is cause for some concern.

Science is really vital to everything. I learnt from my project in my last year that research isn't cheap. Okay, admittedly I had to use platinum and gold for mine, but the point still stands as everything in science is costly. Getting a beaker made me shudder and wonder how something so simple could be so much. This was just one minor project by one person. Imagine how much one research group will rack up (not just on test tube racks) in one year of research? I hope next year science spending increases.

Chilling out

This week has been odd for me. It's been a really weirdly chilled out one for some reason. Here I am, nearly about to hit the print deadline. It's made me reflect a bit. I've thought about how sometimes I spend too much time obsessing about everything and worrying about stuff. Sometimes, it's nice to just chill the fuck out and "keep calm" as the all too often used slogan goes.

I think this at a time when I know that Christmas is looming (Oxford Street already have their lights up). That means one thing for Imperial students: January exams. To all the fresh-

ers reading this: try to stay calm over Christmas. Relax with your family and take, at very least, Christmas Day and New Year's Day off. It is all too easy to get really hyped up about work and go crazy. Especially because this will be a step up from the last exam you did. Don't get complacent but don't cause yourself too much stress.

One thing that I simply can not chill out about, though, is whoever walks around the Library and SAC (Student Activities Centre) and rips off every single one of the keyboard supports. It's really annoying as they make typing slightly easier, and when my lab report is due in in about 12 hours, I need all the comforts that can possibly be afforded to me. Seriously, not cool.

LOLCATZ OF TEH WEEK: Finding these is a perk of the job

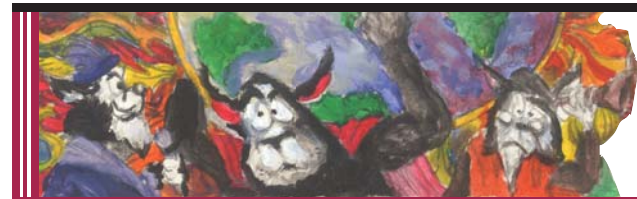


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News Editor: Aemun Reza,
Nida Mahmud
news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS

RAG raises over £18,000

Kanchana Niruttan Reporter

Imperial RAG raised £11,276.14 at its annual Poppy appeal on Thursday 8 November, putting it over a fifth of the way to reaching its target of £50,000 this year. This brings their total for the year to £17574.18, according to the counter on RAG's website. However, when accounting for funds not currently shown on the website, it is £18,574. Although by the time this goes to print the website may be updated. This figure is above the total raised throughout the entire year last year.

Money has been raised through a variety of events. For Remembrance Day, Poppy Sales and the sale of wristbands to The Poppy Appeal After Party at Piccadilly Institute.

This year's Poppy Appeal went out to 18 tube stations across Zone 1 and saw a total of 93 volunteers head out in three shifts thorough out the day. The biggest individual collection of the day came from Phil Morris from the RCSU who raised £ 489.84 at Kings Cross. In terms of faculty collections, however, it was the CGCU that came out top, raising a total of £4170.60.

All Participants in the appeal had free entry to the RAG after-party for



Action shot. That newspaper better be Felix

which tickets were also sold at £5 a piece. It seemed to have been popular with students; ticket sales alone raised £655.

The 24 Hour Row came to an end at 1pm on Wednesday 14 November, as indicated when the bells on Queen's Tower rang out. The event, which was held on Queen's Lawn, began on Tuesday 13 November, and saw students row through the night to raise money for BBC Children in Need. Any gaps had to be filled in by those organising the event.

Each participant had a 20-minute long slot on a rowing machine housed

under the tent just outside the Central Library. Prizes for students who rowed the furthest were picked up by Hugh Wilman among the men and Rosie Davies among the women.

Sandwiches from Pret A Manger were on hand for anyone taking the nightshift. RAG members in yellow shirts manning the tent throughout the night.

While RAG doesn't have a long-term schedule of events for the year at the moment. The team are currently planning events on a per event basis. However, plans for the annual Jailbreak are under way and there will



Just hope they didn't stand on the left on the escalator

also be the BIG Bake sale on the 23 November. Additionally it's Movember efforts have so far raised £2000 (see centrefold).

David Goldsmith, RAG Chair, when asked for comment, said that RAG was doing really well and that he "didn't expect the turnout" it had received at the events that they have held this year. He says there are plans to expand RAG and work with Clubs, Societies & Projects and to hold hall competitions in the future. Goldsmith repeatedly mentioned that RAG was doing "ridiculously well" and that it is going to "make tonnes of money".



Someone's taking a photo. Quick, I need to look popular, I'll pretend to text...

Also in the news...

University Drinking and Sex League Tables released

Niall Jeffrey Reporter

Student Beans, the self-proclaimed "essential part of student life", released the results of their Student Drinking University League Table 2012 last week. They also released their Sex League Table over the summer. In both surveys, Imperial were towards the bottom.

To those of you who used Felix's own Felix Sex Survey to bemoan the state of your lives at Imperial (look out for this year's Sex Survey later on in the year), this can be an opportunity to think of those less fortunate than even yourselves in these wintery months. Also, as this is a fair and balanced news article, this has got nothing on the Felix survey. There's not even a question on the subject of alternative library usage!

In the drinking survey Imperial Students rank closer to the bottom of the list than the top, at 56th place out of 74. According to Student Beans the average Imperial student consumes 16.4 units of alcohol. This is below the NHS guidelines for men and is borderline for women (the "too much" guidelines

rather than sticking to your five-a-day). Of course young adults may be more susceptible to alcohol damage and this isn't official advice, so don't take this as an excuse to drink more.

The survey has some questionable aspects. Imperial consumption has apparently shot up from 11 units per week from last year's survey by an extra 5 units per week. This would mean that in 12 months the average alcohol intake at Imperial has risen by over 35%, although it is possible that freshers have "gone wild".

More likely is that there are failings in the Beans' methodology. A contributory factor may be surveying "students who drink alcohol", thus excluding large numbers of teetotalers. The survey, however, does place Queen's University Belfast top of drinking. You can decide for yourself what's going on there.

Let's talk about sex baby. In the Beans' Sex League Imperial places 77th out of 101. According to the table Imperial Students have had 2.88 sexual partners since starting university. With absolutely no description at all on how fractions of people are having

sex with each other.

Imperial's relatively low position will generally not surprise readers and invoke the ominously old joke about "the ratio". But the revelation that Imperial ranks higher than 24 other universities surveyed may raise some eyebrows whose owners thought they were in the bottom of the student pile.

The Sex League does make an analogous mistake to the Drinking League's only surveying alcohol drinkers. Only "4,656 sexually active" students were questioned, which is a low proportion of the total student population. With last year's Felix Sex Survey revealing that 18% of the student body have not had sex, the Student Beans' survey is clearly skewed in favour of boosting Imperial up the table.

Thus there are sufficient flaws to make the bemoaners happy not to be happy again with this new incarnation of the Sex League (a phrase that is beginning to sound like a band of off-colour superheroes).

In related news, UCL ranked 37th out of 101 with student sex frequency. Jammy buggers. Shame they can't replicate that form in academic rankings.

Sponsored Editorial

More student cuts Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers near South Kensington

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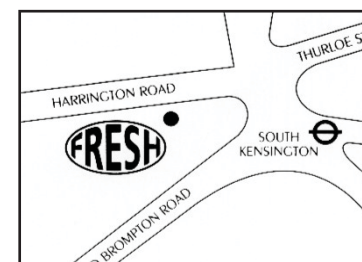
- 1) You don't have to spend more money on expensive known High St. salons.
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More Grants, Less Money

Aemun Reza

News Editor

Imperial has received the highest amount of research council's money out of all the institutions in the UK.

Imperial has received £76.7 million in 2011-2012, the most out of all the institutions that applied. However, this is a fall of 19% when compared to last year's total of £94.5 million.

The *Times Higher Education (THE)* compiled data comparing the number of grant applications that were successful and the total amount given for several universities over England.

It was deduced that there were fewer applications compared to last year for Imperial College (360 in 2011-12 compared to 440 in 2010-2011). But since the average success rate of these applications increased, Imperial still received the high amount of funding.

The table produced by *THE* showed that Imperial ranked first for amount of funding, followed by University College London, University of Edinburgh, University of Cambridge and University of Oxford. The complete table shows the funding, success rate and number of applications for 20 universities across the UK.

University of Cambridge saw a massive drop in their income as their funding fell from £85.2 million in 2010-2011 to £56.2 million in 2011-2012, a 34 per cent decrease. They also had a fall in application numbers so that their success rate increased from 33 per cent to 37 per cent.

Some institutions that actually had an increase in funding from UK research councils were the universities of Birmingham, Edinburgh and University College London. University of Liverpool had a dramatic rise in funding from £12.3 million to £24

million, therefore almost doubling.

The University of Bath had a giant leap in their success rate, from 31 per cent to 42. Jane Millar, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research at Bath, said she was pleased with the successes, "especially at a time when funding is getting tough".

She said that the institution's system of internal academic peer review and "outstanding academic appointments" had made a difference.

Some institutions contested the findings of *THE*, The University of Leeds had apparently seen a decline in their funding from £34.5 million in 2010-2011 to £21.3 million in 2011-2012 as well as a drop in number of applications and awards.

A spokesman for the university said the figures did "not give the complete picture of research council funding received by the university" because they did not include STFC cash and collaborative grants with other institutions.



Hope the cameraman had his lab specs on, or Health and Safety will be wielding their axe. Only a foam axe though, for health and safety reasons...

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A real term decrease

» continued from the front page

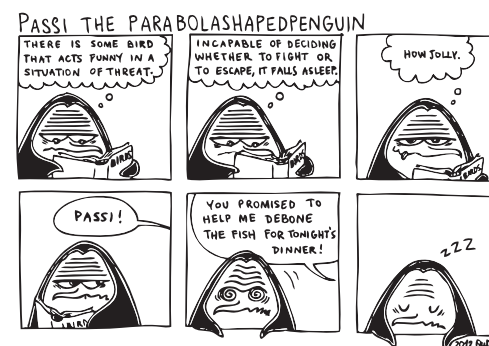
the science budget. Since then, researchers have been wary of the decrease in funding due to inflation. The cuts for certain departments exceed 40%. Back in 2010, George Osborne decided to protect the science budget. He said "the secretary of state (for business) and I have decided to protect the science budget. Britain is a world leader in scientific research and that is vital to our future economic success. That's why I am proposing that we do not cut the cash going to the science budget. It will be protected at £4.6bn per year." The UK spends approximately £25bn on R&D, positioning it seventh in the world by % GDP. The tables show that the UK government is not spending as much (by %GDP) as other leading nations. Coupling this with the real-term cuts could potentially damage the UK's economic competitiveness.


Country	Expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP
Germany	42
France	37
Japan	29
Canada	20
Italy	18
United Kingdom	17
United States	-

G7 R&D spend as % of GDP. US figure is not known

In the UK, about 32% of funding for R&D is provided by the government.

When the UK is compared to other countries in the G7 (United States, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, Canada), the UK spends the lowest percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on R&D (see table above).





‘They say everyone has
skeletons in their closet,
I actually do.’

Dr Silvia Bello
Palaeoanthropologist

natureLive

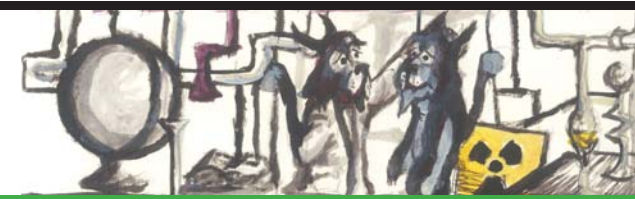
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The world is warming quicker than we thought

New study assessing climate models against observations provides worrying results

Laurence Sheldon Writer

Climate change is expected to be more severe than previously thought as the climate models, which record the greatest warming, are found to be more accurate according to a new study.

Scientists from the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in the US used observations of Tropical humidity in the atmosphere to find the models that could reproduce this accurately. One of the authors, John Fasullo, stated: "There is a striking relationship between how well climate models simulate humidity in key areas and how much warming they show in response to increasing carbon dioxide. Given how fundamental these processes are to clouds and the overall global climate, our findings indicate that warming is likely to be on the high side of current projections." The finding that the best models also produce the greatest warming suggests not only that the Earth will be getting warmer faster, but that extreme events could become more frequent



Overcast with a small
chance of global warming

and damaging sooner than expected.

Estimations of how much our climate will warm with increasing carbon dioxide vary greatly, with the largest predicting twice the warming as the smallest. This uncertainty is thought to be mainly due to clouds. Clouds occur on much smaller scales than climate models can resolve; hence descriptions of them have to be written. The different descriptions of

clouds in models lead to models disagreeing about the effects and spatial patterns of clouds.

Observations of clouds cannot be used in a typical way to look at how well the models perform over long timescales as we only have measurements of clouds over short timescales and this is not thought to be an indicator of the effects of clouds over greater periods. Instead, the authors

use the seasonal change in humidity. As well as having a better observational record due to satellites being able to measure it more easily, humidity is also highly related to cloud cover.

Sixteen of the climate models that are regularly used for predicting future conditions were tested against the measurements of humidity made from two NASA satellites. The test

was performed for the subtropics, where the deserts are found, as not only is this area important for understanding our future climate but also the lack of convection there helps reduce any errors in measuring humidity.

The comparison of models and observations found that the models that were most accurate in simulating the subtropical humidity also were the models that were most sensitive to carbon dioxide; and therefore predict the greater future warming. This suggests that models that predict less future warming are unable to simulate enough atmospheric drying and that this feeds back into the clouds and is responsible for how much future warming is seen in the model.

This study has not only helped in developing a new way of investigating the accuracy of climate models but it has helped constrain the range of future warming. Fasullo says "If we can better represent these regions in models, we can improve our predictions and provide society with a better sense of the impacts to expect in a warming world."

Silwood Park hope for British ash population

Sarah Byrne Writer

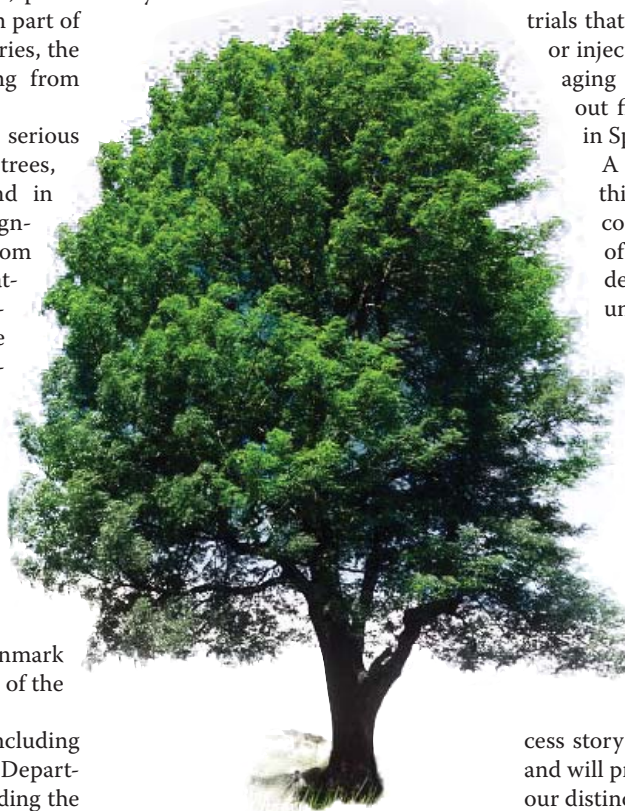
The European ash tree is a familiar sight across the UK's gardens, parks and countryside, and has been part of the landscape for many centuries, the common name even deriving from Old English.

However earlier this year a serious fungal disease affecting ash trees, *Chalara fraxinea*, was found in Buckinghamshire, in a consignment of trees imported from mainland Europe. Despite attempts to contain it the infection spread across multiple English counties in the following months.

The disease, which initially causes leaf loss and dieback and eventually leads to the death of the tree, has so far been confirmed found in 155 sites by the Forestry Commission. *C. fraxinea* has had a devastating effect in other countries including Denmark where it led to the loss of 90% of the ash tree population.

A consortium of experts, including researchers from Imperial's Department of Life Sciences, are leading the

fight to stop the spread of the disease. A new product based on copper sulphate has been developed, patented and successfully put through laboratory tests



where it was shown to effectively kill the fungus. The product, CuPC₃₃, is now being tested at Imperial's Silwood Park campus and according to researchers has proved in greenhouse trials that it can be safely sprayed on or injected into trees without damaging them. They hope to carry out field trials on infected trees in Spring 2013.

A major selling point is that this is anticipated to be a low-cost solution, in part because of the proposed method of delivery, which uses low volume spray technology to make efficient use of the product. The expected cost is 60p per litre to treat a hectare of woodland.

If it works as intended, the product looks set to be a success for the companies involved, including Imperial Consultants who are overseeing the academic collaboration. We can hope it will be as much as a success story for the British countryside and will prevent the loss of another of our distinctive trees.

MS drug trial shows potential

Nick Kennedy Writer

A new drug is the most effective treatment for multiple sclerosis (MS), say researchers at the University of Cambridge.

The scientists treated MS patients with alemtuzumab, a monoclonal antibody normally used to fight leukaemia. Alemtuzumab proved more effective than a first-choice drug, interferon beta 1a, in two groups of patients who suffered from relapsing-remitting MS.

One group consisted of patients where initial treatment had failed, the other in previously untreated patients.

MS occurs when the immune system attacks and damages myelin – an insulating substance wrapped around nerves. The impaired nerves fail to transmit signals as normal. This is particularly harmful in the white matter of the brain and spinal cord, which is composed mainly of myelin.

The disease affects almost 100,000 people in the UK.

The findings showed that in patients who deteriorated after first-choice treatment, alemtuzumab reduced relapse rate by more than 40% compared with interferon beta 1a (known commercially as Ribif).

In untreated patients, alemtuzumab reduced relapse rate by more than 55%

compared with Ribif. Many patients even showed improvements in disability. MRI scans revealed less myelin damage in alemtuzumab-treated patients.

Alemtuzumab wipes out T and B lymphocytes so they can be replenished anew, essentially resetting the immune system. It binds to CD-52, a protein on the surface of lymphocytes. These lymphocytes are destroyed and repopulated, leading to long-lasting changes in immunity.

Despite the obvious benefits of alemtuzumab, undesirable side-effects of the monoclonal antibody were reported. A high proportion of patients suffered from abnormal thyroid function (one in five) and thrombocytopenia, a platelet disorder. But routine monitoring and education can prevent these side-effects, says Dr Alasdair Coles, who led the research.

The research was funded by Genzyme (Sanofi) and Bayer Schering Pharma. Alemtuzumab has since been withdrawn from the European and US market. Genzyme intend to remarket the drug specifically for MS treatment under the trade name Lemtrada. There is concern that this potentially life-saving drug will be too expensive for many MS sufferers and health services.

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Science Editors: Philip Kent,
Laurence Pope, Philippa Skett
science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

SCIENCE

Science in London this week

What is going on closer to home...

Nature Live at the Natural History Museum

Philippa Skett Science Editor

As students at Imperial, we love good extra-curricular science, right? Right? I guess we can be excused from crawling out of the Library once in a while and going straight to bed as opposed to the nearest museum. But every so often, there are some great gems out there to take part in, usually right on our doorstep.

The Natural History Museum currently runs a series of 30-minute lectures concerning all things bright and beautiful, in their lecture theatre that the Business School would be proud of. These talks make up their programme called Nature Live, which offers talks and events for anyone to go to, for free. The Attenborough Studio is situated in the modern glass atrium of the museum and hosts these packed introductory tidbits into what is going on behind the scenes, usually to everyone's complete unawareness. Over 300 scientists work on various endeavours throughout the museum covering many branches of research, and having an insight into what they are doing, alongside learning something along the way, makes these bite-sized sessions highly enjoyable.

Last Friday the lecture "What is your poison... or venom?" was pre-

sented by Dr Ronald Jenner, whose research into poisonous organisms may hopefully lead to understanding of their hidden potential medicinal properties. After presenting a stimulating introduction into what is a poison and a venom and the differences between the two, he went on to explain in more detail how these occur in nature and then onto how this could apply to us. The lecture was fast paced, engaging and not too overwhelming at all to the younger members of the audience, who posed no end of thought-provoking questions throughout that even at times left Dr Jenner stumped. The science ranged from stuffed models to molecules, ensuring all of the audience, whether a small scientist in the making, or a visiting student learnt something new and didn't feel patronised or out of their depth.

With Dr Jenner currently working to find the first poisonous crustacean, whilst looking into venom-derived compounds to treat diabetes, such expertise is not to go unmentioned. These scientists know their stuff, and such lectures provide brilliant opportunities to talk to them unbridled and really get to know what is going on behind the scenes. These talks also allow an insight into field courses and the research they are currently doing,



Nature Live: Learning, but fun, and free. May put a downer on your degree...

supplemented by blogs online showing the research in action. It's great for aspiring ecologists to check out at the moment with an online blog being updated from a recent trip to Borneo. Still can't bring yourself to leave the Library? Check online for videos of previous talks and events if you can't make the trip around the corner.

