

Feeding the future?

An interview with Sir Professor Gordon Conway about how to feed the growing population. **Pages 10-11**



Holland Club closed

Commercial services to run Level 0 pub

Holland Club set to close on 21 December 2012

No current offer of alternate premises

Campaign to save the club didn't work



Tim Arbabzadah Editor-in-Chief

The tender process has come to an end and the Holland Club will close the bar on 21 December 2012. Commercial Services will open a new, unnamed outlet in the space at the end of September 2013.

There has been an ongoing campaign to save the Holland Club amongst staff and students. The Facebook page of

the campaign, which has been regularly updated, has so far garnered 946 likes. An online petition to save the Holland Club received 661 signatures, with multiple people leaving reasons for why they are signing the petition. On the College's page inviting feedback on the feasibility study performed on the space, called Level 0, there were 76 comments asking for the Holland Club to be left as it is. Most point to the unique atmosphere, their belief >>4

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Union hires over £100,000 a year of new staff to help represent you better and "improve student experience."

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Clubs and Socs is back with a vengeance. After a brief absence, it's back with everything from Surfing Society to International Week.



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Politics have gone all green, metaphorically. They haven't become elves in preparation for Christmas.



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This week there are four pages of sport. Plus, some really amazing action shots. Flip to the back page right this second if you think I'm lying.



CLASSIFIEDS

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LOLCAT OF THE WEEK: Finding these is a perk of the job



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Dutch courage

Tim Arbabzadah
Editor-in-Chief



The Holland Club has closed. The space will be redeveloped by College and Commercial Services into something new. Apparently, everyone was crying out for more food outlets. Dinner and such.

So what will become of the space, now called Level 0? Well, Eastside 2.0 is what I hope it doesn't become. We already have one of those, why add another in a slightly different location. I also really hope someone "trendy" doesn't think Level 0 is a postmodern, clever name to call it.

So, here's a solution that I think sounds sensible. If there was a massive need for more catering places then why not do two things: 1. Make what you have better and more efficiently run. 2. Work with the Holland Club to keep it there as it is and just add pub food at lunch and dinner. Seems like a really simple solution really. I mean, you have a pub, you want food. It isn't a stretch to say that you could convert that pub into one that serves pub food.

Apparently there wasn't the facility for that. The obvious solution is to tear down the place and completely rebuild it. I'm joking, that's not the obvious solution.

To me at least, the solution is to create the facilities you need to make

pub food (oven and stuff in other, less grand sounding, terms than "facilities").

All that would have needed to be done would have been to say to the Holland Club that they have to provide food, and then help them provide food. College could have just worked together with the Holland Club to make a kitchen. If the Holland Club didn't have the money, then College could have paid for it and then recouped the expenses by taking a cut of the profits made by the Holland Club.

Yeah, it would cost the College a penny or two, but it would have made back the money in the end. Crucially, it would also have meant that the whole long affair (tempted to use the word omnishambles) would not have been forced to occur. Plus, it would cost a lot less than studying, taking it down, starting again, and then rebuilding and running it. The added benefit to College is that they don't even need to run the place: that's done for them by the Holland Club. They just provide the initial funding (if needed) and then sit back and let the money roll in back to them. Maybe someone should do a feasibility study on that?

Perhaps the solution would mean that the College would feel like they wouldn't have a say in the matter at

all. Well, people can work together can't they? Plus they could stipulate that if it starts losing money (which is a criteria of "success" I guess) then they step in and change a few things.

Then there would be no closure and no staff and students being annoyed, and no Club with no room. There would be a nice pub to eat food in for post graduates, and everyone is a winner.

I honestly don't see why the Holland Club and College can't work together to renovate the space a bit (sorry, but the toilets could use a bit of a refurbishment) and re-open it, with similar decor and atmosphere, as the Holland Club, but with added food at lunch and dinner times. In fact, the doors aren't bolted yet, so surely there's still time for this?

What saddens me really is that in a few years everyone will forget that the Holland Club existed there. It'll be a mere curiosity. There'll be no outrage and upset then. Of course the people in College will know that. They'll know that they can waltz in and no-one will remember it years later. Build it and they will come. People will go to it because it's there, it's going to be not too expensive, and it'll be convenient.

Time will tell if the Holland Club will move to a new location.

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NEWS

Union hiring new staff

Union to hire £100,000 per year worth of new support staff

Nida Mahmud News Editor

Imperial College Union is hiring four new staff members whose combined salaries total over £100,000 per year, the budget for which was approved last year.

The salaries and job descriptions for these staff members used to be found online on the Union's website (www.imperialcollegeunion.org). However, it has since been removed as the positions are being filled.

The Union has already hired some new staff and is currently interviewing for others. The positions that will ultimately be filled at the Union will be: a Representation Coordinator, Student Development Manager, Outreach Coordinator and a Marketing Manager. These roles are new positions created by the Union, except for the Representations Coordinator which is an existing position that has become vacant. The role of Web Developer is the highest paid of the new roles, and will have a salary of £28,200 - £32,100 per year. The other salaries

are shown in the table at the end of this article.

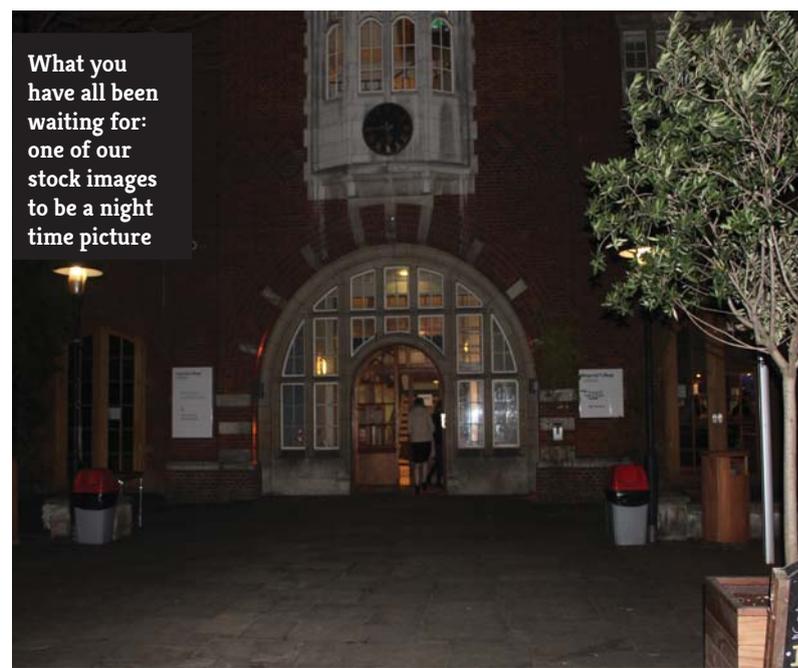
The exact definition and job descriptions are not precisely given, although many were described as "challenging roles".

The Union's budget is decided by the Executive Committee, who submit it to the Trustee Board for approval, on a yearly basis. The budget proposed last year allowed for the hiring of new members. This hiring is financed by an increase in subvention for the College for these specific roles. The aim of these hires is "improving the student experience", which is a joint endeavour by both the College and the Union; particularly after Imperial's nine place drop in the Times Higher Education (THE) Experience survey earlier this year, taking Imperial to 71st place.

The Union hopes that the new staff members will improve the student experience in a number of ways. The Outreach Coordinator role will supposedly widen the Union's reach to other campuses, giving students at other campuses

as best an experience as possible. The Student Development Manager will work on improving students' employability by developing an accreditation scheme and community volunteering. The Representations coordinator will aim to increase the number of responses to Higher Education Policy, representing students on a national level, as well as increasing the capabilities to process and respond to college policies. The Marketing Manager will work on further improving the Union's communications to students.

The Union have also commented on further work that will be undertaken later in the year to "empower more students in making decision regarding the distribution of Union subvention to Clubs, Societies and Projects." However, the plans for this process are not yet finalised.



Title	Salary	Aim
Representation Coordinator	22,620-24,290	Increase response to Higher Education Policy
Student Activities Coordinator	22,620-24,290	Assist in operation of student activities
Receptionist	17,520-18,230	Assist in smooth operation of Union
Web Developer	28,200-32,100	Improve Union's communication to students

Make no bones about Imperial Fringe

Imperial College London

Kanchana Niruttan Reporter

Bad puns aside Imperial Fringe this month is all set to put bones under microscope in an evening of skeletal debauchery on the Thursday the 29th of November.

The event, promoted as "Imperial Fringe: Cutting close to the bone" is scheduled from 5.30 to 9.00pm and feature speakers including Professor Alison McGregor, Dr. Sandra Shefelbine and Dr. Richie Abel in a "very special discussion on bone".

Attendees will have the chance to build stem cell scaffolds with Professor Sarah Rankin of the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial and to attempt key hole surgery using knee arthroscopy simulator.

Dr Alessandra Carriero a research fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering currently studying the fracture mechanics of osteogenesis imperfecta will be exploring brittle bone disease in mice with the help of chocolate and biomedical scientist Vin Chauhan of the Department of Surgery and Cancer is billed to be showcasing "macabre Victorian bone specimens" from the Pathology Mu-



seum. Also on hand will be Senior Lecturer Dr Alex Porter whose work currently focuses on the visualization of interactions between cells and bio- or nano-materials; she will be "looking at how we can bond with our bones" as part of the evening's program.

Event organiser Harriet Martin, Communications and Development, said: "With the Imperial Fringe we really want to tap into the growing appetite for hands-on, participatory science-related evening events that young people are flooding to across London. Researchers here at Impe-

rial are doing such exciting things, the Imperial Fringe is a great way to involve the public with their work and share their enthusiasm and expertise."

The event will be held at the College Main Entrance of the South Kensington campus is open to students, staff and the general public. While registration is encouraged (email the organizers at festival@imperial.ac.uk) the event is a walk in event free to all participants. Drinks and snacks will be available at the pay bar throughout the evening where participants will also have a chance to meet speakers between 8.30 and 9.00pm.

Sponsored Editorial

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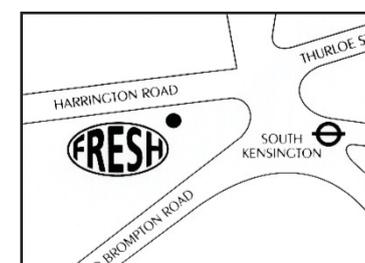
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New Research centre opens at Imperial

Nida Mahmud News Editor

Last week a new research centre opened at Imperial College London in St. Mary's Hospital: The Imperial Clinical Phenome Centre. This is the second phenome centre to be launched this year in the UK, both centres are based at Imperial College. The centre is led by both Imperial College London and King's College London, although it has many academic and commercial partners. The centre is said to aim to revolutionise the future of the healthcare sector, translating medical discoveries to better healthcare. Researchers will rapidly analyse the phenotypes of an unprecedented number of samples taken from patients. Blood and urine samples will be used to search for biomarkers that link particular populations of people with susceptibility to certain diseases. Consequently, this will eventually aid in the development of more targeted forms of treatment to combat diseases. Furthermore, this information can guide doctors on how the patient is responding to a particular form of treatment.

Last August it was announced that the anti-doping facilities acting for the London 2012 Olympics will become a pioneering research centre for personalised medicine. The centre is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medical Research Council (MRC), with five year



grants of £5 million from both investors.

The MRC-NIHR Phenome centre is the first of its type in the world, enabling researchers to investigate the characteristics of diseases to develop new treatment for patients. The Chief Executive of the MRC, Sir John Savill, described the centre as a “phenomenal” Olympic legacy, with research that is “unprecedented anywhere in the world”. The centre inherits equipment used by the 2012 Olympics services. The Phenome centre boasts novel technologies, where state of the art technology, with three nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometers and six mass spectrometers

that are intended to give surgeons useful diagnostic information in real time.

A phenome is an individual's chemistry due to their genetics and the lifestyle adopted. The phenotype consists of the external products of genes and the environment, such as disease states and hair colours. The combination of molecules are constantly changing, they are affected by factors such as diet, environment and stress. Furthermore, the phenome is related to a patient's response to a disease or treatment. Molecular analysis will be undertaken to aid in disease diagnostics and patient specific treatments.

Jeremy Nicholson, the head of the

Department of Surgery at Imperial has commented on the “groundbreaking” centre that can “provide new ways of understanding the complex interactions between people's genes and their environment that determine their disease risks”. “Metabolic profiling will give us a new dimension of understanding about the factors that contribute to disease, as well as crucial information for predicting how individual patients are likely to respond to treatment. These analytical technologies are now very mature and are immensely powerful for telling us about someone's physical condition and disease state. Bringing them fully into the clinical setting will help doc-

tors make a more informed diagnosis, choose the best treatment based on the individual characteristics of the patient, and monitor their progress more precisely. It is the dawn of a new age of ‘precision medicine.’

Technology that gives surgeons useful diagnostic information in real time also exists in the centre. For example, Dr Takats is developing the “intelligent knife”, a tool that can analyse the smoke produced when surgical blades that have been heated by electricity cuts a tissue during an operation. The chemicals in the tissue provide in-depth information about the tissue; such as in determining whether or not a tissue is cancerous.

Holland Club to close after opposition from staff

» continued from the front page

that there are already enough catering outlets, and that it is already a place for postgraduates and members of staff to meet. Many also commented on their dismay at the College and that they believed other catering facilities could be improved instead. It was noted by one commenter that the staff briefing email discusses the feasibility study and asks for comments to be sent to an email address but does not suggest commenting on the post on the College's site.

Sue Sharp, Chair of Imperial Unite and Treasurer of the Holland Club Committee, said that staff were “overwhelming in support of the club as it was”. She described the bar as “comfortable as it is” while admitting that the function room “does need improvement”. Sharp told Felix that College had been provided with “ample evidence of the Holland Club's support”.

The reason for the new outlet was “to serve the needs of the College community”. A College spokesman stated that the “space should be fully redesigned

to maximise its potential and ensure the best possible service to customers”, which was given as the reason that the Holland Club could not serve food itself. Sharp commented: “If the college is genuine in its intention, why not build and improve on what is already there and loved rather than tearing it down and starting again”. Sharp went on to state that “the Holland Club was willing to improve either alone or in conjunction with catering [College catering: i.e. Commercial Services]”.

The new space will, according to a College spokesman, be “offering dedicated pub, catering, social, and activity spaces for postgraduate students and members of staff”. In regards to catering, the spokesman replied that “some of the catering facility will be used to provide evening meals for the College community including undergraduate students” and that this will be done “to the extent possible without compromising the facility's primary purpose”.

The plans that were originally drawn up for Level 0 “appeared to duplicate current facilities already available

throughout the College and left room only for a small social bar” according to Sharpe. However the plans then seem to have been altered.

College set up a Design Briefing Advisory Board, which included representatives from the Union, the Holland Club, Commercial Services, and the Senior Dean. Their work was finished in July. The new design for the space had “input from the [Holland Club] board” according to a College spokesman. Sharpe corroborated that such a consultation had taken place and that they had progressed from the original plans, but the Holland Club Committee now “believed that many of the recommendations had been ignored”. She said that the “latest news on current plans would appear to indicate that the College intends to revert to the original [plans]”.

Maryam Habibzay, GSA President, was asked for comment. However the GSA were not aware of the plans and did not know what was going on with the Holland Club. Habibzay said that “ideally... I would like to wait until

everyone knows and discuss this with postgraduate students”, but said that the Holland Club was “popular for its cheaper drink prices”. Habibzay expressed hope that the new outlet will have similar prices and that it “doesn't sound too bad from a PG (postgraduate) point of view. But many will be sad that it will close as the Holland Club had become a bit of an Imperial tradition”.

The future of the Holland Club, and the space remaining as it was, has been in doubt for some time, ever since Felix reported about the feasibility studies occurring. The Union and the Holland Club both bid during the tender process, but did not win. Paul Beaumont, Union President, said: “We are obviously disappointed that we didn't win the tender process as it would have been a good opportunity for a student led postgraduate bar. We're working with Commercial Services to make sure it is as student friendly as possible”.

Kevin Young, the Bar Manager, will be made redundant on 31 January 2013. The Holland Club itself will still

exist in name, however it will have no premises. College have not offered any replacement. It was claimed that the trade union Unite asked the College to provide an alternative venue for the Holland Club. However, they were informed that staff would have access to the new outlet, and so they will not offer anything. When asked if the Holland Club had been given any alternative premises, a College spokesman replied: “The Holland Club, as with any staff or student association, is free to book space around College for its activities. However, to ensure everyone has fair access to those facilities, no permanent or exclusive access can be granted to the Club”.

The Holland Club, named after Sir Thomas Holland, a former Rector of Imperial, was formed in 1949 as a social club for non-academic members of staff. Now, the bar is used by postgraduates and staff (both academic and non academic) as a social place. The bar has been relocated before. Once the full plans for the new space are known, Felix will report on them.

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NEWS

Middle East protest in Kensington

- Students from Imperial get involved with protests against the violence in the Middle East
- Protests blocks off parts of High Street Kensington

Aemun Reza

News Editor

Last Thursday, High Street Kensington found itself overwhelmed with protestors. At 5:30pm, crowds gathered to protest against the violence in the Middle East.

Imperial students were amongst these protestors, campaigning with members of the public. Protestors could be found carrying signs, chanting and making speeches in front of the Israeli Embassy on High Street Kensington.

The main advertising for the protests was done through Facebook, with events created to include the pre-planned details of the protest. Other students were told by word of mouth last minute and still decided to go.

Around 800 people turned up for the protests, ranging from young Imperial students through to elderly members of the public. Tony Blair's sister-in-law Laura Booth had also been spotted at the protest.

The demonstration featured both pro-Israelis protestors and pro-Palestine protestors. There were Imperial students protesting for each side.

Imperial students have described their accounts of the protests, mentioning that the closeness of the protest made it easy for them to join in. Some students were said to be using megaphones or microphones with speakers to spur the crowds on. One account describes students climbing onto a bus with a flag whilst the bus drove down the road.

One Imperial student stated that the student voice can be the most powerful of them all and that it is important for today's generation to get involved and get their voices heard.

The protests were said to last till 9pm, with some students staying on afterwards to help clear up the mess.

The police had placed barriers on the street so that cars could pass through but High Street Kensington was partially closed and the road towards the Israeli Embassy had been closed off. As more and more people arrived, the police were forced to put up more barriers.

In recent weeks, the unrest in the Middle East has caused a great stir in the media. Activists have accused media outlets of being biased and one-sided. Articles published have been deemed unreliable as sources about the events in Israel and Palestine.

The on-going conflict has been a source of debate for many years. The most recent attacks were said to have started at the end of October. Reports have been made of continual attacks from both sides resulting in numerous casualties from both Israel and Palestine.

The violence in the Middle East is to such an extent that people felt the need to demonstrate their disapproval of the situation. Many were there simply to call and end to the death and destruction.

There are more protests planned during the next week with many Imperial students enthusiastic to take part.

Pro-Israeli statements

As I passed by the protests on Thursday on my way home from university, I was struck by the sheer nature of hatred coming from the anti-Israel protest. They were waving flags of the terrorist organisations of Hamas and Hezbollah and their chants were not against the recent conflict but were calling for the downfall and end of the State of Israel. The Israeli counter-protest however, were only shouting slogans of peace. – Anonymous passer-by

We wish this violent exchange to find a rapid decline. Few know this, but there is never actual true peace in Israel/Palestine, there are only moments of silence. I think both sides would rather return to this than suffer from conflict. Israeli Society does not persuades any political agenda. – Israeli Society

While visiting the pro-Palestinian protest I could not ignore the call "From the river to the sea Palestine will be free" that

was constantly repeated. As an Israeli that grew up in the region I know that the river they were referring to is the Jordan river boarding Israel and Jordan and the sea is the Mediterranean Sea on the west of Israel and Gaza. In other words, the whole area that is now both Israel and Palestine. This saying is problematic since it is deliberately asking for a Palestinian country in all of the territory while ignoring the right for an Israeli country to exist there as well. I want to believe that the protesters understand that the only solution to this long conflict is having a Palestinian country existing peacefully next to an Israeli one, and I want to hope that all of the thousands of local British supporters didn't really understand what they were calling for by saying those words – Student protestor

I'm from the Southern part of Israel, where my family lives, and have been witness of the difficult situation and daily life under missiles attacks for the past dec-

ade or more. I remember having to run into a shelter to hide from the day and night rocket attacks on Israel from the Gaza strip. I remember that summer day when there were two simultaneous suicide bombings in two different buses in the city of Beer-Sheva, which took the lives of 16 Israelis and injured more than 100 others.

Concerning the current conflict in our region, I speak with my parents daily on Skype and I can't express all sadness and sorrow I feel, when my mum can scarcely hold back tears when she tells me about non-stop sirens, sleepless nights, terrified young and old on the streets and explosions of rockets.

I am saddened when innocent people die on both sides. I hate it that sirens and shelters are the only reality that my 12 year old nephew is familiar with and that my home is under constant threat. I wish more than ever, more than anything else that this conflict will come to an end. – Anonymous student

Pro-Palestinian Statements

Firstly the majority of the news articles in Western media outlets often present a one-sided, biased narrative, of the Israelis defending themselves from Hamas and Palestinian aggressors, resulting in a distorted view of the Palestinians as aggressors and the Israelis as defenders.

One often-quoted statement by Malcom X reflects this situation quite well...

"If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing."

Over time, people seem to have forgotten and cannot differentiate from the oppressor and the oppressed, and from the occupier and the occupied. Gaza has been under blockade now for numerous years. The Palestinians have been occupied for decades. When will the world recognize their right to resist and defend themselves.

A closer look at current events also demonstrates that Israel initiated this current escalation, bringing into question their true motives. – Palestinian Society

I've grown up living the Palestinian crisis. Watching it everyday on the news, hearing about it constantly, but it doesn't make it any less heart-breaking every time there's a new attack. What hurts more is that this has become the norm.

We try and do what we can by small gestures like updating our statuses about Palestine, but this is nothing.

So when we go out and protest it's because that's all we can do. Our cry for help and our plea to the Government to do something. – Egyptian Student

For a protest that happened with such short notice, I find that it went quite well. The crowd was not as big as we would have liked it to be but the protest on Saturday compensated for that. My favourite part would definitely be the Rabbis who came out to support Palestine and the Palestinian people's fight for justice and the right to return to our homes. I would like to thank everyone who managed to come down to the protest in support and hope that more people will join future protest

to raise awareness and demand that massacres like those in Gaza and in Palestine as a whole STOP! – Student protestor

It is baffling that the International Community (including in both the western and Arab countries) is not doing more to stop the never-ending violence in Palestine.

I simply hope that people look at the situation objectively and shape your opinion based on facts, not biased news articles.

I hope that this quote can shed some light on the situation in Palestine that has been on-going for many years, not just the last few days:

"The present Israeli government ruthlessly and cynically exploits the continuing guilt from gentiles over the slaughter of Jews in the Holocaust as justification for their murder of Palestinians. The implication is that Jewish lives are precious, but the lives of Palestinians do not count." Sir Gerald Kaufman, British Jewish Labour MP, 2009, speaking in a Commons debate. – A Muslim Egyptian student



Student protest march held

George Barnett Reporter

Last Wednesday, 21 November 2012, saw thousands of students marching through the streets of London to protest the rising cost of education. Dubbed "Demo 2012", the demonstration, arranged by the National Union of Students (NUS) expected to have 10,000 attendees. The demonstration by the NUS passed through central London from the Embankment before heading south of the river at Westminster. Police refused to make an estimate of the crowd. However, it was estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 were involved. Bad weather was cited as a reason for the lower than 10,000 attendance. This is still a much lower figure than the 50,000 strong crowd of two years ago when the protests occurred over raising Tuition Fees.

Liam Burns, NUS President, said that "education should open doors, but the government is slamming them shut." He went on to say that "the damaging effects of recent changes to education have restricted access for future students and created new barriers for those currently studying."

With current 1st years now paying up to £9,000 per year for Tuition Fees, the aim of the protest was largely to put education back on the

political agenda, highlighting issues such as the impact caused by the new higher fees and reduced financial support. The lack of job opportunities for young people was also highlighted.

The mood on Wednesday was generally calm, with the Metropolitan Police reportedly only needing to quash one small riot. Their so-called "total policing" ensured that no other riots got under way during the march. However, the internal mood of the NUS could not be said to be quite so calm with many rally-goers feeling betrayed by the NUS and their President Liam Burns for not managing to stop the initial rise of fees.

A final rally in Kennington Park saw Burns heckled and pelted with eggs by the thinning crowd as he made his speech. Shortly after, his stage was invaded by some of the aforementioned disgruntled students. Burns was not dismayed, adding, "It was just a bit of a distraction. I'm not going to get particularly bogged down by a few people who want to shout in a rained out park."

Students feel their point was made with attention drawn to higher fees and the impacts from them.

Imperial College Union did not send any representatives.

» *Comment: Page 27*

Luke Sheldon



Policeman and girl pose for unlikely indie band photoshoot



Benjamin Lester



Protester just "really fucking loves Guy Fawkes night"

Benjamin Lester



Protester showing up in "ironic fancy dress" as a policeman regrets decision immediately



The Imperial Cinema All-Nighter is coming...

Tuesday 11th December

6 films, 6pm – 7:30am

Full Line-up to be announced shortly.

Films Confirmed so far:

Looper

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NEWS

in London on Wednesday

Luke Sheldon



Luke Sheldon



Clamour as baton sale uses free doughnuts to lure in punters

Benjamin Lester



Embarrassment as protester was actually offering sex for a price

Benjamin Lester



Well, it's officially the depth of winter. Sad-face. Ohhh, Christmas soon though

Why I didn't march



George Howard

“Championing the mantra of socialism yet again, it seems to be an awful case of déjà vu”

used to be.

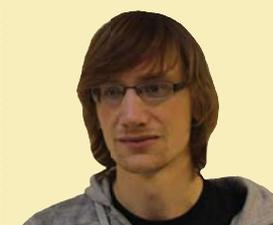
So it would appear that yet another student march has passed with little incident. Aside from mild scuffles at Westminster, yet another ill timed NUS effort to exercise mass havoc upon the streets of London has failed.