However don't be put off from attending if you think it is all about the

biology. Upcoming talks include "A Body of Evidence," which is given by a forensic anthropologist throughout the day on the 23rd of November, and "Meteorites: Messengers from Space," on the 28th of November, which may be more to the taste of a physicist or mathematician, or simply any student who wants to feed their inner nerd. Talks are either family friendly or more suitable for adults, so choose

wisely if you fancy taking a younger sibling if they come to visit. These are great events to supplement a day trip to the museum, or if you just have an afternoon to kill and fancy something a lot more interesting and stimulating than the Library Café's cake selection.

Check online at www.nhm.ac.uk to see the full list of upcoming Nature Live talks. No booking is required, just turn up!

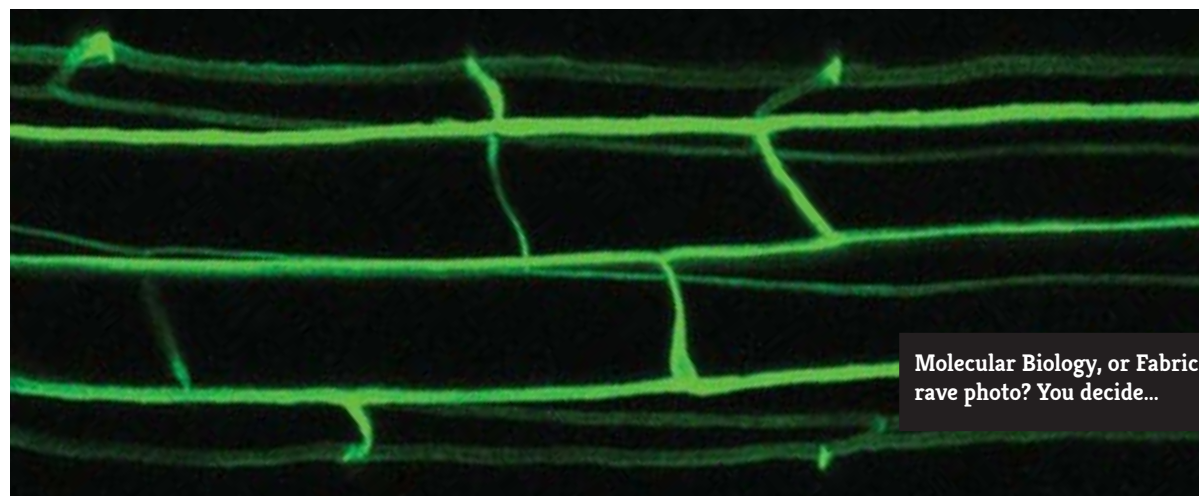
AGRI-net symposium at Imperial

Sarah Byrne Writer

One of the biggest challenges facing today's world is how to feed an increasing population, particularly with the impending threats of climate change and water shortages.

On the 1st and 2nd of November, researchers from universities and industry nationally gathered at Imperial to present their work on Chemical Biology applications to fungal, insect and plant sciences on the molecular level, in the first AGRI-net (<http://www.agri-net.net/index>) Young Researcher Symposium. AGRI-net is a new collaborative network founded by Imperial academics together with the agricultural industry, with support from the research councils.

The focus was on young and early-stage researchers, particularly Ph.D students and post-docs, and so for some the symposium doubled as a ca-



Molecular Biology, or Fabric rave photo? You decide...

reers event. Industry representatives from Bayer, Syngenta and Rothamsted attended, as well as delegates from universities including Edinburgh, Durham and Birkbeck, and the relatively small size of the conference allowed plenty of opportunities for

networking and discussions during the poster session and over dinner.

The work presented covered a range of approaches from computational modelling and data management, to genetic modification, and problems addressed included crop

yield, sustainability, genetic modification and fungicide and pesticide resistance.

However what all the projects had in common was their interdisciplinarity – using tools from chemistry in particular, but also mathematics,

physics, computing and engineering, to address biological problems. This collaborative and interdisciplinary type of research has been increasingly recognised as important in the biomedical sciences in recent years, not least at Imperial with its doctoral training centres such as the Institute for Chemical Biology, which trains the next generation of physical scientists to apply their skills to biological problems. It is clearly emerging as a key approach in agriculture as well, and with AGRI-net Imperial is leading the way.

Finally, the prize for best talk was awarded to Hannah Straker from Durham University who presented her research on chemical tools for investigating multiple herbicide resistance, while Imperial Ph.D student Kerry O'Donnolly won the best poster prize for her innovative project to improve the efficiency of the Rubisco enzyme in photosynthesis.

Thorium: a vital energy source

Alasdair Wynn and Matt O'Neill explore an untapped resource

Climate change and energy sources are two of the key issues of our time. While our climate becomes more and more volatile by the year, the strain on our planets limited resources is becoming exasperated by the development of large economies such as China and India, which in turn is damaging the climate.

It's a vicious circle.

As a result of the competitive nature of our economic system, countries are engaging in trade and actual wars against each other in a necessary battle for resources.

The world economy is absolutely dependent on fossil fuels. Ultimately they are finite and not a genuine long term solution. Despite this, the unfortunate truth is that as the price of fossil fuels goes up, previously non cost effective reserves become economically viable. Estimates of fossil fuel depletion dates suggest late 21st and even early 22nd century. But just because we could burn it all, doesn't mean that we should and we are going to need an alternative. Renewables are not a realistic replacement for the base load energy currently provided by fossil fuels, and an attempt at this would likely cause as much environmental damage.

Most developed economies such as the UK use fossil fuels for around 80% of their energy, and despite the many, many summits organised to take action against this, not one has produced something even close to resembling change. The London Climate Forum coming up this month will make all the right noises no doubt, but with little substance.

However it needn't be game over yet. There are several solutions which have been tried and tested in the past, but have been closed down for one reason or another. The 21st century is the time that energy from Thorium should, and needs, to be taken seriously.

The technology aimed at utilizing Thorium initially emerged in the 1950s and 60s in the US, under the stewardship of Alvin Weinberg, at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a facility that contributed to the Manhattan project. The most important demonstration of this technology was undoubtedly the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment, running from 1965-1969. This experiment used Uranium 233, which can easily breed from thorium, dissolved in a fluoride lithium beryllium salt as the reactor fuel.

Unfortunately, the US govern-



ment didn't want energy- they wanted weapons. This was the Cold War, and the focus of nuclear research was geared towards proliferation rather than a civilian energy source. Milton Shaw, a former Navy soldier who was head of the US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) shut the programme down, despite the huge potential for abundant energy in Weinberg's creation. 40 years on, the reverberations of Shaw's decision are being keenly felt by energy hungry consumers around the world, whose prices are sky high due to ever more scant resources.

At the same time, conventional nuclear power is going quickly out of fashion with governments around the world. After disasters like Fukushima countries like Japan and Germany have decided to scale back their nuclear programmes: the risk of meltdown has been deemed unacceptable. Added to this, Uranium 235, which is used in nuclear reactors, is as rare as gold. Contrast this with thorium, which is as common as lead, and you get some idea of the incredible abundance of this resource, which is currently treated as a waste product.

Thorium energy has been largely ignored since Weinberg's initial foray into the field, but in the last decade or so, there has been renewed interest in the technology as governments try to devise a way to meet their citizens' energy de-

mands.

Both India and China have renewed research into the field, due to the necessity of energy in developing economies, but there has been comparatively little interest in the West, despite the pressing need for clean, plentiful energy. Researchers like Kirk Sorenson, the founder of Flibe Energy, Inc have tried to kick start the Thorium renaissance, but as yet, few people are sitting up and taking notice.

Governments have repeatedly shown that they will not forgo economic growth for environmental considerations. The primary requirement of a fossil fuel replacement is therefore going to be the ability to be profitable at the market price. In order to warrant replacing fossil fuels, it must also satisfy the environmental criteria but ultimately, this is a secondary consideration. Most renewables do not compete on price with fossil fuels due to the diffuse energy sources and additional infrastructure required. Thorium energy satisfies both these issues. Not only is it a clean, but more importantly it is a market based, long term solution that is available worldwide. Several estimates have put it at the same price and even cheaper than the cheapest, dirtiest coal.

Molten salt technology possesses many crucial advantages over conventional nuclear power stations. It operates at atmospheric pressure,

compared to ~100bar and higher for LWRs. There is no risk of melt down as the fuel is already liquid and operates at around 600K. It also produces just 1% of the radioactive waste, much of which has secondary uses and due to its negative coefficient of reactivity; it is able to respond quickly and accurately to demand. Most importantly, a reactor based on this type of technology is walk away safe and under power failure, it automatically puts itself into a stable configuration without the need for any human intervention.

Crucially, the fissile material produced from thorium is unable to be used in weaponry, and it is first and foremost an economic source of energy – the fact that it is environmentally friendly is just an added bonus.

Thorium's time to shine has arrived. The world needs new energy sources, without sacrificing economic growth. The solution is there, people just need to sit up and take notice.

GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE PERSON WHO CURED BLOOD CANCER

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LOCATION: MDL 1, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Ken Campus
TIME: 11am-5pm

LOCATION: Southside Social Space
TIME: 6pm-9pm

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MARROW
BE A MATCH, SAVE A LIFE
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CHURCH

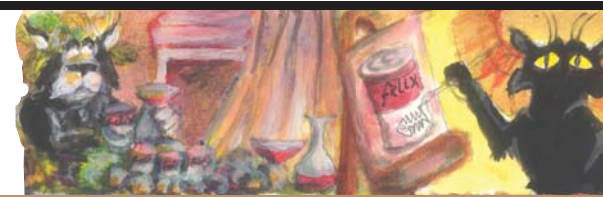
everynation.co.uk



SUNDAYS
ACTIVITY SPACE 1
STUDENT UNION

Free café – 5:30
LIVE BAND



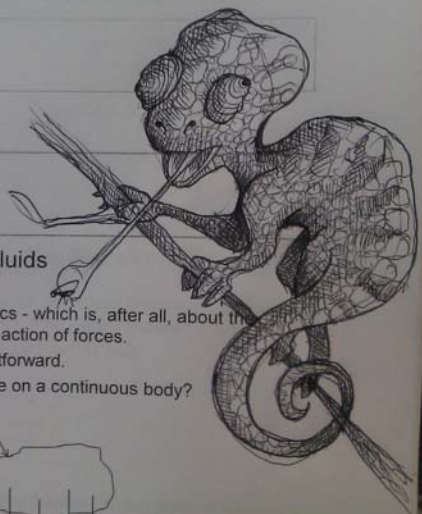


DOODLE OF THE WEEK

9. Classification of fluid motion

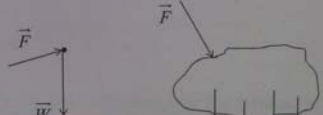
10. The mathematical formulation of fluid mechanics

Relevant sections in FM&P:
2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 1.5



5. Body and surface forces in fluids

- Force is a central concept in mechanics - which is, after all, about the description of motion of bodies under action of forces.
- In particle mechanics, force is straightforward.
- How do we describe the effect of force on a continuous body?



Why work? Instead, doodle all lecture long and then send us your drawings to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk. This doodle is by Umar Hossain, who would rather draw chameleons than do fluid mechanics.

TIRED OF LIFE?

Our pick of what's on in London

The Effect @ The National Theatre – Could love ever be just the side effect of a 'happy pill'? In *The Effect*, two volunteers taking part in a drug trial for a new 'super-Prozac pill' will find out. Stars Billie Piper too – for those who find her to be cool or something (she has had good reviews). Now – 23 February 2013.

Light from the Middle East: New Photography @ Victoria & Albert – A reflection of the political, social and religious life of the Middle East over the past 20 years. Never before have contemporary Middle Eastern photographers been exhibited in such depth. Admission is free. Now – 7 April 2013.

Richard III @ Apollo Shaftesbury – The famed Mark Rylance plays the villainous Richard alongside an all-male cast in a traditional rendition of Shakespeare's play. Now – 10 February 2013.

Modern Panic III @ Apiary Studio – Bored of dullness at Imperial? Want to go and see something surreal and controversial? Look no further: here is something really weird, and not in an Imperial way. Plan ahead. 23rd November – 2nd December.

Death: A self-portrait @ Wellcome Collection – The morbidly preoccupied American eccentric Richard Harris amassed a huge collection of death related artefacts. Now they are coming to London. 15th November – 28th February 2013.



The writer of Spring

Medic playwright on the creative process

Rhys Davies

Writer

Every year, societies like DramSoc and MTSoc find new ways to impress me. You would not think that in a university filled with scientists, engineers and medics, the students would be that interested in theatre. However, these clubs are more than interested, they are good at it too, finding new ways to entertain their audiences with their talent and passion.

ICSM Drama's latest play, *All The Meanings of Spring*, running next week, is set to be another such example. It is an all-new play, directed by final year medic, Richard Newman. However, he is not only the director, he is also the wrote the play. To find out more about all the meanings of spring in November, I caught up with the playwright.

Rhys Davies: Hello Richard. Thank you for talking with me. Perhaps you could start by explaining what the play is about?

Richard Newman: This play is about coming to university and being in a new environment where nobody knows you and trying decide who you should be and why. It tries to capture that initial feeling of escape and freedom that we have as freshers. It is also about putting thoughts into action, as we often don't do, and seeing where those actions take us and why we may have social and personal barriers preventing us from performing those actions in reality. So those are the themes but specifically it is the intertwined story of three freshers discovering their feelings and how these affect their relationships and lives.

RD: That's quite ambitious. Where did the idea for the play come from?

RN: The whole thing started in three places. I've wanted to direct a play for ICSM Drama before but was unfortunately (fortunately, I now think) rejected. I find theatre exciting and always felt that I had something to add to productions. But I needed something to direct. Around a similar time, whilst travelling, I decided that doing something creative was vital. It was absolutely necessary for me to have a place in the world. It's the kind of thing one thinks about whilst travelling. So I had in my head that I wanted to direct a play and wanted to be creative – the two ideas were not yet connected. I then

became aware that many of the ideas I was having were being lost. I found I had real epiphany moments that a couple of months later I would forget. So I decided that I had to write them down. And necessarily it took the form of a play. It's quite interesting for me to realise this course of events now, as I had never really pieced it together before.

RD: It's taken a long time to go from that first idea to the stage next week. How has the play changed in that time?

RN: Initially the play started as a group of eight students in a mysterious group with a cloaked man who then go out into the world and follow their ideas and then report back at the end. This project didn't seem feasible and there were too many main characters. So I changed it to a group of three with a representation of their unconscious self that followed them around instead. On advice I wrote the final, climactic scene first. This scene plus the full characterisation of the main protagonists meant that the rest of the play seemed to fall into place completely organically.

There were certain things that I wanted to show about the characters and others which needed to happen in order for them to reach the final scene in the state that they were in. This led to the first draft of the script. It was a 'bare bones' piece of work as others pointed out to me many times. So I tried to flesh it out. This was difficult as I really didn't want to add superfluous scenes which had no meaning or value. However, on consultation with others I realised there were aspects of character and plot that, as the writer, I had taken for granted and needed to expand on. So I did this and it evolved into the current script. It's still quite dense but I am reluctant to water it down.

RD: Have you had any help in writing this? Who has inspired and influenced you?

RN: Yes I've had help from two main sources. For a while I was going to be co-directing with another final year medic, Matt Rinaldi. However due to other commitments (such as an exhibition currently on in the Blythe Gallery) he had to drop out.

Previous to that we had had numerous scripting and ideas sessions, editing and re-editing the various drafts. It was a difficult process as there was always a difference be-

tween us. We had different visions and, as the original author, I sometimes struggled to incorporate both whilst staying true to the meaning and purpose of the play. Matt's ideas have been invaluable however, and I am particularly pleased with the way he transformed the final scene into such a climactic event.

The other help was from my brother who gave me many ideas and suggestions that were often along the same line as my own. I also had advice and ideas from others. In future I think I would always work as a writer on my own and then have other people read the piece of work and make suggestions and give ideas, leaving it totally up to me to make the decisions. I think having a pair of writers working equally together is very difficult.

RD: Finally, What do you think is the importance of doing something creative like this? Writing plays. Directing plays.

RN: We at Imperial are nearly all scientists and rarely, if ever, use our imagination in our studies. And, for most of us, those studies take up a lot of our time and focus (the rest of it often being filled with sport and drinking). I think this is a shame. As Imperial students are generally very intelligent, I'm sure that there is a massive amount of great creative energy which is currently not being used. And University is the best time to use it. After this it is extremely unlikely that I will ever get the opportunity to write and direct my own play again (particularly if this one turns out to be rubbish). It is surprisingly refreshing doing something creative, and is a welcome break from hearing and thinking about medicine constantly. Theatre is, above all, very enjoyable and I'm sure that there are many fascinating and important stories to be told by our students. I've tried to tell one of them.

All The Meanings Of Spring at the Union Concert Hall: 21st - 24th November at 7:30pm. Tickets £5 for students and £7 for non-students. Discount available for groups of eight or more. Please contact ah2610@ic.ac.uk for booking or any other details.

Arts Editors: Eva Rosenthal,
Meredith Thomas

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ARTS

Moving pictures at the Barbican

Lily Le goes on an emotional and interesting journey

© Boris Mikhailov

Everything is, has been, and always will be, moving. Memories of these movements shape our worlds. They metamorphose into nostalgia, sometimes even for times and places we have never physically accessed. Obsessions with an idealised past are manifested through the way in which we portray our world today; we use commodities such as retro-style clothing or the Instagram app.

The current exhibition at the Barbican explores this notion during the 60s and 70s, an era of defined social, political, and photographic revolution. Objectivity through the lens is captured by the subjectivity of 12 photographers from around the globe, resulting in historic snapshots served up for modern day interpretation.

The exhibition starts with photographs by David Goldblatt, which contrast the “minutiae of Afrikaner life” with the racist repression during the apartheid. Photographs of day-to-day occasions include mass burials of mine workers. A particularly powerful piece is his Johannesburg landscape of uniformly repeated lego-like housing. This exterior is enough to instigate imaginings over the limited facilities, which surely filled the interior to a bare minimum – the reduction of rights to bare practicality.

By persuading the Race Classification Board that he was coloured, not black, Ernest Cole was able to take pictures of young homeless boys being slapped by white adults for begging, as well as blurred time-lapses of street violence instead of being arrested for practising photography.

One of his most frank pieces, capturing the essence of the separation, is a wide-shot over a train station filled, on one half, with non-whites scrambling (sometimes over the tracks) to get to non-signposted trains whilst whites wait in comfortable personal space on the other half of the station.

The struggles for the rights of indigent South Africans is emphasised with a matriarchal slant (although I can't help but giggle at a photograph of what looks like Pocahontas with a boombox) in the collection by Graciela Iturbide, the only female artist featured in the exhibition.

Martin Luther King and Malcolm X sit next to Bruce Davidson's more harrowing pieces: for example the scene of a racially motivated murder. Despite its black and white colour, blood stains on the car seat stick out boldly and unnervingly. It is one of the many photos in the exhibition that absorb you completely into a foreign situation.

The US is also represented through the works of William Eggleston, the father of style-over-substance thus of style-becoming-substance hipster portraits. Although not as impressive compared to the culturally and politically driven pieces of his peers, it is interesting to see where this style of photography originated from.

Upstairs, the collection delves into more specific events of the 60s and 70s.

Afghans watch the cruel fight between two dogs and a chained bear in a German photographer's blotchy time-lapse, suggestive of the Soviet Union and US's power struggle during the Cold War, with Afghanistan caught in the middle.

The next room holds bizarre nude, political, and religious superimpositions which had been prohibited by the Soviet Union. Aesthetic beauty emerges in certain pieces, such as in one of a peacock tail decorating a nude young woman, demonstrating frustrations with the censorship of the times.

It is easy to reflect over and enjoy all the pieces in the exhibition – even the seemingly abstract ones – as photography and history novices thanks to the helpful blurbs accompanying

the collections and to the literature produced by the Barbican.

The team has done well in engaging visitors by making them empathise with the photographs. Viewers are referred to such present-day phenomena as the globalisation of Japan into Homei Tomatsu's exploration into Japanese post-war Americanisation.

The Far East is also considered through Li Zhensheng's journalistic photographs of Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution alongside playful self-portraits that were taken in secret and had to be buried.

Soldiers of the Vietnam War are covered by Larry Burrows, whose pieces documenting the conflict are considered to be some of the finest.

The exhibition ends on a happier note, in the form of Malick Sadibé's partying and fun during the totalitarian French colonial rule in Mali. These photographic subjects are enjoying themselves, pleasing the viewer and allowing for a way to relate to such stories.

This notion demonstrates how all the events and photographs of the exhibition are rooted in human nature – universal through time and space. This clever play on time makes you wonder how our current choices and actions will shape the memories of future generations, in the context of history as well as of personal exploration.

Everything was Moving: Photography from the 60s and 70s at the Barbican.
Tickets from £7.



Third round finalist of Harlem free-style hat wearing competition

© Boris Mikhailov



90% of viewers miss floating flowerpot

© Boris Mikhailov



Giant crouton attacks skiers

BOOKS

Books Editor: Maciej Matuszewski
books.felix@imperial.ac.uk



A trip around America

Maciej Matuszewski reviews Neil Gaiman's best known novel

You can't call yourself a fan of speculative fiction if you've never heard of Neil Gaiman. He has made a name for himself with his prolific writing, not only with novels but also for the screen and in comic books. Yet until recently I had never read any of his longer works. Wanting to remedy the situation I thought that there was no better place to start than with *American Gods* – his most highly acclaimed novel.