Championing the mantra of socialism yet again, it seems to be an awful case of déjà vu. It seems that the organisers simply didn't have the time to bother thinking up any original points to mention. It was just the standard regurgitation of the fact that Nick Clegg lied, there are no jobs, and apparently universities are more expensive than they

Rather than marching to Parliament Square to hear Prime Minister's Questions, I'd much prefer to enjoy them from the comfort of my personal abode. Notwithstanding this, I really don't believe that such a march will achieve anything. The national media have drastically reduced coverage of such barbaric events (quite rightly) and the reason for this is simple: no one really cares. Its about time the likes of Liam Burns (NUS Tsar) grow up and stop engaging in such childish pursuits.

As for me, I think I'll have another cup of tea. Beats standing in the rain...

Why I did march



Luke Sheldon

“I was... marching for a truly free education... where the learning is liberated and critical”

The commodification of education that the introduction of £9000 fees accelerated drains learning of true enjoyment. Instead of expanding our thoughts and horizons, being lost in our interests, we are merely studying for employment. No longer do we study for pleasure, but to obtain a piece of paper that by increasingly slimmer chances allows us to sit in an office for the rest of our lives.

Although the name of the demo demanded 'Educate. Employ. Empower', I was instead marching for a truly free education. Not only one that we do not pay for (both fees and living) but also where the learn-

ing is liberating and critical in both content and practice. Not only is our education system exclusionary in terms of money and elitism but it also in this process of wrapping itself in its ivory tower excludes important ideas and it fails to look at society in a critical way.

And funding is intertwined with this lack of freedom in what we learn. If we do not fund education properly it increasingly becomes influenced and driven by industry. Education becomes about maximising profit for multinationals with no thought for the consequences instead of working towards a better society – which education has the potential to do.



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FEATURES

Reclaim the Night

Kirstin Hay invites you to join IC's Feminist Society at the protest

“Walking home at night should not be scary.

We live in a strange society. If fear of our neighbours is considered normal, but many people are. Many women I know are afraid to walk alone in the dark, due to a perceived high danger of facing violence.

This is not a wholly surprising state of affairs when adverts everywhere remind women to drink responsibly and to take care to avoid danger, and when we live in a country where 1 in 4 women are raped in their lifetimes. I know too many people who have been raped, and those are just the ones that have told me about it.

The NUS (National Union of Students) performed a study of students and their experiences of sexual assault and violence – 7% of students experienced serious sexual assault at university, and more than 25% had been sexually assaulted at university.

It was perhaps the other findings of the survey that were more shocking, the vast majority of perpetrators of violence against women were known to their victim, and the acts of violence happened in their own homes.

Only 10% of the serious sexual assaults were reported to the police, which is the same reporting rate from any sector of society, and this



doesn't even begin to take into account how many of these reports become convictions. 43% of the victims of serious sexual assault in the NUS study had never told anyone about their experience.

The lack of reporting is attributed to a feeling of shame, and fear of being told that it is their fault. To be clear – rape is the fault of the rapist, not the victim.

Whatever the victim was wearing,

or their sexual history, the blame should never be attributed to them.

The study from the NUS also looked at the wider culture that students live in.

Nearly 70% of their respondents reported that they had received unwanted sexual attention at university from catcalling and inappropriate questions about sexuality and relationships, to more serious sexual violence.

Overwhelmingly (though not exclusively) the victims of sexual violence are women, and the perpetrators are men. It is often easy to say that women should take care to avoid being raped, because women get raped. It is perhaps more pertinent to tell men that some men rape, and that they should take action to stop this happening.

One action that comes from this dire state of affairs is the Reclaim the Night movement. Women standing together to re-assert their right to walk safely at night and their right not to be subjected to violence or to be blamed for any that is perpetrated against them. Reclaim the Night is a night-time march that happens every year in London and in other cities across the UK and the world, where thousands of women come together and shout in opposition to

violence against women.

Joining a demonstration is a very powerful action – it might not change a law, or wave a magic wand, but standing up for what you believe in has a positive effect. Thousands of women marching past a group of people out in central London on a Saturday evening chanting, “yes means yes, and no means no”, has the potential to make them remember about consent or consider the consequences of their actions.

All of this may be a too idealistic view of the positive effects of joining a march such as Reclaim the Night, but not to forget the impact on those taking part – it is somewhat empowering to know that sexual violence is not the victim's fault, and that there are so many others with you standing up for your right to be safe from rape and other violence.

The culture of rape in the UK cannot be ignored, and protests, such as Reclaim the Night, are one way to make sure the problem is not forgotten.

If you wish to join the march with others from Imperial, meet on Embankment Place (near Embankment underground) at 6pm on Saturday 24th November.



FEATURES

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One billion hungry: can we

Jula Humphries interviews **Sir Professor Gordon Conway** about food, the important role of women in Africa, the role of students, especially engineering

Jula Humphries: What are the key threats to global food security?

Professor Sir Gordon Conway: The three main challenges we've got at the moment are: food price spikes, the persistence of a billion or more people suffering from chronic hunger and the need to feed a growing population in the face of a wide range of adverse factors.

The first challenge is food price spikes; that is every few years the price of food suddenly shoots up to a big high and then collapses. We've had two since 2007 and we are into the third one now, but we don't know how high it is going to go. The importance of these is that they affect the poor disproportionately. The poor spend a high proportion of their income, often half of all the money they earn, on food, and often the price stays high like that so that's one big challenge.

The second is that we've got nearly a billion people hungry today, we don't know exactly how many, there may be 800 million or a billion, and the most shocking statistic there is that we've got 180 million children hungry, under the age of five, who are malnourished – that means they are stunted, they are a low height for their age, and that happens in the first thousand days of life in other words pregnancy plus two years. If they do not get the right food, in particular having the right micronutrients like vitamin A, zinc and iron and so on. Without these micronutrients they are stunted, there are 180 million children like this in the world.

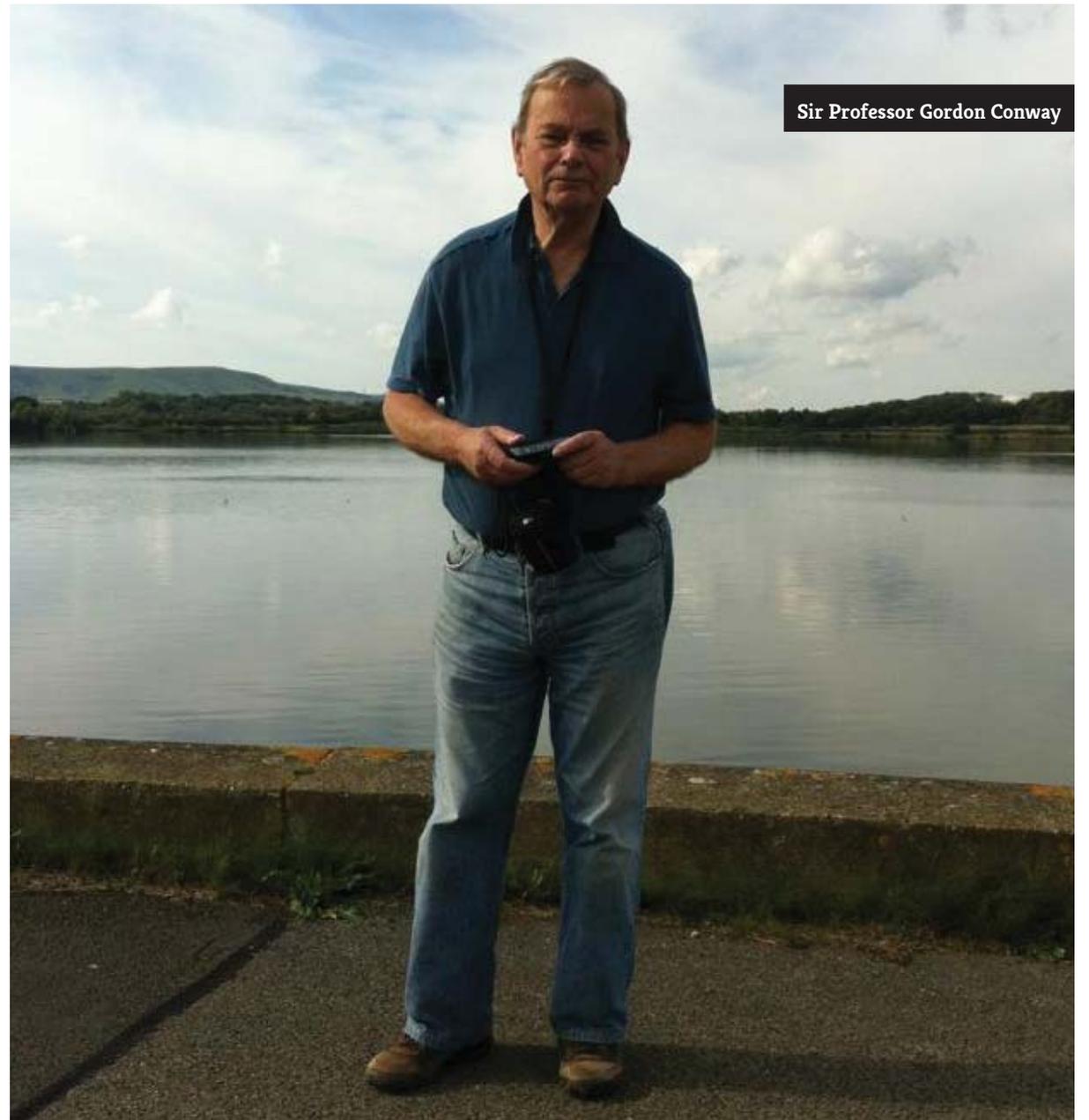
The third big challenge is that we've got to feed the world by 2050, now part of that is population increase. Population is going to go up by thirty per cent or more, it is going to go up to nine and a half billion. Population increase is probably just about manageable in terms of increasing food but the big issue is not the increase in population but the increase in per capita incomes, particularly in growing countries. The rapidly growing countries like China, India and Brazil, termed high growth countries. Those countries are shifting towards more western style diets; this means people are eating more bread, wheat and livestock products. The point is the livestock all require feed, the cows, the sheep and the goats and the chickens all require feed. So, you have got to produce a lot more grain for that. For example if you produce one kilo of meat, it takes eight kilos of grain, roughly.

So that is a big challenge. On top of that is the challenge that comes from competition with biofuels. If you grow maize, corn. If you grow corn it gets sold for human food, animal feed and for biofuels. There is big competition there, which we have got to cope with. The land is degraded and the water is degraded through overuse, pollution and so on. And most important of all is climate change. We have got increasing temperatures, reduced rainfall in some places. That is affecting food production. And then every now and again an extreme event like the big drought that occurred in the United States this year or the big heat wave and drought in Russia in 2010 or the big flooding in Pakistan also in 2010. To cope with all of this food production has to double. We have got the same amount of land but we have got to increase yields. Increase yields on the same amount of land, using less water, applying less fertiliser, applying less pesticides and producing less greenhouse gases, methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide so that's the big challenge. The book is about that, how to tackle it – technology and different methods.

JH: How to balance the different technologies with more traditional farming methods also cost as well, which is the cost benefit ratio of what is the best way forward?

GC: We have basically got four kinds of technology, traditional ones, conventional technologies, intermediate ones, which are combined traditional and conventional technologies and then you platform technologies which consist of ICT and biotechnology, soft infrastructure, and nanotechnology. No one of those are any better than the other, it depends on what works in what circumstances, so you've got to look at the environment, social environment, the economic environment and the housing environment and see which one works. Don't be prejudice about what kind of environment you are going to start with. Definitely the way forward is a combination of technologies. Remember you have to judge each area individually. That's quite a challenge. The spatial scale must be considered to.

Let's for example take the example of increasing nutrition, for poor people in particular women and children. Then it is good to say have a garden round the home, where you grow lots of different crops, you have crops,



Sir Professor Gordon Conway

fish and chickens and so on. That will improve the nutrition. But if you are trying to increase the total amount of rice available in a country, particularly in Africa. Then you may need large irrigation schemes. They are planning one like that in Mozambique to produce high quantities of rice and there you would use very advanced technologies to make that work. So, in that case a family could purchase the rice and supplement it with food from home.

If the woman of the house has a couple of hectares she may be able to grow a crop to sell as well, she may be able to grow some sugarcane or bananas for income. What you have to keep on remembering is that poor farmers need cash, they need cash to get their kids into school, need cash

for medicines and they need cash for buying food. In many cases they don't produce enough food, so for small farmers they really have to find a way of earning money, either from selling things off their farm or from working as farm labourers or from getting some other kind of job in the local community.

JH: How interconnected have the food and financial markets become? Joachim von Braun outlined how to deal with these issues, for example introducing the grain reserves in Nigeria and Kenya. Do you think this is the way forward?

GC: I think we need more reserves. The world food programme needs bigger reserves but also individual coun-

tries need more reserves but I think the priority we have been pushing recently is that you need better regional trade. In other words, you need to be able to trade grain between Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and so on. A similar system to the interconnected European Union is required in Africa. There are many barriers to that, for instance political or infrastructural.

JH: Is the Fairtrade movement a way forward to increase food security? Is it feasible to increase the Fairtrade market, it is only a very small percentage of the market currently. What do you think?

GC: I think it is. I think it's interesting that Fairtrade is quite popular among consumers, at least in Britain. People

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FEATURES

feed the world?

Food security, how to balance new technologies, Fairtrade, the engineers, and his genetically modified bottomless cup of tea...

go for Fairtrade, they think they are benefiting poorer farmers. Poor farmers are getting more of the value added than they would otherwise and I think that is true. Fairtrade works differently in different countries and it is more successful in some places than in others but the important thing is that more of the benefit has to go to the farmer and the farming community.

I think in many cases there is a power imbalance. What you have to do, you have to help farmers form co-operatives, and contract farmer groups, so that they have got the power of being part of a co-operative and doing the deals with the big companies. Co-operatives for example have been developed in the Netherlands, for example all the milk in the Netherlands is produced by co-operatives. And those co-operatives are all quite strong. They can therefore bargain in terms of the money they need. We need to get more of that working for example in Africa. In fact there is a Dutch bank called Rabba Bank, which is a very excellent co-operative bank, built up of lots of little co-operative banks. They now work in Africa helping farmers

to create co-operatives, that's working quite well.

Farmers in strong co-operatives, with strong leaders to support can bargain and get the value they need and deserve.

JH: Professor Conway, you have written about how important the role of women is in Africa. Could you tell us a bit about this?

GC: Fundamentally we must realise that nearly half the farmers in Africa are women and they have enormous potential, not just as farmers but also as mothers because they determine what children eat, so they can improve their nutrition. They can also be innovators and educators too. Basically, women are farmers, mothers, educators and innovators.

More must be done to support women in these roles, a lot of it is about empowering women's group for example through WARM, which works in Eastern Africa. WARM is way of ensuring women have a stronger voice to affect policies. In many cases, the most important thing is when a programme

or project is designed whether it is by the government or NGOs or the private sector. You have to ensure there is a target for women's right from the beginning, in other words you don't just add it on at the end. In fact that is true of nearly everything we have been talking about here. You don't just say we will have a yield increase and then we'll make it stable. Or we'll have growth and then later on you think well we ought to do something about resilience. There must be growth plus resilience from the beginning. There must be yield plus stability of yield from the beginning. You've got to have and increase in production and increased value added from the bottom from the beginning. All of this plus empowerment of women must occur from the beginning. Don't treat women, or the environment or resilience as add-ons, which they often are. Oh my goodness, we've forgotten about women let's dump something in. You don't want to do that, we have to make sure it is there from the beginning.

JH: Are there are any schemes encouraging people to return and in-

vest in their home countries? Do we need more of a focus on this?

GC: Yes, there are schemes like this. At the Rockefeller foundation we had a programme on biotechnology in Asia and many went back. A lot of it was because in addition to supporting the individuals to do their training, you were supporting the institutions from which they came and when they went back there was money given to those institutions so they could continue to do their research.

JH: What do you think the role of students is in this? Have you heard of Raincatcher, where engineering students go to Tanzania every year to build rain harvesting systems?

GC: I think getting students to go and help and work in villages is excellent. It is excellent for them, for they learn a lot more. What is important, that every time you do something like this you think about the sustainability of what you are doing. In a sense, it is like the old parable; you can give people fish to eat and feed them for a day but teach a man to fish and you feed him for a

lifetime. It is very important that when student groups work in a developing country, that what they are doing is helping to put something into place that will continue long after they are gone. So, they work with the community; it is about learning together. It is very important to not assume that we go to a place and teach them what to do for most poor communities know very well what they should be doing. And if you talk with them, particularly if you use participatory rural appraisal PRA, through using such techniques the farmers themselves become very clear about what needs to be done. Then you consider what can be done to break down these barriers together and then you work it through. That is what the approach should be.

JH: A slightly silly question: what every day object would you genetically modify? Tim Arabzadah said he would create a bottomless cup of tea.

GC: I would create an email system that answered every email on my behalf without me having to look at it.

Roll up, roll up, for the Carbon Show

Antonia Weitzer

Writer

The annual 'Carbon show', that took place at London's Business Design Centre this October, is a chance for industry-types and Carbon aficionados to network, mingle and promote. However, what was advertised as 'the leading annual event on energy efficiency and the low carbon economy' presented a very dire image of the carbon economy. The Carbon Show shrunk to around 1/3 of its size from last year, to only having around twenty exhibitors (and last year's event was in itself still somewhat underwhelming, with many stallholders leaving dissatisfied). The exhibitors this year included consultants, certification companies and verifiers; although really it appeared to just focus on companies with the name Carbon in them: Carbon Clear, Carbon Credentials, The Carbon Trust, Carbon Advice Group. Presentations and Seminars ran throughout the day on energy efficiency, carbon investment and green

technologies. These represented companies and organisations ranging from Jaguar Land Rover to Kingfisher Plc, RBS and the Energy Saving Trust. Although informative and sometimes enjoyable, the entire show seemed marked from the very beginning by the sense of a lacklustre under-performance.

It seems that a lack of political certainty around climate change and the recession appears to have drastically impacted businesses. The Carbon Trust, one of the key sponsor's of the event, have lost most of their government funding and are now, it appears from the waves of redundancies, struggling to establish themselves in the private sector. A further stall, TÜV NORD, a German based validation, verification and certification company, mentioned how the uncertainty of post-Kyoto agreements were hurting their business, specifically their work of verifying Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanism projects under the EU emission trading scheme. It wasn't all bad news,



Apparently the person making the sign sent a newspaper headline about a company drawing up plans for a building rather than the centre name. AW SNAP

Eco-desk, an online platform for companies to promote the measures they have taken to be sustainable in their independent operations, appeared to be on the rise and enjoying the day's steady traffic.

Although I walked out of the event feeling depressed about my future career prospects, this smaller, more intimate carbon show was actually surprisingly quite appealing. As Ka-

ren Hayward from Carbon Leapfrog said "it is a lot smaller than last year but it lends itself to more meaningful conversations". Indeed, the importance to maintain the spaces whereby debate can flourish, and these significant global problems can be dialogically worked out cannot be over-emphasised. Perhaps what is needed is a re-orientation; a move away from businesses and move towards a mu-

tually beneficial environment that brings together businesses in a more academic-conference style setting. So, despite the year on year shrinking size of the event, I would recommend students to attend next years - that is if it is still running and you can avoid the steep prices.

To register: <http://www.thecarbonshow.com/register/>

thecarbonshow.com



Imperial Kitesurf: Zero2Hero

The beginners' weekend, as reported by **Leon Vanstone**

On the weekend of the 27th October, Imperial Kitesurf hit the Student Kitesurfing (SKA) Zero2Hero weekend to teach our beginners how to kitesurf.

But apparently some of you fools have been living in a cave, with your eyes closed and your fingers in your ears, because you don't know what kitesurfing is. The wiki has this to say: kitesurfing or kiteboarding is an adventure surface water sport that has been described as combining wakeboarding, windsurfing, surfing, paragliding, and gymnastics into one extreme sport. Essentially you harness yourself to a giant sail and bounce across the surface of the water doing crazy tricks.

Right, now that's finished, I can tell you guys about the sick weekend we had. The event was in Wales. Now some of you might not have been to Wales, but essentially it's like going back in time. Your phone gets no reception, GPS doesn't work and everything's cold. The sort of cold your grandfather boasts about. But I digress. So we arrived on the Friday evening to register and for a few chilled beers. After some socialising we hit the hay for an 8am start on Saturday.

Saturday comes and we eat our bacon sarnies and head for the beach at 9am. The parties already rocking and the Beach Party Live guys already have their custom fitted Land Rover Defender blasting out solid tune after solid tune from their hench sound system. A little bit of health and safety later (because concussion is all too easy in this sport) finds us down on



Apparently it wasn't a nude beach. No wonder people looked at me funny when I went there

the beach and cracking out the kites. The beginners immediately went off and started learning the basics of flying a kite.

For the pros it was time to hit the water. Crushingly the wind was off-cross. Given no one wants to be blown out to sea few went into the water that day. For the rest of us we had no resort but to kiteboard around the beach and play 'super sporty board sports and water sports sports day' in between. Volleyball and beers anyone? At one point the police showed up, but our party was so rocking they asked us to turn it up. But that's just kite life.

Later on that night saw some awesome party. The sound system from the Land Rover was now in the communal hall and the Halloween decorations were out. Given this event was cross uni, the ratios were excellent, and with the octobong (5 gallon, 8 way funnel) at hand to ensure drunkenness

everyone was getting friendly. There were heros. There were casualties. But that's just kite life.

The Sunday session started an hour later (thank fuck) and found us on the beach with little memory of the night before, massive hang overs and a jigsaw puzzle of photos. Given no one really seemed to know entirely what happened we decided it best to move on and the beginners got back to work mastering their kite work.

Thankfully the wind had switched on-cross and us pros got into the water. Nothing cures a hangover like jumping into the ocean. Especially when that jump is 3-5m into the air and back again, but that's just kite life. All in all an excellent weekend. You all missed out. UNACCEPTABLE. Be sure not to miss our next beginners weekend (23-25 November) check us out on Facebook for more details or email kitesurf@ic.ac.uk for details.



A typical British day. So bright and sunny



You don't get girls bruv. Kitesurfing gets girls



Yep, the octobong should be the focus. More importantly, why has that guy from the front just beamed in from the 60s?

Run Santa Run!

Rishi Mistry and KOP/RAG's army of Santas want you to join them

On Sunday 2nd December an army of Santa Clauses will be taking to the streets of London. They will be marching from East to West and they're not alone. Santas will be doing this all over other university cities too: Bristol, Nottingham, Cambridge, Bath, York, Oxford, Durham... and even New York!

Kenyan Orphan Project (KOP) and RAG have organised Santa-themed charity-runs (well, more of a light stroll) to raise money, increase awareness and most of all because it will be awesome. In London we'll be starting off near King's College (Waterloo campus) and making our way towards Imperial with stop-offs for a few antics and photo snaps at sights along the way... we'll even manage to squeeze in a few drinks. Entry is only £5 and it all goes to charity. KOP have also launched a competition, best photo from the Santa Dashes wins a free flight to Kenya for the Student Summer Programme!

We'd like to get as many people involved as we can (to raise as

much as possible and also because it'll make Imperial look better than the other London unis!). So start getting creative with those costume ideas! Santas, snowmen, a few reindeers to pull the sleigh? Anything will do. Whether you want to do a bit of sightseeing/have the opportunity to run around London in fancy dress/spread a little bit of Christmas around town or simply help raise some money for a worthwhile cause (delete as appropriate), then come along.

The Santas will be setting off at 1pm from King's College (Waterloo campus, exact location TBC via the Facebook event page). If you'd like get involved, email cag-kop@imperial.ac.uk or fill out the sign up form at the Facebook event <http://tinyurl.com/c9d3nzv>.

KOP runs a two week student summer programme in July to work on the projects which it supports in Kenya. Applications close 1st December, visit <http://www.kopafrika.org/student-programme> for more info.



Gospel go to Deloitte

Effie Menyah

ICGC

What do a university gospel choir and Deloitte, one of the four major professional services companies, have in common? Possibly more than you might think...

In October, six members of Imperial College Gospel Choir (ICGC) made their way to Deloitte HQ, located in the heart of the City, to perform at their annual Black History Month event, which brings together professionals from various companies to highlight pertinent issues, celebrate success and promote progression.

The city workers were urged to stand to their feet by ICGC music director, Glory Lai, to take part in a little 'praise and worship,' in stark contrast to their usual daily activities. The performance was well received, with professionals breaking from their corporate ways, singing and clapping along to the music. Despite being few in number, ICGC brought some colour to the monochrome of the square mile and as the final act of the evening, closed proceedings in

classic ICGC style. In return for our performance, we were offered free canapés and drinks, and being typical students, these were gratefully received. One corporate manager seemed particularly touched by the performance saying she was thankful that ICGC had brought some 'spirituality' into the City.

ICGC are well accustomed to performing at other Imperial society shows such as Afrogala and Mega Maalai, however this event was the first of its kind in ICGC history. It was an interesting and enjoyable experience, allowing ICGC to branch out beyond the South Kensington campus. Current ICGC President, Daniella Osaghae, said after the event, "I'm really proud of the positive feedback we received and we hope to do more events like this in the future".

Since ICGC made its debut at University Gospel Choir of the Year (UGCY) in 2011, and a subsequent appearance in 2012, there have been many exciting opportunities. ICGC graced the Wembley Arena stage with *Little Mix* and *Marcus* in front of 10,000 screaming fans on *The X*

Board Room meetings will never be the same again



Factor Final 2011, and more recently took part in a world record attempt in conjunction with UGCY, at Westfield Stratford. Since its humble beginnings seven years ago, ICGC has grown in strength, numbers and profile. However, ICGC wouldn't ex-

ist without its dedicated members, giving up their Monday evenings to rehearse and the Imperial College Gospel Band, who work tirelessly to bring everything together for our Easter and Christmas shows.

As it is coming up to that time of

year again, ICGC will be performing at their annual Christmas concert, *Good Tidings of Great Joy*, at Holy Trinity Church on Prince Consort Road on December 4th at 7pm. Tickets are available through the Union Website.

Life after the earthquake

Ryan Browne and six others help out in the Tohoku region in Japan

A multi-dimensional national disaster – an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear threat from a damaged power plant – that is the situation Japan found itself in on March 11th 2011. Since then, how have the affected areas been recovering? What is the situation like today, in both infrastructure and the lives of ordinary people living in the aftermath?