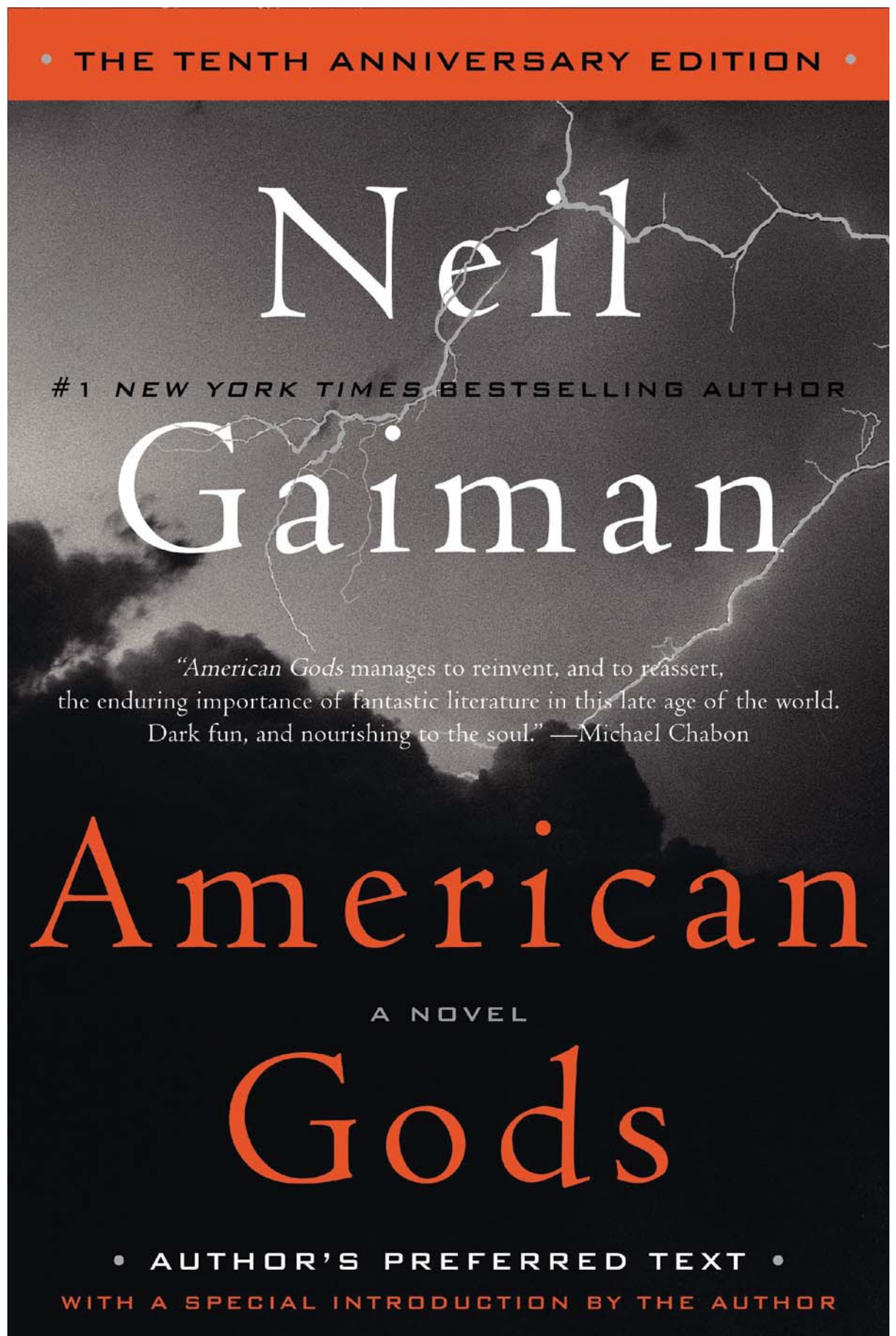
Winner of the Hugo, Nebula, Locus and Bram Stoker Awards the book focuses on Shadow – a man recently released from prison who finds that his wife and best friend have died in a car crash. At a loss of what to do with his life he accepts a job offer from the mysterious Mr Wednesday and becomes his bodyguard, driver and occasional accomplice in large confidence tricks. Mr Wednesday, however, isn't a simple conman and Shadow soon gets drawn into a war between the old and new gods – a war for the heart and soul of America.

This is highly ambitious and successful novel, exploring themes of loss, power and betrayal. It has a large cast of complex, engaging and well-developed characters – many of who do not necessarily contribute directly to the main overarching plot but add

depth to the book's universe and are simply a joy to read about. Shadow himself is very satisfying as a main protagonist – with a powerful and believable character arc as he grows from someone who is still obviously shell-shocked from his wife's death to a man who is confident in himself and his abilities.

The main focus of the book, however, are not the characters, nor even the plot, but rather the United States themselves. Throughout the course of the story we explore many places in that great country – from cities to small towns to cheesy tourist attractions. It explores the various contradictions of that place – from the beliefs and desires of its immigrant founders to its present day obsession with media and technology. I believe that Gaiman himself put it best, saying he considered the book to be “sort of weird, sprawling picaresque epic, which starts out relatively small and gets larger. It's about the soul of America, really. What people brought to America; what found them when they came; and the things that lie sleeping beneath it all.”

This is a truly great novel: deep and profound but also very entertaining. An HBO adaptation is set to premiere next year so now is the perfect opportunity to read it.



Gaiman's Other Work

Sandman

A long running and award-winning series of comic books following Dream, one of the Endless – personifications of fundamental forces in the universe. An imaginative and original work that spawned countless spin-offs. Highly recommended for all fans of fantasy.

Anansi Boys

The sequel to *American Gods*, this novel follows the children of one of the earlier novel's most popular characters, Mr Nancy – the personification of the African god Anansi. Lighter and more comic in tone the book explores themes of family and finding one's calling in life

Mirromask

A major fantasy film with a screenplay written by Gaiman. A simple story is supplemented by stunning original visual effects

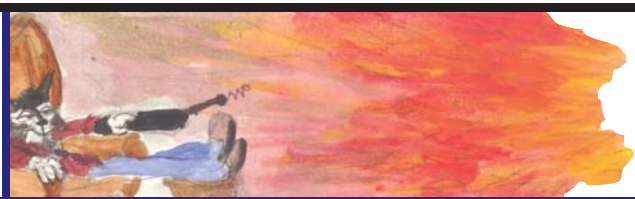
A Study in Emerald

Gaiman's Sherlock Holmes pastiche, incorporating elements of the Cthulu Mythos. Very well written with a unexpected twist this is a massive treat for fans of both Sherlock Holmes and Cthulu Mythos stories.

Neverwhere

Gaiman's urban fantasy tribute to the city of London. Appeared as an acclaimed BBC TV series before being novelised.

Send your book reviews to books.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Television Editor: Lucia Podhorska
television.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TELEVISION

Confessions of a TV-holic

Nathalie Skrzypek gives us her take on this week's TV offerings

After wasting far too much time this week watching all the series I am addicted to (like I do every week), I have compiled a top five episodes of the week list and give my thoughts on them below (SPOILER ALERT):

1.) Castle

Even though I generally stay away from crime shows, *Castle* caught my attention back in the day, due to my love for Nathan Fillion. My sci-fi obsession introduced me to *Firefly* nearly a decade ago, so my sci-fi obsessed heart skipped a beat when the *Castle* producers decided to mock *Firefly* for its 10 year anniversary – and what better way to do so than to have Nathan Fillion himself judge the show, while his girlfriend and daughter out themselves as super-fans?

2.) Two and a Half Men

I feel like the show has gone slightly downhill since Charlie 'left' and I generally despise Miley Cyrus (god I hope she was putting that accent on...), but I found this episode beyond hilarious. Berta is one of my favourite characters on TV and her describing Miley Cyrus as what happens when a hillbilly has unprotected sex with a hummingbird, was one of her best comments ever.

3.) The Big Bang Theory

Being an Astrophysics PhD student at Imperial, it is kinda compulsory to watch *The Big Bang Theory*. The show cracks me up every week, potentially because I can identify with the crazies, but this episode was particularly good, as Penny managed to get Sheldon drunk on (Long Island Ice) Tea to the point where he nearly forgot his OCD and only knocked on Will Wheaton's door twice.

4.) How I Met Your Mother

I found the last few episodes of this season not too enjoyable, as they packed all the break-ups in a bit too closely, but I guess it had to be done, if the show has to end soon. I personally find this breakup the funniest to watch, probably because Robin's boyfriend is just so very special, Lily and Marshall are just so very horny and last but not least, my Barney-Robin shipper heart hopes that Barney's convincing 'fake' speech about how he loves Robin wasn't all that fake.

5.) 2 Broke Girls

Despite my initial hesitance about this show (let's face it, the synopsis sounds very lame... 2 broke girls working in a diner... who wants to see that?), the trailer caught my at-



tention and the first episode made me fall in love with the show. Even though it is shockingly inappropriate, it is too funny to be offensive. The latest episode showed Caroline from her 'best' side and Max (aka Kat Dennings, who is just plain awesome) is just an absolute legend.

Too long didn't read? Here's a summary:

1. *Castle*, Season 5 Episode 6, "The Final Frontier"
2. *Two and a Half Men*, Season 10 Episode 4, "You Do Know What the Lollipop Is For"

3. *The Big Bang Theory*, Season 6 Episode 7, "The Habitation Configuration"

4. *How I Met Your Mother*, Season 8 Episode 6, "Splitsville"

5. *2 Broke Girls*, Season 2 Episode 6, "And the Candy Manwich"

My Top 5 Episodes of the Week

Oh hey, I also watched some TV... beware, here there be spoilers

Lucia Podhorska Television Editor

Not to be outdone by my long-lost twin Nath (see article above), I have also compiled a list of my top episodes from this week.

You may notice that our tastes are quite similar, although she claims she only watches *Glee* because she is incapable of giving up on a show once she's started. That's true dedication. But enough about Nath, onto my opinions.

The Big Bang Theory has a special place in my heart and rarely disappoints, with this week being no exception. Sheldon drunk

and confused about women is just priceless. I also simply love every scene him and Penny are in together.

Cristina Yang finally returns to Seattle! Thank the Gods, I really missed her snarkiness and her interaction with the other core characters. I hope the new interns on *Grey's Anatomy* man up soon, because they're getting on my nerves a bit.

The writers of *The New Normal* amaze me with their ability to produce entire monologues packed with a gazillion insults and still make it funny.

As Nath already mentioned, the

number of breakups has put a bit of a damper on the current season of *HIMYM*. That being said, I still hope this isn't the last season, as I feel there isn't enough time to introduce the mother and get Barney and Robin together in a believable way.

The latest episode of *Glee* marked the debut of *Glee Project* winner Blake Jenner and I must admit that I am disappointed with his character. He just strikes me as another Finn (and really, one is enough). Also, I want Kurt and Blaine back together... like now. The show just isn't the same without them as a couple.

1. *The Big Bang Theory*, Season 6 Episode 7, "The Habitation Configuration"

2. *Grey's Anatomy*, Season 9 Episode 5, "Beautiful Doom"

3. *The New Normal*, Season 1 Episode 8, "Unplugged"

4. *How I Met Your Mother*, Season 8 Episode 6, "Splitsville"

5. *Glee*, Season 4 Episode 5, "The Role You Were Born to Play"

MUSIC

Music Editors: Mark England,
Ross Gray, Simon Hunter
music.felix@gmail.com



You Don't Have To Call It Music Pt.6 punk by Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto

Music has often been trimmed with philosophical considerations, or in the case of rock & roll or funk, sexual liberation. However, these ideologies more often than not play second fiddle to the music itself. One could just as easily accept or dismiss them, refusing to opine on their behalf. However, the years leading to the end of the Vietnam War and the coming to power of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party in the UK, it was clear that withholding one's opinion was no longer a viable option. Set to the backdrop of unemployment, union strikes and severe social inequalities, it may seem obvious in hindsight that some form of personal revolution had been brooding in the hearts of the disenfranchised and disconnected youth.

Faced with the insulting anaesthetic pop of the time, the rampant commercialization of popular culture and a critical mass of the populace consigned to the gloomy working class, the youth had had enough. Social tension had grown to bursting point and the zit that popped was punk rock.

Behind the success of bands like **The Ramones** and **The Sex Pistols**, a fervent underground scene had formed on either side of the Atlantic. Inspired by a simplistic songwriting approach, all of a sudden anyone could form a band. All it took was a will to do something for oneself instead of blindly accepting the morass of popular culture. The DIY ethic not only inspired kids to start their own bands but also found labels, publish 'zines and establish distribution networks through which to promote their music.

In 1977, the year the Pistols gave England *Never Mind the Bollocks*, a band called **Discharge** recorded their first demo and another group formed under the name of **Crass**. Perhaps the two most influential groups of the underground, each unknowingly founded a subgenre to their name, based on the impact of their music and delivery.

D-beat, characterized by a percussive assault reminiscent of **Motörhead**, spread through the globe as far as Scandinavia, Japan and South America. The rhythm is a sort of huffing and puffing sledgehammer assault, catchy and explosive, proving hard to resist – a perfect vessel for jubilant uproar. A slew of bands grew which began prefixing their names with Dis-, creating a distinctive sound somewhere between pogo-punk and head-on hardcore. Sweden in particular offers perhaps one of the most explosive scenes with bands like **Anti-Cimex** and **Totalitär** releasing brutal, antagonizing EPs like *Victims of a Bombraid* and *Multinationalla Mördare*, respectively. In Finland, **Terveet Kädet's** *Ääretön Joulu* is an astonishingly fiery account of an otherwise cold and restrained land, the lightning speed of the drums inducing a sort of wailing psychosis in the vocalist, or vice-versa.

A year after their formation, Crass released *The Feeding of the 5000*, founding anarcho-punk in the process. Songs such as "Do They Owe Us A Living?" were charged with sociopolitical interrogation, conscientious responsibility for matters such as gender equality or animal rights, and promoting environmental awareness. Far more interested in ideological progress than musical merit, the records served as a platform for enlightenment. Their logo is an interesting amalgam of various icons of power, entangling a Union Jack, a Swastika, an Ouroboros and a Christian cross. Their visual approach was also prominent in their live shows, where banners read slogans like "There Is No Authority But Yourself", which were also stencilled around the London Underground.

In North America, Bands like **Black Flag** built their reputation in part as a by-product of their survival instinct, touring incessantly to put food on the table and beer in the belly. Through their homegrown SST label, the band and others in their entourage fostered a community of musicians, fans and facilitators among which they shared floors to sleep on while touring and through which they exchanged fake credit card numbers for calling credit they required for booking gigs.

Whereas the closed-knit scene of the late 70s and early 80s relied on word-of-mouth, gigs as social gatherings and direct mail correspondence with the band members, nowadays the international community is facilitated by the internet. Though many still often send cash in envelopes for records, the catalogues are no longer sent by snail mail. Blogs are a magnificent source of music and information on otherwise out-of-print and impossible to find recordings.

I was personally introduced to hardcore and anarcho-punk by a couple of DIY compilation tapes traded with the drummer of Bordeaux d-beat group **Gasmask Terror**. Incidentally he also runs his own Ratbone Records which released a compilation of songs by the polyglot French band **Heimat-Los** (German for "without a fatherland"). Such sentiments reverberate throughout the global community, as displayed in Berlin's squat-cum-club Katerholzig, where the words "No Countries, No Borders" are painted high enough to be read from the U-Bahn.

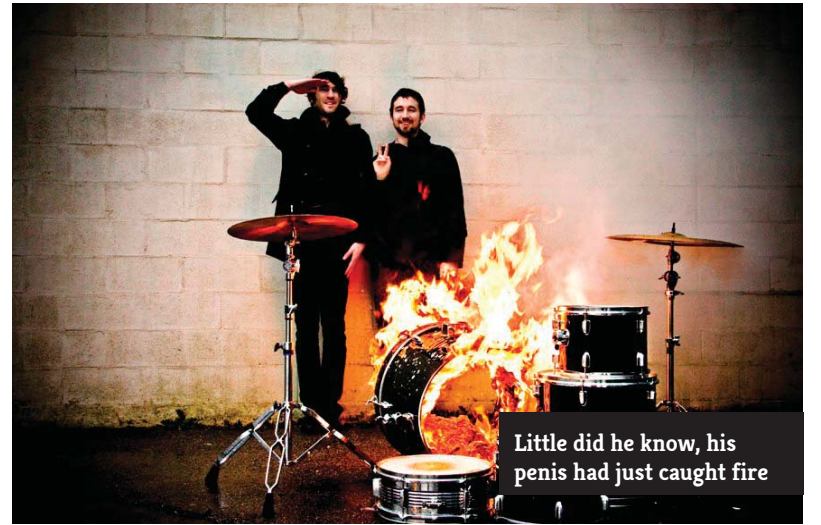
The sound of punk has been seeded with reggae by Jamaican New Yorkers **Bad Brains**, or funk up by the late **Minutemen**, but purists still remain. As long as you do it yourself, no one has the right to take it away.

Japandroids: live

Mark England Music Editor

How much noise can two people make? I thought the decibel limit was set by Kat and Alfie from Eastenders or possibly Gordon Brown on a bad day, but it seems that Brian King and David Prowse can beat them all with the intense garage rock made by **Japandroids**. I used to really love this band three years ago when their debut *Post-Nothing* arrived with a huge slab of hype and a shimmer of reverb, but I had somewhat forgotten about them until quite recently. Their second album *Celebration Rock* sounds more mature but, while lacking much of the coverage that they once commanded, they continue to produce spectacular noise-pop. Japandroids may have disappeared from my radar for a while but when the chance to see them play at Heaven, I jumped at the opportunity.

The crowd in Heaven was absolutely packed in and the anticipation to see one of Vancouver's finest exports (sorry 2010 Winter Olympic Games, you are not so cool) was tangible. Starting the night with "The Boys are Leaving Town" and newie "Adrenaline Night-shift" it was clear that Japandroids were a heavy proposition, much darker and louder than they are on record. And for two people, my God they are loud! The set was roughly divided 50:50 with songs from the new album and more well-known numbers.



Little did he know, his penis had just caught fire

"Rockers East Vancouver" and "Wet Hair" were definitely highlights and the crowd gave a massive cheer to new single "The House that Heaven Built". The one song, however, that I have always loved by Japandroids is "Crazy/Forever" and they certainly gave it justice with a thrilling performance.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the set the band struggled to overcome technical difficulties with vocal levels which slightly marred the show. Brian King admirably fought on and just ended up shouting to the audience: true punk spirit if ever I have seen it. Once the sound problems were fixed the show came to a thrilling finale with a cover of **The Gun Club's** "For the Love of Ivy". The band invited one lucky member of the crowd

to come up and then stage-dive head first into the heaving crowd and be carried around in the air for as long as possible. One excitable fellow got up but then ruined his chance by trying to rep his own band. What a loser. And so, when the opening chords of song crashed into light there were huge cheers as one lucky guy had the time of his life being thrown around the adoring crowd while his favourite band totally destroyed his eardrums.

All in all it was a fantastic night. I had forgotten how fun straight up punk shows could be. Japandroids are so dedicated to their fans and it makes for a glorious night when their epic tunes combine with the sweat and shakes of a relatively small venue. A Friday night well spent!

Mark England chews the cud with Japandroids

Brian King, lead singer and guitarist of Japandroids, talked to me about London, his favourite record and where their awesome name originates from.

Where does the name Japandroids come from?

There was no inspiration for the name Japandroids specifically. As a matter of fact, it was more of a compromise that neither one of us were particularly excited about. Originally, Dave wanted to name the band 'Japanese Scream', which is from a **Kings Of Leon** lyric, while I wanted to name the band 'Pleasure Droids', which is a reference to the pleasure droids in the movie *Blade Runner*. Neither one of us liked the other's name, and we found ourselves at an impasse. Being the diplomatic hero that I am, I decided to simply combine the two names into one singular name: Japandroids.

How does London compare to other cities you have toured?

London audiences are without ques-

tion our best audience within the United Kingdom. When I tell them to get wild, they generally do. We always look forward to playing London for that reason. With respect to other cities from around the world, it is a bit unfair to compare one against the other, as what you're really comparing are the social and cultural differences between peoples. For example, the Spanish audience and the English audience are inherently different as the ritual of how one reacts to live rock and roll music is rooted deep in the history of the people and their way of life. Therefore, you can't say 'Barcelona is better than London' or things of that nature. It is just different. See? Diplomatic hero.

Was *Celebration Rock* worth the three year wait?

When you factor in that we toured for almost two full years behind *Post-Nothing*, it is really more of a one year wait. At least, I can't help but see it that way. I certainly think it was worth taking our time to record an album

we were proud of, and I don't regret the resulting wait in the least. If we could have done it faster, believe me, we would have (for a band like ours, there is no incentive to have such gaps between albums). Nevertheless, the reaction from our fans seems to be extremely positive, and I think as time goes by, our decision to take the time we needed to write and record this particular album (rather than expediently shitting out a mediocre follow-up) will be seen as rather responsible.

What is it like being a two person band on the road?

More or less like backpacking around Europe with your girlfriend or boyfriend. More or less, anyway. Very romantic!

To finish off with, in a short but sweet manner, what is the best record you have ever bought?

Nighthawks At The Diner (Tom Waits, 1975)
Much appreciated Brian.

Music Editors: Mark England,
Ross Gray, Simon Hunter
music.felix@gmail.com

MUSIC

IC Radio Special

Learn more about IC's premier broadcasters

Schedule

Monday:

5pm: The Writing's on the Wall
6pm: Honey and Vinegar
7pm: RECESS
9pm: All Mod Cons
10pm: The O.P.P. Show
11pm: The eclectic ectoplasm

Tuesday:

10am: AKA
11am: Anime Hour
12pm: Modcast
5pm: Faux Pas Fm
6pm: You Can't Play That On Radio Anymore!
7pm: Radical Vinyl
8pm: Best Foot Forward
9pm: Bangin' Tunes on the Most Awesomest Show in the Entire Universe
10pm: The Late Night Therapy Show
11pm: Beneath the Paving Stones, the Beach

Wednesday:

1pm: The Attic
3pm: MuiscTech Podcast
6pm: Matt Colvin's The Sound of Success
7pm: Prime Cuts
9pm: Don't think - FEEL

Thursday:

11am: Voice Imperial
12pm: Totally Wired
1pm: Bass Case
5pm: The Jumble Sale
6pm: Outhouse
7pm: Touch Bass
8pm: Westbound
10pm: The AMS Night Bus
11pm: Reggae talk show

Friday:

1pm: Audible Range
4pm: The Ornithological Hour
5pm: A Few of my favourite things
6pm: Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution
7pm: Conspirisay in the Pantray
8pm: Mad Craic
9pm: Dynamix
10pm: The Audio Express
11pm: Down the Rabbit Hole

Saturday:

24hr music playlists

Sunday:

1pm: The Attic
3pm: SRA Chart
5pm: The Happy Hour
6pm: Through the Looking Glass
7pm: The Shake and Bake Show
9pm: William Dobson
10pm: The Big Racket!

IC Radio, one of the oldest and coolest student stations in the country, is the official sound of Imperial College London. Broadcasting and streaming in crystal quality from icradio.com, we are on air 24 hours a day, alternating between live shows and playlists from our huge music library.

Anything and everything goes on air there's **Best Foot Forward**, your weekly dose of the best new music and underground artists while **The Happy Hour**, hosted by happy Michael, is an hour of random fun and LOLz! accompanied by the latest pop/chart tunes. **Mad Craic** is an award winning, highly entertaining blend of banter and music from the astonishingly Irish Aislinn Hayes and the wonderfully English Craig Woods while over on Matt Colvin's **The Sound of Success** the worlds of game shows and radio chaotically collide as two contestants battle it out over 58 minutes to hear



Radio Chart Show, a chart show hosted each week by a different student station and networked across the UK. **The AMS Night Bus** sees the return of the Alternative Music Society to IC Radio while **Modcast** features British Mod, Ska and Northern Soul of past and present. **Prime Cuts** offers up your weekly serving of grime, hip-hop and any deep dark tunes in between, then there's the wildly eclectic **Outhouse**: pretentious music, verbose conversation and a fine choice in anecdotes, all related to ATP. What more could you want? If you're a fan of rock in all of its forms, tune in for music and chat with Tom and Matt on **Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution**. Then for admirers of modern electronic and bass music there's **Touch Bass** and **Bass Case** to name just a couple and **Through the Looking Glass** is a chat show hosted by Giulia, a lover of strong (VERY STRONG) opinions, inappropriate behaviour and ridiculous outfits.



their song of choice. On the **Eclectic Ectoplasm!** Eamonn plays a bit of everything and anything with a co-presenter adding their weird and wonderful music taste into the mix every other week. Then there's the **Anime Hour**, making your life sound as epic as anime, one song at a time and the **National Student**

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Best Foot Forward - Tues 8pm
Matt Colvin's Sound of Success - Wed 6pm
Mad Craic - Fri 8pm
Happy Hour - Sun 5pm



AMS album of the week

Crystal Castles: (III)

Crystal Castles' rise to fame has undoubtedly been rapid. From their debut album (I) in 2008 to their latest release (III), the band has attracted a huge fan base. They went from playing in dingy, underground bars to playing Reading this year.

With this rise, the band has matured. Their new album (III) is so much different yet so similar to their previous two albums. Whereas (I) has a more friendly feel and a simpler production value, (II) saw the band turn towards more harsh sounds, deeper bass and louder vocals. In essence, (III) can be seen as an extension of their previous work — we still have some computerized vocals and simple but strong drum beats, however this time round there's something inherently sadder about the sound. In some songs we hear Alice Glass' natural voice; a rare and harrowing thing.

When interviewed about it, Alice has cited oppression and dystopia as major influences for the album. We hear this in songs like the opener "Plague" and "Kerosene". Both are bold and aggressive. There's the slow build up of fading tones, vocals, then the drum beat and finally the huge synth sound, which is so characteristic of Crystal Castles' songs. "Affection" keeps the big sound but slows down the beat, it's an emotional song and in my opinion the best on the album. After 'Affection' you are plunged back into classic 'Castles with the likes of "Insulin", "Mercenary" and "Sad Eyes". A noisy, electronic mix of heavily compressed vocals and dark drums.

The album closes with "Child I Will Hurt You". I don't think I can adequately describe it here, so I shall just say that it's beautiful.

Throughout the album, you hear similarities between other electronic artists though, it's almost as if (III) is a bit too late on the scene. Artists like **Grimes** and **Purity Ring** have perfected that big, dirty dance sound and it feels like Crystal Castles are just catching up.

There's much to like about (III). It's almost a perfect album, the only qualm is that they've lost some of the unique edge they once had. (III) doesn't have iconic tracks like 'Crimewave' and 'Celestica', which defined the angry youth of the mid- to late-2000s.

However, if you were a fan of (I) and (II), you'll like this new LP. If you weren't a fan, then do give this a listen, either you'll absolutely love it or become severely depressed.



Matt Proctor



Great films I hate (or why I should)

Katy Bettany Yeap, still here...

Following on from last week's feature, 'Shit films I love', I decided to continue my public shaming. The following films have caused much contention in the Felix Office – one in particular is one of my co-Editor's favourite films. But I'm sure everyone has been there – watching a film that everyone else thinks is amazing/wonderful/life-changing (delete as appropriate), but you just can't understand what the fuss is about. It's not that I can't appreciate the intrinsic cinematic worth of some of these films, because I can, but that doesn't mean I enjoy watching them. And if everyone can resist the temptation to lynch me/form an angry mob on campus I'd be very appreciative...

Lord of the Rings Trilogy (2001, 2002, 2003)

So. Boring. I'm going to admit right away that I struggle with fantasy – I find it hard to relate to as a genre. I also appreciate simplicity in a film – too many things to remember/too many characters or species or whatever and I get frustrated. If I'm going to have to work so hard to watch a film, it better have something special to say (and frankly these films don't reap much in terms of reward.)

But, that's not to say I can't appreciate the fantastic things about this trilogy. The sheer level of effort is in-

credible: the effects, costuming, cinematography and scale. And the acting calibre is amazing, but none of this saves the films from essentially being long, quite same-y, action sequences.

I think the truth about this trilogy is they are wonderfully executed, but based on a story that I care little for. I have the same problem with the books – there is a limit to the amount I care about a gang of tiny, jewellery-obsessed hairy men.

Donnie Darko (2001)

Where to begin? I think the main issue is that I just don't get it. I suspect I'm not alone in this – I have this suspicion that most people just pretend to get whatever the hell it is about, but, really, they haven't got a fucking clue. Jake Gyllenhaal plays a teenager haunted by hallucinations of a large rabbit, which manipulates him to go on a crime spree. Mixing sci-fi, black comedy and mental illness was always going to be tricky, and from a young, practically unknown filmmaker even more so. Nobody can fault the writer/director Richard Kelly for his imagination and confidence of style (which would be impressive even in an established director), but he pollutes an interesting story with confusing imagery and too much plot layering. *Donnie Darko* is probably more style than substance, but even the style misses the mark. Too chaotic and too weird for me, and I still don't know what Kelly was trying to say, despite the film's dedicated cult following.



Stages of watching *Donnie Darko*: bored, bored, DAFUQ!?!?



Sin City (2005)

This film disturbed me so much I can't look at Elijah Wood without imagining him limbless and smiling, being gnawed on by a wolf (maybe that's part of the reason I hate *LOTR* so much.) I know that the film is visually a piece of genius – the production design and cinematography is AMAZING, as is the original score. It has a great cast, but overall I think the film falls into the same 'more style than substance' category. A less than memorable story and overly extreme violence are not made up for by slick camera work and wonderful colour palette and visual shaping.

Revolutionary Road (2008)

This film saw DiCaprio and Winslet reunited for the first time since *Titanic* in 1997, so naturally I was curious to see how their chemistry had changed on screen over ten years on. They play a suburban couple, the Wheelers, whose loveless marriage is irrevocably disintegrating. I understand why this film is the way it is – slow and stilted – reflecting the mundane suburbia the couple find themselves in. They represent the bourgeoisie of post war America, plagued by lack of purpose, hopeless consumerism and the stasis

of everyday life. It has amazing production design and is beautifully shot by director Sam Mendes. But just because I can appreciate the film in an objective way, doesn't mean I enjoy it. The book, written in the 60s by Richard Yates, was full of black humour in a way that the film isn't, but also allowed for much more connection with the Wheelers. Investment in the couple is essential for the audience of this film, because the scripting is light, and the plot even more so – without it, despite its style and moving depiction of the subtleties of the human condition, the film failed to keep my attention.



"Dammit, I thought I got rid of you on that boat..."

Film Editors: Katy Bettany,
John Park, Lucy Wiles
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

dn't be a Film Editor: The Sequel)



Fight Club (1999)

The inclusion of this film on my list nearly caused a real fight in one of my lectures (not really, but I like to imagine people get as worked up about films as I do). This film starts really well, but it unravels in an epically pretentious fashion towards the end, becoming a victim of its own cleverness. The film is about masculinity crisis, starring Edward Norton as a twitchy 'every man' type, who, when discontented with his dead-end job, forms a fight club with Pitt, a salesman. The fight scenes are excellently constructed, and the audio post work is deliciously flinch-worthy. And the film has an interesting premise – but the twist at the end is inexpertly ex-

ecuted. For all the film's pretension, by the end it ceases to make any kind of sense. I've been reliably informed that the book on which the film is based is much more coherent. Finally, one of the most annoying things in films is when the beautiful hero escapes dangerous situations unrealistically unmaimed – Pitt barely sustains more than a scratch.

Napoleon Dynamite (2004)

Probably my most hated, yet well executed film of all time. Widely found to be hilarious, yet I can't seem to fathom why. Essentially nothing happens – 90 minutes of nothing. Intended to be deadpan and quirky, I would rather punch myself in the face repeatedly

than watch this film again. That said, the first time full length director Jared Hess creates an excellent framework for comedy (a fact almost insulting given the cinematic results.) There is plenty of room provided for lead Jon Heder to shine, but his lack of future career success suggests that he lacked the skill to make Napoleon remotely likeable. In short, *Napoleon Dynamite* is a film a lot less cool than it clearly thinks it is.

Fantasia (1940)

I love Disney animation. But this film disappointed me greatly as a child – I kept waiting for the main feature to begin. I couldn't fathom a film without dialogue at that age, and the sinking feeling I felt when I realised this is just animation set to music upsets me no less even now. The animation is great (come on, this is Disney, of course it is) but the concept of animation based on music instead of coherent storyline doesn't work for me. And I hate the music.



American Beauty (1999)

I don't know if my co-Editor will ever talk to me again after including this, but I can't pretend to like this film. The film has a great concept, is subversive and well executed in terms of direction, but I couldn't relate or even connect in an objective way to any of the characters. Kevin Spacey plays a father infatuated with his daughter's hot best friend (Mena Suvari). The film is sup-

posed to be a tragicomedy about middle class American life, but at times the film verges on the pretentious (the iconic scene with Suvari frolicking on a bed of roses – rose petals forming a visual motive throughout – a prime example of this). I don't hate this film, but I certainly can't see why it is so highly regarded (clearly I am in the minority here – it won an Academy Award for Best Picture.) But for me: underwhelming and self important.



This guy clearly sees something he likes...



Nick Clegg has been promoted up to tea making duty!

Promote yourself to Film writer by emailing film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

Film Editors: Katy Bettany,
John Park, Lucy Wiles
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Shining of Room 237

Fred Fyles

Film Writer

The image of Jack Nicholson leering out from a hole in a door, his teeth bared and his eyes manic, has gone down as one of cinema's most iconic images. It perfectly conveys the unsettling atmosphere which Stanley Kubrick conjures up in his 1980 film *The Shining*. The film has become ingrained in our culture, and is often used as a benchmark against which all other horror films can be compared. However, this has not always been the case; upon release it received a luke-warm response, with critics calling it "an overreaching, multi-levelled botch" and describing Shelley Duvall's character as a "simpering, semi-retarded hysteric". How things change. Today *The Shining* is widely recognized as one of the greatest horror films of all time, and has been established as a modern classic of cinema. Last week saw the UK premier of the US extended edition, which has never been shown here before and includes an extra half hour of footage, meaning everyone now has the chance to see this masterpiece on the big screen.

Based on a novel by Stephen King, *The Shining's* plot is a relatively simple one: Jack Torrance, played by Jack Nicholson, moves with his wife Wendy (Shelley Duvall) and their son Danny to Overlook Hotel, a lodge that they agree to look after during the long winter. Jack, a writer struggling with writer's block, hopes that the isolation will help him finish his novel, but Shelly is more preoccupied with Danny's invisible friend Tony. Danny, it is revealed, has some psychic abilities, called 'Shining', making him sensitive to the past horrors that occurred in the hotel, centring around the mysterious Room 237. Brutal murders, elevators filled with blood, and ghostly apparitions all make an appearance as Jack is driven deeper and deeper into psychosis. The majority of the lines are given by Nicholson and Duvall, who are simply superb, with Nicholson playing the psychotic Jack with a gleeful enthusiasm. Duvall shines in her role as Wendy, portraying a woman on the edge, confused and terrified; she stumbles through the corridors of the Overlook Hotel, pursued by her husband, with a look of pure horror

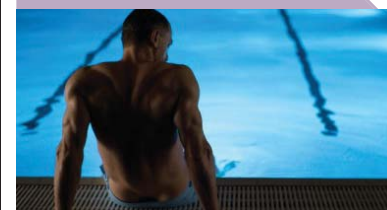
on her face.

A large part of what makes *The Shining* so haunting is the set and the art direction, overseen by Kubrick, who was renowned for his methodical attention for detail. Each frame is an individual work of art, and the smallest details in a scene take on a huge importance. The Overlook Hotel has an atmosphere all of its own, the vast, sprawling lodge becoming a third central character alongside Nicholson and Duvall. Kubrick's gift in the director's chair comes across incredibly strongly in this film, and his direction is breathtaking. He has taken the basic plot, and distorted it through his camera's lens into a unsettling psychological horror, which frequently toys with the viewer, making them question what is real and what isn't. What really lies behind the door of Room 237? And hasn't Jack been to the hotel before? These are questions that Kubrick leaves unanswered, allowing the viewer to make their own mind up.

This ambiguity of *The Shining* is explored in the film *Room 237*, a documentary released last month that explores different theories behind the

film. One commentator believes it is actually about the genocide of Native Americans, while another argues that Kubrick is making a commentary on the Holocaust. Such outlandish theories may seem extreme if it was for any other film, but *The Shining* is different. Kubrick's obsession for precise details means that nothing can be dismissed in the film; everything takes on a new importance, making some of the theories very persuasive. This makes *The Shining* a film that definitely deserves a second viewing, if not a third.

The experience of seeing this film in the cinema cannot be overstated. While the new footage included in the cut helps to flesh out the film somewhat, the most exciting thing about this release is that it allows us to view the film as Kubrick intended: on the big screen, allowing the spectacle to completely envelop the viewer. In the screening I went to there was a chilling atmosphere in the theatre. While the film remains as 'scary' as it was when I first saw it on TV, seeing it in the cinema allows the action to become haunting, visceral, and truly psychologically terrifying.



Top 10 Box Office Films

1. Skyfall
2. Madagascar 3
3. Argo
4. Heres Comes the Boom
5. Taken 2
6. Hotel Transylvania
7. The Sapphires
8. Silent Hill: Revelation
9. Rust and Bone
10. Paranormal Activity 4



Film Editors: Katy Bettany,
John Park, Lucy Wiles
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

Kneel, obey, submit, comply, surrender

The Master

Director: Paul Thomas Anderson
Screenwriter: Paul Thomas Anderson
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams



John Park

Film Editor

There is no denying that Paul Thomas Anderson (*Magnolia*, *There Will Be Blood*) is the most bold and intelligent director around. He is fearless in undertaking a challenging topic, and his deliberate ambiguity in his characters, the deep complexities, the uncomfortable situations, hard-hitting scenarios, all make their appearances: very little changes in his hotly anticipated *The Master*. Dense, heavy narrative? Check. Top-notch performances? Check. You get the feeling that there is something great here – an insightful character study of sorts, delving into

a struggling man's psyche, but due to the many obstacles that stand in the way of the film being a widely accessible experience, it sadly misses out on becoming a classic.

Although loosely based on the rise in popularity of the controversial religion Scientology, it would be a mistake to assume that this is in any way a piece of expose. Instead we concentrate solely on the story of Freddie (Phoenix), a traumatised World War II Navy veteran who has lost his way. Alcohol and sex are the two things that he's addicted to, and he has a special knack for producing his own quality booze wherever he ends up. Not able to secure a job due to his fiery, uncontrollable temper, he decides to sneak aboard a yacht, where a life-changing encounter occurs.

He has very little recollection of the night he crashed the extravagant party thrown by Lancaster Todd (Hoffman). But Todd is intrigued: Freddie's volatile behaviour, his childlike qualities, his aimless path, and last but not least, his exceptional ability to make his own very unique brand of alcohol. Todd is the founder of a philosophical movement known as "The Cause" and with that he believes it is his duty to help

out the lost Freddie, and make him realise his true potential, as well as his place and purpose in life. He's charismatic, well-spoken, intelligent, and knows what to say when.

Essentially he is very good at what he does, as he inspires and moves people, which is why he has so many loyal supporters. His wife, Peggy (the steely cold but underused Adams), is one of his biggest devotees, respecting everything he's achieved thus far, firmly believing that their organisation has much more to accomplish. The sudden arrival of this unstable individual is a cause for alarm, as she casts a weary set of eyes on the stranger. Their son Val (Jesse Plemons) however, is less convinced about his father's endeavour: "he's making all this up as he goes along... you don't see that?"

So what is Todd up to? Is he a fraud? Or does he actually believe in what he's doing? His methods of teaching on human psychology, the repetitive experiments he subjects his members to seem crazy and unnerving, but for a broken man like Freddie, this alternate way of guidance, as well as Todd's open arms and generosity become irresistible. Todd very gently pulls out the necessary answers from Freddie,

what happened to him in the past, what has hurt him most, his insecurities: all buried deep in his complex mind web.

And of course, the pair of Volpi Cup winning performances can truly be summed up as a brilliant master class in acting perfection, a duo so well matched that their efforts will not go unnoticed. With Phoenix it's those unflinching eyes that do most of the talking. Whenever he loses his way, his downward spiral is quite the dramatic and disturbing one, with Phoenix quite literally giving all he's got physically to the role. His erratic, unpredictable changes, at times bordering on psychosis are so utterly mesmerising that if he would only stop trash-talking the Oscars, he could score an easy win.

Equally impressive is Hoffman, as the enigmatic leader, calmly using his words and civility to spread his message. He also succeeds in painting a vague picture around the core of his character: at times he seems to believe every word he's preaching, but there are moments where he himself seems to be lost for answers. Is he a fraud? Is he leading a cult? Is he as smart as everyone makes him out to be? We will never truly know.



Too close? We don't think so...

Full of unclear ideas, the film fails to be a truly compelling one. The relationship between the two men seems to be the main focus but even that doesn't give the audience a clear enough perception into them to maintain enough drama and interest throughout its running time. And as is the case with most Anderson's films, everything looks phenomenal. The much lauded 70mm does bring out the enhanced quality and his many close-ups into the outstanding actors further give them a chance to shine in their difficult roles. But here is a film that falls short of true grandeur and greatness due to its lack of exploration into its initially fascinating subject matter.

He's just not that into her...nor should he be

People Like Us

Director: Alex Kurtzman
Screenwriters: Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci, Jody Lambert
Starring: Chris Pine, Elizabeth Banks, Michelle Pfeiffer



John Park

Film Editor

What happens to selfish, money-hungry, cold, heartless bastards in Hollywood films? They meet a kid. Or they meet a woman. Or both. And oh look, they do have hearts after all, because they're human – and everybody has a heart, right? There, I've just summed up the main story behind *People Like Us*, a mostly generic dysfunctional family drama that could have served well as a brief story-arc on a daytime soap. But I say "mostly" generic, because the film does try to explore its characters more, not always resorting to stereotypes, and ends on one pow-

erful punch of a finale.

Sam (Pine) is a struggling businessman whose latest deal lands him in a lot of trouble that also costs him financially. To make matters worse he receives news that his estranged legendary record-producing father has passed away from cancer. Although trying to avoid his tense and uncomfortable home, he eventually makes it back to his now very much depressed and disappointed mother Lillian (Pfeiffer). As if his life couldn't get any more complicated, his father has left a little task for him to complete: a shaving kit containing 150,000 dollars, enough to cover his debts. But the money isn't for him. It's for a certain Josh Davis (Michael Hall D'Addario).