This September, seven Imperial College students (Ryan Browne, James Li, Emilien Dupont, Colin Say, Yingkun Hou, Dolan Miu and Faizi Freeman) travelled to Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture, Tohoku Region, on the Eastern coast of Japan to conduct a recovery support project. We aimed to impact the area on three separate levels – the community, public, and educational sectors. We wanted to find out the reality of life during and following a disaster of this scale.

On arrival in Rikuzentakata, we toured the city with a local guide. Our first impressions were of shock and horror – ruined buildings, half-stood as empty shells, only the foundations of houses remained to litter flat expanses of ground, and the roads were still being laid as we drove. The piles of debris that had been collected immediately after the disaster still remained, half-covered in grass. We were able to see the key symbol of hope for the region, the 'Miracle Pine Tree', a single pine tree on the coastline that had withstood the force of tsunami whilst 70,000 other trees around it perished. The City Hall lost a third of its employees to the tsunami, and currently operates from a temporary site. We visited Mr Toba and Mr Kubota, the Mayor and Vice-Mayor, to hear their experience of the disaster and to discuss the future of the city. The recovery will take decades, owing not just to the scale of the clear-up operation, but also to the slow process of government-



tal approval.

The following days, we visited primary schools to talk to the children there, as well as cleaning the school windows, and holding English activities for the children affected by the disaster. It was amazing to see the children so full of life and spirit despite their hardship. We worked at Hirota Harbour on the coastline for two days, helping the scallop fishermen there with cleaning activities. The scallop industry in Rikuzentakata used to be renowned, but following the disaster, their business had been severely affected, through loss of equipment, and also a fear in the people to eat scallops from the surrounding waters. We hoped that our visit may boost

the profile of the fishermen again, and our activities there were filmed by the NHK.

On our last day in Rikuzentakata, we travelled to temporary housing sites for people who had lost their homes, to set up an English style café. The people who live in these homes suffered not just the loss of their possessions and family members, but a complete upheaval of their community. The temporary housing took months to be built, and has cramped living conditions and poor insulation for the winter. We wanted to bring together the people who live there and offer them enjoyment outside of their daily routine.

Following our time in Rikuzen-

takata, we travelled to Tokyo to meet with representatives from professional organisations such as the Ministry of Defence, The Japanese Committee for UNICEF, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency; as well as student-led groups such as Tokyo University of Foreign Studies For Tohoku, Waseda University Volunteer Centre, and Youth For 3.11. The purpose of these discussions was to find out how they had separately dealt with the Earthquake, and to put forward ideas for how International volunteers can contribute to the recovery effort.

I believe our project was a life-changing experience for those involved, and we successfully fulfilled our aim of positively impacting the dif-

ferent social levels. In any case, I would certainly encourage anyone to travel to Tohoku region, away from the immediate coastline large cities like Sendai continue on relatively unscathed, there are countless areas of natural beauty such as Matsushima Bay, and the entire area can feel the benefit of tourism and international interest.

Our project was organised by Action for Japan UK, an organisation founded by UK graduate students following the disaster, and now co-run by Imperial College students. If you would like to get involved in Action for Japan UK's activities, please speak to any of those involved, email actionforjapanuk@gmail.com, or visit actionforjapan-uk.net for more information.



International Week 2012

Alexander McFarquhar OSC

Last week at Imperial saw the celebration of the College's first ever International Week with a great myriad of activities taking place. The Week was set up to promote the cultural diversity present at our university in the hope that all students and cultures are represented and encouraged to express themselves equally.

International Week saw students celebrate their cultural traditions whilst trying to raise funds for International Night, with students taking part in events including traditional dances, sharing food and playing sports – making the week a resounding success and laying the foundations well for International Night (Inight) next term (9 February 2012).

International Night is a celebration of cultural diversity within the College. With events based around topics varying from belly dancing to traditional oriental shows, aiming to promote multiculturalism within the College and encouraging the international community to come together and celebrate their countries traditions with any profits being passed to charity.

Below, we hear from 2 committee members and 2 societies describing some of the events during the week.

The Queen's Tower event

"This year we wanted to do something special to mark the International Week at Imperial and also something that would help us to raise the profile of the Overseas committee that represents all of the international societies at the college. We also hoped to raise funds for Inight that will take place on the 9th February 2013. What better way, we thought, than opening the Queen's Tower to visitors!! Going up to the top to enjoy the view and surprisingly, the good weather, did not disappoint! For those that missed out, the OSC hopes to open up the tower again in February.

A big thank you to all of the OSC Executive committee who made it possible together with the college itself!" – Wasim Khouri, OSC Chair.

Cyprus Hospitality Night

"As part of the first International Week at Imperial, the Imperial College Cypriot Society organized a special event for everyone at Imperial to get to know more about Cyprus, its hospitable people and also the amazing Cypriot cuisine, defined by a splendid mixture of Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern food. The event, named 'Cyprus Hospitality Night' was an excellent opportunity for people to taste the local starters of "pitta" bread with "taramosalata" (made from smoked cods roe), "houmous" and "lountza" (delicious smoked and marinated loin of pork). Of course, the famous Cypriot cheese, "halloumi", couldn't be missed from the event and it was actually served grilled which made it even tastier! Moreover, attendees had the chance to try some of the island's

finest traditional deserts such as 'Cyprus delights' or Cypriot "loukoumia", "soutzioukos" (made of grape must, nuts and flour) and the semolina variety of "halvas". The event turned out to be very successful and all the food and deserts were consumed very quickly, leaving everybody amazed by the Cypriot flavours! Finally, everyone left satisfied by the friendliness of Cypriot people and enjoyed the Cypriot hospitality." – Ioannis Kourouklides, Cypriot society. (See Food, page 44)

Hellenic Society traditional cuisine day

"The Hellenic Society gave Imperial College a small taste of its cuisine. On Thursday afternoon, the Society's stand in front of the Sheffield Building and the Queen's Tower Rooms offered a treat to anyone who passed by. Greek salad on-a-stick with tomato, cucumber and "feta", cheese pie snacks ("tyropitakia") and traditional "dolmadakia" were just a few of the delicacies freely offered by the Greeks of the College as part of the International Week. Of course, the menu contained traditional Greek dessert as well! So, after having some of the food provided, you could taste a nice little sweet called Greek "loukoumi" or the traditional Christmas sweets of "melomakarono" or "kourabies", both devoured en masse during the Christmas period!

The event lasted for two hours, during

the lunch break that is, and was enjoyed by a very large number of Imperial students as well as members of staff. The food was also accompanied by modern Greek popular music that resulted in a feast of Greek dancing!" – Michael Dinallexi, Hellenic society

The OSC World cup

"Saturday the 17th November saw the 4th Annual OSC World Cup tournament take place at Imperial College with over 100 players representing 16 countries, fighting it out to get their name on the famous OSC World cup and create a legacy at the College.

Imperial's largest international sports event is a chance for students from different cultures within the university to come together and play for their countries in what is many students' last chance to fulfill their dream of playing in a World Cup final. The day did not disappoint.

Exciting group stages and 1 round of knock out saw Spain, Iraq, Arab soc and Nigeria make the semi finals.

After two incredible, tight games in which any team could have prospered, Iraq and Arabic society won through to a final that was to see an exciting repeat meeting of the societies from game one of the tournament and a repeat of the final 4 years ago.

A fierce battle ensued seeing Arabic society dominate for periods but the strength of Iraq was just too much in the

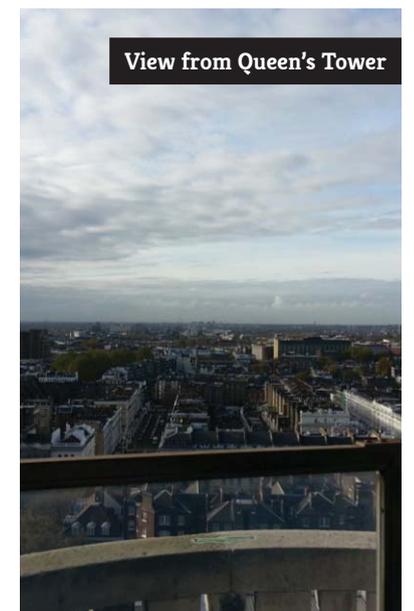
end and they fought through to lift the OSC world cup once again. Their prize sees them win £70 to enable them to fund future society events together with the much coveted OSC World Cup. The Iraqi flag will be flown at the university to represent their great feat in claiming the cup for the second time in its 4-year history.

Overall, the day was a resounding success and helps continue the hard work of the Overseas Societies Executive Committee and all of its committed members who strive to promote cultural diversity within the College. We continue to work for this cause and greatly thank all those, particularly Sport Imperial, who join us in this cause and without who's generosity the event could not have taken place.

A big congratulations to the Iraqi Society!! Mabrouk Iraq!!" – Alexander McFarquhar, OSC Sports Officer.

International Week was colourful, with flags of many countries flying around the College, and very successful allowing all student to come together to celebrate the activities that make their countries special.

For all of you who didn't get the chance to see or discover anything about a new culture during international week, fear not. Spanish society will add to their activities in International Week with Ice Skating at the Natural History Museum on Monday the 26th November starting at 6.30pm at the Union Bar. (Tickets:



View from Queen's Tower

£6.50 for members and £8.50 for non-members. All welcome!!!)

International Week was a true representation of the diversity at Imperial and its success shows the strength of our multicultural community within our college. The success will be followed by a second International Week in February building toward Inight which promises to be a truly fantastic explosion of cultural ideas, foods and traditions from all around the world right on your doorstep at Imperial. Roll on February!!

Surfing with the penguins

Luca De Benedetti SurfSoc

A warm sun bordered by a clean sky that covers you gently in its heat. Majestic palms, whose leaves softly wave in a light breeze, cast their shadows on white beaches touched by turquoise waters.

This is what you seek when you go surfing. This is not what you are going to find when you go surfing in the UK.

Instead you'll find freezing waters, greyed by overshadowing clouds that block any ray of sunshine. Heavy rain that hits you sideways, sharpened by the strong cold winds. Icebergs that float inexorably in the distance.

Okay, the Icebergs part isn't true. And it wasn't actually that bad. But it was with those premises that, Friday 3rd November, 45 people from SurfSoc left from the Union, heading down to Newquay, for the first surf trip of the season. Some of them had already experienced the harsh conditions of the Cornish coast, but most of them were beginners and had no idea what awaited them.

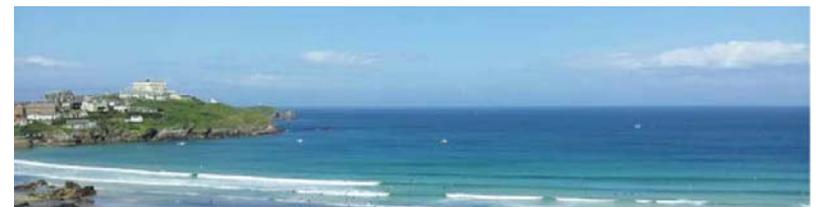
After a seven hour bus ride, a surf movie, jokes and stories about past trips, we finally arrived in the surf capital of the UK. Too late to go surfing, we dropped off our stuff in the rooms (nearly all of them were taken by us) and began the clubs' second favourite activity: drink-

ing. Forgetting momentarily about our 8am alarm set for the morning after, we invaded the hostel's bar.

Half sleepy, half hung-over, we were awoken by the sound of waves and the sour promise of a watery coffee. In the same bar from the night before, we ate our cereals and toast staring out of the big windows, looking at the bay below us. The cold, blue waters already hosted some intrepid surfers. The conditions looked better than expected from that altitude and we were not disappointed once in the sea.

With an average of four feet, and some sets almost head height, the waves, even if not perfect, were more than enough to have fun. The sun, breaking through the clouds from time to time, provided a more than welcome psychological comfort. It was only after two and a half hours, when hail the size of almonds replaced rain, that most people decided they had enough for the morning.

But the day was still long. After a quick lunch, the ones that still had some strength left in their bodies were in for another session. The most experienced surfers headed to Fistral Beach, hoping that its greater exposure to the swells from the Atlantic would result in bigger waves. Though the strong winds had transformed the unsheltered bay into a



giant open sky washing machine, their efforts were rewarded with larger waves.

Sunset at five put an end to surfing for the day. Once more, it was time to drink. After initiations for the new comers (the distasteful details of which we will not mention here), everyone put on their fancy dress, mandatory for each member. And so, once again we invaded the bar. A few costumes in particular stood out. A drunk Irish penguin (J. McGuckin), a onesy tiger suit (S. Gutierrez) and a bad Bruno impression (A. Harvey).

The morning after we awoke with headaches, heavy eyes and, in keeping with SurfSoc pranking tradition, one of the rooms covered with sand, from their bed sheets to the inside of their shoes. However there was no time for complaining. After packing the few things we had, we headed down for one last session.

Our suffering was rewarded and our hangover alleviated not only by bigger and more energetic waves, but also by

a massive rainbow whose ends touched the entrance of the bay, creating a gigantic gate in the middle of the sky.

But time flies when you have fun and three hours later it was already time to go back home. The bus fell silent after a few minutes, while people tried to find their lost sleep.

In the following days, the most common question from my non-surfer friends was: why? Why face waves that hit you like buckets of freezing water, cold winds that slap your face penetrating your bones, icy streams which flow between your skin and your oversized rented wetsuit? Why do you face all that for a few seconds ride? I have tried to explain that it's that few seconds ride, that moment in which all your problems, all your worries slide away and it's only you, the sea, the speed and the adrenaline, that makes it all worth it. And it makes you want more. But it's pointless. The only way to understand it is to experience it.



This week in politics it's a

Has Kyoto Really Been Successful?

Pavitar Devgon reviews the ageing treaty



Bonn Climate Summit delayed by Co-Chair [Second from Right] posing for every photo

IISD

It has been nearly 15 years since the governments gathered in a stuffy assembly hall on a December evening and decided to enact the Kyoto Protocol. It legally came into effect in 2005 and during this Green Week, we have decided to see if it has really made any difference.

According to the official Kyoto Protocol website: "The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions."

The main idea behind setting up the Protocol was that the UN Convention was not committing enough. Putting in legal obligations, requirements and fixed numerical targets aimed to encourage each of the 37 countries that signed up to visibly reducing their impact on the environment.

As well as meeting predetermined "allowed emission targets" to reduce emissions (which placed heavier burden on the "more developed" countries which historically polluted more), countries were also able to:

- Buy 'emission credits' from countries that were below their allowed pollution, or sell credits to countries that were over theirs.
- Install emission-reducing or emission-limiting projects (which would reduce targets by a certain amount of tonnes of CO₂.)

Since the targets have been

enforced, most industrialised countries aimed to cut their emissions by 5% of the measured 1990 levels, though every signatory set their own personal target. Britain, and the rest of the EU, set their targets at 8%.

Though off to a seemingly good start, with measured reductions close to 3% for industrialised countries, a BBC article from 2005 expressed doubt that the targets would be met: "The UN says industrialised countries are now well off target for the end of the decade and predicts emissions 10% above 1990 levels by 2010." A *Guardian* news article published in 2010, however, had mixed views. The European Environment Agency were quoted saying that a "large drop in emissions seen in 2008 and 2009 gives EU-15 a head start to reach its 8% reduction target". Another source, the Policy Exchange, measured emissions stemming from the consumption of goods and services to have increased by over 40%.

Measuring and regulating this data would not have been easy; there was a lot of reliance on each committing party generating an annual emissions report and the registry system set up in Germany was directed to "track and record transactions", meaning that parties could not go overboard trading credits and there would be an authority in place to control it.

Nevertheless, not everyone has taken kindly to the policy. Some key players have pulled out of the agreement, such as the US in 2001, with the then President George Bush

saying that making the required changes and implementing the strategies required would damage the US economy. Canada have also pulled out; with their estimated costs at \$13.6bn (£8.7bn), the government felt that this was unreasonable to pursue and was the result of "an incompetent Liberal government". The Russian government supported this decision and pulled out shortly after.

More recently, climate change has

If we taxed the consumption of Carbon Dioxide, would we still be nearing the 400ppm mark, regarded as the tipping point?

been a driving force in almost every economy, whether for or against. The Copenhagen Climate Conference in 2009 sought to bring countries together, on a larger scale than Kyoto, in order to address the issues and create an effective accord. However, it was ill fated and many governments, including China's, refused to ratify it, or simply walked out.

Other talks include the Bonn Climate Change Conference held in May of this year. Dubbed Kyoto 2, it had hopes of extending the targets initially penned in 1997, though it ended in similar disappointment, with a split occurring between the more actively involved parties (such as the group of Least Developed Countries and Alliance for Small Island States) while other governments were more sluggish and still resistant to change. New Zealand joined the list of countries refusing to sign, despite Australia and many others committing to stay on course.

What else is possible? Clearly these climate talks are not as effective as many hoped they could be so what else can we do? Perhaps one of the failures of the Kyoto Protocol was that it placed emphasis on reducing carbon production, without mentioning anything about carbon consumption. A recent *Guardian* article posed the question of carbon taxing, which would strike the problem at its root. Rather than paying for producing so much carbon dioxide, if we taxed the consumption of it, which includes importing carbon from external

sources, would we still be nearing the 400ppm mark (400 part per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere), which is regarded as the tipping point?

The main resistance to adopt any sort of climate change reduction project is primarily the cost. Whether governments or consumers, everyone tries to find the cheapest alternative. Therefore carbon pricing could be effective – raising the cost of producing carbon, so people feel that it is no longer the best option. However, this relies on governments accepting it and honestly, even taxing will not necessarily solve the problem.

Now that Kyoto has ended, it is time to once again time for the governments to get together and discuss the future. Despite all the failures, many highly developing countries including India, China and Brazil will push for an extension of the Protocol. India's Chief Climate Negotiator, R. R. Rashmi said in the *Wall Street Journal*: "If ways are not found to extend the Kyoto Protocol, there could be a period of eight years without any global climate pact in place, as a new agreement is due to come into effect only after 2020." The talks will be held in Doha, starting on 26th November 2012.

It seems we have made some progress, but while many governments still cannot commit to these talks, then is there really any point in having them? At least the countries that have realised the threat are taking it seriously and acting to prevent or mitigate future disasters, while the rest stand resolutely opposed.

Politics Editors: Padraic Calpin
Marie-Laure Hicks
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POLITICS

green policy special issue

The Green Party: today and tomorrow

Stir to Action

Adam Clancy

Writer

The Green Party has been a part of British politics since 1972 with the formation of PEOPLE and currently exists as 3 parties corresponding to the devolved partitions of England/Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 40 years in, and the Green Party is by far the largest environmental political party in the UK, and even gained its first MP, with Caroline Lucas winning Brighton Pavilion in the 2010 General Election.

With environmentalism being at the front and centre of modern politics, the last 10 years have represented a watershed era for the Greens. On one hand, there are significant votes available for green policy, which has long been their domain; on the other, the mainstream parties have leapt into the fray desperately trying to prove that they can hug trees harder than their Right Honourable opponents. This is probably best illustrated by the worst illustration in modern politics where someone with the artistic flair of a 5-year old (my guess is Boris Johnson) took a crayon and drew a "tree" as the new symbol of the oldest political party in the world.

Considering the Greens have recently been forced into a policy turf war with the heavyweights of parliament,

it is probably fair to say they have done better than many would have expected. By embracing any green policy proposed by any side (admittedly often alongside the caveat that such a policy is a step in the right direction, but does not go far enough), they have been happy to encourage talk and put policy over politics, resisting the urge to ascend a lofty stallion. This strategy obviously ran the risk of rendering their party obsolete if the opposition truly embraced measures to save the environment, so it is commendable that the Greens didn't roll their eyes and claim that they were still the only true environmentalists.

Ms Lucas' step up to the Commons represents a monumental step for an environmental party in the UK, and was as every bit as "historic" as she claimed at the time. She has been a very active member, voting in an above-par three quarters of available votes during her time in the commons. Additionally she has made an impressive 70 speeches during already this year and proposed 71 motions.

However, for all this, it is fair to say the Greens have not stamped their authority on British politics. They have made strides, recently even, but they have failed to make much of an impact

A good case study for the UK Greens on how to be environmental and still successful is Die Grünen of Germany



who have been a force since the early 80s in West Germany.

Firstly, Die Grünen's rise to prominence was driven by an iconic and popular figurehead. Joschka Fischer resonated with the people through a forthright and honest approach to politics cutting through the PR speak prevalent in modern politics (politely describing the Vice President an a**hole to his face and outright calling the Americans liars when presented with "evidence" of WMDs in Iraq). Taking his inauguration in trainers is still an infamous and amusing moment that most Germans will recall. Caroline Lucas may have risen to the status of household name in the last three years, but she has not had the reformed rebel charisma of Fischer. Without such an icon a la Fischer/Blair/Thatcher (hell, even a Johnson or a Farage would do) then the Greens are unlikely to be listened to in today's politics.

Secondly and arguably more importantly, Die Grünen's base is split broadly into two camps, the ideological environmentalist (the fundis) and the model politicians who are willing to play the game of the Bundestag to pass legislation (the realos). They attribute their success to this inherent schism within the party. The fundis as a party unto themselves would never have the political nous to have an impact on legislation, whilst a party consisting of purely realos would inevitably meander away from their principles. Together they form a party with both a concept driven supporter-base and the means to enact change.

In comparison, the Greens are currently fundi-only. Speaking as a scientist, my first thought when turning my mind to the actions of the Green party in recent years is that of Jenny Jones threatening to go and destroy mil-

lions of pounds of perfectly safe GM research crops. The plants in question had virtually no chance to contaminate the environment, and simply enhanced a naturally produced chemical to ward off pests, saving farmers from flooding their land with truly damaging pesticides. This was vocal fundi environmentalist's wailing against the true environmentalists of this scenario – the scientists.

For the record, the people who claim all Greens are science hating luddites are liars. However, the majority of the Greens are people who take a different view of environmentalists to the overwhelmingly environmentalist scientific community, particularly with regards to genetics and animal testing. This does not make either side right, but it does make their opinions skewed and unrelatable to a large block of potential voters. Unfortunately this is a symptom, not the problem. The prob-

lem for the Greens is much bigger.

The Greens will never get into power. Sorry, but it's true. They are not Labour, they are not Tories but they are competing in a first-past-the-post system. The Greens will never have enough seats to make a difference in our electoral system so the realos who want to actually make a difference don't join the Greens, but (usually) join Labour. This leaves a now even less electable fundi-dominated Green party who become less appealing to the voting masses.

What they needed was someone to stand up and fight for an undeniably superior system (the one from Germany would be nice). What they didn't need was someone to try to get PR, only to fail in such a spectacularly pathetic manner. So for anyone who cares about environmental politics and bemoans the lack of a viable party to represent these views, remember – blame Nick Clegg

UK's Green Success

The UK's current stance on Green policy is mixed at best: despite Coalition pledges to be the 'Greenest Government Ever', Cameron and Clegg have come under repeated fire, whether over the planned 'Dash for Gas', or the Tory energy minister insisting on challenging the coalition policy on onshore Wind Farms. And yet, there's been a spate of positive news too.

Kyoto Targets Met

In a surprising story, the *Guardian* reported at the end of last month that last year, the UK actually made the biggest cuts in emissions of any EU nation, well exceeding its Kyoto target for the year. Emissions fell 6%, driven by mild weather, a sluggish economy and a small increase in renewables generation.

The EU as a whole is also exceeding its Kyoto target, despite individual nations such as Spain and Italy failing to meet their personal cuts. Despite the lack of a global deal at the 2009 Copenhagen summit, the EU is also on track to meet its target cut of 20% by 2020 agreed three years ago.

Greenest Games Ever

The first report into the sustainability efforts of LOCOG and the 2012 Olympic Games found that the Games are on course to meet their sustainability targets, making them the "Greenest Ever". As well as sending no waste to landfill and reusing, recycling or composting 70% of all waste, 20% reductions in carbon emissions are also on track. The report says that with better planning, even greater reductions could have been made, but praised the efforts of the UK.

Padraic Calpin Politics Editor

Eco-Terrorism

Classed as the number one domestic threat in the US since 2001, eco-terrorism is estimated to have cost \$300million between 2003 and 2008. Organisations like EarthFirst!, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), the Animal Liberation Front, GreenPeace and PETA have been accused of radical environmentalism and actions. Tree spiking, arson and even bombing are methods used by environmentalist groups to express their point. Radical environmentalists are often associated to anti-capitalism and a general belief that capitalism and the patriarchal society are responsible for damaging and destroying nature.

One of the most well known radical eco-groups is ELF. Founded in 1992 in Brighton, the movement rapidly spread to the rest of the world. ELF have run an "eco-guerrilla" in America, destroying US Forest Industries' headquarters and setting fire to ski resorts and houses. The movement was the centre of Operation Backfire, started in 2004 by the FBI to stop extreme environmentalist action. ELF hasn't claimed attacks since 2006.

Eco-terrorism is also perceived as a threat in the UK. Environmental activists are often under surveillance, even though no real plan has been uncovered to date.

Marie Laure-Hicks Politics Editor

Green policy special

Pipeline Plans in North America

Joseph Spiking asks: In the land of oil and climate change sceptics, does environmentally friendly policy stand a chance?

Barack Obama, the newly elected President of the United States, was widely believed to be the 'Green Candidate' in the American elections. However, in a country where one of the two main political parties adopts the slogan of "drill baby drill" in its environmental policy, one can hardly be forgiven for meeting Obama's green policies with an air of scepticism.

However Obama does have a record of action. In 2009, Obama passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, that lead to more than \$80 billion in green energy investments, alongside with cutting \$4 billion in annual tax breaks for oil companies in his last administration. In 2011, at the State of the Union Address, Obama called for 80% of America's electricity to be provided by green means by 2035. Also, a strong Democrat stance on the environmental issues makes sense: in a recent survey, 70% of the so

called independent voters classified themselves as environmentalists.

Therefore, what can we expect to see from Obama's Administration in his second term? Well:

- Renewal of the tax credit scheme for utility scale wind producers, and has pledged to support to aid loan guarantees and grants for green energy companies.
- Has gained support from major motor-vehicle manufacturers to double fuel economy for light trucks and cars by 2025.

• Obama has pledged to uphold the power of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate greenhouse emissions. Obama has also publicly supported the EPA's stance on limiting emissions from old coal fired power plants.