The connection? The kid's mother, Frankie (Banks), a recovering alcoholic as well as bartender, is the mother, who also happens to be the illegitimate daughter of the recently passed record producer. Sam and Frankie are half-siblings. It's a part of his father's life that was always kept a secret from him; no surprises there. The only problem is that now it's up to Sam to carry out this act of kindness to an almost stranger when he can't even sort his life out. It would be easy to take the

money and run. And it's not as though this thought hasn't crossed his mind. But he decides to stay put, get close to them for a while, and get to know the family he never thought he had.

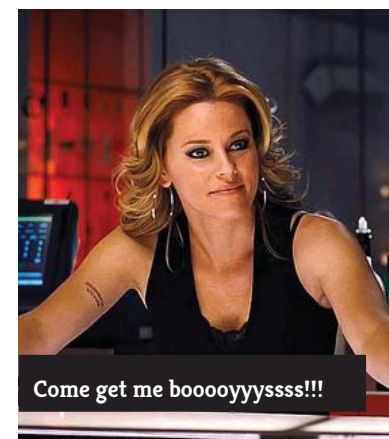
Creepy? Perhaps. He is essentially stalking these two. At an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Frankie announces her disappointment at being completely left out of her father's eulogy in the papers. "It's official, I don't exist" she says, appearing strong although clearly this identity issue is affecting her. And this is a great performance from Banks, an actress who can skillfully pull off sly, sarcastic, confident comedy in a role that could have been hampered by teary melodrama. She has that right mix of cheerful charm as well as strong, intelligent charisma that makes her damaged character fascinating.

It's Sam and Jack who connect first, through their mutual love of music. Jack is a borderline sociopathic, self-destructive mess, blowing up his school pool with a chunk of sodium and getting into all sorts of trouble. And as Sam appears Jack does miraculously sort out his issues almost immediately. Pine, a likable actor who has his natural ways and a knack for playful wordy

dialogue, fits into the role perfectly, showing the progressions and changes of his role with smooth ease. D'Addario also plays delicately with a role that's not easy to warm to. He carries a lot of built-up resentment and frustration towards his mother, and presents with the classic signs of a neglected, ignored kid wanting some love.

Waiting for the plot to escalate to its inevitable "confrontation" is quite the long one, as the film wants to squeeze in as much sugary sweetness as it possibly can before having to deal with the heavier drama. The feel-good moments are handled with predictable familiarity, mostly with the lovely countryside serving as the backdrop, accompanied by easy, soothing music, where characters move about without dialogue, sometimes in slow motion, laughing and smiling at each other's company. It's not a particularly bad concept, and it's certainly not unpleasant to look at, but sometimes you just want the film to move on and check in with reality.

It's also an exciting added bonus to see Pfeiffer, whose luminous presence is often underused, playing the heartbroken widow and mother with secrets and regrets of her own to bear.



Come get me booooyyssss!!

Her unkept exterior, withdrawn, blank looks all work tremendously to fit her role as the grieving woman, giving her scenes much more power as well as tranquillity.

There are scenes of heartstring tugging emotions, some forced, some genuine, but in the end the film manages to find a good balance as it explores a very human, down-to-earth set of characters and relatable plot points. It's not the most original, and is a touch too long to be a truly compelling drama, but here is a calm, collected and thought-provoking offering that comes far too rarely.

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My wild Irish prose

Max Eggl rewrites the history of the Emerald Isle in Crusader Kings II

Intro: Murchad mac Diarmata (1026 – 1070) was a King of Dublin and Leinster, and if you haven't heard of him, no big deal. He didn't really accomplish that much, and thus his name has been lost in the realms of history. However, last week, I decided, with the aid of *Crusader Kings 2*, to give the name of Murchad new meaning! Playing out his life in full glory, and doing things differently from the way he did, Murchad (me) achieved crazy things! If you want to discover how this historical figure lived out his life in my alternate universe, read his diary that was discovered and translated just yesterday!

Anno 1066: To whomever will read this in the future, I am Murchad Mac Diarmata, Earl of Dublin! Hopefully when I finish this document, I will be what I have dreamed of, ever since I was a little boy – to be the King of Ireland! I will unite the Green Isle under one banner, and make it the force that it deserves to be. To accomplish this, I have a devious plan, that hopefully will play out exactly as I want it to. Firstly, my dad is the Earl of Leinster, and therefore I will be the Earl of Leinster when he finally kicks the bucket... GOD why is it taking so long? Patience, Murchad, patience, your time will come, just gotta keep repeating that. Secondly I have to change these goddamn succession laws. I mean, C'MON, who the hell still uses Gavelkind Succession these days? You're like, "What's Gavelkind?" Exactly! No one even knows about it. Well basically when I die, my stuff won't go to my oldest child, but will be split up in even bits for all of them. The fact that I have 3 kids doesn't really help. So my first plan on the agenda is changing it to seniority succession! Boom Shakalaka, now Donnell (my oldest son) is my heir! Perfetto, now my realm won't be split up when I meet my maker! Next thing on the agenda is getting rid of my chancellor. Seamus is a

such an idiot. He managed to insult the Duke of Connacht's wife while he was standing next to her... God, I had to send lots of horses and gifts to keep him from going to war with me. I HAVE to get rid of Seamus... hmmm I have to see about that. I mean without a good chancellor how am I supposed to fabricate claims on other counties? Without any claims I cant even legitimately take over places... man this King of Ireland thing is looking harder and harder to achieve.

Anno 1075: Oh God, where to start... Well dad is finally pushing up the daisies! That means I'm the Earl of Leinster! Double trouble! I now have the armies of Leinster and Dublin combined, which makes me one of the most powerful men (behind a few others) in Ireland! So now, this power (and the extra cash) allowed me to hatch a dastardly plot! I murdered Seamus (yep, the chancellor, involving an unfortunate incident including rocks and a river), and installed his son Rhiann! Such a beautiful plan, and Rhiann doesn't even have a clue!!!! Anyway, so I sent Rhia of to Breifne to bribe my way to claiming it for myself (and to stop him from getting suspicious), and viola, 2 years later, I have the Causus Belli (reason for war) I need to attack Breifne! So in 1068, my troops overran that place, and now you may also call me the Earl of Breifne! So now with the army of three counties, I looked for my next target! Luckily for me Rhiann dug out an old history book where it claimed (rather dubiously) that Ossory was part of the duchy of Leinster! Since I am the Earl of Leinster, I mean it's not thaaat much of a step to be the duke, right? Well, you might not agree, but it was enough for me! I started calling myself the Duke of Leinster (instead of just an earl!) and now had the reason to take over Ossory! Piece of cake!

Hmmmm what else happened...oh yeah wifey died, can't really remember her name! She died about the same time

my bastard child (who I had with my lover) was born... suspicious... Anyway, I didn't really want to spend the rest of my life alone, so I looked round for a good wife in the bridal catalogue, and then my eyes fell upon her! Szofiá was a Polish princess (plus points!!) and an absolute peach! Married her within a year of wifey dying.

That's it for now! Till next time!!! I have great things planned, and Rhia has many things in motion!

Anno 1086: Bad day for the house mac Diarmata... Donnell passed away from severe stress (is that even possible?!?!)... anyway gotta live on... at least I have a beautiful grandson, Fáelán... and even though he prefers to play with dolls instead of swords, I think he has a lot of promise. Anyway, "What's new on the King of Ireland front?" you ask. Remember the Duke of Connacht? Well his son, Ruadri, (whose mother had been insulted) is being a right stropky little twit. I usurped the title of Duke of Connacht (Breifne kinda is part of it, and I mean, I'm a much better duke anyway) and forced him to become my vassal, all totally acceptable things! So he gets pissed and starts plotting to kill Fáelán, yeah I know, shocking. The NERVE of some people. Really, I had him thrown in to my dungeon... kinda was forced to let him out though, after everyone threatened to declare war on me. Sucks to be not as powerful as all your enemies combined. Oh yeah, I also took over Ulster, after Rhi had fabricated a claim, saying my uncle's mother's dog had been the Earl of Ulster, which means it's mine now. Pretty standard stuff. Also I created the title of Duchy of Meath just because I could. Good times! That means now I am the Duke of Meath, Leinster and Connacht as well as the Earl of Ulster. My plan is coming to fruition, soon when I own more than half of Ireland, I will be able to crown myself King of Ireland, MUAHAHAHAHAHA!!!! (P.S. Gotta do it fast though... I'm 60 now, most people don't even live to 50 these days... gotta hurry up!)

Anno 1096: Ladies and gentlemen, may we present you: THE KING OF IRELAND!!!! HAHAHAHAAH-HAAHAH. Yes, dear reader, we have successfully battled, bribed and fabricated our way to the Irish throne! The looks on the people's faces when we announced our royal ancestry and therefore claim to the Irish throne was MAGNIFICENT. We are now known as King Murchad I 'the Great' of Ireland! Sounds great, we know! Anyway, once we had risen to shoulder this great responsibility, we started to declare war on all the rebel factions that still controlled more than half of Ireland, and free the poor helpless peasants (thinking about it... the peasants weren't actually that grateful;



punishment is in order). So, we decided Thomond would be first. Thomond, in the southwest, was just a random target, seriously, who could withstand us now!! However, for some reason, Brian of Munster came to the aid of the Earl of Thomond. Split my armies in two, crushed him and crushed Thomond too. However, we felt a bit merciful, as Brian had become a cripple in some battle, so we let him go home and keep Munster a while longer. A year later, in our pledge to free Ireland from the tyranny of rebel lords, we took over Ormond and Desmond, then we were feeling generous, and gave the royal Irish army Christmas off! That's all till now in Ireland.

So what's up in England!? We have been getting strange messages, that there are now two factions in England, one that styles itself as "Lancaster" and one that calls itself "England". These two seem to be at war with each other... hmmm I wonder at the possibilities. If they are still fighting once we have mopped up here, we can perhaps cut ourselves a slice off of England as well... hmmm!

Anno 1106: Yes dear reader, this King is still alive and kicking, even though we have reached the respectable age of 80! So what has happened in the past few years? We managed to free Oriol (1097), Tyrone (1098, whose earl was waging war in Scotland at the time. How considerate, it made it that much more easier) and finally Tyroconnel (1099). Finally, control of all of Ireland! Success. How interesting, that we, as a young child, could have dreamed so big and then achieved it! Anyway Rhia was (and is) still around, now Chancellor of Ireland (he certainly moved up with us), and as we were bored, we sent him to fabricate a claim on the Isle of Man! Since he did find a record of our grandfather's horse, being ridden by the Earl of the Isle of Man,

it followed that the Isle of Man should be Irish property! We ourselves led the armies there, and subsequently crushed any resistance! Anyway, so Ruadri (remember him?) was plotting again, and did manage to convince a few people that HE was the Duke of Connacht... He just doesn't know when to give up! Anyway, we finally had him executed, as he was getting annoying and nobody ever doubted us being the Duke of Connacht anymore! A year ago, there were revolts in Desmond... We are wondering why. With such a benevolent King, who would ever want to revolt? Anyway, we crushed the peasants and crucified every tenth survivor! That should teach them!

Oh... also Szofiá died. She was our everything. We almost committed suicide in the following months, but we were too important to do that. However, we swore to ourselves, that we would remain celibate... at the age of 80 that is easy anyway, we think! Anyway we are very tired now... more tired than usual. We hope that we our kingdom survives and lives on... Fáelán will have to make an amazing king, to hold all the earls in check. We however do not care anymore, we are giving this kingdom to the next generation.

The following day, the King was found dead! He had peacefully died in his sleep. While this story may be over, the story of Fáelán and the Kingdom of Ireland is not!

Conclusion: Now you may be wondering, if what I wrote here is a pure figment of my imagination. I swear to you, it is not! All that was written by Murchad, actually did really occur in the game! So if you are thinking, "Hey this game sounds way cool!" then get yourselves a copy of *Crusader Kings 2*, and see who you can make King. Create your own history!





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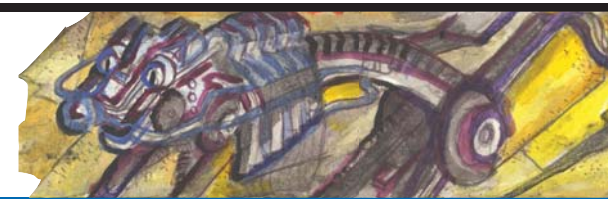
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SX-907 Bluetooth Headphones

Max Egg discovers an incredible pair at a banging price, just £30. Get in!

Yes, dear readers, I have recently discovered the world of wireless headphones. Two weeks ago, bored and not feeling like untangling my normal headphones, I decided to peruse the various stores of the internet, to discover if the World Wide Web had anything to tickle my fancy. Lo and behold, on Amazon, I stumbled upon a whole array of Bluetooth headphones, and, perhaps more surprisingly, very (and I mean VERY) attractively priced ones. I had previously visited an Apple store (to check out the iPad mini) and had seen headphones priced at £300, so to see these puppies being displayed from £20 to £70 was really astounding! Anyway, before I launch into my review of one of these headphones that I purchased, I will firstly talk pros and cons of Bluetooth/wireless headphones in general.

So what are all the advantages of Bluetooth headphones? Well the fact that you don't actually have a wire is beneficial in many different ways. The lack of a wire also implies a lack of consequent tangles, so when you decide to listen to music you just pull your headphones out of your bag and you're ready to go! Also, when I have headphones/earphones, the wire tends to be the weakest link of the whole thing, and thus usually breaks first. When the wire is faulty it impairs the whole listening experience, for example only being able to hear from one ear sucks. With the Bluetooth stuff, there is no cable to be the weakest link, and therefore the thing as a whole is less likely to break.

If, like me, you listen to lots of music that requires a certain degree of head banging, then the wireless environment of the Bluetooth headphone will allow you the freedom to head bang to your heart's content! Lastly, but certainly not least, of the pros is the fact that these devices have a range of about

5-10m. So if you are at home, listening off your laptop with your headphones, you can easily just stand up, get that can of Red Bull [Felix in no way endorses Red Bull over its imitators] from the fridge, all without the hassle of losing your music.

So with all these pros, you must be thinking, hey, what's the catch? Well, battery drain is about the biggest con if you are on the move. Users have experienced about double the battery usage on their smartphone when they listen to music with their Bluetooth headphones. So if you're someone who uses your smartphone a lot, as well as not having much access to a charger all day, wires may still be the best option for you. There are also concerns about safety, as you are open to people taking control. You are pretty much opening up your device to others who also have Bluetooth, although this issue has largely been resolved in recent years. Some people also seem to think that the sound quality suffers with Bluetooth headphones. While this may be true if you have your phone 10 meters away, if it's in your pocket/bag/immediate area it sounds IDENTICAL to a wired connection of the same price range.

So why are Bluetooth headphones/earphones such a rare commodity? Well, I believe that the widespread usage of these devices has been curbed by the expectation that they are really expensive! That's why I am here to review my own £22.97 headphones; to see if good headphones really do cost a lot, or if bargain hunters can also win!

After I had seen the Bluetooth stereo Headset SX-907 on Amazon, I believed it was too good to be true. I mean, how can these things look so nice, do what they do and cost under £25? After lots of debating I decided to splash myself out, convincing by saying I would start going to those free societies all over the place!

When my package finally came in the mail, I was extremely excited. I dropped everything and started the arduous pro-

cess of ripping apart the wrapping. As I got to the actual box, I was slightly disappointed. The picture on the outside had obviously been photoshopped (badly) to include the headphones, and it all looked kind of cheap. Not only that, but there was no user manual, and the headphones just lay in the package. This was not the way I expected my Bluetooth headphone relationship to start.

However, things seemed to look up from there. The headphones weren't exactly beautiful (mostly plastic), but for 20 quid I hadn't expected them to look great. I turned them on, a beep greeted me and, nicely enough, they were fully charged. This was signalled by the light on the side of the headphones. This light is the only way that the headphones can communicate with you, so this little lightbulb has many different variations (red, blue, alternating, it does it all), which is extremely bright. Without the manual it took me a while to pair these babies with my phone, but after a while I got it and it was surprisingly painless, with a nice little beep to confirm I had paired successfully.

Then came the big test, the music. I had chosen a set playlist to test everything on my new headphones, and started out with "Numb/Encore" by Jay-Z and Linkin Park, to be the virgin track. The first beat blew me away. For £20, I was hearing some of the best quality I had EVER heard, and all wireless to boot. Also, they weren't too uncomfortable, and blocked out surrounding sound very nicely. There are buttons on the sides of the headphones, allowing you to do the elementary functions you would normally do on your phone. The volume/fast forward button is a bit haphazard though, and I don't think I will be using it much as it is

hard to use properly without making mistakes. These headphones also have a rudimentary mic, so right away I started a phone call. The quality of the audio was good enough, but the mic was not up to scratch: it was not transmitting well enough. So I guess receiving and making phone calls are not on the agenda. As I turned off the music I noticed a quiet beeping/"weird machine" sound in the right headphone. Although this does not really disturb me, as my music drowned out this noise, for people who listen to music at lower volumes, this may be irritating.

A week after purchasing these puppies, I have fully charged them once (still going strong) and have used them in every conceivable place (Library, train, walking etc). They've passed all of the tests with flying colours, using about 6% of my phone battery per hour. This is quite good as it means that I have about 10 hours of listening to music! I've paired them to phones,

tablets and computers and it has all worked flawlessly. I even managed to use them while my laptop was on the other side of my apartment (with walls in between). Annoyingly though, I have found that the buttons on the side of the headset are very easily pressed, so I keep pausing in songs, but that may just be me. Also, while studying in the Library, I did get the complaint that my headphones were too loud. While this may not be a con for myself per se, it might annoy others. My last con for these headphones is that, because they use plastic for everything, wearing these things for an hour did make my ears hurt, as well as my scalp feel very uncomfortable.

All in all, for the price that I got these headphones, they are excellent and I give them a very impressive 9/10. However, considering the fact that they deliver in such spectacular manner, my question is why don't many more people have these things?

For £20, I was hearing some of the best quality sound I've EVER heard

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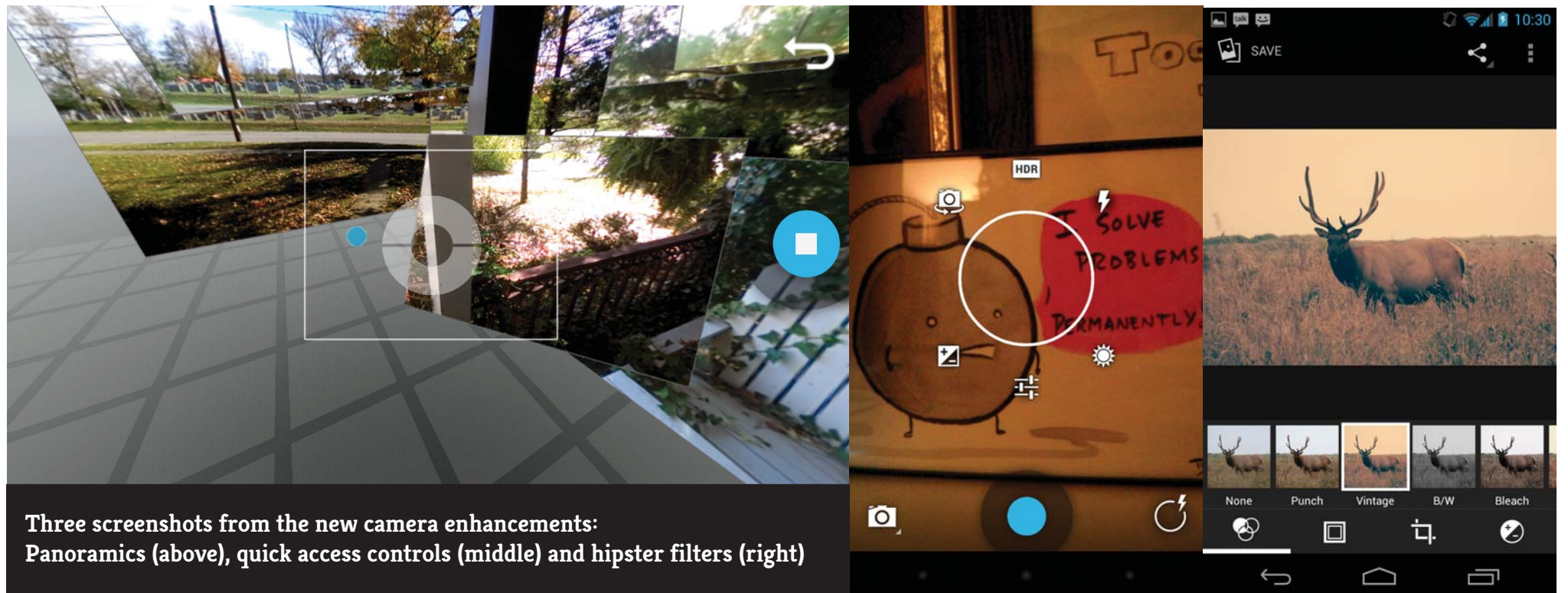
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TECHNOLOGY

More Jelly Bean and Nexus

Yong Wen Chua checks out Android's latest OS and looks at Nexus



Three screenshots from the new camera enhancements: Panoramics (above), quick access controls (middle) and hipster filters (right)

While Hurricane Sandy was wrecking havoc on the East Coast of America, those of us on the other side of the pond were left disappointed when Google had to cancel a press event in New York. But fear not – for Google has managed to release new details on a new version of Android and a new family of Nexus devices that are available right now, by press time.

Android 4.2 - Still Jelly Bean

Android 4.2 is a new version of Android, still called Jelly Bean (after Google's propensity to name Android versions alphabetically after deserts), that brings incremental changes to keep Android ahead of its competition. The version sees improvements in its camera, security and usability features among many others. Of interest to most users would be the camera and usability enhancements.

Camera Enhancements

If you've ever seen those Google Street View cars ply along the roads taking sneaky photos of unsuspecting pedestrians for publication on Google Maps, you might be glad to know that you can also do that now in Android 4.2. Dubbed "Photo Sphere", you can use the same technology that powers the Street View cameras in your phone to take 360 degree panorama shots worthy of your non-Android friends' envy. If you count yourself as an expert photographer, you can even upload them to Google Maps

for sharing with the rest of the world. The camera has received a new interface that allows you quick access to camera settings. Of course, this new update also comes with the obligatory increase in the number of filters available that allow people to further "instagram-ise" their photos without needing to use Instagram.

Usability Enhancements

Google Now, the software that makes use of the tons of data that Google has on you to provide you with useful and timely live information, has been updated to make use of even more of your data – your emails! Google Now will now remind you of any flight check-ins, hotel check-ins and even delivery timings. This is not a new feature for Android 4.2 per se as it's available for (the few) Android 4.1 devices out there as well.

Android 4.2 also introduces several usability enhancements to bring about extra polish to the interface and keep Android in front of competition. Quick settings is now available in the notification shade that allows you to access frequently used settings. This can be activated by a button in the notification shade or by swiping down the notification shade with two fingers. Widgets can now be placed on the lock screen, allowing you quick access to information without unlocking the phone. The default Android keyboard now has "Swype" features allowing you to slide your fingers across the keys to type. Multiple user profiles are also available on Android tablets.

Family of Nexus Devices

It may be well and nice that Android 4.2 has some new exciting features but, as carriers and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) like to do what they do best, many phones might never see the update. This is why Google has the Nexus series of devices that allow you to experience the purest Android version that will receive any updates to Android first. And for the first time, Google has announced a family of Nexus Devices that are "worthy of the Nexus name".

There is the Nexus 4, 7 and 10 for a 4 inch phone, 7 inch tablet and the 10 inch tablet respectively. They are available now on Google Play store for very competitive prices. The unlocked 16GB version of Nexus 4 is available for just £279. The Nexus 4 has received very positive reviews from major news outlets. The Nexus 10 sports an impressive 2560 x 1600 pixels screen that puts the iPad's retina display to shame, in terms of hard numbers at least.

While consumers drool over the devices, Google has strategic reasons for introducing the whole host of Nexus devices. The first reason is to cater to enthusiasts who like to have the unadulterated Android experience while having any updates pushed to them first. Think of these devices like the devices Apple releases – first class citizens in terms of software treatment.

The Nexus programme has always been envisioned to be the hardware benchmarks for the other OEMs to follow. By having stellar hardware with a good software experience,

Google hopes to spur the OEMs to produce hardware that match and exceed that of the Nexus devices. It also hopes that OEMs will be motivated to provide updates in a timely manner and not to bog down their devices with additional software that will hamper the user experience.

Most importantly, the new Nexus devices hope to spur the development of tablet applications for the Android platform. As Tim Cook very nicely pointed out in his iPad mini keynote, the tablet application ecosystem on Android is atrocious. After releasing the Nexus 7 earlier this year, there has been an increase in the number of developers adapting their applications to the 7 inch form factor. Google hopes that this will happen again as high quality 10 inch tablets enter the market and set a trend. As the 7 inch applications work well on the 10 inch

screens, Google is looking to the Nexus 7 and the Nexus 10 as "bootstraps" for more tablet applications.

Future Nexus and Key Lime Pie

With the holiday season upon us, Google is hoping that more consumers will buy Android devices, especially the tablets. With Android phones already dominating the smartphone market, Google is eyeing the tablet market with great interest, seeing that Apple has held its dominance with the iPad for quite a while. The new Nexus devices look great, in terms of performance, usability and aesthetics. We can only wait with bated breath to see what they have in store next year with a whole new series of Nexus devices and the next version of Android slated to be called "Key Lime Pie".



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What's In My Lunchbox? #01

Carol Ann Cheah ponders “ladies who (liquid) lunch” this winter

Ah, winter. The season when just about everything seems to drop: temperatures, number of daylight hours, moods, hemlines (well, depending.) It's around this time of the year when us Food Editors face a dilemma when packing our lunches – we need more warm/hot sustenance, so our fallback of sarnies and salads just won't do, even with a cuppa after. At the same time though, QTR/FiveSixEight/East-side Bar meals can add up, and we're really not about to give up the packed lunch habit yet.

Enter soup, our favourite solution (ha!) to the issue at hand. It's an everyman's meal that's more than your “favourite freshers' flu remedy”, or the typical posh-restaurant starter.

There's a reason we love them so much. They're not just fun to eat; they're a great way to use up leftovers, and keep well in the freezer so can be made well in advance (lazy weekend cooking, anyone?) The most basic concoctions won't take you hours to slave over or require some fancy French cooking technique; but once you've built up your skills and confidence, soup recipes then have plenty of wiggle room for you to start jazzing them up more. The end product can be as cheap or expensive as you want: it depends on your ingredients. If your cooking process does NOT include the directions “pull back tin lid” or “microwave on HIGH for ** minutes”, all the better.

“Soup” is such an umbrella term: it encompasses every flavour and texture imaginable. Some days we enjoy rich, decadent “cream of” concoctions; other days, clearer Asian broths (miso and the like) are more up our alley. Still other days we're privy to getting our handblenders out and slurping our pureed results after.

Of course, we're all analytical people here at Imperial; so what's the use of this feature if we don't give you a detailed breakdown of this dish's anatomy to pore over?

Lock...

As said before, the ingredient combinations are endless when it comes to soup. Stuff like chicken, mushroom, tomato, pumpkin and pea etc are the usual fail-safe staples, so you can't go wrong with those flavours if you're just starting out. It's then up to you to mix in whatever takes your fancy – we once experimented with a chicken, seafood and chorizo concoction, which we thought only existed in paella. How wrong we were.

Soup's commonly consumed with a side of crusty bread to fill you up



I suppose you want a pun here or something?

better; but that isn't always needed. To make soups heartier, the options are yet again limitless. Mulligatawny uses rice as its starch of choice, others use dried or tinned beans (do boil the dried beans in water first to soften though.) A very easy option (and one you've probably come across as a kid in the form of alphabet soup) is pasta; chucking in boiled pasta bits in a soup is a good way to make them go further.

For thickening, it again depends what your ingredients are. If you've got potatoes, peas, pumpkin or the like, chances are you'll probably be doing the thickening job by pureeing with a handblender. “Cream of” soups tend to have flour sprinkled on the ingredients and then stirred in to make a roux just before the liquid is added to it. If you do that, stir it as thoroughly as you can; but don't worry about the odd lump – it'll go when the liquid is added in.

Stock...

Whatever way you look at it, stock is pretty much at the heart of soups. Asians even have the term “master stock” for their broths; in their soups, if you fudge the stock up it's bust for the finished soup – there's nothing to mask it, so there's nowhere for the stock to “hide” (unlike some soups that puree the ingredients after.) Stock matters because there's no use having flavourful ingredients in a “broth” of plain water; that would be akin to leaving your veggies in the water that you used to boil them and drinking said water. Tasteless – why would you?

Stock-making tends to vary from laborious methods that produce rich and complex broths, to simple “bung-in-and-forget” methods as well. We appreciate that what you prefer will

depend on how much time you have/are willing to spare – we're into instant gratification as well. Our method of choice involves binging a chicken carcass/chicken bones (from a roast chicken, or raw direct from your butcher for cheap) in a pot with some chopped onion and garlic cloves, plus some chopped leftover veg (leek/carrot/celery works well) with just enough water to cover. Bring to the boil, skim impurities, lower heat, leave for half an hour and adjust seasoning – then strain and use immediately, or fridge/freeze portions. If you can't get hold of a carcass, making from fresh with wing tips keeps the cost down but maintains flavour.

Unlike baking, soup isn't an exact science – it's very much “handful of this/pinch of that” cooking. If it's too thick, add stock/water/milk; if it's lacking in flavour, season a bit. Be careful though, go slow when you do this – you can always add, but ye can-

nae take away!

If you *really* must use store-bought stock cubes/bouillon, check the amount of salt that's already there. Chances are you probably won't need to add extra salt.

...and two smoking barels

There are two important...er, vessels you'll be needing in the process, amongst others. The first is obviously the (stock)pot, where all the magic happens. Make sure it's nice and big enough to hold your ingredients, with a bit more room at the top – lest you run the risk of things boiling over and losing some of your end product (be it stock or the actual soup.) If you're pressed for time, a pressure cooker works well in getting your meat and veg soft in half the time (or less) usually required by traditional on-the-stove boiling – just make sure you read the instructions.

The other important vessel is what

you'll be transporting your soup in for that packed lunch. It needs to seal properly, unless you're particularly keen on consuming remnants of your lunch from your lovely lecture print-outs or the inside of your bag. We like our trusty Thermos-es – for the more liquid ones you'll be fine with standard Thermos flasks (same ones meant for hot water/coffee/etc); but for the heartier ones that actually need a spoon, you'll definitely need those food jars with a wider mouth to comfortably dip your spoon in. These can cost anything from a fiver to almost twenty quid, depending on the retailer.

If you're really cheap, wide-mouth Mason jars that are used for jam/honey will work if you're using it to store frozen soup portions, and have access to a microwave (just leave room for expansion during freezing.) Take out the frozen soup jars in the morning, bag them, and then reheat until piping hot during lunch.

Cream of mushroom soup with crispy bacon bits

Ingredients:

- 4 rashers bacon, rind off and chopped into small bits (both streaky and back bacon are fine) – optional garnish
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2-4 cloves garlic, finely chopped (depends how much you like it)
- 375g mushrooms, finely chopped (use any kind of fresh mushrooms you want, or even a mix. I made this with a mix of chestnut and white, portobellos would work)
- 2-3 tablespoons of plain flour
- 600ml stock (chicken/vegetable)
- 100-200ml milk (adjust according to

taste/consistency)
150ml double cream
Oregano and parsley (dried is okay)
Oil or butter for frying

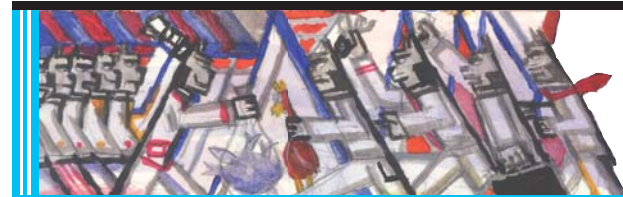
Bacon garnish: Heat up a small amount of oil in a frying pan, then bung in the bacon bits and fry until crisp. Remove and set aside on paper towels to drain.

Saute the onion, garlic and mushrooms in oil/butter until fragrant, soft and just starting to colour. Sprinkle the flour on and stir until evenly mixed, then add stock and milk. Bring

to the boil, then let simmer for up to 30 minutes (you'll see it thicken up nicely.) Taste and adjust seasoning – add some oregano at this stage.

Add in half of the cream (75ml) and stir, then pour into bowls. Whip the rest of the cream until stiff peaks form. Garnish with the bacon bits, a spoonful of the whipped cream, and a sprinkling of chopped parsley. Omit the extra whipped cream if you're packing this for lunch.

Serve with a slice of crusty buttered bread – feeds 4 as a starter, or 2 as a main meal.



Business Editor: Deepka Rana
business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

BUSINESS

Get up and Chase the Dream!

Annabelle Mayers breaks down common startup excuses

For some, overcoming endless hurdles is a memory they wish to leave behind with school PE lessons. For others the uncertainty, challenge and commitment involved in developing a start-up is what provides the buzz that gets them out of bed each morning.

Motivations:

There are a multitude of reasons why people wish to create a start-up but a few factors often prevail. Firstly, the opportunity to manage your own time – undoubtedly the hours will be long and there will be sleepless nights, but for some this is considered preferable to being accountable and having to turn up to the office at 9am day in day out. Secondly, it is desirable to feel your time and energy is being invested into controlling your own future and developing your brainchild as opposed to slaving away working for a large corporation. Finally, whilst there is a risk of loss there is also potential to rake in the cash.

A friend suggested there are three ways to become very rich: Work extremely long hours for someone else (read: investment banking), do something illegal (whilst drug dealing/weapon smuggling may be lucrative it's probably not the key to a bright future) or finally work for yourself. In this article we'll explore the latter option.

The Idea

How many times have you found yourself procrastinating work by daydreaming about business ideas? It is a shame to think of all these ideas being mulled over and not executed. One of them could be a gem – the next Facebook perhaps? I met some boys who keep an 'Idea book' where they note down ideas – however crazy – and brainstorm each one. Many of the ideas end up being scrapped but by discussing their thoughts and combining ideas they have managed to create feasible business plans.

I read a striking essay written by a successful businessman who proposed that you don't necessarily need a revolutionary or even new idea – you simply have to do better than the competition. Look at dating websites for example. The market is huge due to a reduction in the stigma attached to meeting your partner online and growing numbers of career driven people who do not have the time to find a companion. Yet, until recently, dating websites did

not facilitate the best matchmaking resulting in a low success rate. Over the past few years new models have sprung up targeted at niche sections of the population. These sites strive to make suitable matches and ensure like-minded people are introduced to each other. You only have to glance at the tube adverts to see the selection on offer from professional-singles to uniformdating.com. Not advertised on the London underground are those such as Geek2geek and farmersonly.com. By building on an existing idea those behind the array of new sites have learnt from the mistakes of original players and earned their share of the \$2.1 billion market. So, don't be deterred by the fact your idea is out there in some form. If you are able to spot fundamental flaws and think up inventive solutions you may be able to secure a fraction of the market.

“London is buzzing with networking events and opportunities to meet fellow entrepreneurs”

That is not to say you should dismiss innovative ideas. By making the first move you have the advantage of securing the target market before competitors arrive. A daring man who did just that is Jay Nemeth – the man behind the Zero-G cameras that filmed Felix Baumgartner in his recent Red Bull sponsored jump from space. Jay saw an opportunity in the emerging space tourism programmes, pursued his passion and got to work on creating remote controlled cameras that could withstand such conditions as those found in space. Red Bull happened to be looking into how to film the feat when Jay announced that he'd been working on that very thing. It wasn't only Felix who landed on his feet.

Funding

Starting businesses in sectors such as biotech and oil requires huge initial investments and unless you have

seriously rich and generous relatives it may be a difficult sector to break into. However, not all businesses need such serious sums of money invested into them. Many modern day entrepreneurs have mastered 'Bootstrapping'; the art of creating something from the resources available to you. A common mistake is throwing money away on the likes of renting office space and hiring permanent staff. There is usually no need to fork out for such expenses; there are countless tales of folks starting out with a laptop and their dining room table. Avoiding such costs will prevent you from depleting the money you do have and leave more to invest in the key components required for your start-up. A useful piece of advice from the author of 'Rich Dad, Poor Dad' is, 'Don't buy what you can borrow and don't borrow what you can get for free.' Participants of the recent Imperial Apprentice Challenge proved just how much value can be created from nothing. Starting with a paperclip they managed to make hundreds of pounds in a few hours by trading the paperclip for items of more value and eventually selling their trades. Rather than getting stuck on the treadmill of full time employment that so often follows graduation, why not put your energy into creating value and capture your share of the money up for grabs?

Realistically you may need investment further down the line and there are plenty of organisations offering this in return for equity. For example, Studentupstarts was founded by an Imperial Student and offers up to £15,000 investment for promising entrepreneurs. However, it is unlikely you'll receive funding without some proof of concept so get the ball rolling, see how far you can make it and if you envisage the need for funding apply for it. What do you have to lose?

The Team

Having a solid team is vital for success. It is generally advised not to combine friends and finance, however I feel this advice should not be taken as a given. Whilst it may lead to discrepancies, which could affect not only the running of the business but also your personal life, good friends fully understand how each other work, know each other's skills, experiences and weaknesses and are often a tried and tested team. This could be more valuable than trying to suss out a stranger and risk working alongside someone you know lit-



Richard reckons you'll be alright

tle about.

Unless you are jack of all trades you are likely to need people with complementary skills to yours. In some cases outsourcing work is the answer but do not underestimate the value of having one's attention fully invested in the start-up. Whilst you may be reluctant to dilute your shares in the business, inviting a new member into the founding team may be the reason your business becomes a success. Imagine you are being paid per hour and your success does not depend on the success of the business – you are likely to do your work as required and get on with your life. Now imagine you have significant equity in the business and its success could make you very rich and happy. Yes, you'll put in the extra hours, think outside the box and throw your energy into making the project prosper.

Students are in a great position to develop a business; not only do they have more time and less to lose than the typical adult with a steady job, family and mortgage but they are surrounded by thousands of young people in the same position, with bright minds and ready to make their path in life. If you envisage going into the fashion sector perhaps you should scout talent from a more gender balanced University than Imperial but say for example you required a programmer for your website... need I say more?

Seeking Advice

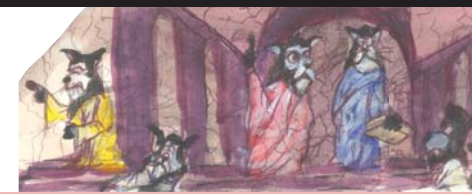
Sites such as inc.com and youngentrepreneur.com provide a daily digest of interesting and eye-opening articles. Reading around may be the starting point you need to give you the confidence and advice you need to pursue your business idea. If you decide to do so it will be invaluable to

find a mentor – somebody who has experienced the rocky path that lies ahead of you. Often they have been helped along the journey and will be more than happy to support you with advice on mistakes to avoid and things to consider. Imperial Entrepreneurs hold, 'Start-Up Mondays' with regular speakers every two weeks – on Monday this week they had the CEO from TransferWise, an online platform for transferring money abroad without the use of banks as the middle man. Whilst the UK may be in a mess economically/politically/socially and every other 'ally' it is a big player in the start-up scene. London is buzzing with networking events and opportunities to meet fellow entrepreneurs. Old Street (Silicon roundabout) has become the 'Silicon valley' of London. Look out for conferences, talks and network opportunities. The start-up scene in the UK is growing so make yourself part of it... I hope to follow my own advice and see you there!

Little Steps

The road to entrepreneurial success is obviously easier said than done but who knows whether your idea will hit off if you never try it? Take small steps and get the process moving. Nothing will happen by just 'thinking.' So, don't moan about your boss, disliking your job or lack of excitement if you say you never tried. Look out for Imperial Entrepreneurs start-up weekend and Ideas empowered next term. Attending such events can expose you to likeminded people and give you an insight into what the path could entail.

I'll leave you with words of wisdom from Richard Branson, King of entrepreneurship, 'It's going to be a tough Journey, you had better enjoy it!'



A GCSE by any other name...

Joseph Spiking explains the EBacc is more than just a rebranding

In 2015, the biggest educational reform of our generation shall be put into place. The much maligned GCSE shall be replaced with the 'English Baccalaureate' (EBacc), the brain child of the Coalition's combined educational reforms. This initial bout of reformation is reserved only for specific subjects – Mathematics, English Literature and Language, Chemistry, Biology and Physics. However, Geography, History and the languages shall also get to undergo the EBacc transformation in 2017, the inclusion of the Languages being hailed by Stephen Twigg, the shadow Minister for Education.

Is the change going to be reserved to the name of the qualification? The answer to this is a resounding no. The EBacc unashamedly harks back to the old days of the O level, where more emphasis was placed on grammar, spelling and punctuation. Also, the current tiered GCSE system shall be scrapped, alongside the modules used to divide the GCSE into bite size chunks. There shall also be no coursework and no in class assessment – the child's performance at the 'do or die' end of year exam shall be the only factor that decides success or failure. And, in possibly the most significant change to the current system, there shall be only one exam board to one subject. As Michael Gove himself stated "if we remove modules and

reduce coursework, get rid of the factors that encourage teaching to the test and, above all, ensure there is just one exam board for each subject, we can restore faith in our exams".

The reception to the proposed changes has been mixed, some of the sternest criticisms coming from the teaching unions, NASUWT and NUT. NASUWT General Secretary, Chris Keates, recently said that the changes were part of a "cynical and wholly unjustifiable attempt to discredit the quality and rigour of the GCSE qualification". NUT has criticised the proposed reforms, arguing that they shall just "test memory and essay writing, which are not crucial skills for the majority of jobs or life today". Sir Nicholas Serota, Director of the Sadler Wells Theatre, raised the point of the arts subjects that have been excluded from the Eng Bacc qualification, stating that the arts "are integral to our understanding of the world, as important as reading, writing, geography and arithmetic". The architect Richard Rogers, whom worked on the iconic Pompidou Centre in Paris and the EU Court of Human Rights building in Strasbourg, has also condemned the possible reforms.