However, perhaps the biggest challenge Obama shall face regarding his green ambitions shall come with the Keystone Pipeline System (KPS). The KPS, in its current guise, is a transport system used to transport



usnews.com

crude oil from Alberta, Canada to multiple destinations in the USA – ranging from Oklahoma, the Gulf Coast of Texas and Illinois. In 2008, an extension to the existing pipeline was proposed, dividing the American political spectrum. Mitt Romney promised to give the project the green flag on his first day in the White House if he got elected, whereas Obama took a more considered approach. Obama was not alone – opposition to its

expansion was heard from various bodies, most notably the EPA.

The EPA argued that the pipeline could risk the natural habitat of migratory birds and other wildlife, alongside considerable concerns over the pipeline crossing active seismic zones that would greatly increase the chances of a potential oil spillage – which in turn could not only destroy the natural habitat and wildlife, but also destroy the local drinking water and the entire

mid western economy. However, as predicted, the Keystone XL pipeline has received great support from the Republicans, the Republican controlled Senate forcing Obama's hand multiple times over a final decision on the pipeline's future. Obama has managed to delay the date of final approval regarding the pipeline to the first half of 2013 – and it is this date that is likely to prove diagnostic of Obama's green policy for the next four years.

Iskander Malaysia – as green as they say?

Fiona Hartley

Writer

You don't have to be an urban planner or an environmentalist to recognise that continued urbanisation alongside green living is the future of the planet. I'm certainly not. So we might as well do it right by considering the environmental implications of new urban development projects, and any scheme that does this will get at least one big green tick in my book.

Iskander Malaysia is one such undertaking in Johor Bahru, Malaysia's second biggest city, which lies across the sea from Singapore and is connected to its illustrious neighbour by a causeway. Location-wise it is ideal for Singapore's workers, many of whom live in Johor and commute to Singapore to work.

The Iskander project is an 850 square mile economic zone the size of Luxembourg and three times the size of Singapore set to host a population of 3 million by 2025. Traditional rivals, Malaysia and Singapore, have teamed up with regards to this development, which should benefit both in the long-run. Malaysia gets a chance to boost lacklustre economic growth and Singapore will be in a better position to maintain its competitive edge, which is threatened by increasing living costs.

Iskander has been touted as an eco-friendly city by the Guardian recently. Indeed, one of its main aims is to be "a strong sustainable metropolis of international standing". The plan is that this will be achieved by utilising renewable energy sources, practising energy-efficient building,

implementing a green transportation policy, water conservation, biodiversity preservation, and waste reuse, among other aspects. The website explicitly heralds Iskander Malaysia as "a Land of Nature, Parks and Gardens."

Well, this sounds great. But as I scoured the internet for more information, I found that current articles relating to Iskander are about foreign investment. It seems the project is mostly focused on money. Realistically that's no surprise. But does this indicate that all of the ecological talk is just greenwash? Cynically we have to consider this possibility, especially as upon delving into the website's FAQ section I found that environmental sustainability is not one of the main sector areas being targeted by the development.

On the one hand, an urban development three times bigger than Singapore but with only half the population doesn't look to be a particularly efficient use of space. But perhaps the city itself will be dense, and the remaining area dedicated to biodiversity preservation or food production. The idea of redeveloping an already-urbanised area rather than destroying unpopulated landscape, as has been the situation before, is certainly preferable. Yet one protest group has already accused the development of polluting waterways.

Inspection of Iskander's transportation policies looks promising: with aims to not only encourage use of public transport or bicycles, but to try and limit the adverse environmental effects of motor transport by improving fuel

technology, enhancing fuel economy, car-sharing schemes, and developing alternatives to petroleum fuels. However, I very much doubt it will be that easy to change the minds – and habits – of commuters. Since Johor is the primary link between Singapore and Malaysia, it's also difficult to imagine how pollution can be reduced when even more vehicles will use the connecting causeway every day.

It's probably (hopefully) too early to tell whether Iskander will fulfil its promises. I don't want to be a cynic, even though previous eco-city plans have struggled. I'd prefer to believe that Iskander Malaysia will walk the walk as well as talking the talk. Then (but only then) will it serve as the model "green megacity" its developers have envisaged.

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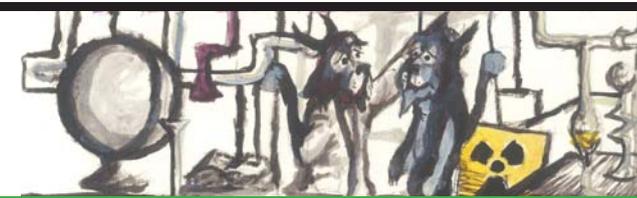
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Passion to Perform





Tackling Cystic Fibrosis

Ned Yoxall talks to **Dr Jane Davies** on new advances in CF treatment

In June this year, the Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapy Consortium started a groundbreaking new trial looking at the effects of regularly dosing sufferers with gene therapy. Ned Yoxall speaks to Dr Jane Davies, the clinical lead investigator in London, to find out more.

Ned Yoxall: Thanks so much for agreeing to meet! Could you tell me a little about your background – how did you end up in cystic fibrosis (CF) research?

Dr Jane Davies: It's a bit of a random story! I went to medical school in Dundee before coming to London where I did a series of paediatric clinical jobs with a particular interest in infectious diseases. Before long I found myself at the Royal Brompton doing a respiratory and cardiac job, and this is where I had my first contact with CF patients. The CF lung is full of infection, so I ended up doing an M.D. looking at how bacteria stick onto the epithelial cells. After a spell at Great Ormond Street, I came back to this job – a combination of a clinical consultant and an academic – where I've been for the last 12 years.

CF is physically exhausting; psychologically it's completely relentless

NY: Could you give me a brief dummy's overview of what CF does to the body?

JD: CF is a genetically inherited disease, so if a patient has two copies of the abnormal gene then the cells lining the organs of their body don't handle salt well. The mishandling of the salt leads to dehydration of the surface secretions – particularly in the lungs – so they become dry and sticky. They then act as a very attractive place for bugs and viruses entering the body. This triggers an inflammatory response, but the infection is

never properly cleared, so you enter a vicious cycle of chronic infection and inflammation which leads to tissue damage and other difficulties.

NY: So what's it like to live with CF?

JD: Well I don't know that first hand, so no matter how well I know my patients I can never pretend to know exactly how they feel. It is certainly very difficult both practically and psychologically though. Practically, a huge amount has to be done every day to manage the disease – up to an hour a day of physiotherapy to clear mucous from the lungs, as well as nebuliser treatments and between ten and twenty different pills to be taken. That's when things are going well, and almost all patients go through episodes where they need to be in hospital for several weeks at a time. Psychologically, it's completely relentless and it's something that you know will be with you for the rest of your life and you know that your life will be considerably shortened – life expectancy is in the late thirties at the moment.

NY: What is the Gene Therapy Consortium, and what's it trying to do?

JD: It's an amalgamation of three individual groups – Imperial, Oxford and Edinburgh – which had previously been working in competition, but were brought together by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust to work in collaboration. The aim was to bring a step change in gene therapy trials where success would be measured by how patients actually felt or performed after treatment rather than by molecular markers in the lab.

NY: Has gene therapy been attempted in the past?



CF necessitates the frequent use of breathing mask nebulisers

JD: Yes – for lots of different diseases. It's been really successful at treating some cancers and immunodeficiency disorders, but gene therapy trials for CF have never been big enough or long enough to look for clinical benefits before now.

NY: What makes it so difficult to achieve?

JD: Lots of gene therapy approaches use a virus to carry the experimental gene into the cells. Viruses can be quite good at this and for some diseases it works really well as one viral "hit" can be a treatment for life. The problem with cystic fibrosis is that you need to treat the lungs, which constantly renew themselves, so you can't easily target a stem cell – you need to give the treatment repeatedly, and unfortunately the viruses are targeted by the body's immune system. So although you can get excellent gene transfer the first time, by the third or fourth time, with most viruses at least, it drops to nothing.



Clear, healthy lungs, left; cloudy, mucus-laden cystic fibrosis lungs, right.

NY: What's different about your approach now?

JD: We're not using viruses to carry genes into the cells. Instead we're using synthetic vectors based on liposomes which fuse with the fatty cell wall and allow the new DNA to get into the nucleus. This process is almost certainly less efficient than using viruses, but you can do it repeatedly.

NY: What's the best case scenario after this trial?

JD: The best case scenario would be a highly significant increase in the lung function of those having undergone gene therapy. This would be the first

Our approach uses synthetic liposome-based vectors to deliver DNA

evidence that the approach works with CF and it would then be taken forward with a collaborating pharmaceutical partner to develop a treatment.

NY: And the worst?

JD: That it doesn't work at all. While this would be disappointing, we do have a second wave using a different

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approach, which in fact is a very unusual virus that can be given repeatedly. A negative trial certainly wouldn't mean the end of gene therapy for CF.

NY: What does the trial mean for people with CF?

JD: Well I'm very careful not to use the word cure. Even if it is successful, it will still need to be given repeatedly and will only treat the lungs, not the

... it's less effective than using viruses, but can be used repeatedly.

other organs which are affected. It could, however, be a major move forward and so there is a lot of optimism about it.

Ned completed Ironman Wales back in September to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. You can sponsor him online by visiting www.justgiving.com/NedsIronman or by text through JustTextGiving by sending 'IRON66 £(amount you'd like to give)' to 70070. Anything you can spare is hugely appreciated!

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SCIENCE

Sex? Completely Overrated

Charlie Hayward discusses why one class of creature shuns sex

blogs.discovermagazine.com

As much as you may think the contrary, and that this advice is hardly required for the average Imperial student, avoiding sex is really quite difficult. That is, for a species to survive, its genome must be kept up-to-date through the 'shuffling' effects of recombination and sexual reproduction. Without it, evolution simply can't happen quickly enough in the fight against threats such as parasites.

Enter the bdelloid rotifers – truly inspiring creatures, am I right? Well, okay, but most biologists at least hold some respect these tiny little freshwater organisms. Take a sample of water from a pond or some damp soil, look at it under a microscope and you'll probably find a few roaming about, using their ciliated mouthparts to scoop up bits of algae and other protists. They are particularly special, as not only can they survive radiation and other unwelcome environments by entering a form of indefinite dormancy, but they just don't have sex.

Sure, we know of other organisms that reproduce asexually (essentially making clones of yourself) such as aphids, but most of these have sex at least some of the time. Of those who don't, they have diverged fairly recent-

ly from their sexual ancestors, and so are likely to die out relatively soon. On the other hand, the all-female bdelloid rotifers don't seem to have reproduced sexually for around 80 million years.

They take DNA from their food and incorporate it into their genome

This is a dry spell that deserves some serious attention.

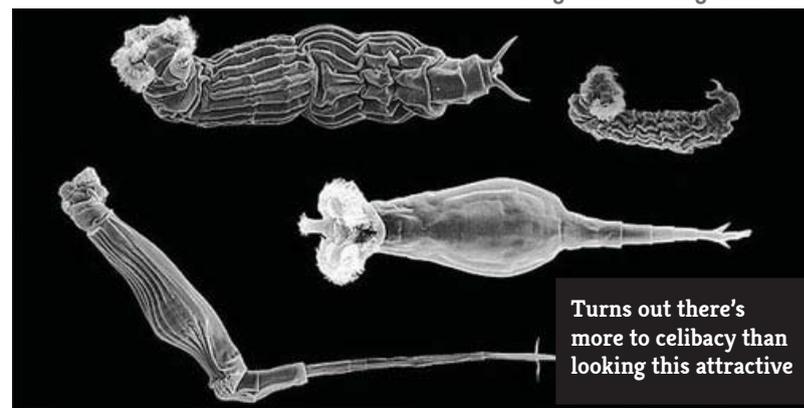
It had already been known that these guys (well, girls) have a very clever way of repairing their DNA, which allows them not to be bothered by ionising radiation and means that they can

repair any damage after coming out of dormancy. It was thought that this system could possibly be maintaining the genetic variation required. While this could still help, researchers at Imperial and Cambridge have discovered there is in fact a more understandable way of getting over millennia without a significant other.

Food. Eating a tub of ice cream is certainly one way of consoling yourself, but the bdelloidea do something rather special with their meals. They assimilate them. More specifically, they take the DNA from their food and incorporate it into their own genome. Which, by the way, is extremely cool.

Some nifty bioinformatics and analysis have shown that the proportion of the bdelloid's genes that have come from other organisms (known as horizontal gene transfer) is around 9%. This is astoundingly high compared to other multi-cellular organisms such as the biologists favourite fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster* – around 0.6%) or nematode (*Caenorhabditis elegans* – around 1.8%). What's more is that these genes appear to have come from the fungi, algae, protists and bacteria that make up the average bdelloid rotifer diet.

These genes aren't just there by ac-



Turns out there's more to celibacy than looking this attractive

An 80-million-year dry spell

cident either; they have a strong effect in increasing the biochemical diversity of these creatures. Some of them code for some really important metabolic enzymes involved in processes such as glycolysis and carbon fixation, as well as toxin degradation and antioxidant generation. Some of genes encode for processes that aren't else-

where found in the animal kingdom, and now we know why. Stealing a link in the metabolic pathway of the fungi you are eating can certainly give you a novel advantage!

So, whenever you're feeling lonely and the chocolate bar wrappers are mounting up, think of the humble yet awesome bdelloid rotifer. Unless you're a member of the Borg, assimilation is sadly out of your reach. Of course, if you do manage to spawn life at some point and keep the gene pool nicely varied then you have no need to worry. If not, then you probably know what a Borg is.

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A Brief History of Time Pigs

Nick Kennedy

Writer

Ninety-seven million years ago pigs and humans were one of the same. Well, sort of. There wasn't exactly a four-trottered, bristly-nosed *Homo*-something snuffling through the Cretaceous. But we did share a common ancestor, a small generic mammal prototype, whatever that might be.

Actually it probably looked like an extinct creature called *Juramaia sinensis*, the oldest known eutherian (non-marsupial) species. Pop a withered, earless Dachshund head onto an obese rat, and that might paint a very vague picture. Anyway, this is about pigs.

As eutherian mammals we reached a fork in the road: humans and rodents went one way; cows, horses, dogs, and pigs the other.

Recent analyses of the genome of domestic and wild pigs, under the auspices of the Swine Genome Sequencing Consortium, have shed new

light on pig evolution.

The scientists compared the genomes of ten wild boar and six domestic pigs from different areas across Europe and Asia.

Their findings, published in *Nature*, confirm the fact that boars (and all pigs) emerged from South East Asia and subsequently spread across Eurasia.

About one million years ago colder climates during the Calambrian glacial intervals isolated the two populations. A deep chasm formed between European and Asian boars.

Then – to leap forward 80,000 years – during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) about 20,000 years ago vast swathes of boar died. But a small proportion survived. They suffered a population bottleneck on both sides of the split. However, this drop in population was more pronounced in Europe than in Asia where the LGM had less impact. For this reason the researchers found that European boar had less genetic diversity than



Must resist urge to make a terribly clichéd joke about pigs and bacon...

Asian boar. With fewer genotypes in circulation the difference between Asian and European pigs was driven further.

Enter humans and domestication. About 10,000 years ago pigs and hu-

mans embarked on an intimate and complex relationship. Hmm. This lead to even greater selective pressures that shaped the genome of domestic pigs. In Europe the result was *Sus scrofa domesticus*, the pork-chop-

and-bacon variety. Incidentally, there are about one billion domestic pigs alive today, which makes *S. s. domesticus* one of the most numerous large mammals on the planet.

By 1868 the populations were so different that Darwin proposed they originated from two distinct boar species. But this study shows that both Asian and European pigs arose from the Eurasian wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). This analysis tells us that pigs were domesticated independently across Europe and Asia. It also reinforces the historical observation that Asian pigs were introduced into Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries to bolster European herds.

The researchers go on to describe the pig's enormous repertoire of olfactory genes. Smelling is vital to their scavenging lifestyle. So have a bit of sympathy when you next pass a pig farm – their eyes are watering more than yours.

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TELEVISION

“Shamazeballs?”

Lucia Podhorska thinks it was more of a shambles

With it being ‘Guilty Pleasures’ week on *The X-Factor*, I thought it oddly fitting to finally share my thoughts on the current season of one of the world’s most famous ‘talent’ shows.

The X-Factor was created by Simon Cowell and began its run on ITV back in 2004. The show has five stages: after initial Producers’ auditions that take place months before the broadcast shows, acts perform in front of four judges, as well as a live audience. In order to advance to the next round, called Bootcamp, the singers must receive at least 3 ‘yes’ votes from the judges. During Bootcamp, the number of contestants is narrowed down to the judges’ Top 24. These hopefuls are split into four categories – Boys, Girls, Groups and The Over 28s – with each judge being chosen to mentor one category. At the Judges’ Houses stage, each judge eliminates a further three acts. There are therefore 12 acts that perform in the Live Shows. This season finds **Gary Barlow** (leading man from *Take That*) mentoring The Over 28s, **Nicole Scherzinger** (need I tell you who she is?) mentoring the Boys, **Tulisa Contostavlos** (member of *N-Dubz*) mentoring the Girls and Louis Walsh (manager of *Boyzone* and *Westlife*) mentoring Groups.

Right, with all that out of the way, let’s discuss what is expected of the 12 finalists in the Live Shows. It’s very simple, really: each act sings one song, with each week having a different theme, ranging from Love and Heartbreak to Best of British. After each performance, the judges are meant to give their opinion on the act, potentially even be useful and give them some advice on how to improve. Unfortunately, this part of the show very often deteriorates into heated arguments between judges, with attitude and insults flying around like frisbees, and no real constructive criticism being offered. At the end of the show, all of the contestants sing together and then it’s over to the people at home to send in their votes. The results are revealed on Sunday night, at which point the two acts with the least votes sing for their survival. The judges must choose who to send home and in the case of a tie, it’s the number of audience votes that determines the singers’ fate.

I missed the auditions this season and only really tuned in once the acts made it through to Bootcamp.



The audience obviously didn’t ‘Believe’ in Ella

I picked my personal favourites quickly and was hesitantly optimistic about the quality of the acts that would compete in the finals, as it seemed that the judges were finally picking real singers, not just pretty faces. Here is a breakdown of the contestants still in the running:

The Boys

It was touch and go for Jahmene Douglas in the beginning. There is no denying this boy has singing talent in spades, I would even venture to say he has the best vocal range I have heard from a male contestant on the show, but his nerves almost prevented him from competing. He has thankfully overcome these pre-show jitters and continues to wow me every week.

James Arthur isn’t a favourite of mine, but I can see his appeal. He has a distinct and unique style and there is so much raw emotion in some of his performances that it came as a shock to find him in the bottom two this week – but more on that later.

I honestly thought that Rylan’s presence in Nicole’s house was a joke... apparently not, as he’s still around acting like the world’s biggest diva and not adding much to the show apart from flashing lights and club tunes.

The Girls

Well, technically, as this goes to print, there are no longer any acts competing from this category. That being said, I will still talk about them, because two of the girls have been my favourites throughout.

Let’s start with Lucy Spraggan. She auditioned with an original song entitled “Last Night”, which was amusing but it wasn’t until she sang another original song – “Tea and Toast” – during Bootcamp that I became a real fan. Was she the best singer on the show? No, but she has real talent when it comes to writing lyrics and I hope her short stint on *X-Factor* was enough to open some doors for her. I still can’t listen to “Tea and Toast” without tearing up...

This week’s elimination of Ella Henderson has left me reeling. She’s only 16 years old but, together with Jahmene Douglas, she had the best voice this season. Her rendition of Cher’s “Believe” is nothing short of genius and if you don’t believe me, I urge you to watch the video on You-

Tube and find new meaning in the song. She has been likened to **Adele** and described as the best singer on the show since **Leona Lewis**. She was a true class act, one that didn’t need any gimmicks to make her performances special and memorable.

The Groups

To be honest, I don’t much care for this category, so this part will be short. There’s only one act left anyway – boy group Union J. As much as it pains me to say it, they’re not bad, but do we really need another band like **The Wanted** and **One Direction**? How about rewarding originality for a change?

The Over 28s

Did you know that there has only

been one winner from this category and that was all the way back in 2004? Why is that? This year’s contestants have been good but apart from Christopher Maloney, they’ve all been voted off and I have a feeling Christopher won’t last much longer. It’s not that he can’t sing, but he’s quite cheesy and there has been a lot of controversy surrounding him.

This Week

As you may have gathered, James Arthur and Ella Henderson were in the bottom two. I wish I could be mad at the judges for not unanimously saving Ella, but in this situation it was really tight as Ella’s performance from the Live Show was in my opinion better, but James was absolutely amazing as he sung for survival. Either way, neither of them should have been in the bottom two in the first place and this is what frustrates me about shows like this. This is meant to be a SINGING competition so I wish the audience would just vote for the acts with the best ABILITY TO SING, and not the guy who needs 20 scantily clad dancers on stage to distract from the fact that he can’t do much more than grind along to the music. Am I the only one who thinks this? Maybe not, as *X-Factor* managed to lose yet again to *Strictly Come Dancing* in the viewers’ ratings last week.

It is my strong belief that the world needs more singers like Adele, Leona Lewis and Robbie Williams (before his stint in rehab) who can not only sing, but whose songs resonate with an audience that is not solely composed of teenage girls, because ultimately, those are the singers that will be remembered.

My Top 5 Episodes of the Week

Nathalie Skrzypek Writer

1. *2 Broke Girls*, Season 2 Episode 7, “And the Three Boys with Wood”

2. *The Big Bang Theory*, Season 6 Episode 8, “The 43 Peculiarity”

3. *The Good Wife*, Season 4 Episode 8, “Here Comes the Judge”

4. *Two and a Half Men*, Season 10 Episode 8, “Something My Gynecologist Said”

5. *New Girl*, Season 2 Episode 8, “Parents”

COMMENT

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Are you facing charges?

The state of current libel laws is ludicrous; they must adapt to the digital age, says **George Butcher**



George Butcher

This week the biggest libel case in legal history was launched – thousands of people are potentially facing legal action and most of them are ‘normal people’. Why? Because anyone who tweeted or re-tweeted Lord McAlpine’s name in relation to child abuse allegations is going to get a letter from his lawyers, and it doesn’t matter if you deleted it later.

Twitter is now considered by the courts to be equivalent to a printed publication. If I wrote defamatory remarks about someone there, say the Rector, which I couldn’t back up, both myself and the editor would potentially be facing a civil law suit. Libel laws are designed to prevent reputations from being destroyed by lies and to protect all of us. Now, though, this means that anything I tweet also follows the same rules. How did this happen?

Eight months ago was the first libel case involving Twitter. Cricketer Chris Cairns was awarded £90,000 plus £400,000 legal expenses from Lalit Modi, the deposed IPL commissioner, who had tweeted he had



been barred due to “his past record in match-fixing”. This allegation was seen by an immense crowd of followers (69 to be precise) and almost went viral with nearly 1100 people see-

ing it re-tweeted. That’s £81 a head. Cairns’ lawyers did what they would if Lalit Modi had printed his opinions in a paper and the judge agreed with them saying that, “nowadays the poi-

son spreads more rapidly”.

We now have an insane situation. It is a ridiculous one and it is a result of a legal decision made by a judge with no mandate to do so. Fixing libel law for the digital world is the job of parliament. Mr Justice Bean has independently made one of the most consequential legal decisions of recent years. Twitter is not a publication: Twitter is fleeting and informal. A tweet is closer to a text message or a chat with friends, not a written declaration of one’s position. You can’t sue me if I tell my friends I think a Tory peer abused children. You can’t sue me if I text them, or even if I discuss it in public. You can’t legislate against gossip because frankly that’s inhuman. Twitter is full of satire, opinions and attention seekers. It is the ultimate in human expression, not an official belief.

If you did tweet it, don’t worry. The Telegraph says that his lawyers expect to ask for nominal payment of £5 and for the proceeds will go to charity, but this misses the point. Ten thousand users are facing legal action for gossiping, most often with friends. This is wrong.

It takes two to tango

Feminism needs to engage with men if it is to achieve its goals, argues **Jula Humphries**



Jula Humphries

The word feminism itself does not include men into the equation. Yet, men should be just as active as women in the movement towards gender equality. This should be the accepted norm, which it appears to be at university, as proven by the high percentage of guys involved in the Feminist society. Certain aspects of feminism should perhaps be solely dominated by women; but the majority of it must equally involve men in addressing gender inequalities. If society is to act, think and behave differently it will only occur through both sexes bringing about change. We women cannot make change alone for it al-

ways takes two to tango.

A man who supports a woman must be heralded by society as occurs vice versa. House husbands and stay at home dads must be lauded equally as their female equivalents. Our laws should reflect these sentiments, terms such as maternity and paternity leave should not exist. It should be parental leave, where the couple decides who takes time off and potential percentages. Let us scrap matriarchies and patriarchies, we need new ‘archies’.

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson would not have become England’s first female Doctor without her father’s support. Just as President Obama would not have become President

without Michelle’s support. The fact of the matter is that great women have great men behind them and great men have great women behind them. People need to be pushed and supported from one another, regardless of gender and societies must work towards this and maintain it as status quo.

More men must define themselves as fathers and husbands on Twitter and other platforms. Just as women do. A man ought to feel at ease if his partner earns more and he should feel proud changing a nappy. A Mother should teach her sons how to ice buns and a Dad his daughters how to change a bog’s lift rod. Women should push men and men should

support women in these actions. Of course, the pushing and supporting should swing both ways and applies to couples of every shape and form, whether they are gay, straight, transsexual, bi-sexual or bi-cultural etc.

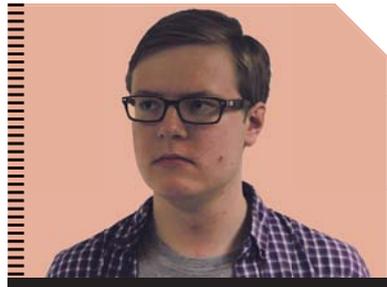
Society, the media and our education systems must be geared towards this. Our societal values should place housewifery/husbandry on par with being a CEO. Women are typically in the former category and society typically has a higher respect for the latter. This must change. Equal respect and opportunity are the pillars upon which gender equality is and will continue to be built. And we women must work together with men to instil these changes.

Comment Editors: George Barnett,
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COMMENT

Moar elections!

The low turnout at the recent PCC elections is a bad sign



Keir Little

Much like a promise to lower taxes, a call for more democracy is a cheap tactic for winning votes, yet one that, in what seems to be a continuing trend, the Conservative party have managed to completely cock up.