The English Baccalaureate does not just exclude the arts – IT, Sociology and Psychology are absences that shall raise many eyebrows, especially in an age where all three make up

a significant minority of university courses. The possible impact of this was considered by UCAS, who argue that the reforms "could create a two tier system, where some subjects lose value, and students may be discriminated against because of subject choice". In reality, this has probably happened – the Russell Group have already voiced their preference for specific subjects. However, UCAS go further in their criticisms and say that there is "a potential for negative

impact on social mobility". This is possibly one of the most troubling counter arguments for Michael Gove, the Minister for Education in a Coalition Government that has four Eton educated white males in the four most important and influential jobs in the country (Prime Minister, Chancellor, Mayor of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury). The argument is even more troubling due to its validity – state comprehensives and further education colleges thrive

“Reforms... tackle only one aspect of a complex problem”

The Independent



"Check out my new glasses! So groovy." Michael Gove, Education Secretary and Star Trek believer

on the arts and the social science and by discrediting the qualifications one gains by studying them, one discredits the institutions and the pupils that study them.

Another criticism lies behind the exclusion of vocational subjects, with the reforms focusing on academic subjects, thus ignoring the need for a vocational qualification that carries the same weight as their academic counterparts. With the talk of a 'technical baccalaureate' fallen by the wayside, this has worried many commentators and business leaders alike, many of whom have already actively called for a generation of workers to be practiced in the art of doing, rather than discussion.

All in all, the reforms by Michael Gove appear to tackle only one aspect of a complex problem – the problem of credible qualifications within our school system, whilst wilfully ignoring other, perhaps more malignant, issues.

All around the world, elections

Marie-Laure Hicks Politics Editor

Americans have chosen the man to lead them for the next four years. China is easing its way to a new leadership. How are other countries doing?

Jordan

23 January 2013

In reaction to public discontent and pressure for reform, King Abdullah dissolved parliament in October, calling for early elections. The new caretaker cabinet is the fifth cabinet since the Arab Spring started. Jordan has so far avoided protests on the same scale as Libya or Egypt.

Tensions are rising as the need for reform becomes clearer. The Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic Action Front have declared that unless the

electoral system in changed, they may boycott the polls. The current system is unbalanced. 60% of the population is of Palestinian origin and vastly underrepresented, with little political power. The opposition demands a parliament where half the seats are allocated to party lists compared to just over a quarter now. The public reaction to this election will be crucial for Jordan's future. Some observers are already arguing that this is the beginning of the Jordanian Spring.

Zimbabwe

March 2013 (tbc)

Zimbabwe has an important year coming up: the population will have to vote in a referendum for a new constitution and in the presidential election. Yet, there is one major concern: money. The finance minister

has said that the country simply cannot afford to hold the elections, estimating their total cost at 129 USD. President Mugabe has already successfully argued to have three by-elections postponed, saving the state 38m USD. Foreign bodies like the EU and the IMF are being appealed to for funds.

Other than money, the date of the election is very much debated within the country. Robert Mugabe, current president, is pushing for March 2013. The opposition claims the election is being rushed and holding it so soon is "unrealistic". Moreover, Mugabe and his party have their reasons to open the polls sooner rather than later. The change is constitution must go through before the presidential election. At the moment, the two main parties have not come to agreement. Early elections could force the hand of the opposition. Mugabe is also doing well, popularity-

wise. There is a feeling that he has good chances of winning the coming vote. His party is also pressed for time. At age 84 and following rumours of ill health, there are concerns that Mugabe might not last long enough for an election later rather than sooner.

One last fear remains: a repeat of the violence that followed the last presidential elections in 2008. Morgan Tsvangirai, candidate for the opposition, decided to pull out days before the vote, alluding to violence against his supporters.

Afghanistan

5 April 2014

In 18 months, Afghan voters will elect their first new president since 2001. Hamid Karzai was nominated as leader, and then won two successive elections. The constitution currently in

place prevents him from running for a third term.

These elections come at a crucial time for Afghanistan. By December 2014, the NATO mission will come to an end and most foreign troops will have left the country. It is unlikely that the major security issues that afflict the country will have been dealt with by then. The Taliban remain strong in some areas and little dialogue has been established between the fundamentalist movement and the state. Without communication, a peaceful resolution of the conflict is going to be difficult.

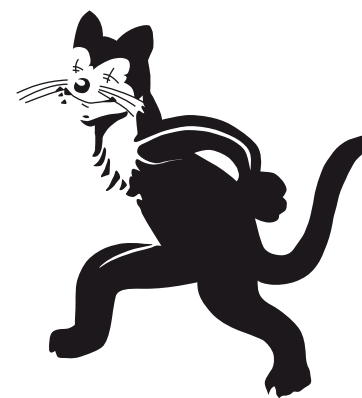
There are also concerns over election fraud and violence. In the previous elections, only 33% of registered voters went to the polls and 18% of those ballots were classed as invalid, in what has been perceived as a move to favour the incumbent and successfully re-elected president



HOLY SHIT. THE CAT HAS THE CHEESEBURGER.

**Well, it seems the internet is over.
So you might as well write for Felix.**

Email felix@imperial.ac.uk
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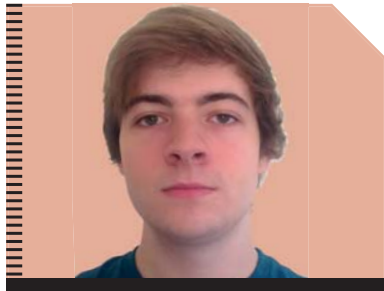
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FELIX



Remembering the fallen

James Dickson reports from the service at the Cenotaph



**James Sean
Dickson**

It's seven AM, I've been up for two-and-a-half hours, and the Portland Stone of Whitehall is quite literally glowing a magnificent golden-cream in the cool warmth of the winter morning's sun. As a student you can imagine that I'm not predisposed to having a great sympathy for waking up at the unholy hour of four-thirty AM, unless for a ludicrously inexpensive flight. But here I am – with another four hours still to wait for what I came for; already starting to lose the feeling in my extremities from the cold.

I cannot extol the virtues of liberty enough – appreciation of liberty is something that defines much of me and my thoughts: I can only imagine that someone who would wish to happily surrender their own liberties, or take away anyone else's liberty is utterly deranged, or just insidiously stupid. This is why I'm here, waiting for nearly five hours in temperatures that only Antarctic research scientists could ever be prepared for. Our servicemen and women have fought for our liberty (and for the liberty of our Dominions) in the past and continue to do so: I'm here to pay my thanks to them for this incredible gift of truly immeasurable wealth.

Having checked the information for the event with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, I decided to arrive early in the hope of getting a good viewing point, close to the Cenotaph, our central memorial to the fallen. I couldn't have imagined that I would have arrived early enough to be at the front of the barriers, about fifteen metres from the memorial itself. Instructed to 'stand easy', members of the Royal Gurkha Regiment assembled to my left and, to my right, the Scots Guards; with their enormous ceremonial bearskin hats. After representations of several units from different areas of our armed forces had convened, the politicians and the royal family came out of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office building. A better view I could not have wished for – Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II stands at twelve o'clock (in the gap between the obscuring bearskins) – ten metres away, with David Cameron, Nick Clegg, Ed Miliband, Boris Johnson and former



Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Sir John Major further in the background.

Never had a silence been so penetrating and poignant to me. At eleven am, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, thousands stood together on Whitehall, and indeed across and outside the country, from Enniskillen (where the IRA bombing of Remembrance Day 1987 lends a special significance to the event in the town) to Toronto. A cannon fired. Big Ben's tolls rang out throughout the precinct. Conversations stopped. The camera shutter noises stopped. Everything stopped. As silence prevailed, every single one of these assembled peoples was united

in an intense gratitude, not just to both living and fallen friends and family, but to people whom they have never known and never will know. Through war, we have found undying love, peace, and gratitude. Inscribed on the Cenotaph, are the words 'The Glorious Dead' – I can't help but feel that this is a similar story of intense juxtaposition.

The ceremony then continued through hymn and prayer, and through a huge procession of veterans and their widows. I can tell you – singing our national anthem, with Her Majesty 10 metres away, directly ahead, is something quite extraordinary. Hearing one of the many brilliant marching bands in

attendance playing Edward Elgar's exquisite Nimrod, with so many of our exceptional armed forces surrounding us, was also something I shall never forget. And that is the lesson: we must never forget. For the sake of every person that has fought for anyone's liberty; we must remember and be thankful. Lest we forget what liberty is.

I would ask you to consider donating to the Royal British Legion, or Help for Heroes, both of which are registered charities which help the families of the fallen, and support those whom have known, and may be bodily and mentally affected for life by conflict; fighting for our ever-precious liberty.

Never had
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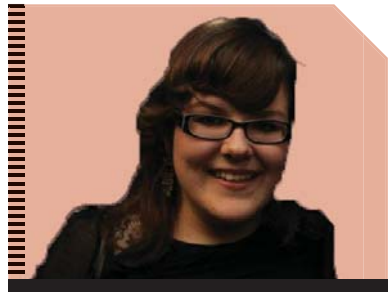
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Comment Editors: George Barnett,
Navid Nabijou, James Simpson
comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

Sexism at Imperial - really?

Philippa Skett on why feminists are their own worst enemies



Philippa Skett

They need to realise when something is a joke, and stop reinforcing the stereotype that females are oversensitive, emotional bags of hormones

Women are in a minority at Imperial. It is a simple truth. Don't bother to argue, it is mathematically proven and was stated as such in last week's article by Becky Lane, as only around 3 out of 10 people at Imperial contain a vagina. If Imperial students were balls in a bag, and there were ten balls, only three of these would be yellow (or any other colour to represent women) and the rest would outnumber these significantly – obviously belittle them and then make them feel inferior. For the angry feminists out there, I am sorry to use balls in this analogy, but the point still stands (again, my apologies).

Regardless of being a minority, obviously women should be treated equally to men. We should not be paid less in our jobs for the same work and we should not stand for attacks on us based on gender alone. So Becky's system to quantify sexism at Imperial to approach sexism that way is great, but women at Imperial also need to do something more than just sit back and write an angry email every now and then.

They also need to realise when something is a joke, and need to stop reinforcing the stereotype that females are oversensitive, emotional bags of hormones. I genuinely think that there are few truly sexist males at Imperial – it is a cultural thing – just like inadvertently insulting someone's sexuality by using "gay" as an insult. I feel the same towards homophobia; it is not common at all at Imperial, but the use of gay as an insult is. I am not saying this makes it acceptable, or that people do not still feel offense, but I do think it is a cultural framework that supports this so called "banter", not the truth.

However, sexism can reach whole new lows outside the relatively intelligent community on campus – which is why it still needs to be combatted. Females nowadays need to actively challenge those stereotypes that are picked up on, even if men may really believe them or not



and not just sit back and live up to the idea that women are the weaker, whinier sex.

I am not going to present my views as valid just because I am a woman too. Some women feel threatened by

men talking and giving opinions of views in feminism because of something to do with "not understanding the suppression," or whatever, but I feel it is so straightforward an issue to approach even a man can contrib-

ute to this (a joke guys). It is about women gaining positions of authority and respect and therefore proving that they can hold themselves just as well as men think they do themselves. It is about striving to work hard, doing your degree well and proving you are not the weaker sex, as opposed to sitting there and moping about being called a little girl. There are plenty of examples of these women around campus already, but Imperial is not a great sample of the wider world.

Sexism comes in many forms, but commanding respect as a woman can only help narrow the gap and reduce our supposed vulnerability and susceptibility to such inequality. This is why this is something we should take with us when we graduate and enter a world dominated by males in power. It is not fair that we should have to invest more energy just to equal the playing ground, but unfortunately life is never going to be that fair, is it?

Women don't dominate politics or banking despite them having the capacity to do so, which makes people feel that they are suppressed as a gender, but in reality, unless there is a precise 50-50 split, there always will be one gender more present than the other. Why this is rarely women then? Maybe it is the pay gap, or "tradition", but I am afraid to say this may never go away swiftly, no matter how many graphs you make of it. Why not move away from the computer, and stand up for yourselves without shouting about it?

Challenge the stereotypes directly, work harder to overcome the competition and fill the big gun positions, then crack down on sexism with this power advantage, along with solid proof by just being there that women can do it all too. Don't fulfil the stereotype that we are all whining babies. I swear if some of the more vocal feminists invested more energy in doing this than just complaining amongst themselves, then maybe sexism would be less of an issue than it is currently.

Care about any of this?

Write for us! Send your articles or letters to comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

Comment Editors: George Barnett,
Navid Nabijou, James Simpson
comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The right to be wrong

Pietro Aronica and our prerogative of wrongness



Pietro Aronica

Have you been wrong today? Have you failed at basic logic at least once since breakfast? Have you propagated a myth or notion that despite its spuriousness has persisted through laziness and avoidance of fact-checking? Have you done your duty as a human being and exercised your right as a citizen?

Thousands of people are wrong every day. You can find them blabbering on the tube, yakking in cafés and especially on the internet, where this function is held sacred, third only behind cats and porn. Open any news website, scroll to the comments section and you will be greeted by heaps of messages of people who spar with fallacies using the same skill that master fencers employ. But what you may think is merely the noxious combination of an unwarranted sense of entitlement, a lack of proper education and way too much free time, is in fact a proud service indispensable to society.

Wrongness is not something that everyone across history has been able to afford: until not too long ago, people were punished and killed for kneeling in front of the wrong monarch; in the not-so-distant past people could've found themselves on the burning side of a stake for claiming that the Christ's left nostril hair was the wrong shade of yellow while he was being crucified; and in almost any age, you could be persecuted if your skin was the wrong colour, if you were born in the wrong country, or if you simply looked at someone in the wrong way.

But it is our right to be wrong. We must have no fear in picking a candidate, an idea, a preference and holding it as right despite evidence to the contrary. We must be able to claim whichever band we prefer to be the best without fear of repercussion, regardless of actual measurable talent or pleasantness of song. We must be allowed to stick to our personal set of beliefs even in the face of insurmount-



able evidence that proves us wrong. Freedom of speech means that no matter how inane, inaccurate and inarticulate our thoughts get, we must be able to stand by them and hold them dear, because they are our thoughts, and it is our prerogative to be wrong.

People died for this prerogative. Wars were fought, tyrants deposed and democracies established, so that today you could express your opinion on current issues without getting the punch to the back of the head you so richly deserve for being so demonstrably wrong. And we're all the better because of it! We have enjoyed the period of greatest peace, equality and prosperity in the history of mankind since we've all allowed ourselves to be wrong. How could it not be? Attempting to punish everyone for their wrongness cannot be done with our

meagre resources: too many people are just too damn wrong for too much of the time. It's better to let them stay in the error of their ways, and concentrate on technologies that allow them to share fallacies with strangers from across the globe or medical advances that can make them live longer and better, though they won't know how.

Besides, wrong people provide invaluable services to the community: they make smart people look good by comparison; they put arguments to the test; they spend a lot of money if you know what to sell, amongst other things. And if everyone starts thinking the wrong stuff, and we're all wrong in some way, who can even tell? If everyone's opinion is incorrect, who can even figure out who's right? Apart from the smart people, obviously: they know. But the masses,

the many who spend their lives in idle chatter on forum boards and public transportation, those who choose who they're going to vote in their fever dreams and those who are easily confused by common sense, they can all be wrong together, and in their shared state their wrongness will seem less so.

The next time you see someone disagree with you despite his opinion being blatantly mistaken, delete that scathing multi-paragraph post in which you denounce him and all his ancestors as morons, and refrain from trying to bash some sense into him. He's just expressing one of his fundamental rights, perhaps the most fundamental right of all: wrongness is a prerogative of sentient beings, and being able to be wrong is what makes us human.

felixonline.co.uk/contact

Letters



Sir,

I do believe I have come across a (partial, at least) solution to both the over congestion of the London Underground and obesity within our fine

capital. I happened upon the idea whilst commuting to college a few mornings previous. As something of a rarity, the tube was running on time, however, as the doors opened before me I was unable to board said train due to an obese man of surely no less than 140kg blocked entry.

It occurred to me that had that man been of a healthier build I would have been able to board the train. Moments later – after a number of expletives

were muttered – I had that eureka moment: ticket prices should be linked to your size; not by height nor weight, but a measurement of your widest body part.

Not only would this make pricing fairer by ensuring that someone taking up twice the space pay twice as much but I imagine it would give the more corpulent commuters an incentive to lose some weight.

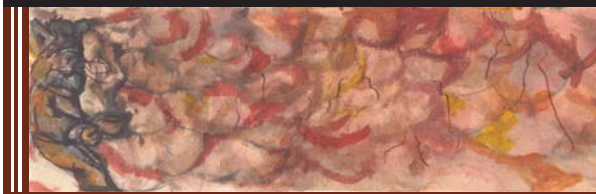
I do concede that my idea might not

be perfect and may require further development and refinement, but once the minor details have been sorted I have no doubt in the potential of the scheme. It could even be applied to other modes of transport!

Yours,

A disgruntled commuter

Send your letters in to:
felix@imperial.ac.uk
Or go to felixonline.co.uk/contact



Coffee Break Boss: Matt Colvin
felix@imperial.ac.uk

COFFEE BREAK

Imperial vs. Inquiries

Everybody is at them anyway, so why aren't we?

It's a Wednesday afternoon. You've got two projects totalling up to 170% of your degree due in by Friday. Emotions are high, stress is building, and not even a steady supply of Peanut Butter Kit Kat Chunkys can fill the void between now and the possibility of freedom at the end of the week. Slowly, much like Lionel Richie, you start building into something resembling a rhythm. Work is tentatively getting done and you're on course to meet your creeping deadlines.

And then it happens. The bells start ringing in the Queen's Tower. The inevitable bongs begin to peal across campus. No study room is safe. The relentless metallic thudding shatters any form of willingness to do work that you might have had. You have been defeated by a beacon of unrelenting noise.

Unfortunately this was not the fever dream of a student free from the shackles of imminent hand-in dates, but was the experience of an indeterminate amount of people last Wednesday. An idea immediately came to mind. An idea that we should launch an inquiry into the matter!

Oh come on, everybody's doing it these days. *The Lord Leveson Show* earlier this year showed just how in vogue finding the answers from a ream of bureaucracy and corruption actually is!

But just what kind of matters must we propel ourselves into – what is driving at the hearts and minds of students at the moment?

Where are the ABC sandwiches?

On not one, but two (that's *two*) occasions this week I've had the misfortune of being unable to locate an ABC sandwich, arguably the best



sandwich in the Western Hemisphere, across the stacked shelves of the JCR or Library Café (or, as no-one prefers to term it, the Librafé). While vegetable sushi may provide a brief form of respite, is it enough? This is just one of the scintillating questions that an inquiry into the matter would

hope to raise.

Why have I got so many deadlines?

It's Imperial, obviously. Why did you even bother to ask?

As demonstrated by these two spectacular examples, the scope for any

inquiry is huge! All you need is a wood-panelled room, a cause for grievance, and a desire for (above anything else) the truth! Or we could just, you know, work towards our degrees and occasionally take part in extra-curricular activities, it's always a tough one.

HOT!

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

SPEED 2: CRUISE CONTROL

NOT BEING SCAMMED ON EBAY

DYSON HOOVERS

ROSS KEMP

CV WRITING

JOB INTERVIEWS

JOB APPLICATION FORMS

ASSESSMENT CENTRES

FINAL INTERVIEWS

NOT!

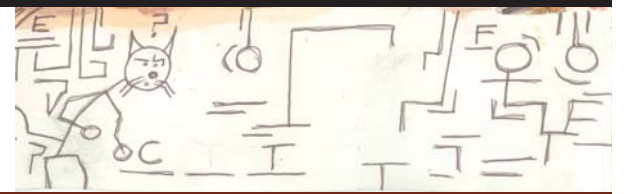
INTERESTING THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Buying a piece of fruit is sometimes cheaper than buying a packet of Tic Tacs."



HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



twatter



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

I'm sooooo bored



willyoujoinmymiliband?

me and Cleggman are going to watch skyfall. Come along.



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

nah fuck that. I only go to cinemas on orange Wednesdays. Way too expensive. Plus I hate Adele



Cleggmanxxx

she only sings the intro. It's pretty good



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

no. I hate her. She's ruined James bond.



OBAMARAMATYME2012

I think you'll dind madonna ruined james bond



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

no she ruined Die another Day



Cleggmanxxx

which is a James bond film.



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

say that one more time Cleggman and I swear to god i will shit in your one direction mug. All over their little faces



Cleggmanxxx

Die Another Day is a James Bond film.



OBAMARAMATYME2012

CAMMY YOU FUCKING PRICK IM GOING TO MURDER YOU!! HARRY'S BEAUTIFUL FACE!! :(Niall actually looks better though

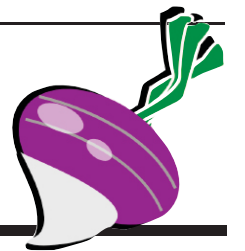
THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



MAN BRUTALLY MURDERED AFTER "COULDN'T CATCH TO SAVE MY LIFE" CLAIM WAS PUT TO THE ULTIMATE TEST

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



Post-modern poem actually self-referencing news article reporter/poet finds

by Hugh Moor

A widely-praised, post-modern poem by an anonymous poet-reporter has recently been found to also be a self-referencing news article by a well-celebrated Felix writer. The poem contained none of the hallmark characteristics of poetry – rhythm, rhyme, metre or basic imagery – but did, however, contain exactly 283 words of excellent news coverage. The poem and article covered a diverse number of topics, which gave a succinct and powerful comment on the state of the modern world including politics, economics, poverty, health, climate change and even a brief foray into the dichotomy of good and evil. The single stanza, three paragraph piece describes, at length, the challenges facing us all as well as referring to itself on more than one

occasion. Sources have confirmed that the article, which first appeared in a section entitled Hangman in the prestigious publication Felix, is in line to receive next year's Orwell prize for outstanding political journalism, whilst the poem is rumoured to be a shoe-in for the National Poetry Competition to be announced later this year.