For those of you who don't know, last Thursday saw England and Wales' first election for the new role of Police and Crime Commissioners for each regional police force. These representatives rank higher than chief constables, and are to be the accountable public face of the police. If you're wondering why you hadn't heard about this, it's partially because we don't get the choice in London: May's election decided that Boris will continue being ours – I'm sure that'll have you sleeping at ease tonight!

The picture is little better outside of the capital. With an average turn-

out of 15%, this is the UK's worst ever election in peace time. David Cameron puts this down to it being a new role, and people's lack of understanding about what a PCC does. An inquiry is being launched; however, both of these show the Tories gracefully ignoring the elephant in the room: their utter failure to inform the public and publicise the elections.

Few people were aware that the PCC role had been created, and fewer still knew when the election would be – I and several of my friends were only reminded by a Facebook status. Those who were willing to vote had very little information about the specifics of the role and the candidates – the election's official website and that of the Home Office are both wonderfully vague about what powers and tasks a PCC has, talking about “being accountable” and “invoking the voice of the public.”

“Voter apathy” is the explanation being touted by the media, but there's something deeper at work here. “On November 15th,” read the adverts, “criminals will hope you do nothing” – a hilariously self-aware campaign, given the circumstances. Apparently, one shouldn't assume malice when incompetence will provide an adequate explanation, but even if the government isn't wilfully stifling democracy, between this and the AV referendum they can now look back and claim that the public doesn't want to vote – something that does not bode well for the future.

What can we learn from the election results? Out of the 41 police force regions, 16 were won by the Conservatives, 13 by Labour and 12 by independent candidates. The Liberal Democrat's death knell was rung at the last local elections, and this is merely another nail in the coffin, but the high independent result is in-

dicative of voters' dissatisfaction with all party politics. The rate of spoilt votes was extremely high at around 3%. This isn't mere voter apathy, but voter opposition: people simply do not want elected officials running the police. With this in mind, perhaps it's not so surprising that the election was so poorly advertised.

Whether by choice, or more likely by incompetence, the government are rapidly destroying the public's confidence in the democratic process. A look at the candidates paints another troubling picture: they're exclusively rich, older white people, most likely elected by their own kind. With their failure to win voters by one of the easiest tricks in the book – allowing them more control and democracy – the Tories now have little left but to hope that the general elections see only rich, older white people going to the polling booths if they're to survive for another term.

Virgins: quit whining!

Renos Karamanis enjoys a night alone with his laptop



Renos Karamanis

I've come to Imperial and my sex life sucks! What should I do?” Shut up and relax!, that's what!” That's what everyone should do when problems like this arise. You see, people, we all want to drive a nice car but yet sometimes we are stuck with a bicycle. What do you do then? Start crying because you're riding a bike? No, keep working so you can buy a car and who knows, maybe on the way you will find that you do not even want a nice car.

No, guys, that is not necessarily a metaphor and this article is not necessarily about your sex life. I am just highlighting most people's common problem with Imperial in the hope that you read what I have to say. This article intends not to solve your problem (if such a problem exists), but to reduce its dramatic effects. This article is the psychologist of all who read it – including I who wrote it. So sit back on your chair, lie down on your bed – whatever – just enjoy, relax, and continue reading.

Firstly I am going to describe the veritable domino chain of situations that filled me with the inspiration to write this. I have always believed that everyone can create something marvelous, just by exploiting those little moments

of inspiration that occur throughout our lives. An inspirational moment is a moment of extreme sentimental charge which enforces the person who is involved to storm out. The trick is to direct this outflow of feelings to create something. So there I was that Friday night sitting alone in my living room with dim lights, low volume background music, smoking shisha with a sweet flavor of watermelon and enjoying my hot chocolate accompanied by plenty of smoke. My plans of going out for drinks with my peers were abandoned. You see, I was kind of dumped by my friends who were either out with their girlfriends or just not there for some reason. It was one of those nights that one could either start complaining in one's mind about loneliness, or simply enjoy it. I therefore took my laptop and NO, I did not visit those websites, I simply started writing.

At this point you might actually be wondering, where am I going with this? Sometimes it can be hard to spot the obvious. A bad situation may not always be a truly bad situation; a problem may not always be a problem. The easiest way to discover this is just to look around. I catch myself being sad because I missed the bus, I am sad because I did not get a good mark in a project I was assigned, I am sad be-

cause my team lost at football, I am sad because I got rejected by that woman at the bar, I was sad because I did not go out that Friday night. WHAT? We live in London, in the belief that it is an enormous city but if we actually take a look at Google Maps (not Apple Maps!) we would discover that London is just a tiny spot on that planet called Earth. My point is that although we think that we have problems, there are much worse, much more real problems out there in this world.

I do not intend however to make you forget your problems. Otherwise the tiniest problems continue to exist as problems, though they cannot be tackled by sitting on a couch and crying. My suggestion is that we could actually do something and the first thing is just to stop complaining. I can say, with no controversy, that Imperial students complain a lot, and this is just reflected in the student satisfaction as well. The most interesting problem I have spotted here at Imperial is actually a pair of problems. Getting back on the title, guys are concerned about the “lack of females” (which directly affects their sex life), while mostly girls are complaining about sexism. Dudes! Wake up! For the “lack of females” issue, when a hunter finds no rabbits, he just hunts elsewhere, or he even settles

with ducks, not being sure whether the rabbit or the duck is mostly appreciated. And about the sexism thing – it should be tackled immediately when it occurs but it also should not turn the other way. Why attempting to create a feminist society to tackle sexism (isn't that sexism itself?) instead of a unisex anti-sexism society? Returning to my initial point, the solution to any problem is not continuous “crying” and frivolous thinking but effective actions accompanied with peace of mind.

After all those paragraphs, some of you might think that we went a little bit off-track. The psychologist (the article itself) suggests that we did not. We just went through some relieving mechanisms for what could be considered a problem. Hopefully until now you may start going back and forth, remembering your troubles boosting your confidence with courage to overcome them. On the other hand, you may say “gimme a break, you Hank Moody wannabe”. The point being though, that satisfaction is a trophy to be won, not a given present by any means. The truth is that it was 3:34 AM when I was writing this, so I had to go to bed with this being done. Hence, after reading this, you either wasted your time, or you are actually facing your problems (if any) from a better angle. Goodnight.

I am sad because I got rejected by that woman at the bar

COMMENT

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Sexism and science

Sexism is everywhere: it's about time we grew up and realised this



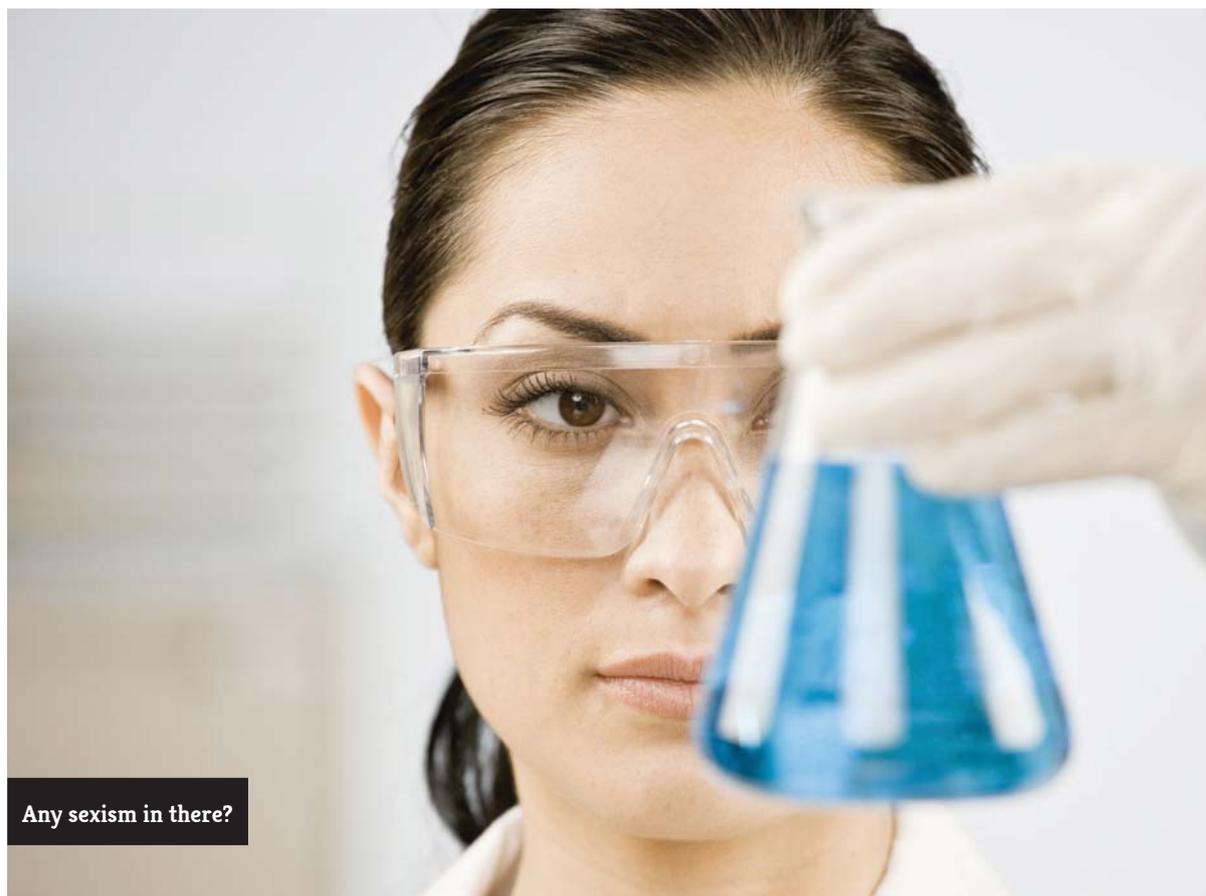
Angry Geek

I am a white male, born in the UK, and therefore I know as much about being oppressed, excluded or prejudiced against as David Cameron knows about struggling to make rent. There are, though, some things I feel I can say about sexism at Imperial, particularly in light of some recent Felix Comment articles.

The idea proposed last week by Ms. Skett that whining, complaining or being offended is weak and plays into the hands of a sexist culture, is problematic. Women are people. That's the general idea here, right? And people, as we all know, are a mixed bunch. Some are fairly extroverted and self-confident, while other people are shy and find it hard to stand their ground. We come up with ideas like human rights, or equality acts, not simply because there are rotten cultures out there. It's because they help defend the very large proportion of any population who aren't good at defending themselves. Not everyone can stand and fight in the face of this sort of treatment. I know I couldn't. The presence of a feminist society is encouraging, not least because it makes it clear that the problem exists and that there are people who perhaps can be sought out if students feel uncomfortable bringing their issues anywhere else.

Imperial has a very real undercurrent of sexism running through it. This operates both at the level of students, where male-dominated departments often ostracise female students, right through to the level of academics and administrators.

There are studies that show that scientists, the people who are stereotypically rational, will easily pick a student who is male over a student who is female, when shown identical application forms. Even female scientists demonstrate this tendency. Sexism is a problem at any institution, then, but particularly at Imperial which caters to subjects where a serious imbalance



Any sexism in there?

already exists before UCAS even get involved.

The article went on to say that only a minority are responsible for 'true' sexism, while the rest are just unfortunately swept up in the culture, like tiny prejudiced turds whirling around a big sexist toilet. There's a difference, though, between unintentional sexism from misconceptions, and 24% of male students responding to Felix's survey agreeing that female students have an advantage at Imperial. A quarter of men said that. I am almost certain that this logic is based on the idea that female students are somehow masters of seduction and enchantment, thereby enabling them to succeed through copying the work off helpless male students, or getting preferential treat-

ment from equally helpless male staff members. Things like this are not just warning signs that sexism and gender imbalance is misunderstood by large portions of the student population – they are themselves acts of sexism. A quarter of men think that women couldn't possibly be as good as they seem to be, and must be getting some kind of hidden advantage that men are stopped from obtaining. This is ludicrous, and belittling, and the tiniest, tiniest example of the problems Imperial faces.

We are missing out. We are missing out as a university, as a global population of scientists and engineers, by discouraging female applications, dissuading women from staying with science as a long-term career, and

producing an environment that is at the very least uninviting, when it isn't being outright hostile. The problem doesn't start and end with Imperial, it's true. We don't do enough as a society to present science, technology or engineering as equal-opportunity disciplines, right from the start of a child's life. But we can help push against this problem from the top-down, by making the finest institution of its kind in the UK an example of equality. And it all starts with admitting that we have a problem.

Send in your argument for why there should be an International Men's Day to the nearest waste paper bin, and all other emails to anangrygeek@gmail.com

Imperial has a very real undercurrent of sexism flowing through it

Letters



that some people are vegetarian, but serving up only these when the carnivorous majority would much prefer a classic Steak and Ale.

Surely this must be some kind of cost-cutting measure - the wholesale price for a cheese pie must be lower than that of one containing meat, yet both of them are sold for the same price. How about College stop paying someone to make sure we don't take too much mashed potato?

Anonymous, via website

Dear Sir,

I recently purchased a pasta salad from the Library Cafe and noted the extortionate price I paid. There was barely any mozzarella in it! Waitrose do an infinitely better feta pasta salad that is a whole pound cheaper. Granted, they do put less pasta, but the quality is powers of ten higher. Many powers of ten. Oh so many, many, powers of ten. Basically: more cheese please.

A pasta salad rater

Sir,

I can't help but notice that since the introduction of the new "Fuel" pie and salad outlet, the number of pies which contain meat has been gradually reducing, up to the point where on some days there are only cheese and mushroom varieties. Now you can call me old-fashioned, but who wants a pie that just contains cheese? I recognise

Send articles or letters to:
comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

C'mon, you know you want to!

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COMMENT

Totally shambolic policing tactics

The right to protest is being violated by those whose job it is to defend it



Luke Sheldon

As the first students paying £9,000 fees have started this term the fight against fees and cuts to education hit the streets again this Wednesday. Whilst the last National Union of Students (NUS) march two years ago saw the destruction of Tory HQ on Millbank, the fire that ignited from this and saw 50 universities enter occupation and a number of self-organised national demonstrations has died down. Cynically this is probably why the NUS felt it was safe to organise another demo, without fearing the “embarrassment” of people directing their own movement.

The stated reasons for the march “Educate. Empower. Employ,” were not exactly inspiring. A number of people retaliated to this focus on employment being the goal of education with the largest amount of anti-work banners that I’ve seen at a demo. And the split was not just in reasons for marching, but in the actual march as well. Whilst the NUS march left from embankment over 1000 students were rallying at UCL to make their own route and take action to bring about free education.

With samba, lots of rowdy Scots and plans to target establishments that

embody the growing profiteering from higher education we set off. Though unfortunately the Met police’s so-called “total policing” prevented another Millbank. Every side street was filled with police and draconian orders were put in place so anyone leaving the route could be arrested. The group was surrounded and we were escorted dejectedly to the NUS march.

People may think the focus on events outside the march is a strange place for this comment, but that has been what has made the student and anti-cuts movement an exciting place. People have said how the events at Millbank inspired them to come out and stand up for free education. It is what made the student movement interesting enough to reach out to the inner city youth who were a main contingent of fees protests nationally, furious at the contempt shown by this government. The actions were also the reason that the coalition dropped all attempts to bring in the higher education white-paper, a crude piece of legislation to allow the wide-spread privatisation and sell-off of universities. Obviously they were too scared to have another battle with students in this parliament.

However, over the last year the anti-cuts movement has been ground down through suffocating policing and Her

Majesty’s finest were on top form this week. Although physical harassment occurred with police throwing random punches at protestors merely walking along Embankment, batons stayed in their waistbands and riot police kept their robo-cop helmets out of sight. Instead the very real threat of arrest and the sheer number of police were used to suppress anything that could ignite and inspire further protest. One protestor remarked as the multiple lines of police were backed up by further rows of police horses near parliament, “look at the health of our great democracy”.

We profess to give voice to our citizens but yet turn a blind eye to the increasing oppression of students who try and raise their voice. With Alfie Meadows, almost killed by riot police in Parliament Square in 2010, still harassed through the courts two years later on trumped up charges of violent disorder the cost of protest is becoming too dear. How can you invite friends and spread the word about protests when at the best they are dull due to police numbers, but at the worst the normal living of their lives is at risk.

We stopped in front of Parliament, facing a myriad of fences, vans, horses and angry police (with a surprising

number appearing to take Movement very seriously). This was merely symbolic. Whereas two years ago people were forcibly kettled here, now we stayed here, willingly kettling our selves chanting “We are all Alfie Meadows”. This sounds stupid, but there was literally nothing else to do but walk miles into South London (the official march route) in the pouring rain.

Although the lack of democracy seemed to bring a cloud of depression over many of the students, the pure hatred of the NUS was beautiful. The National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts, rightly still feeling betrayed by NUS joyfully waved a “smash NUS” banner. They were hounded on Twitter for dragging people on a wet trek through South London. And finally the NUS president, Liam Burns, was egged by a baying crowd of 200 who invaded the stage where he hoped he would address his loyal subjects. However I must own up I never got that far.

Although the student movement is not currently what it was in 2010, the fight is still going on for a truly free education. On December the 5th students will be taking to the streets again in a number of local actions showing that we won’t just march – watch out for events in London!

All I wanna do is *ching* and take your money!

We should pay for our own education – and our parents should have paid for theirs



George Butcher

Right now the NUS is congratulating itself on a job well done. Despite the rain it got ten thousand students out on the street, fights didn’t break out, there were enough placards to go around and the biggest cock up was when the President, Liam Burns, was egged and suffered a stage invasion by those who don’t like the NUS’s ‘moderate’ position. I’ll get to that in a minute.

But you see, I agree with tuition fees. Not a pure, unregulated system like America, but hear me out. The reason is that I can’t see why people, who very often haven’t had the education I have and the benefits that come with it, should be expected to subsidise my elite education. University education is elitist, that’s the point of it. To education the best, to be the best. I am the chief beneficiary of my degree. Me. It’s only fair I should be expected to pay for cost of it.

Most of the tax paying public agree with me. It’s why the only ones to get upset at the latest rise, are us, people younger than us, and all our parents squirming as they remember being paid to go to university and then spending their time there mostly in the union bar.

The Demo2012 march and the NUS have completely missed the point. Our generation is the most hard done by generation of recent years. Our parents have given us a situation worse than the one they inherited but continue to follow policies that act like they’re the hard done by ones.

Youth unemployment is at 21.9%, and has been rising since 2004. House prices have risen above inflation for over thirty years pushing back the age at which people can afford to buy a house.

We are adding to our national debt each year and have done for 26 of the past 32 years. This is money our par-

ents’ have chosen not to spend themselves, but to borrow so that their children can pay it instead. This meant that last year we spent £42.5 billion on ‘Debt Management’. That’s more than the government spent on all education. That’s primary, secondary and universities combined. With £10 billion to spare. You could more than double the education budget if we didn’t have to pay back our debts. We are the first generation to pay for our own education plus interest.

On top of all of this we are also expected to spend our lifetimes paying for the generous pension schemes that parents’ and grandparents’ generations have enjoyed. The current UK government liability for pensions is £5 Trillion. This has to be paid by somebody, and that somebody is any future UK tax payer. Old age pension payments this year were £85 billion.

We are also expected to pay for the government’s PFI scheme, which is

a form of ‘off balance sheet’ borrowing used to fund projects such as new schools currently standing at more than £35 billion. That’s right, it is official government policy to make students pay for their own new school plus interest, typically at 8%.

This all makes me very angry and it should make you angry too. Unfortunately there’s no one to shout it because the NUS is full of communists who all want us to sit around campfires for a living and “Tax the rich”. If you want serious thought on the future of Britain’s youth, I’d go to a daycare centre before I went anywhere near the NUS. This is the same organisation that egged its own President for being too moderate. If you want to see how ‘moderate’ this guy is, I suggest you read one of his Independent blog posts, though you may have to avoid being sick over the bad grammar and clichés.

Redistribute wealth if you want to, but not from kids.

Pole Dancing Society

Want to brighten up everyone's Friday?
Email: centrefolds.felix@imperial.ac.uk
Groups and individuals welcome!



ARTS

Arts Editors: Eva Rosenthal,
Meredith Thomas

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DOODLE OF
THE WEEK

Why work? Instead, doodle all lecture long and then send us your drawings to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk. This doodle is by Ioanna Kalogeraki.

TIRED OF LIFE?

Our pick of what's on in London

The Warhol Factory Party @ A Secret Location – This special night dedicated to the memory of the great man is hosted by Die Freche Muse. This promises to be a wild night of art, music and gender bending weirdness (also Iggy Pop). 30 November, £15

Viral Research @ Whitechapel Galley – Rare work from the private Collection Sandretto Re Rebaudengo featuring Charles Ray and Piotr Uklanski. 15 December- 10 March

The Perfect Place to Grow @ The Royal College of Art – The RCA is 175 this year. If you haven't caught this already the show celebrates the institution's long and illustrious history. 16 November- 3 January 2013.

Unhinged Festival @ Electric Brixton – On tonight, this cult show features breaking artists from across the music, film, fashion, visual & performing arts worlds all in a dance club setting - £12 before 11pm, £15 after.

The Dark Earth and the Light Sky @ Almeida Theatre – This is only appearing in Tired of Life to counter the positive reviews this morbidly dull play has been receiving. The best lines in the whole thing were, in fact, written by the poet, Edward Thomas, on whose life this centred. Production wasn't terrible either.

A farce in
the wind

© Johan Persson

Christopher Hong Writer

Pinero's *The Magistrate* is a classic of 19th Century farce. It concerns a woman with a son from a previous marriage, who has to conceal her real age from a recently acquired husband, the magistrate. This means a 19 year old son, along with everyone else, are convinced he is actually 5 years younger than he is. Through that deceit, the farce brought all the characters together to a supper room where they were found contravening the licensing laws by the police. The subsequent fallout concerning reputation and social standing occupies the last two acts with a few romantic storylines thrown in for good measure.

As Victorian farces go, it was a pretty standard affair. Although consistently funny, it was hardly laugh-out-loud. Considering this was only put on as a replacement for the cancelled *The Count of Monte Cristo*, one can understand why this may not have been a polished performance, but there was sufficient magic to create an energetic, colourful, uplifting and funny production, that they managed to achieve a delightful result.

The set design, by Katrina Lindsay, was dramatic. The opening scene unfolded like a giant pastel coloured pop-up book with characters magically appearing from the folded pages. There is the hint of a Christmas tree on one side of the stage to remind us this is the National's Christmas production and a little caption beginning with 'the skeleton in the closet' at the top of the "page", which

comprised the first scene. Subtle it is not, but along with all the skewed angles of doorways and windows the set design suited the caricatured characters throughout the play; from the man-child son, to the gloomy magistrate's assistant.

This caricatured theme continued with a fusillade of jokes delivered with a knowing nod-and-a-wink. Scene changes were interspersed with 19th century operetta-style numbers which summarised the storyline with wit and small self-referential details.

The cast was excellent, with John Lithgow playing the magistrate; the highlight a superb solo scene where he recounts a chase, playing everything from the police to a horse. If there was ever a master-class in one-person theatre, I would nominate this scene.

Joshua McGuire, as the son of a confused age, was superb, showing the perfect balance between precociousness and prescribed childishness and the natural urges of a grown man.

The direction by Timothy Shearer was tight and kept up a pace and energy. My only criticism was a slight dip in the middle of Act 3 but it soon gave way to a frantic final act.

This was theatre production at its very best: bringing superb direction, acting and production design together. There will not be many productions out there to brighten up the dark winter nights ahead as accomplished and satisfying as this.

The Magistrate at The National Theatre. Until 22nd January 2013.

Whatcha doin?
Just Roman
aroundEva Rosenthal Arts Editor

The luminous setting, sand trickling from the ceiling onto the stage into pools of light, was melancholy and serenity personified. The existence of the characters, who would soon be participating in the tragedy, was mirrored, somehow with tenderness, in the environment that had been created. It was an environment fit for observation and for immersion, the audience entirely surrounding a small stage; a single room for Racine's unhappy creations.

The tragedy in this play is not reliant on death or treason or madness, except perhaps on the folly of love. But it is tragedy nonetheless and in many ways just as brutal as any relying on death would be.

Titus has become Emperor of Rome. His love, Berenice, is an eastern Queen, whom the Romans will never accept as wife for their new Caesar. Titus must ask her to leave or face the coming wrath of the people. Their, as yet unuttered, demand is not however, a suggestion of the cruel ignorance of the masses; it is rather a darkness that will overcome Berenice almost completely.

Anne-Marie Duff is moving and expressive in the title role (although she slouches too much for a queen) and her Titus, Stephen Campbell Moore, with desperation in his eyes, is convincingly the unwilling tyrant to his own soul.

It must be difficult to keep Racine's purity in an English translation, but the language at least never disturbs. If my attention was kept on the whole rather than on the quality of the words, this was more a testament to the very beautiful staging.

I have read that the English often find Racine boring; perhaps this is due to bad translations or because Racine's classicism is very different to Shakespeare. However in the Donmar Warehouse's *Berenice*, even the most embittered of audiences could hardly fail to be moved by the lovers, facing with stoicism, an eternity of loneliness.

Until 24th November only!



Fancy giving me a little Caesar

Arts Editors: Eva Rosenthal,
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ARTS

Black humour at Whitechapel

Two very different artists on show at East London gallery

Fred Fyles

Writer

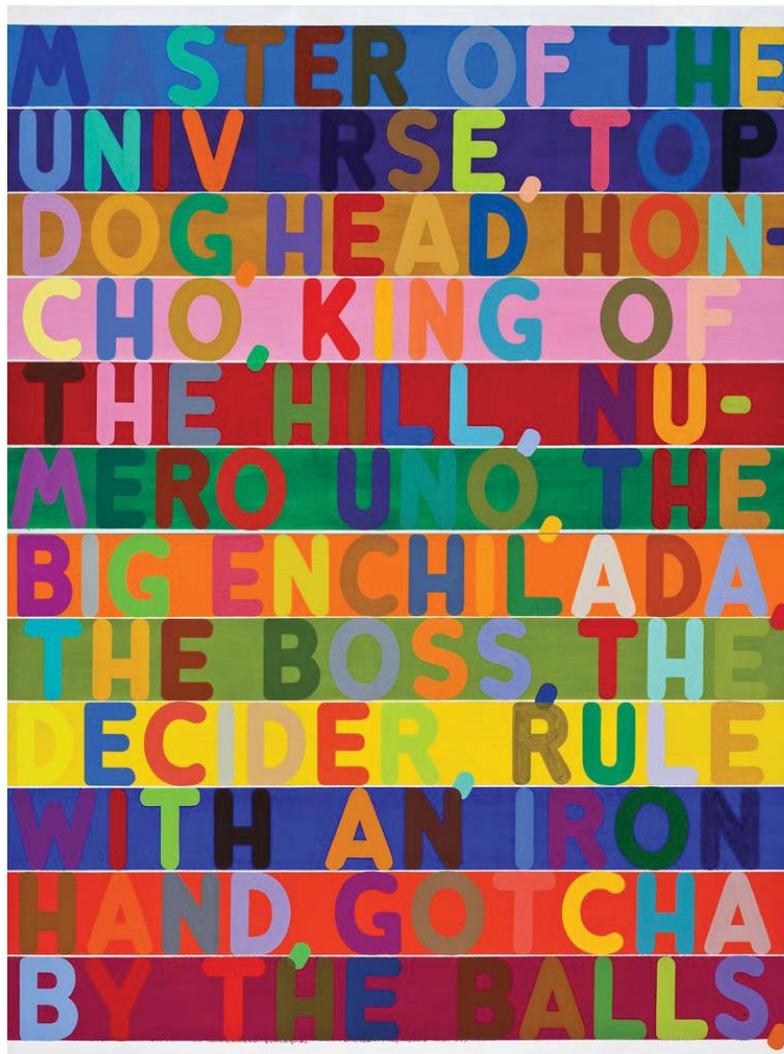
At its core conceptual art has always been, and will continue to be, all about revolution. Whether the revolution is against injustices committed around the world, or simply against current cultural status quo, you can guarantee that the artist will be on the front lines, creating works to make the viewer ask questions. This quality can be seen in Duchamp's upturned urinal entitled *Fountain*, which rocked the foundations of the art world; it can be seen in Picasso's *Guernica*, a gigantic canvas vividly documenting the horrors of war. It can also be seen today in the work of Maurizio Cattelan, the notorious Italian satirist whose works are currently on display at the Whitechapel Gallery.

Since the mid-90s, Cattelan has been creating works that have given him a reputation as the trickster of the art world. They are created with a gleeful humour, but more often than not contain a wicked twist of darkness. Popes being crushed by meteorites, Hitler dressed as a schoolboy, and giant hands giving the middle finger have all been included in his work. The pieces featured in this exhibition may be on a smaller scale, but still demonstrate his sharp wit.

In one of the corners of the room there is a small diorama of the kitchen Cattelan grew up in. The sink is piled with dirty plates and at the centre of the room, slumped against a miniature yellow Formica table, a squirrel has committed suicide. The gun lies on the floor. An empty glass rests on the table. The viewer is left to make up their mind on why the squirrel chose to end it all, but the title of the work *Bidibidobidiboo*, a garbled reference to the song that transforms Cinderella, adds another edge to a work already dripping with black humour.

Whilst the squirrel may form a more personal reflection, the majority of the works in the room are attributed with some kind of political commentary. *Lullaby* initially appears as a giant fabric sack, at the top of which one can see fragments of brick poking out. The description attached to the work explains that the bag is filled with rubble from the 1993 terrorist attack on Milan's Pavilion of Contemporary Art, which left 5 people dead.

At the centre of the room is a rug, whose design has been based upon the casing for a wheel of cheese.



The jingoistic sentiments surrounding a map of Italy, which may have seemed quaint when simply used to advertise cheeses, become reminiscent of language used in Mussolini's Italy, and brings on a deep sense of unease.

On the adjacent wall hangs the sign of the Marxist Italian terrorist group the Red Brigades but this too has been subverted. Made up in garish neon, it has become a Christmas greeting; the infamous star becomes the one leading the faithful to Bethlehem. This subversion of ideas is at the heart of Cattelan's work, and is one of the key tools in his satirical arsenal. Some may dismiss it as shock tactics, but the pieces certainly hit the viewer to the core.

One of the many criticisms that modern conceptual art faces today is that it takes itself too seriously. Those of you who feel fed up in trying to find meaning in Hirst's pickled cows, or despair at the Turner Prize's lack of humour, would do well to come down to the Whitechapel Gallery. Although the exhibition is tiny, totalling only eight works, it is steeped in humour and irony, leav-

ing the observer smiling all day.

Meanwhile, on the floor below, the Gallery is staging a retrospective of the American painter Mel Bochner, who helped cement New York as the conceptual art capital of the 1960s and 70s. His raucous, wildly colourful paintings form a counterpoint to Cattelan's on the floor above. Upon entering the gallery, the first thing that greets one is a gigantic painting entitled *Blah, Blah, Blah*. As the title suggests, it consists of the word 'Blah' written repeatedly across a black canvas. The lettering is in a multitude of colours, which ooze and drip down the canvas in heavy smears. This acts as an official introduction into the mind of Bochner, an artist who is obsessed with colour, artistic theory, and the power of words.

The first rooms of the gallery document Bochner's attempts to represent different artistic theories. His *Theory of Photography* consists of a progression of small cards upon which quotations from Mao, Zola, and other great thinkers are written. However, not all of them are genuine; Bochner created three of the



The inevitable result of wearing a flannel suit

statements himself, and the work becomes a meditation on whether photography is a genuinely truthful medium. Does the camera ever lie?

Lines of different lengths are painted on the walls, along with a bar to mark where Bochner's eye level is, representing the idea of proportion within art. In the centre of the gallery is Bochner's seminal *Theory of Painting*, in which he explores the limits placed upon painters using newspapers and brilliant bright blue paint. It perfectly portrays Bochner's fixation with order and colour, and it is my personal favourite in the exhibition.

Continuing upstairs we are treated to a series of 'Thesaurus Paintings'. Bochner paints out words upon the canvas in glorious colours, starting with a word such as 'Lazy' before finding a synonym for it. These word chains play out like Chinese

whispers, starting with phrases such as 'Win', flowing through into 'Crush 'Em' before ending with 'Kick Some Butts'.

In these works the role that the written word has in art is juxtaposed against the role of colour. However, rather than being at odds with one another, these two features of art form an unlikely harmony, creating a series of beautiful paintings.

Bochner's work is uplifting and, as a conceptual artist who has bridged the gap between the art worlds of the 1960s and today, deserves a special place in history. Contrary to what the opening work may suggest, this exhibition is certainly not all *Blah, Blah, Blah*.

Mel Bochner is on until 30th December; Maurizio Cattelan is on until 2nd December. Both at the Whitechapel Gallery; free entry.

BOOKS

Books Editor: Maciej Matuszewski
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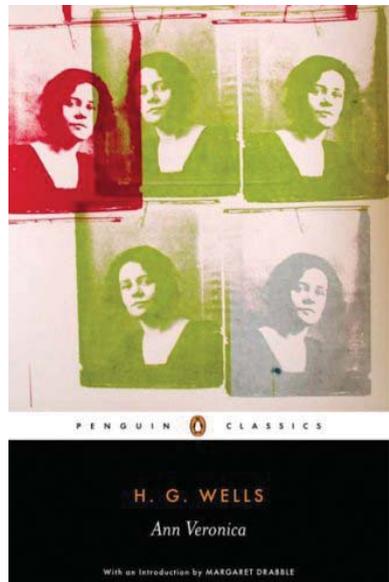
Return of the Classics

Maciej Matuszewski talks about his favourite classic literature

Despite of, or perhaps because of, classics being so heavily emphasised in secondary education and being beloved of critics they are certainly not the most liked of books of ordinary people. They are often considered dry, irrelevant or just plain boring.

Some of my favourite books, however, are classics and I believe that they are just as vibrant, interesting and powerful as the latest releases. While they may seem old fashioned, believe me, there is a reason why they have stood the test of time. Here I present just a few of these books – give them a read and I promise that you won't be disappointed.

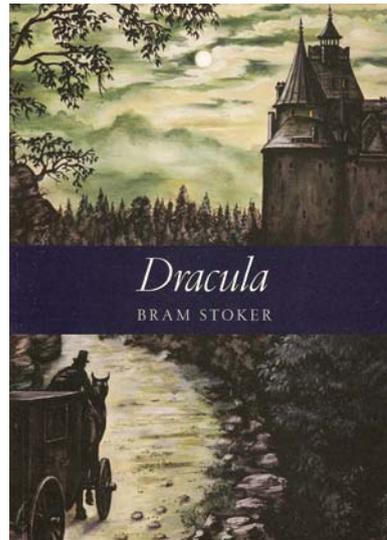
Ann Veronica
H.G. Wells



One of Wells' less known novels this is, on the face of it, a love story between the rebellious Ann Veronica and her university lecturer, Capes. While the romance plot is in itself engaging the main attraction of the novel is the compelling picture it paints of the difficulties of life as a woman in the early twentieth century – with a focus on the suffragette and suffragist movements.

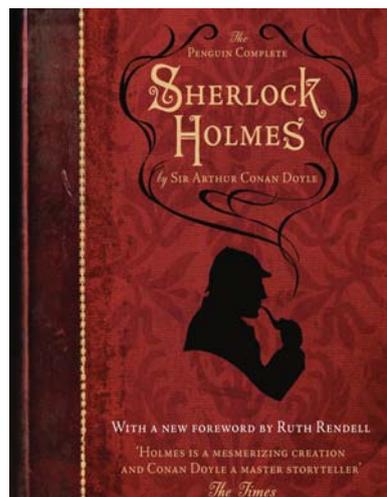
While not a particularly major part of the novel, *Ann Veronica* might be of particular interest to Felix readers since the eponymous protagonist is a student at Imperial College.

Dracula
Bram Stoker



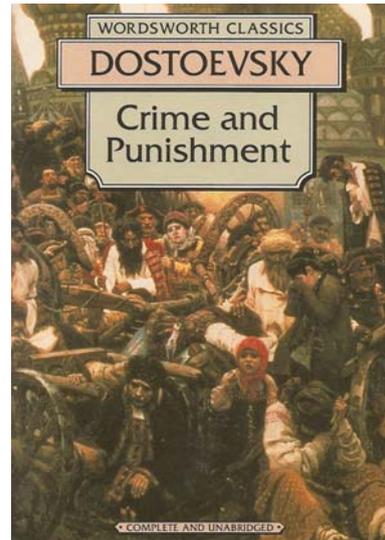
Probably the most famous vampire novel ever, *Dracula* requires no introduction or synopsis. On one level a simple and satisfying story of the fight between good and evil, it is also a masterful exploration of temptation and primal desires. The story is told in the form of diary entries, newspaper articles and letters – giving the book a unique feel and presenting the action from many different points of view.

Sherlock Holmes
Arthur Conan Doyle



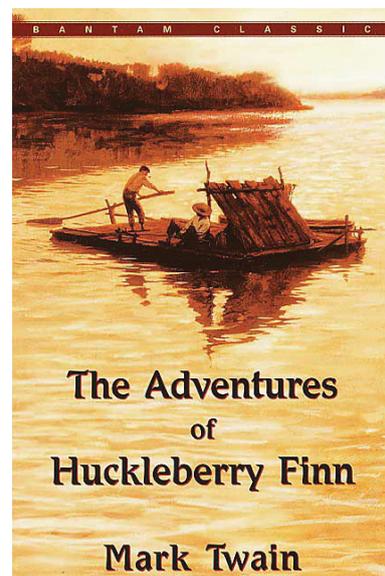
Doyle's 56 short stories and 4 novels may not be of the highest literary quality but the accounts of Holmes' cases always provide a fun read.

Crime and Punishment
Fyodor Dostoyevsky



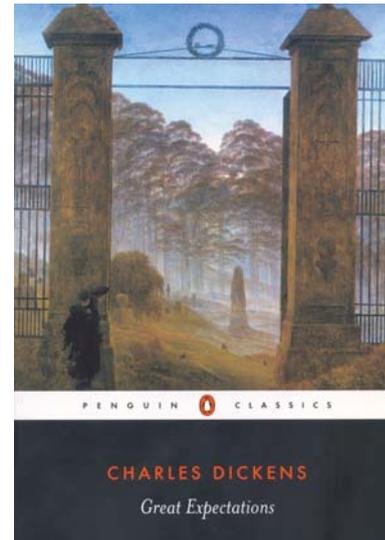
While at some times it may be fairly slow *Crime and Punishment* remains a powerful exploration of guilt and redemption. It does require some effort to get into but it is, ultimately, a very rewarding read.

Huckleberry Finn
Mark Twain



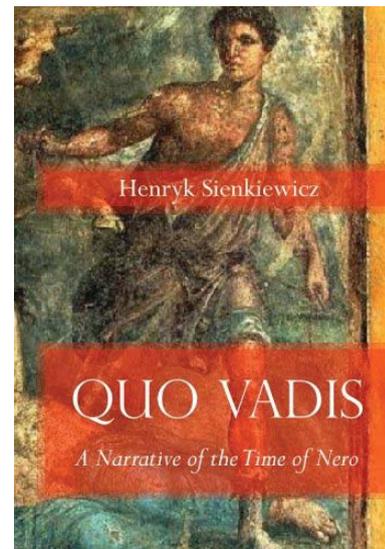
Often called "the great American novel" the book is surprisingly engaging and readable. Following the eponymous character as he escapes from home it paints a striking picture of the southern United States.

Great Expectations
Charles Dickens



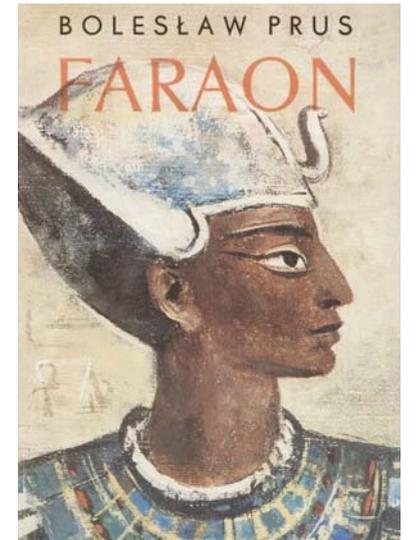
An archetypal Dickens novel following the rise and decline of the fortunes of young Philip Pirrip, usually referred to simply as Pip. Both a brilliant character piece as well as an insightful exploration of life in early nineteenth century Britain.

Quo Vadis
Henryk Sienkiewicz



The most famous novel written by Sienkiewicz. Following the struggles of Christians in the early Roman empire, many translations are available and it was made into a major Hollywood film in the 50s.

Faraon
Boleslaw Prus



Probably the most obscure novel on this list, but also, I believe, the best. Prus has long been one of my favourite authors – Joseph Conrad quite accurately described him as being "better than Dickens".

Available in English translation under the titles *Pharaoh* and *The Pharaoh and the Priest* the book charts the fall of Egypt's New Kingdom through the eyes of the fictional Pharaoh Ramesses XIII. While perhaps not entirely accurate the depiction of Ancient Egypt is brilliantly vivid and engaging. Prus paints a detailed picture of how the country is run – making it both relatable as well as wonderfully exotic.

The overarching plot obviously draws elements from the eighteenth century collapse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth but can also be seen as representing and analysing the decline and fall of old and decadent empires in general.

The other strand of the novel is the personal story of Ramesses XIII. He is an eminently likeable character – starting out brash and immature but being forced to grow and develop as a result of his increasing responsibilities. He eventually becomes a wise ruler with plans to reform and strengthen Egypt, which are tragically prevented by circumstances beyond his control. Prus is a master of tragedy and this novel's ending is unmatched in poignancy.

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MUSIC

Music Editors: Mark England,
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You Don't Have To Call It Music

Pt. 7 noise

by Íñigo Martínez de Rituerto

Punk rarely alluded to any sort of musical ambition. Its approach to independent thought and communal outreach empowered the youth to carve themselves a place in the world. Like the pioneers of experimental music decades before, their sound was as anarchic as their ideals. In the last decade, a new underground has taken form, inspired as much by punk as by the musique concrete of the 1950s. Noise music is perhaps the literal manifestation of Pierre Schaffer's epiphany that "music is organized sound" – only this time, organization is not required.

Often referred to as the 'god of noise', Masami Akita's **Merzbow** is probably the best known name on the global scene. His music is unrelentingly intense, an implacable force of bombed-out static blasts, adulterated walls of fuzz and curious bursts of electricity which sound like an ant colony munching away at a motherboard. Curiously, Akita is a fervent animal rights activist. Many of his albums are dedicated to myriad fauna, the avian strain being a close favourite. His live set-up includes any variety of effects pedals, primitive makeshift instruments, a laptop and contact microphones to amplify sheet metal and other objects.

Despite Japan's destructive leanings, championed by the likes of **Hijokaidan** (their 10" *Ferocity of Practical Life* possibly alludes to the origin of their discontent), **Masonna** (*Frequency LSD* perhaps not the ideal trip) or **Fushitsusha** (free jazz group led by the enigmatic **Keiji Haino**), the island has been home some more creative individuals like **Toshimaru Nakamura** whose main instrument is the No-Input Mixing Board or **Yasunao Tone** who prefers using old CD players, lacking the later anti-skip technology, to corrupt his collection. Agog readers will be happy to know many of these artists have passed by the half-Japanese Café Oto in Dalston.

Frequent Merzbow collaborator, **Kapotte Muziek**, begun as a one-man operation in the Netherlands. The premise was to recycle sounds beyond recognition, via successive recycling of magnetic tape. As the project evolved, Kapotte Muziek begun collaborating with international noise artists (such as **Asmus Tietchens** and **The Haters**) by mailing tapes to each other and partaking in a recursive morphology of each other's sounds.

Wolf Eyes succeeded in bringing noise to a wider audience with their '04 release of *Burned Mind* on indie label Sub-Pop. The aural aesthetic is brilliantly illustrated in the accompanying artwork. Besides the artisanal bond between the two, it is sometimes the only way to make sense of what you're hearing – or even reassure you that no, it's not supposed to make sense anyway, what are you, sober? Yes, the drugs go hand in hand like never before. What's strange is their soft side for bad trips. This is truly psychedelic music but not the 1969 kind. These are the depths of the human mind. The reptilian brain lighting up in the dark of night, as an acute delirium begins to pollute the interior monologue. Any shade of melody is most likely a tauntingly kitsch spook from a repurposed Casio – resulting from the spurious harmonics of unbeseeching oscillators flashing out of orbit –, synthesizer flashbacks of a life before their circuits got bent.

The band has been central to fostering the fertile noise scene in otherwise uneventful Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their own labels and distros provide some of the most colourful and archaic catalogues of new experimental music. Producing countless hand-painted covers strewn with nondescript collage work, publishing 'zines, printing t-shirts, their editions are done in very limited runs (think, oh, 33), a necessary compromise when combining impossibly prolific tendencies with the limited income such inaccessible releases can procure. Add to that their propensity for difficult formats like CD-r's, lathes (hand-cut vinyls) and of course, the all-time favourite, cassettes.

NYC is another vital organ to the American noise scene. From '04 to '09 No Fun Fest sold out three consecutive days of incessant noise year after year. This brave endeavor was initiated by **Carlos Giffoni**, who moonlights schizo-rave as **No Fun Acid** on custom synths, and releases other artists on his No Fun Productions label. Another physical presence now vanished was the Hospital Productions basement record shop, a product of **Prurient's** label of the same name.

The UK is perhaps more kind to its specialist record shops, with proof in London's Second Layer or Volcanic Tongue in Glasgow. This country also bears a long history of noise, namely founders of power electronics, **Whitehouse**, the Dadaist experiments of **Nurse With Wound** and the Broken Flag label founded by **Ramleh** who also circulated the cult 'zine *Even When It Makes No Sense*. NWW's 1979 debut, *Chance Meeting on a Dissecting Table of a Sewing Machine and an Umbrella*, included the revered NWW list citing their obscure influences, later to inspire countless others.

Perhaps the very definition of underground, the noise phenomenon is the most astonishingly creative musical movement ever. The intimacy of such a niche group of individuals has brought the experiments of academic music research to basements worldwide.

Grass is Greener

Mo Mirza finds a treat at Bush Hall

On the 14th of November, **Adam Green and Binki Shapiro** graced the charming Bush Hall in Shepherd's Bush with what one could probably describe as unique blend of lo-fi indie folk pop. Their set opened with 'If You Want Me To' and after a choppy start, mostly due to the sound technician's epic struggle to sort out microphone levels, the band went on to perform a myriad of enjoyable tunes; surprising, as I was under the impression that Adam and Binki's first album was too much of a work in progress to have built up such an appreciable repertoire.

Binki Shapiro, if you've never really heard of her before, used to be a member of super cool Brazilian/American band **Little Joy** along with Rodrigo Amarante and Fabrizio Moretti from **The Strokes**. Green, on the other hand, is well known for his involvement in the anti-folk music movement serving as half of a band called **The Moldy Peaches**. Green has also performed as a solo artist, finding a considerable amount of success in Germany as well as the US where he met Shapiro who colourfully describes the two of them as having "floated into each other's circles".

Regardless of knowing how they met, you could tell Binki and Adam had a natural bond; they complemented each other really well. Surprisingly, Adam Green seemed to have kept his usual abstract lyrical mutterings under the hood, the songs were comfortably accessible and, not to mention, exceptionally charming -



a true testament to the combined talent of the band. In general, the performance was warmly received.

'Just To Make Me Feel Good' was a beautifully chiming duet and 'Collage', a commendable tribute to **James Gang's** song from the late 60s, was a special song and one of my favourites. The band made the song a truly unique mix of their own with bursts of brass heralding an exciting instrumental with psychedelic undertones as the song came to its climax. I should say that the drummer made a massive contribution to the build-up of the song by emanating an electrifying energy of such magnitude that it was felt by the entire crowd of "warm bod-

ies" gathered there. This warm bodied crowd was then treated to an acoustic set closer, 'Getting Led', a melancholy number performed with such conviction that it soared over the dimly lit hall.

I should say that the initial problems starting off never really detracted from the overall rich and heart-warming performance. The band truly found their stride with a charming and pleasant sound that never gave the impression of trying too hard.

'Here I Am' is available to download for free at adamandbinki.com. The planned release of the album is on January 29, 2013 and I am sure it is going to be a bloody good album.

Rolo Tomassi give XOYO a fright

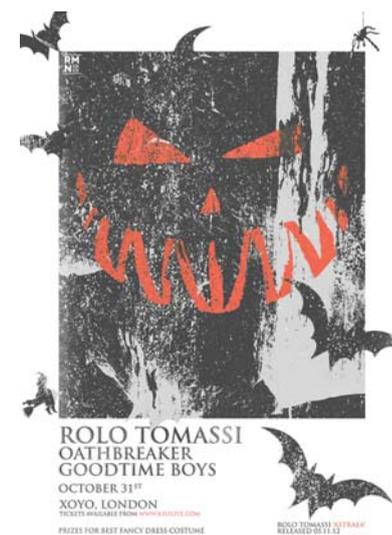
Mark England Music Editor

On a chilly Halloween night, it was a great idea to warm our bodies with a pumped up punk show at XOYO courtesy of **Rolo Tomassi**. Dressed as the Addams family, with the spritely lead singer, Eva Spence, appearing as Morticia, the band kicks off the night with 'How!'.
From the get-go the crowd were a blur of flying limbs and a stream of witches hats and unravelling mummy costumes. The band were really grateful for the crowds exuberant response to new tracks from the latest album *Astrea*. Normally I am not a fan of this grindcore type genre but when you are int the middle of the crowd getting pummelled from both sides by crashing synths and sweating bodies, it is easy to understand the reason for the movement's faithful following. The band is tighter than ever with 'I Love Turbulence', 'Pill Fox, and 'Old

mysteries' particularly impressive. After an 18 month touring absence it was great to see Rolo Tomassi back in action and something more mature than ever. I could hear some dickhead metalheads behind me complaining about the stage layout but these gripes were small compared to the noise and fun the band brought.

It is quite hard to define the music which Rolo Tomassi make - is it math-core, post hard-core or jazz metal? As an Imperial square I like boundaries and so music so experimental and beautifully unpredictable is actually quite unnerving. This should not put anyone off, however, because sometimes it is great to immerse yourself in something so bold yet disconcerting.

I am still quite a way from growing my hair long and buying a Metallica hoody [*Sorry- I love stereotypes, which are normally quite true for musical tribes*] but the night was far better than expected. XOYO was an enjoyable venue and, although some of the



issues people have with the sound quality became apparent during the night, I would definitely swing by this trendy hangout again. One thing is for sure, Halloween will not be so crazy next year!

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MUSIC

An Education in Guitar

Riaz Agahi dissects Chris Forsyth's latest album

Ever since I first discovered his music, **Chris Forsyth** has been one of my favourite musicians. A psych rock guitarist, he proved himself worthy to support **Grouper** due to his use of drone and a thirst for experimentalism, but he elegantly balanced this with some more conventional use of the guitar not unlike blues, folk or even bluegrass in places.

After seeing him perform a hypnotic and enveloping set I set about getting my hands on all the material I could, admittedly not very much. I did, however, immensely enjoy his 2011 album *Paranoid Cat* and this year's krauty collaboration with **Koen Holtkamp**. Forsyth performs live with a band, but in the studio the experience is quite different. The drums are completely absent. This makes Forsyth's music a much more distant relative of traditional rock and in a way that's why his music is so interesting. Guitar is an instrument commonly synonymous with rock, yet it is the sole guide through Chris Forsyth's musical studies. The very instrument that gave rise

to the musical decadence of shred, to the indulgence of simple cock-rock riffs here sheds its baggage; becoming instead a source of ambient, minimal soundscapes that hark back to the

Guitar is an instrument commonly synonymous with rock, yet it is the sole guide through Chris Forsyth's musical studies

past of guitar, its roots in blues and folk with a nod to today's more experimental ideas of music.

On 'Kenzo Deluxe,' this is in full swing. Opener 'The First Ten Minutes of Cocksucker Blues' syncs up

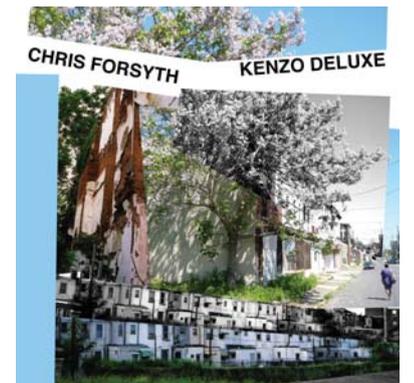
with the infamous documentary of **The Rolling Stones'** tour to support *Exile on Main Street*. Its bluesy sound frames the musical context of such work, while surpassing it in terms of thought and much like this one, every track is as much a study in guitar, what it can do and its cultural landscape as it is a great track on a chillout album.