There have also been rumours that the celebrated writer is "just too good in bed", and is also "really good at every single sport". Apparently, the reporter is "as handsome as Brad Pitt and George Clooney rolled into one. But with a huge penis and abs hard enough to grate the most unrateable of cheese on." Sources suggest that the writer is "so clever that it actually may be a bit mean to other people to let the writer talk, but everyone just loves the sound of that incredible voice".



The unknown, highly-talented author is probably extremely good-looking too. What a guy.

It's also claimed that Beyonce, Rihanna, and Tulisa are all ready to fight each other to the death for this hero's attention.

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

HANGMAN



Drunk mate of the week

What an absolutely cracking individual. Let's just all hope he didn't have diarrhoea, or that kitchen would be a mess

Got a photo of someone being a waste of a student loan?

Get permission, then just send it to us at: felix@imperial.ac.uk

Nobody (including Felix) condones excessive drinking. Please drink responsibly motherfuckers.

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



SCIENTIST FINDS FARTING ON A BOAT HAS WORSE CONSEQUENCES THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

HOZOSKIZZLES – IT'S THE HOROSCOPES YEAH



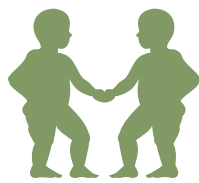
ARIES

This week you're having a massive session. Wanking that is. Obviously. At the last second your lecturer pops into your brain. DAMMIT. You totally spaffed to the thought of their face. Now you can't look them in the eye again. Mainly because you did it in a tutorial and hit them right in the cornea.



TAURUS

Taurus. Well... Mars is aligning with Venus. Obviously that means absolutely nothing at all because the movements of planets has no impact at all on your love life in any way. Why would anyone believe that. Just as Jupiter aligns with the moons of Saturn you get hit in the eye with a myserious substance...



GEMINI

Tutorials used to be really good. All your questions answered. All of your problems solved. It all changed during the great eye incident of 2012. Not the Olympics (remember them happening), the thing that the tutorial group are bound by social protocols to not bring up. You bring it up...



CANCER

Your demonstrator keeps giving you the eye. Why do they want you so much? You shrug and realise this means they'll just be inclined to giving you tip top marks all year. You don't even bother to reference, as you know you've got the marker on side. You get called out for plagiarism, and told to stop flirting with staff.



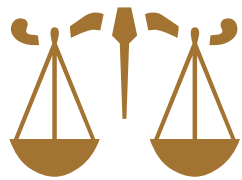
LEO

This week you catch your housemate giving the old "microwave melon" a go. This is going to be an awkward year it seems. Mainly because you'd been wondering why your melons all had holes in them and felt a bit unnaturally warm. You know you shouldn't have watched American Pie last night.



VIRGO

This week you decide that it's about time to bring emo back as a thing. You dress in all black and say how your life suck and you hate it all. Wait, this is Imperial. You don't really stand out from the crowd as a massive emo during exam season. If anything, you're a bit too chirpy for people's tastes at the moment.




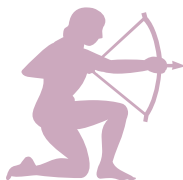
LIBRA

This week someone stands on the FUCKING LEFT OF A FUCKING ELEVATOR FOR THE VERY LAST TIME. You take action to correct their RUDE AND INCONSIDERATE BEHAVIOUR. DON'T THEY KNOW YOU MAY BE A MINUTE LATE. You punch them in the face and tell them to fuck off. The policeman you just hit arrests you.



SCORPIO

This week you are giving a great lecture and suddenly Kanye West interrupts you. "YO, I'M REAL HAPPY FOR YOU, I'MMA LET YOU FINISH, BUT THIS REFERENCE IS ONE OF THE OLDEST OF ALL TIME. ALL TIME." 



SAGITTARIUS

This week you watch *The X Factor* and realise that you've essentially watched televised karaoke for the past however many years. Being a good scientist you make a spreadsheet to work out how many seconds of your life you have wasted watching this. You sigh and watch *Strictly Come Dancing* on iPlayer.



CAPRICORN

You suddenly realise that you know London way to well when you just see the Tube map everywhere, even in the horoscopes.



AQUARIUS

This week you triumphantly finish your latest piece of coursework in the Library. Out of nowhere you get a bucket of water dumped on your head and hear "I'm the Aquarius LOGO". Your laptop breaks and you lose your work. Worst part. The water was from a toilet. You start the Introduction again.



PISCES

This week you accidentally bump into someone you don't like and are forced to have an extended conversation about their life and how amazing they think they are. You finally tear yourself away from the conversation and think of how to invent an app to stop this ever happening again.



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Miners Morn Medic Defeat

Margot Pikovsky Sports Editor

On Wednesday 14 November, ICSM Ladies' 2s faced off with the RSM 1s at their Osterley home ground. The afternoon was glorious: the sun overhead and no-leggings-necessary heat a stark contrast from the last time these two teams met back in March, an event that will long stay in the memory of both teams for the truly dire conditions, including sub zero temperatures and a torrential downpour that started on the third minute and prevailed until the end of the match. With that encounter having finished in a draw, both RSM and Medics were keen to make this game worth their while.

Pre-match anxiety was particularly rife amongst the Medics this week as it emerged that the team's goalie had been unable to make it for this game. Stepping up to the task with no prior experience of ever having played in goal is always a big ask so the team are particularly grateful to Maria Koo who did just that, and made a spectacular job of it whilst she was at it. Just as Maria was kitting up in her attractive outfit, the RSM opponent strolled onto the pitch and it became instantly evident that the Medics were outnumbered, with RSM boasting 3 subs to Medics' 0. At this point, ICSM captain Becky Ayres called the team together for a motivational pep talk, and with just enough time to issue a 'Go Medics!' the game was off.



Insert your own holding sticks joke

For both teams, the match took off with an unsteady and more than slightly halting start. Whether it was the nerves or the fact that the aforementioned sun now emerged to be a mixed blessing and was blinding the entire right side of the pitch (sparing neither ICSM attack nor RSM defence), it took a good 10 or so minutes for both teams to pull themselves together and turn on the gas. Rapidly, the game turned to the Medics' favour as despite several good RSM attempts to move the ball into midfield, play ultimately revolved in the RSM goal half and increasingly their defending D. Becky Ayres, usually sweeper, had bravely taken the place of the absent

Centre Midfielder and was playing superbly in this position: her confident and precise hits coupled with never before witnessed speedy pitch-length runs proving to be a challenge for even the sturdiest of Miner defenders. Of note too was Kylie Beale, recently promoted from defence herself to the rather different role of Centre Forward. Her dodging prowess and ability to push the ball up alone a good 50m proved invaluable and ultimately landed her a shot at goal, only to be narrowly missed as the ball came off the right post with a disappointing ring.

Yoshi Anderson did a terrific job as Left Forward with Rosie Wilson (Left

Mid) who was able to consistently resist RSM pressure and together they would frequently confuse the opposition by bringing the ball up the far left flank. Crucially Yoshi also helped coordinate the Medic press, ensuring that most Miner shots taken from their D were fruitless. On the occasion that RSM were able to get the ball out of their defending half, typically thanks to the spectacular sweeps of Gemma the ball was usually stopped by the unfailing stick of Krishna Shah who would swiftly send the ball back to the Medics' attacking D. To give them their due, RSM were doing a very good job of intercepting many of these balls, and it fell to Right Mid Rebecca Featherston (token physicist on the Medic team) to win it back for ICSM with some impressive tackles, particularly so because she is relatively new to the sport. With both teams doing their fair share of running around and becoming increasingly breathless as the game went on, ICSM players completed the first half with a remarkable series of passes culminating in Margot Pikovsky (right forward) having a shot at goal. Always one to mess around a little – hockey is a spectator sport – Margot first insisted on hitting the ball straight at the goalie a couple of times (to be met by an angry foot) before aiming it at the actual goal and being rewarded by the satisfying 'thwock' as it bounced off the back board just as the umpire blew the whistle for half time. Needless to say, Margot did not celebrate by run-

ning up the pitch immaturely jumping and shouting 'Yay yay yay'.

Half time talks over and with ICSM up a point, RSM took to the pitch evidently determined to salvage the game. With possession between the teams now more or less equal, there was a dramatic improvement in both RSM and Medic play. ICSM defence in particular were forced to up their game, a challenge which they eagerly rose to. Amy Lam and Fiona Field, both newbies to the team this year, played masterfully and made some spectacular saves each. So well did they play in fact that both almost tied for honour of Most Valuable Player, with Amy crowned by only a few votes. No less critical to the back line was Kate Richmond, filling in for Becky Ayres as Sweeper, though by the amount of the two were running and the strength of their play it was difficult to tell which of the two was playing Centre Mid.

Another 35 minutes of relentless defence from the two teams, and despite a great effort from the Miners, they were unable to make a mark on the scoreboard. Final result 1:0 to the Medics then, with fantastic play from both teams (I think it's fair to say that every single person on the pitch got at least a good run out of the session) and a very well deserved win for ICSM. The Medics look forward to playing RSM again later this season, but for now: what more appropriate way to celebrate a victory than ICSM RAG Centurion later that evening?

Hockey Men's 1s make first bid for Sliverware

Anthony Vaquero Men's 1st Captain

Despite the almost blinding light from the dying sun, a strong start from IC produced the first opportunity within just a few minutes. Graham took it perfectly, dribbling easily into the D and dragging the ball straight past the keeper for a great first goal. This, however, was shortly followed with a quick response from UCL which equalised the game at 1-1.

The intensity really started to pick up with both teams now off the mark and battling it out for the lead and a place in the next round of the cup. A huge aerial from Gilles, which flew right over the UCL defence, coupled with some impressive speed and stick skills from Richard, gave a great opportunity which unfortunately couldn't be converted to a goal, but did result in a short corner. Soon after, IC once again took the lead after Christoph finished off a short run, utilising his well-practiced dribbling

skills, with a clean and powerful strike.

Just before the end of the first half, some solid defending and flare skills by the midfield resulted in Christoph charging down the right hand side and delivering an amazing ball straight across the D for Tom to finish with a textbook deflection, bringing the score line to a comfortable 3-1 lead – a good start for IC and a fair reflection of play.

The second half started quite slowly with a lot of missed opportunities and stray passes from both teams. After quite some time and improved composure from both sides, the game picked up again and a UCL striker somehow managed to score an unlikely goal from angle, despite having completely missed the ball on his first attempt at goal, bringing the score to a less comfortable 3-2.

A nerve wracking final twenty seconds saw UCL gaining a short corner, which fortunately was missed – giving IC a well-deserved win and a place in the next round of the BUCS cup.



Yes it's a generic team picture. Yes if we had another option we would use something fun, but we can only print what we get sent!

Sport Editors: Oli Benton,
Margot Pikovsky, Sorcha Cotter
sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

SPORT

Triathlon Dominate Podium

Ed Hallett Triathlon Chairman

On what felt like the coldest morning of the year so far, a selection of Imperial Triathlon members met while it was still dark to ride off towards Paddington, and to the first race on our calendar. The team was severely dented with four members dropping out at the last minute due to falling down stairs (valid), recurring hip problems (valid), misjudged course-work deadline (crap excuse) and a no show(WTF?!). But never the less, the ten-strong team headed out into the darkness.

The event was at Hillingdon, a short train journey away. The warm, spacious, relaxing journey teased us into a false sense of comfort, and as we stepped out on to the misty platform we hurriedly got on our bikes and started pedalling to stop our joints seizing in the cold.

Arriving at Hillingdon Triathlon club, we instantly forgot the cold. The track looked gorgeous, with its smooth curves and flawless surface, it's rolling course tempting us in for a ride... still talking about the track... but in all seriousness, it was a great track! We had a few loops to get to know the route, and then set up kit in the transition area. For anyone who doesn't know, a duathlon consists of a run, followed by a cycling leg, then another run, with each change-over occurring in the "transition zone". After a short warm-up, and a debate as to how cold we'll be in racing gear, the start was upon us.

Off went the horn, and the front of the pack shot off. Hendrik Frentrup, Keesjan de Vries and Richard Mathie



all represented the club up front while I started in the back quarter. Running has never been my forte, but I was kept strong minded knowing the bike was coming, building pace and regaining a few places from people who had gone off faster at the start. I was still in the second half of the positions, and the front runners were long gone. The run was only 2 miles so before I knew it, we were on our bikes. A swift transition and I was away. The run had warmed me up perfectly. This was my first race on the new bike, and a new experience for me spending prolonged periods down on the aerodynamic tri-bars I had fitted to the bike. This is my discipline, and I started to pick people off one by one as I moved up the pack. It's a bizarre feeling being so low on your bike, and just seeing the road ahead of you rather than handlebars and a wheel. I will admit, images from *Star Wars* pod racer jumped into my

head, and the theme tune rang loud in my mind whilst swerving between other competitors to overtake. I was loving it!

The punishing blend of long rolling flats and small swerving up-hill slugs meant my legs were beginning to slow on the inclined sections of the track. By transition two (bike to run) I was knackered. I had made up a lot of places, but I had two people hot on my heels. Despite my best efforts they tracked me down and left me for lost before the finish line.

We clapped in the remaining com-

petitors, and the organisers wasted no time in preparing the podium ready to present the winning prizes. Imperial Triathlon had performed exceptionally, with four people in the top 10, Alex Milne with 4th place, Richard Mathie stealing 3rd, and Jean-Claude beasting in to take pole position, finishing 7 seconds ahead of second place. Sam O'Neill, who has continued with the club from last year, came in a notable 7th. A great result for the club, and a start that will be hard to rival.

Next it was the women's race. Our team had been halved with the loss

of Sophie Kirk and Josie Bowler to excessive workloads and a basejumping attempt gone wrong. It was up to Sarah Lewis and Harriet Nerva to do it for the girls! Sarah launched off the start line with plenty of gusto, despite choosing to start at the back. She soon clawed back the places and started the bike leg in a strong position, and it was here that she put herself in contention for a podium finish. Harriet did IC proud, and flew through transition like a pro, to begin her cycle. It must have been a bit disheartening for her to see the men's team cheering her on from behind hot mugs of coffee and sugar powdered doughnuts, but we did our best to provide the two of them with much deserved support. Harriet powered in to 78th position (11th fastest female), safe in the knowledge that she did the club proud in her first ever race. However it was Sarah who stole the day for the women's race, coming in second. She didn't believe us when we told her, and didn't really take it in.

The impressive result from Sarah was subsequently shattered by the fact that when the Hillingdon representative called out her name to collect the second place prize winnings, she was nowhere to be seen. She was busy, cuddled up in the club house with a warm cup of tea, completely oblivious to the megaphone calling out her name...

Position	Name	Category	Club	Time
1	Jean-Claude Besse	Male	Imperial College London	39:35 mins
2	Rob Buldock	Male	Tri London	39.42 mins
3	Richard Mathie	Male	Imperial College London	40.17 mins
4	Alexander Milne	Male	Imperial College London	40.18 mins
1.	Liza Croft	Female	Hemel Hempstead CC	46.14 mins
2.	Sarah Lewis	Female	Imperial College London	47:15 mins

Fencing avoid the fake tan

Janssen Loek Fencing Men's 3s

Rolling into Essex campus the slightly understrength 3rd team were prepared for a bashing, things started well with Jamie 'destroyer' Simpson damaging Essex in the warm-up. Then first up was our foil team of Andy Simpson, Niall Corry and Thoe Suter. Getting us off to a great start was old timers Thoe and Andy who dropped only three points for the first 10 to imperial, and then new to the team fresher Niall showed his worth (and flexible arm skills) in a 5-1 victory. The three musketeers continued their fine form and put imperial into an impressive 45-14 lead.

Then team captain Loek Janssen, new team member Pavitar Singh and conscripted foillist Thoe stepped onto the piste for sabre. Despite starting well the team fell to a 30-24 deficit with just 3 bouts (to 5) to play. However a late push from Pav and Thoe brought imperial to within 3 points of their opponents, leaving it to the captain to win his spurs with a stunning (lucky) final hit against his Essex counterpart to win sabre 45-44.

Finally with a strong lead and time running out the epee team went onto the piste to attempt to bring the match home. Due to the absence of a couple of epeeist, Pav and continuing star of the show Thoe would provide the support to Jamie Simpson in



the final bouts. Generally the slowest of the 3 weapons the lack of time prompted some show stopping fighting and a 5-1 win to Jamie in just 27

seconds (surely some sort of record). Fittingly three-weapon Thoe provided the overall match winning hit while Pav and Jamie secured a victory

with a great 45-34 win. Giving Imperial a fantastic win of 135-92 in all 3 weapons and so bringing a successful end to the 3rd teams Essex adventure.



Water Polo storm Germany

Romylos Jackson Sports Writer

The Aachen Annual Water Polo Tournament is by far the most challenging encounter Imperial College's Water Polo team faces every year. Historically, their performance in this tournament has been humble, so they arrived without the prejudice of having to protect a reputation, which meant everyone could let loose a little and enjoy themselves. Furthermore, it was a great opportunity for people new to the sport to earn some valuable match experience.

The tournament started on the Saturday morning, with most of the team averaging four hours sleep on the floor of a common room and sporting a commendable hangover. It was a slow start, with the first match ending in a less than ideal 0-7, but Imperial began speeding up their counter attacks and getting more offensive, which allowed Alex to bag a goal in the second game, reducing Imperial's next loss to a more respectable 4-1. The last game of the day ended in a particularly brutal 0-9 against

Aachen's 1st team of wild beasts and set the scene for an appropriate consumption of alcohol later in the evening.

The Imperial women's team performed in a similar light to the men's, sporting a modest 1-9 in their first match, with the goal executed skilfully by Anna, and a 7-0 in the second. A special mention also has to go to Philippine who saw the team was getting so overwhelmed by German force, she felt she had to get creative and save a goal with her face.

The day was not without victory however, because the men's team managed to earn a place at the semi-finals in the swimming tug of war, and the women's team succeeded in finishing 1st in the tournament's beer relay, in which a team of swimmers sprinted 25m, got out, downed a pint, then sprinted back. Later that night, the Aachen water polo club hosted a party, in which, satisfyingly, there was a predominant attendance of the team's mascot – Blumenkohl the cauliflower.

On the Sunday, Imperial started out at a disadvantage due to the goal-



Guy on the end: "Loving life 2k12"

keeper, Jen Wei "the ninja" Niam, being indisposed in his efforts to recover his lost passport and avoid imminent deportation, but they held together strong and played with Edward in goal, yielding an 11-1 loss, with the goal scored by Vicente. The team's ethos continued to hold steady

and a combination of fast drives of strong offence yielded in a further goal from Marco against DSSC Duisburg and Anna against DSSC Duisburg (women's).

Imperial returned to campus at 1am on Sunday night feeling extremely satisfied by a very rewarding

tournament, with lectures in store for most of them on Monday morning. Even without their coach Adam at the tournament, both the men's and women's teams performed admirably and are now more ready than ever to take on the other universities in BUCS and LUSL.

Rugby return to winning ways

Rob Kyle 1st XV Vice Captain

After a slow start to the season as the 1stXV get used to a new league, their opening cup fixture against last seasons opposition Kent was an ideal way to get back to winning ways. After a rushed warm up, and with Imperial have to don a somewhat village playing jersey to avoid a kit clash, the game got underway. Imperial kicked

off proceedings, quickly leading to a turn over and good possession in the opposing 22. It didn't take long before the first points of the game, and after an inch perfect pass from fly-half "Big" George Lane – who admits himself fly-half is not his natural position – Oli Benton crossed the line for a 5-0 lead. Soon after the restart, the pressure was back on Kent. The ball was charged down by the face of Jon Hardisty (some say his most use-

ful contribution to the game) resulting in a lineout in opposition territory. This again produced an Imperial try, with good hands by the backline finished off well by Nathan "Brucey" Fitzpatrick in the corner. After the initial burst of tries by Imperial, the game started to get tighter. With the exchanging of tries, Kent started to get back into the game – due mainly to a lack of Imperial discipline and unforced errors. A big blow to Imperial came in the form of skipper Jack Flanagan having to leave the field with a suspected broken ankle, although fans will be relieved to here he has since been given the all clear. A further try awarded for a high tackle in the act of Jack Judd scoring, lead to an Imperial lead of 22-12 at half time. But playing into the wind second half Imperial knew the game was not over. This was quickly demonstrated as straight after the restart Kent went over for their third try of the game, closing the lead to just 3 points. This pressure brought out the best in both the senior players



Graceful like a swan.



I'd let those boys scrum me, anytime.

and newcomers to the Imperial team, and appeared to be the turning point of the match. Great breaks from man of the match Rob "Coach" Kyle and Jon Hardisty helped gain useful yards, as the Imperial pattern started to shine through. With Mike O'Connell and Tom Hansen proving the catalysts for forward momentum, pos-

session and territory started to show, leading to another try for Oli Benton and Syarif Hertog. As Kent started a slight revival, an interception by Robbie Cowan lead to a 60 metre score to close out the game. Big hits in the final play coming from Mike Floyd and Tom Hobson sealed the deal, resulting in a final score of 41-19..