This is an album where guitar truly reigns supreme. In tracks such as the opener, he shows how to be rhythmically astute without a drummer, as a catchy riff repeats under melodies and solos with a bluesy tone and occasionally a bluegrass style twang to them. This song is similar to a later track 'East Kensington Run Down,' not in its sound but in its structure. Both develop a groove using a simple riff that remains unchanged, modulating only slightly as the sonic environment around it evolves, acting as the vehicle for the musical journey of the melodies. Until, that is, the songs break down in to a much less rigid form.

A personal favourite of mine is 'Boston St Lullaby no. 2.' This is by some

distance the most dissonant and distorted. I would regard it as Forsyth's take on drone, with ebbing and flowing sounds of a distorted and melodic guitar, drenched in reverb and layered over itself. It has an almost rugged nature with a billowing drone of distortion underneath the melody, and perhaps it is ironic that it is the moment where he offsets ugly and beautiful where we see perhaps the most beautiful moment of the album, as a higher and more ethereal notes pass over the drone like core of the track leaving an air of euphoria.

More melodic pieces, ambient, ornate soundscapes are found on 'Downs and Ups' and 'Boston St Lullaby no.1,' the album's more reflective pieces. 'Downs and Ups,' in particular, makes me think of America two hundred years in the past, with its low tech, barren and insistent melody. These tracks are relaxing and while probably not the best on the album are worthwhile listens, be it to chill out or because they're simply good guitar performances.



And at the end of the day, that's what this album is. I could wax lyrical about how it's a statement on cultural stuff or where it might fit into musical tradition or the different genres he experiments with, but at the end of the day it's just a guy and his guitar, and in a way that is the most flattering it can get. Forsyth shows his immense talent but also his years of experience with an instrument he clearly loves and gives an album that, were it better known, would be a landmark not only for him but for the guitar in general.

BE SURE NOT TO MISS



DJ Nature
Plastic People
Saturday



Sudden Infant/KK Null
Spoils and Relics
Cafe Oto
Tuesday



Hype Williams
Tufnell Park Dome
Saturday

With Sam Shepherd a.k.a. **Floating Points** away in the southern hemisphere his monthly Plastic People residency has been left in the hands of **DJ Nature**. And a more capable hands you'd struggle to find. Finding his way into the music world through the Bristol hip hop scene in the 80's, Nature moved to New York before leaving music for 15 years.

Expect serious selection of disco and house spanning the past four decades. And best of all? It's only £6 before 11pm (or £8 after).

Aktionist **Joke Lanz**, in his **Sudden Infant** guise, brings a harsh cacophony of noise to your unsuspecting ears this Tuesday at Cafe Oto. Hugely prolific in the world where performance art meets noise, Joke Lanz has been terrifying audiences with body contacts, loops and feedback since 1985 in various acts, possibly most notably **Schimpfluch-Gruppe** with 3 other European noise terrorists.

Japanese noise master **KK Null** of **Zeni Geva** should offer a Japanese contrast to the Euro-centric noise of Lanz. **Spoils and Relics** also contribute support.

In typical **Hype Williams** style, this gig is not only North London (they're way too cool for East London) but also door tickets only. In my desperation to see a guy and a girl produce an unpredictable live show, that I've been assured is often far noisier than their records and which shall surely involve female bodybuilders using axle grinders under constant strobe lighting, I shall be queuing for at least an hour before doors, completely destroying any hope of my standardly debauched Saturday night. I strongly advise that you do the same.

AMS album of the week

Björk: *bastards*

After returning to the limelight with the world's first app album, *Biophilia*, **Björk** has continued her tradition of remix albums with the affectionately named *bastards*. It's refreshing to see an artist so accomplished actually acknowledging the remix efforts of other musicians, as opposed to just using them as B-side filler.

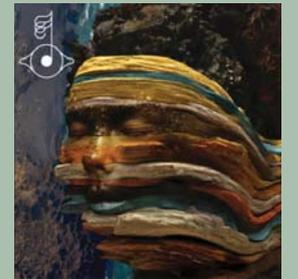
However, being a compilation of remixes, the album certainly does not flow in any sort of enjoyable way. Listening to the mostly untouched vocals of the same songs over and over gets annoying, even for a massive Björk fangirl like myself. I don't really get its purpose, seeing as all of these remixes were previously released, and most of them can be found in the excessively expensive *Biophilia Remix Series*, which consists of 8(!) 12" records. Nevertheless, I am inclined to think that it's more of an exhaustion of art direction than a money spinner.

Special mention must go to **Omar Souleyman's** remixes of both 'Crystalline', which opens the album, and 'Thunderbolt', further down the track list. If you've never heard Arab music, you're in for a treat, as both tracks are wonderfully fun and mesh well with Björk's vocals.

Contrary to his recent club banger endeavours, **Hudson Mohawke's** remix of 'Virus' is a lush slow burner. Despite the fact that the original is perfect in every way (yes, it's a fact), this remix really is a testament to the diversity of Hudson Mohawke's talent. For those seeking a bit more "wob", **Current Value's** remix of 'Solstice' provides just this, albeit in an angry commercial dubstep kinda way.

Another highlight is the incredibly well made remix of 'Mutual Core' by **These New Puritans**, featuring a beautiful sample from traditional music of the Solomon Islands. A perhaps less imaginative but still enjoyable remix of 'Mutual Core' by experimental electronic musician **Matthew Herbert** also appears on *bastards*, alongside his glitchy stripped back remix of 'Crystalline'.

I feel that *bastards* has no conceptual relation to *Biophilia*, and the themes of nature and technology have been completely lost in the remixing process. It must be said that these remixes have more body to them than their originals, but a lot less of the carefully crafted delicateness mastered by Björk.





Academy Award Anticipation

The Oscar race is now officially on – because we say it is. Summer's over, and slowly but surely, the studios are angling their release dates to coincide with the many voting deadlines that have been put in place for next year's Oscars. **Felix Film** wishes everyone the best of luck, and may the odds be ever in their favour...

(And yes, there are some shocking omissions from this list. Big no-nos to *The Dark Knight Rises*, *Magic Mike*, *Skyfall*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, among others)

John Park gives the pros and cons for each of those that may be in the running



The Master:

Pros: A big winner at this year's Venice Film Festival, scooping up the Best Actor and Best Director awards, Paul Thomas Anderson's latest drama loosely based on the foundation of Scientology as well as its leader has its awards momentum fully going for it, as the critics cannot stop talking about the wonderful visuals, the powerful storytelling, as well as its two impressive lead performances. Plus Anderson is known for being the most dynamic, modern Hollywood director.

Cons: It's not the most accessible film around, and its excessive ambiguity as well as Anderson's trademark style isn't to everyone's taste. Some have called this "opaque" and its lack of wide appeal may hurt its chances, like it has for many of Anderson's previous films.



Lincoln:

Pros: Compared to the one where Lincoln goes around killing vampires, Steven Spielberg's more serious adaptation will of course stand out, and with Daniel Day-Lewis' performance of the President already generating buzz as well as a healthy dose of fascinating historical drama, this has Oscars written all over it. That Lincoln is surrounded by a batch of superb supporting players (Oscar-winning Sally Field and Tommy Lee Jones to name a couple) also boosts its credentials.

Cons: Spielberg has attracted his share of detractors over the years, with some not appreciating his overuse of sap in order to sell a story. It's been more than 10 years since he won an Oscar, maybe the voters are trying to tell him something.



Les Misérables:

Pros: An adaptation of the grand, big-scale musical that took the world's stage by storm, it's filled with big names (Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Helena Bonham Carter, Amanda Seyfried), big tunes and big sets. Have you SEEN the trailer? Even hearing the songs fills you with inspiration and tingling goose bumps. Under the steady guidance of Tom Hooper (*The King's Speech*) this could be another musical to absolutely sweep the board come Oscar time.

Cons: This is the first musical film where the cast sings everything live. Sure it may sound authentic, but these actors, some who aren't necessarily trained singers, could botch the job, and there's nothing more excruciating than listening to beloved songs butchered on screen.



Django Unchained:

Pros: Quentin Tarantino is back, and it looks like he's directed yet another bonkers, violent mayhem – something he has expert knowledge in. It features expert performances from Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio and Christoph Waltz, who isn't at all unfamiliar with working with Tarantino, having scored awards glory with *Inglourious Basterds*. This time, it's a brutal Western about a slave-turned-bounty hunter looking to rescue his wife from a ruthless plantation owner.

Cons: Tarantino is known for his uninhibited, unflinching directing style, and with that can have a fair number of critics who wouldn't warm to his style. His films have never been awarded the top gong at the Oscars, and his bad luck may continue this year, as he won't change for anyone.



Life of Pi:

Pros: "Based on a best-selling novel" is always a good place to start if you want to score something big and catch everyone's attention, and Ang Lee certainly has, with his latest mystical adventure. A director with keen eyes for stunning visuals, Lee seems to have held nothing back in recreating the immense fantasy world of a young man on a spiritual journey after a shipwreck. Reviews from various film festivals have so far been positive, which bodes well for the future.

Cons: Films based on books always have that challenge of living up to the hype of the original book lovers. The rule that books are always better than films have only scarcely been proven wrong, and given the large fan-base for its novel, Lee's film has a lot to live up to.



Zero Dark Thirty:

Pros: Kathryn Bigelow, the first and so far only female director to have won a Best Director Oscar, follows up 2009's *The Hurt Locker* with another war film set in the Middle East. This time the subject matter is one that everyone will be familiar with: the hunt and eventual capture of Osama Bin Laden. With this kind of exciting premise, there will be tension, there will be action, and there will be blood, something Bigelow is more than capable of delivering in full potential.

Cons: It's rare for someone to have two consecutive hits like this. No matter how well the film turns out to be, Bigelow and her film may have to sit this one out to give room for others. The December limited release is a good sign, but will that give this enough push?



Silver Linings Playbook:

Pros: Ever since its debut at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival, this has been winning awards left and right, with both the critics and audiences warming up to the crowd-pleasing dramedy starring a strong ensemble of excellent actors. Jennifer Lawrence in particular has been highlighted for her gutsy portrayal of a struggling widow with a touch of craziness, whereas David O. Russell's balanced, sensible script dealing with mental illness is also attracting praise.

Cons: The awards race is still in the very early stages, with some heavy dramas being released later this year to perhaps subdue the hype surrounding this one. It now needs to do well financially; otherwise this will disappear into obscurity.



Beasts of the Southern Wild:

Pros: There is always that one or two Sundance hit that manages to squeeze in the Best Picture nominations list and if there were any this year, this would be more than deserving of that honour. Touching, funny, magical, intense, first-time director Benh Zeitlin's incredible achievement through his imaginative writing that knows no bounds is one of, if not THE year's best. The world seen through the eyes of a brave six-year-old girl is a thing of wonder and beauty.

Cons: Timing is always key when it comes to playing the awards season game, and the fact that this has been around for months doesn't count as a positive thing. And not everyone was sold on the film's charm, criticising the film's lack of ultimate sense and structure.



Argo:

Pros: Ben Affleck, who has reinvented himself as a serious director after two successful features, has created a real crowd-pleasing knock-out – about how an insane CIA operation actually worked and saved 6 Americans from the Iranian hostage crisis. Everyone loves a bit of self-congratulation, but why this has really connected with audiences is Affleck's unquestionable talent in mounting nail-biting tension. The most exciting movie event of the year deserves a spot.

Cons: The feel-good element is a bit of a double-edged sword – they may cheer during the film, the box office receipts may rack up, but looking back on the film, the voters might not be so kind as time goes by, as the film's shallow simplicity may become apparent.

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FILM



The Hobbit:

Pros: Peter Jackson is the man responsible for the fantasy trilogy epic, *Lord of the Rings*. And for him to stand behind the cameras to helm the prequel trilogy must have been a dream come true for fans of the franchise out there. Ian McKellen is also back in the crucial role as Gandalf as he leads Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), a brave little Hobbit, on an unforgettable quest. Andy Serkis is also back playing Gollum (give this man his much deserving Oscar already).

Cons: Jackson has set the bar insanely high with his previous trilogy, and the phenomenal hype surrounding the film may have a negative impact on the film as a whole. And with a single book that's been split into a trilogy, the first feature may be a dull build-up of better things to come.



Amour:

Pros: Winning the Palme d'Or is always a good sign, although it's not always an automatic guarantee of success in the States. Michael Haneke has once again directed something shockingly unbiased and brutally honest – looking at ageing, and the tough processes that go along with it. It's a tender, moving watch, starring a couple of well-matched French acting veterans, Jean-Louis Trintignant, and Emmanuelle Riva, in a heart-breaking performance.

Cons: Essentially it's about an eighty-year-old woman who is slowly but surely dying so a big crowd-pleaser this isn't. And it's a French film – foreign language films very rarely get their chance to shine, and *The Artist* is just a bouncy, anomalous exception to that rule.



Hitchcock:

Pros: A well-executed biopic always goes down well and one about the Master of Suspense Alfred Hitchcock should do even better. Based on the director's difficult relationship with his wife Alma, the film looks at how Hitchcock came about the story of *Psycho* and made arguably the greatest thriller in the history of cinema. A commanding set of performances from Oscar-winning Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren should also enhance its appealing qualities.

Cons: It has been noted that this is a simple, fun ride rather than a deep insight into the man himself. Hitchcock still remains an enigma to the industry, and this breezy, shallow portrayal might not be enough to wow the voters when there is much stiff competition.



Promised Land:

Pros: It's about a man battling his conscience (the Oscar favourite character) and it also includes a big, bad, corrupt, environmentally unfriendly company, with a small town of good honest people going up against it in an almost unwinnable fight. These all sum up to become only one thing: Oscar bait – not that there's anything wrong with that. And with a cast this good (Matt Damon, John Krasinski, Frances McDormand, Rosemarie DeWitt), things are looking bright.

Cons: Compared to other films on this list, the buzz as of now is surprisingly minimal, with only a single trailer released to promote the film. Perhaps this is part tactical, but the clock is ticking, and it needs a killer set of reviews for this to join the main race with the others.



Anna Karenina:

Pros: No-one does costume dramas better than Joe Wright, who enjoyed immense success with *Pride and Prejudice* with *Atonement*. Here he is again with his bold new adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's timeless, beloved novel. Keira Knightley is radiant in the role of a female heroine not particularly easy to like, and as is the case with most costume dramas, the stunning, lavish artworks, ranging from production design to costumes, are simply divine.

Cons: Too much visual style over a noticeable lack of substance? Not everyone was sold on Wright's theatrical stab at the story and compared to his other work that caught the attention of the Academy, this one does sadly fall short to truly make its mark in the Oscar race.



Moonrise Kingdom:

Pros: This delightfully charming Cannes opener received rave reviews in a town not so full of cheery men (Cannes' audiences and critics aren't afraid of expressing their views – they do often boo the hell out of a film) and was hailed as one of Wes Anderson's best. An eccentric mix of childhood warmth and the usual quirky humour you can expect from any Anderson's films, here is a sweet tale of immature love between a couple of pre-pubescent children.

Cons: It's been out since May, so the interest surrounding this is fizzling to say the least, and although he's a talented filmmaker, Anderson has never had much success with the Academy, and none of his films have ever been nominated for the Best Picture category. Scandalous, but true.



Killing Them Softly:

Pros: It's possibly one of the best-scripted films of the year, with so many clever parallels to politics and world economics all the while telling the story of a heist gone wrong with professional gunslingers coming in to handle the messy situation. The dense, very wordy chunks of dialogue are spoken smoothly by the ace male cast (not a single significant female appears here) and even without bullets and blood, it's one of this year's most compelling.

Cons: Audiences expecting the brooding Brad Pitt to wave his gun around shooting everyone are in for a sore disappointment, and will therefore lead to backlash over the film's more text-heavy approach. Andrew Dominik's films are calm and subtle, and may suffer as a result.



The Sessions:

Pros: Another Indie smash-hit to come out of Sundance 2012, it features without a doubt the most memorable on-screen couple of this year, as a man confined to an iron lung (John Hawkes) attempts to learn more about sex and lose his virginity with the help of a sex surrogate (Helen Hunt). The direction is sensitive enough to probe carefully around the area, but the film's not short on its healthy dose of laughter, and this feel-good film should go a very long way.

Cons: Too cheery for the Academy? The voters have been steering towards the feel-good genre for the past couple of years (*The Artist*, *The King's Speech*) but this also deals with the taboo, hush-hush subject of sex – something that could definitely hurt the film's chances.



The Impossible:

Pros: Its trailer is powerful enough to make certain people cry, so one can only imagine what the effects of the full-length feature will have on the big screen. The story of survival is often an Oscar favourite, whilst throwing in the concept of "family bond" will elevate the grandeur of this true story of a family caught in the Indian Tsunami even more. This kind of electrifying intensity will be hard to ignore, and the emotional payoff will most certainly be memorable.

Cons: Not everyone is sold on the soapy, sappy, over-dramatised, tear-jerking story of blatant audience manipulation, and the harsh, cynical critics (who could be amongst the voters, who knows) will not take nicely to the kind story that's really been told many times over.



Cloud Atlas:

Pros: No-one can deny the ambition that has gone into this project – this 3-hour long film covers six interwoven stories that take place over 500 years, the star-studded cast plays various characters over different time frames, each individual plot is a gripping, thought-provoking one, and the eye-catching visuals are simply stunning to look at. Oh, and this is also based on a best-selling novel. Another box ticked to legitimately enter the Oscar race.

Cons: The critics are sharply divided over this one – many didn't appreciate its length, some found the awkward casting to be quite problematic, the structure slightly all over the place and messy, and its core message not quite clear enough. And this isn't making money = bad sign.



Flight:

Pros: Focusing on one man's self-destructive pathway as he's accused of drink-flying (he's a pilot who's been drinking), Robert Zemeckis' return to live-action films in quite some time has been described as a fascinating character study, with the ever-so excellent Denzel Washington competently taking on the lead role. His performance is almost a deadlock for a nomination at least, which could also mean good things for the film he's starring in.

Cons: Although Washington is at the centre of much praise, same cannot be said for the film itself. Like many addiction dramas, the conventional structure as well as its repetitive cycle of a broken protagonist overcoming obstacles for eventual redemption is a touch too familiar.



Rust and Bone:

Pros: A stirring romantic drama that looks at the complexities of a relationship with damaged (both physically and mentally) individuals, Marion Cotillard and Matthias Schoenaerts shine in their difficult roles without resorting to any melodrama. Jacques Audiard, director of the much-acclaimed *A Prophet* carries on his successful streak, and he has already scored a big win at this year's London Film Festival, where his work was awarded the Best Film prize.

Cons: It's foreign, which will automatically work against the film's odds, plus it's not exactly the easiest film to sit through, a negative feature not made any less difficult by its length and a script that seems to slightly drag with its many complications that arise.

FILM

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

"I may disagree with the law but I will enforce it"

End of Watch

Director: David Ayer
Screenwriter: David Ayer
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Pena, Anna Kendrick, Frank Grillo, America Ferrera, Natalie Martinez



John Park

Film Editor

Although costing a relatively miniscule 7-million dollars, here is one of the best, most thrilling, heart-pounding action thrillers of the year. It also achieves this level of greatness in a sub-genre that is more often than not plagued with its own brand of clichés and predictable plot turns. But with *End of Watch* director David Ayer has made even the most obvious, tiresome formula with such style and panache that you will come out of the screening feeling richly rewarded and your pulses racing. It knows when to hold off on the action, it lets its characters develop and interact with one another, the dialogue is often sharp and witty, and when the

much-anticipated ultimate shoot-out does grace the screen, it pays off, in its kinetic, resounding finale.

It starts off and does try its best to maintain its consistency to look and sound like the "found footage" type of film. We see Brian Taylor (Gyllenhaal), a junior officer in the LAPD filming his daily police activities for a class he is attending. Whatever the excuse, the format works well as we follow the many long drives he and his close friend and partner Mike Zavala (Pena) share during their shifts. A lot of their days consist of the two of them driving around in their squad car, patrolling the neighbourhood as the two best friends casually trade insults and cheeky swipes at one another.

Gyllenhaal and Pena inhabit the roles as if they've been doing this for years, and the film has done well in securing these two actors and setting them up against one another. The fast-paced, humorous interplay between the two comes in incredibly handy as there is no shortage of aspects to enjoy even when there is a lack of bullets flying across the scene. But make no mistake in thinking they're the corrupt, arrogant cops who run wild flashing their police badges. These two, along with the rest of their department, made up of similarly determined and serious-

minded cops (both male and female), take their job and duty to serve and protect in the most genuine, honest way that they would lay down their lives without any hesitation.

Further building on their character before anything significant happens is the development of their other halves. Brian seems to be in between several women, whereas Mike has a wife. Things get certainly more amusing for Mike when Brian finds "the girl" in the form of Janet (Kendrick). Here we are given occasional breaks that see them out of their uniforms, where they go about the normal day-to-day lives, dealing with love, marriage, pregnancy, a newborn baby etc. The two women, Kendrick and Martinez (Mike's wife) provide a welcome fresh air in the midst of some of the heavier, darker side of the film and they have their own moments of priceless addition to the more charming side of the nicely balanced script.

As the two dutifully go about their patrols, they seize a handful of drugs, money, gold-painted weapons, and even free some victims of human trafficking. And in doing so they alert the local Mexican cartel who aren't all that enthusiastic about two eager cops messing with their business. And so the threats begin to mount, as it be-

comes all too clear that they are no longer safe.

Every so often we get treated to loud, intense action sequences, that come with plenty of bursts of energy, and, as they are saved up for more crucial scenes, their presence feels more significant. This is also where the documentary style takes the backseat and this allows more room for the director to play around with as he can capture the thrilling events at various angles where Brian Taylor's recording cameras aren't necessarily there. It's slightly cheating of course, but the feel of the "found footage" piece, its tight, narrow shots, the carefully controlled chaotic atmosphere are all still very much present, and the slight rule-bending turns out to be a massive plus, especially in the film's climax.

The emotionally charged finish, the powerful punch in the end, comes thanks to the two outstanding performances and their ability to make us believe everything they say, do and stand for. This is probably as raw, real, and involving as a cop drama can ever get, and for such an elusive line of workplace, we get a more than decent insight into what may be involved in what these men and women in uniform get up to in order to protect their districts.



Why don't you play with yourself

Silver Linings Playbook

Director: David O. Russell
Screenwriters: David O. Russell, Matthew Quick (novel)
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro, Jacki Weaver



John Park

Film Editor

For a man just released from the mental institution, Pat (Cooper) seems to have an alarmingly optimistic view on his future well-being. He is convinced his estranged wife, who has taken out a restraining order against him, will come back to him and he's unafraid to try whatever he can to win her over. His strategy is to think positive. Because with all the good energy and vibe, he believes he has a shot at a "silver lining" (hence the title).

Pat has bipolar disorder for which he needs medication. When undiagnosed

with this condition, he had the misfortune of walking into his home to find his wife in the shower with another man. He almost beat the guy to death, for which he carried out a sentence of 8 months in the aforementioned mental hospital. But armed with the motto "Excelsior" that gives him inspiration and a reliable recharge he needs to get back to his normal life, Pat is back. His parents however, Pat Senior and Delores (De Niro and Weaver, respectively), aren't fully convinced that their son is fully in control of his situations. And just as they feared, he shows signs that all may not be well.

Mental illness is a difficult subject matter to handle well, especially if it is the director's intention to include some humour into the mix. But David O. Russell, although not exactly the go-to guy for comedy, manages to sensitively address the issues surrounding his protagonist's everyday obstacles, and how the condition affects not only him but the ones around him. He allows his characters to be as outrageous as humanely possible, without ever mocking those with mental illnesses. They are never rounded off into broad

stereotypes of unstable, screaming and psychotic caricatures, but often well-grounded and controlled with only brief moments of outbursts that fit in with the scenario.

With the introduction of Tiffany (Lawrence) Pat's life becomes more complicated. As a self-proclaimed slut (she got fired from her job by sleeping with everyone at her office) mourning the sudden death of her husband, she's unafraid to speak her mind, much like Pat, and she seems to be the only one who understands what Pat is going through and what kind of help he truly needs. And in this central role Lawrence, giving the most mature and gutsy performance to date, truly grabs on to your attention and never lets go. With twisted complications of her own to deal with, Tiffany is a tough nut to crack, but behind the cold eyes of hers there is a lonely human being who longs for a true connection, a friend, and someone who perhaps understands her.

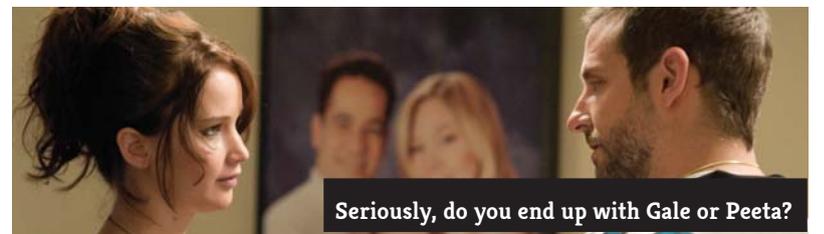
It would appear Pat isn't the only one in his family with problems. His father, with subtle hints throughout the film telling us that he has OCD,

has lost his job and has been making a living as a book-keeper betting on football games always loyally supporting the Philadelphia Eagles. So how does this little subplot fit in with everything going on? Pat Sr considers his son to be his own little lucky charm, although Pat Jr has a hard time accepting such nonsense. But in a tender, film-defining moment we see the quiet yet beautifully nuanced De Niro opening up ever so slightly, which to his character, is a huge step and he lets us know it.

Caught up in the family chaos, and arguably the only sane one who acts as the glue keeping everyone together is the family matriarch, Delores, nervously standing by to diffuse whatever situation may flare up. This is Australian actress Weaver's yet another

stunning supporting turn. Here she has less to do compared to the bigger names, no speeches or showy moments, but her warmth is just as easily felt as the worried mother and wife. She is so natural in exuding the love and devotion of a full-time housewife that she in fact plays a huge part in creating this loving family drama.

As the film increases the stakes when it comes to both Pat Sr's bets as well as Pat Jr's blossoming relationship with Tiffany through a dance competition, there is a sense of forced overlap of sorts to make a bigger, rousing moment of victory, which marks the film's only notable misstep. But the high it ends on is a truly remarkable and sensational one, with the people you've constantly rooted for getting the ending they thoroughly deserve.



Film Editors: Katy Bettany,
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FILM

Genuinely interesting diaries

Despoina Paschou Film Writer

Well, there are some films that when you are a bit too pretentious, you always act as you have seen them (I am one of the few people on this planet to admit that I have yet to watch *The Godfather* trilogy. And I am too pretentious for my own good). In the past decade, Walter Salles' *The Motorcycle Diaries* (Spanish: *Diarios de Motocicleta*), came to be added in this list.

From pseudo-Marxist friends to my dad, everyone was looking at me wide-eyed when I said that I haven't seen this film (in my dad's case, he even knew the director's name – I thought his range was only Coppola and Scorsese. Wrong). It has always been one of those things in the back of my mind. I always think of watching but never actually do. Thankfully, around London there are some very pretty charity shops, and one of them happened to sell the DVD for a reasonably low price.

Behind every big move, there is a significant reason. In this case, the movie examined the reasons that ignited the desire of Ernesto "Che" Guevara (then without the nickname) to free the lands South America. But this is far from a political movie. This is an ode to friendship, love, being young and full of life and ideas.



Watching the film was an overall kind of experience. First of all, it is visually arresting. The beautiful landscapes of South America make you stare at the screen mesmerised. They are not portrayed ideally beautiful, with blasts of colour here and there. On the contrary, they are bared to their true beauty, sometimes raw, sometimes softer. From the dry roads to the snow-filled mountain tops, you fall in love with this continent and realise one of the reasons why the future Che would go in the revolution. On the other hand, the cast of the movie, from the protagonists to the extras, are all realistic faces, people you would see in your everyday life, people you'd expect to live back in the day. People you can relate to and make your visual trip easier and enjoyable.

By mentioning the cast, it is unavoidable not to refer to the great talent Gael Garcia Bernal is. I had a crush on him for ages. It is because of his cute face for

the most part, but this guy is an undeniable talent. His body oozes idealism, kindness and good motives. I have not studied Guevara thoroughly to know his moves, gestures and general way of moving. But what I could certainly tell from Gael Garcia Bernal's approach is that he made his character come across as a person that would do every single gesture that the character in the movie did.

The prominent well intentioned motives of Guevara were a very good ground for the contradiction that was built between him and his co-traveller Alberto Granado (Rodrigo de la Serna). Granado comes across as a less well-intentioned man, as someone that puts his survival above all. Maybe that was my main problem with the movie – the way that Guevara's selflessness was thoroughly promoted by Granado's more selfish ways. I believe that sometimes the whole comparison issue made the

movie lose bits of its charm and was too obvious for the average viewer, making Granado quite unlikeable sometimes, even though at the end of the day he proves to be a loyal friend and a good human being.

Set aside this, the movie handles its themes in an excellent way. The last act of the film, that take place in the leprosy sanatorium, reveals Ernesto as a different person, if not ready to become the icon he later embodies, at least be someone with a fierce desire to make people's lives better, sacrifice himself, because he honestly loves them. He honestly wants to provide all support possible – from medical to emotional.

The future Che sets an excellent example of how ideas can be incarnated and how we can change the world, little by little. His adamant position and opinion remained stable, despite all the difficulties he may have confronted. Even when he can use money for his own benefit

(or, in this case, actual needs), he prefers to give it to people in need. His whole icon and what he generally represents make you root for the character, moving further from the historical figure he grows to become.

Salles' first effort away from his homeland and native language (he is Brazilian) does not seem like a too hard one. He handles perfectly the landscapes of the rest of his home continent, and makes them home to you, yet something magical you would like to discover someday.

Another exceptional point of the film is its comic undertone, that adds to its realism and moves away from the self-seriousness a biopic of a figure as Che could have carried. On the contrary, makes the movie even more realistic and moves you away from the danger of becoming bored to death or feeling like you are taught a lesson by the movie – you are taught zillions of them, but you actually enjoy it.

The density and beauty of this movie come gently into your soul and after its two hours elapse leave you with a feeling of satisfaction, of a spiritual nutrition that makes you want to change the world; not because you want to cast your mark upon humanity, but because you love this goddamn world. In times like these, this is one desire we should embrace more, one that should be born in ourselves and take over.

Twilight sucks...and not in the good way

Breaking Dawn Part 2

Director: Bill Condon

Screenwriters: Melissa Rosenberg, Stephenie Meyer (novel)

Starring: Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart, Taylor Lautner, Michael Sheen



Katy Bettany

Who??



'Must act, must act, must act'

The Twilight Saga comes to a much needed close with its final instalment. The main problem with this film is that Meyer's final book barely contained enough content for one film, let alone two franchise-bleeding epics. Consequently, this film ended up being two hours in which essentially, nothing happened.

The film begins with Bella opening her eyes as a vampire for the first time, and soon after meeting her and new husband Edward's, creepy daughter (ridiculously CGI enhanced, and even more ridiculously named Renesmee). Renesmee, being only half vampire, grows at least a year older in every scene, it seems, until she morphs into the 11 year old actress Mackenzie Foy – who took on her on-screen mother's blank, miserable expressions as if she had inherited them. Soon she is mistaken for an immortal child, i.e. a child turned into a vampire (forbidden by the Volturi under punishment of death – pretty self-explanatory – imagine a toddler with bloodlust). Alice,

aided by her visions, sees that the Volturi, led by Aro (Sheen), are coming to punish the Cullens, who then begin the task of rounding up their friends from around the world in an attempt to make the Volturi listen before they are unfairly slaughtered.

For creatures that supposedly can move at lightning speed, the Volturi take a hell of a long time to show up – well over an hour, leaving plenty of time for Stewart, Pattinson and Lautner to gaze longingly at the camera. There are too many extended, self-indulgent shots of the three walking, or driving a car, or sitting in chairs; as if these inane functions are somehow special because they are performed by beautiful people. More likely, Condon realised he wouldn't have enough content to fill a feature length film, and had to pad it out in the most boring way imaginable. The first hour, therefore, was excruciatingly slow paced and full of sickening happy family/new house tweenage fantasy.

Stewart and Pattinson are patent-

ly too immaculate and beautifully turned out to be new parents, probably something to do with their parenting method, which should definitely be converted into a book for expecting parents. Occasionally pose at a piano with your child, then leave the difficult parts to your undead family and a pseudo-paedophile wolf (I'll get onto him). This method leaves plenty of time for gazing at each other/oneself longingly and getting it on (apparently when vampires have sex they sparkle – who knew?). Lautner has been busy since the last film; adding 6 extra muscles to his stomach, which definitely isn't a bad thing, as well as imprinting (a wolfy form of arranged marriage) onto Renesmee. The latter is vaguely unsettling, as while we are assured it is involuntary and not deviant in nature, it's still more than a bit creepy.

So finally, the Volturi show up. Since seeing Sheen play Hamlet on stage last year, I'm always a bit sad to see him in this franchise, as I think he's too good an actor for the role. Nonetheless he

plays psychopathic Aro in a suitably twisted and humorous fashion. The ensuing fight scenes between the Cullens, their friends and the Volturi were actually well constructed, and Ashley Greene (Alice) is awesomely bad-ass. More time should have been spent on the vampires the Cullens' took the trouble of collecting, however, as they had some pretty interesting powers, but mostly just stood around looking scary. Some shock moments too, causing a few screams from the audience, as the film deviates from the book in an annoying twist.

All in all, despite a reasonable ending (the fight scenes, not the horrific video montage of Edward and Bella's love story), this film felt empty and self indulgent, its moments of wit drowned out by everything else. Die-hard fans will probably revel in Edward and Bella's fantasy ending, but even as part of a franchise, this film is less than convincing. Ultimately, the final book should never have been split into two.



Abandonment Issues

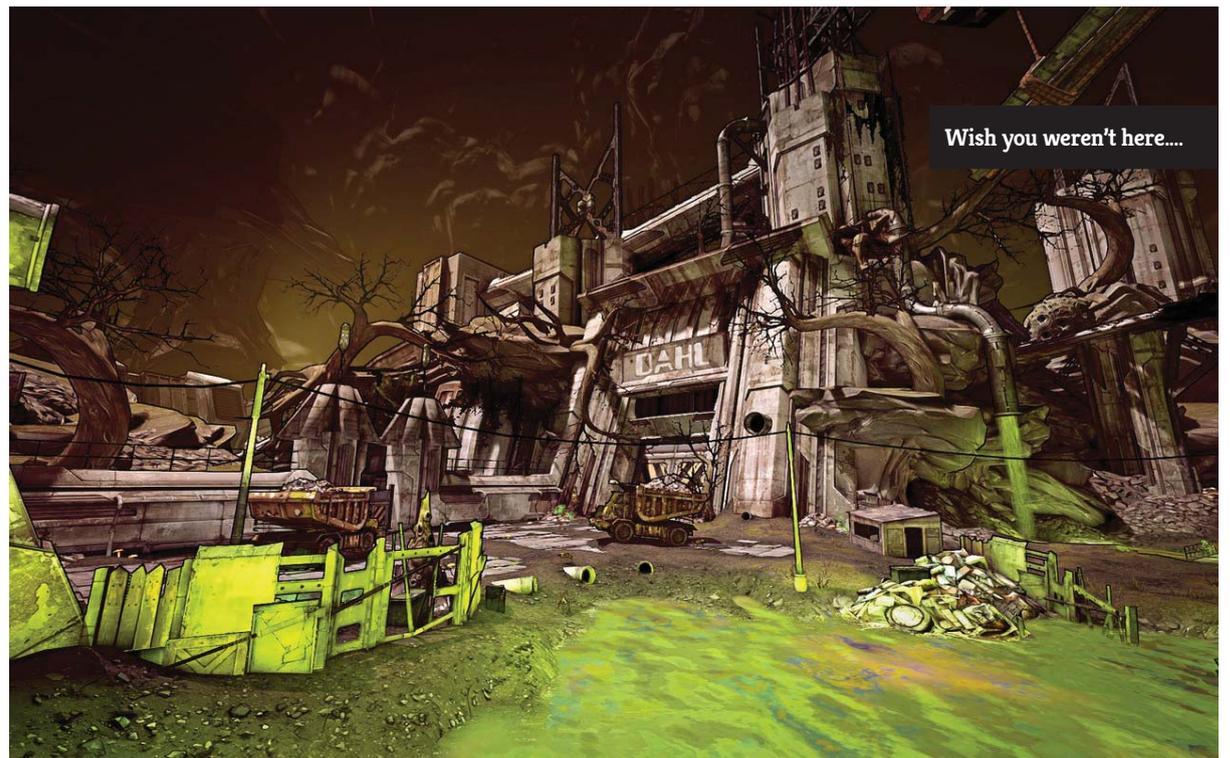
Ross Webster thinks his mind should be supervised at all times

It happened again this week. I was running around the ruins of a mining operation, in a cave, now made accessible by the departure of a floating city, which acted like a cork upon this bottle of badly-aged acid, when I looked up and I got the urge. This isn't the kind of urge that involves running to the toilet after last night's curry, this is the urge to will time to stop, so you can just stand there and take in what you're seeing. When I get this feeling, I can't help but get this itch in my mind, which isn't satisfied until I've explored all the things. I want to climb that scaffolding, and see how far the tracks go. I want to know whose house-of-tyres I just ran through. Where are they? Are they still alive? Does anyone remember that this place still exists? My mind races, and for a moment, I want to be my character, with all the opportunities that this effectively timeless world offers. Only for a moment, however, as the bubbling lakes of acid, the swarm of varkids and the pack of thumping crystalisks detract from this notion of abandonment. Damned nature. The problem is that I can't rightly put this feeling into words, so you'll just have to bear with me, whilst I try to mangle words into emotions.

In case you hadn't guessed, I was talking about *Borderlands 2* and the Caustic Caverns underneath Sanctuary – an old city constructed as a base

of operations for the aforementioned mining operations. When you get off the elevator at the 'ground' level of the mines, nothing seems out of place – it's your regular, grey architecture that you've seen in earlier missions. It's when you turn the wheel to open the ten metre high and one metre thick doors, that you suddenly feel dwarfed by the structure. There's no comically quotable enemy force down here to liven up your day – you're in a place that even your hardened enemies haven't ventured into. Your sole sources of entertainment are the bugs and crystalline monsters that seem to thrive in this corrosive atmosphere, and they're not big talkers.

Borderlands 2 isn't the only game that elicits this response from the hyperactive cat-trying-to-find-a-sunny-spot part of my brain. Let me take you back to *Portal 2* – a source of enough quotes to fill /vg/ or /r/gaming for years to come. There's this switch in the tone of the game, about one third of the way in, and you've gone from "ERMAHGERD RESCEW!" to "ERMAHGERD FALLIN TO MAH DEF :(" Considering your immunity to fall damage (a shared characteristic with *Borderlands 2*) you don't go splat, but you find yourself thrown back in time, to the beginnings of Aperture Laboratories (the original name of Aperture Science), with a speaking potato. *Portal 2* isn't exactly the most



varied, when it comes to life forms you can interact with – with the majority of speaking done by recordings of long-gone industrialists, or the A.I. (Artificial Ineptness) that controls the facility. Or your potato. That being said, I don't feel lonely or abandoned in the first part, as there are cameras and viewing windows all over the place, but once I've dropped into the ruins and pipes of the long-forgotten testing facilities and offices, I get that urge again. What's behind that door? What's living in the water at the bottom of the caves? How does this work, and where does that collapsed walkway lead to?

It's not just first-person games that let my mind wander either – *Beneath a Steel Sky* (BaSS) is a rather old Virgin Interactive game (so old that you needed to use an emulator to play it when it was new (a slight exaggeration)), set in a large industrialised city and the whole game has a dark 1984-esque authoritarian feeling (think *Machinarium* mixed in with

Bladerunner) and I want to know what the history is behind the boarded up shops, or where all the pipes go!

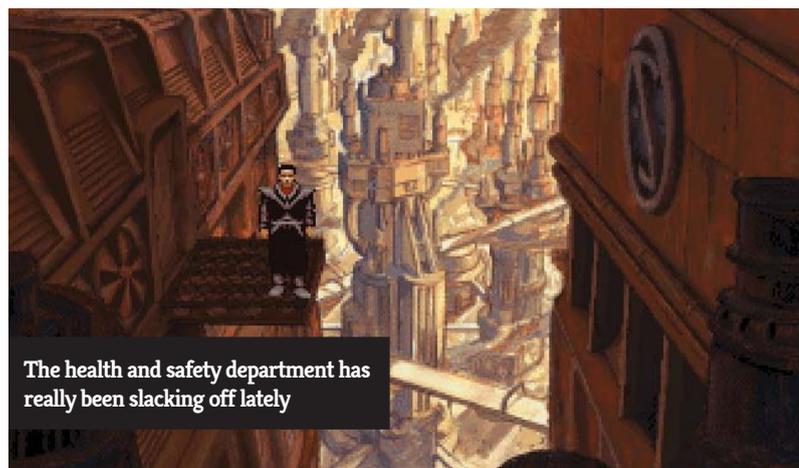
I think this whole situation stems from the idea of being unnoticed by other people. In large cities, sandbox games and MMOs, you don't normally warrant attention, and the world continues past you – the same as if you were fighting your way through the sewers underneath London to reach an ancient crypt, or watching commuters walk by the news stand whilst you're 2 miles away, ogling at them through the scope of your rifle. I think my mind goes crazy when it thinks no-one is watching me.

In most games, the sit-there-and-wait mentality normally makes a token appearance in a scripted event – there's rarely ever a bonus to just watching the world go by in the normal playthrough of the game. Some games do reward pacifist gameplay i.e. the *Deus Ex* series, and once in a blue moon, the game's better (IMHO) when you're the most cautious thing

since sliced bread (I told you all, ages ago, that I'm not good at metaphors) *a la DayZ*.

The odd thing is that this is a trait that I hold in both gaming and real life. True, there are times that I want to hit (slow moving) people with a frying pan, or eat a hotdog to heal all my wounds (let's not talk about my mushroom usage), but, generally, my play style isn't my lifestyle and I hope it stays that way, or I'm heading to prison really soon. So, I guess this boils down into what would make a truly great – if not iconic – game, in my opinion. So, a good graphics engine, with an immense amount of detail and backstory, and a massive city I can get lost in, with secret passageways, sewers and an abandoned underground city. Oh, gameplay? In the wise words of the immortal Sweet Brown, "Ain't nobody got time for that!"

Wanna write for Felix, instead of seeing a psychiatrist, like I just did? Let us know – games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Master
Chief's
Weekly
News
Flood

We're landing planetside

Planetside 2 is now out! After months of being in a variety of beta states, *Planetside 2* is available to the public, on an F2P model. If you're not familiar with how *Planetside 2* works, imagine an FPS MMO that plays a lot like *Battlefield* (I guess it's closest to BF2142). PS2 games can take days, as you run/drive/fly around the map, working with your team to capture the points you need to win the game. Being free, I'd suggest you all give it a go, and see what you think.

The game's supported by the option to pay for extra experience boosts and quick unlocks, also known as the League of Legends, or Freemium model. It's been years since I played the original, and it'd be interesting to see if this game can live up to our expectations. Santa Vanu's coming to town, baby!

Wii U

The Wii U came out earlier this week, for those unlucky enough to be in Northern America. The only impact it's had on my life so far, is it clogging up the internet, so my flow of Lolcats has slowed to a trickle. I'm happy about the launch titles though (including *Batman Arkham City*, and *Assassin's Creed 3*), and although the graphical side of things is on par with the Xbox 360, the new hardware should prove interesting.



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Disability History Month Events 2012



THURSDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 16.00—17.30

DHM2012 Launch lecture by Dr Ossie Stuart

“Following the legacy of the Paralympics, how can we improve disabled people’s experiences in the workplace?”

The Olympics and Paralympics were great spectacles that reflected all that is good about humanity. In particular, we saw in the Paralympics superb athletes achieving their best. Dr Ossie Stuart, will map out the changes disability has undergone and will suggest that employment still remains the last frontier for disabled people today. In his opinion, the true legacy of the Paralympics will be a gold medal in the world of work.

Room G34, Sir Alexander Fleming Building



THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 13.00—15.00 DROP-IN

Tea and cakes

with Equality Unit and Disability Advisory Service supported by the Executive Sponsor for Disability, John Neilson

Come and join us for tea and cakes and find out more about what the College does for disabled staff and students. This is your chance to meet and greet the College staff involved in disability support and policy development.

Room 311, Level 3 Sherfield Building



TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 13.00—15.00

Overcoming the difficulties in developing evidence-based approaches for learning disability

Webinar with Dr Patricia C Oliver Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Imperial College

Dr Oliver will speak of her research undertaken since the start of the 21st century into overcoming the difficulties in conducting evidence-based research in the field of Learning Disability, citing specific ethical and methodological solutions developed in research studies.

**To join the webinar please email by Friday 30 November
l.okhai@imperial.ac.uk**



THURSDAY 6TH DECEMBER 18.00—19.30

This poetry is madness!

Imperial College welcomes top performance poets Zena Edwards (goodnewzee.wordpress.com) and Mark Gwynne Jones (www.psychicbread.com) who will be performing their own unique responses to issues of mental health, in themselves and in others they have known. An opportunity to see some of the best of UK’s spoken word artists deal with a serious issue in a sensitive and entertaining way that will help open up discussion on one of modern society’s taboos. This will be followed by question and answer session with the poets.

**Seminar and Learning Centre Room 1,
Level 5 Sherfield Building**



MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER 15.30—17.00

Screening of *Temple Grandin*

Temple Grandin is a biopic film directed by Mick Jackson and starring Claire Danes as Temple Grandin, an autistic woman who has become one of the top scientists in the humane livestock handling industry. Dr Temple Grandin did not speak until age four and found interacting with people very challenging. She is noted for her humane design for the treatment of cattle in processing plants, which have been the subject of several books and won awards. Today, she is a professor at Colorado State University and well-known speaker on autism and animal handling.

**Seminar and Learning Centre Room 7 Level 5,
Sherfield Building**

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Business Editor: Deepka Rana
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BUSINESS

Hackers Unite!

Sam Wong introduces Imperial's very own Hackathon

Hackathons are magical. Hackathons are non-compulsory, unpaid, but last long enough to warrant overtime pay and a day off in a normal corporate environment. Yet somehow participants are highly engaged, and manage to produce creative solutions in a much tighter timeframe. Why do Hackathons work? What is the differentiating factor from regular work?

The first one is focus. Online entrepreneur and author Jason Fried is very vocal on this matter. He believes work is like sleep. One doesn't simply go to sleep, one builds towards sleep. The same applies to work: it takes time to internalise the problem before one can offer an elegant solution. Yet, in a normal day of work, water cooler gossip, meetings, and managers constantly distract workers; similar to how REM sleep cannot occur with constant interruptions, quality work cannot be achieved in most ordinary workplaces.

The second factor is motivation. Dan Pink, bestselling author, gave a great TED talk on "The Puzzle of Motivation". To motivate one to produce quality creative work, 'Autonomy, Mastery and Purpose' beats the 'Carrots and Sticks' approach hands down. This proposition is backed by the Glucksberg's research on "Duncker's Candle Problem". In this study, researchers found that incentives only improve

performance in straightforward tasks. When it comes to tasks that require creativity, participants that received monetary incentives based on performance actually performed worse than the control group who received no prize! Another study from the Federal Reserve Bank reported that for tasks that called for 'rudimentary cognitive skill', a larger reward "led to poorer performance". Dan makes the case that 'Autonomy, Mastery and Purpose', i.e. to direct one's own life, to get better at something that matters, and to do something in the service of something larger than oneself, are the true motivators to creative tasks.

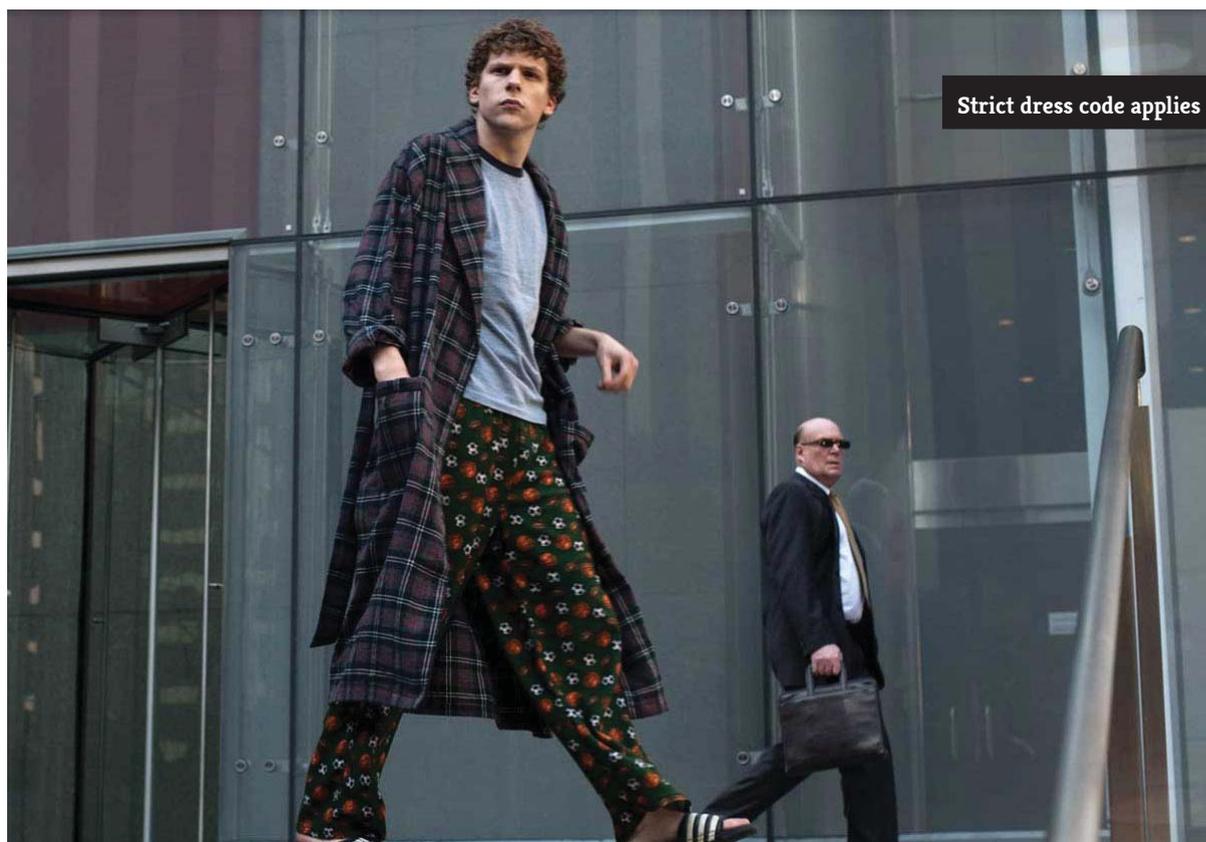
The third differentiating factor is that a Hackathon kills procrastination. We all know the coursework takes an hour to finish if we start one hour before the deadline. Without the Hackathon, you can create an idea anytime between now and forever. However, in a Hackathon time is of the essence. "If I don't join/finish the Hackathon, I will need to do the same task but lose the prizes plus swags plus the job offer".

Hackathons and similar autonomous work time has proven to be a great innovation catalyst. It has produced a whole array of new products, most famously Google's GMail, Google News and Facebook's like button and timeline.

Now back at Imperial, what will differentiate us from the rest of the world? What makes Imperial great? How can we make Imperial better? I believe Imperial will benefit from the same process as major tech firms have. Therefore, our best hackers are being gathered to build something that works and wows over one week-end.

Last year, the Hackathon at Imperial produced some very interesting products. Heatnote, a new slideshow player, allows students to tag confusing parts of the slide live. Lecturer can thus see in real time which part of the slide requires further clarification. Another winning team created a system that automatically delivers relevant notes to your devices, based on your course and location. As you can see, our hackers have already implemented some great ideas.

For hackers who attended last year's event, you know how great that was. Our first ever Hackathon last year received rave reviews from Facebook engineers, both on quality and originality. Therefore it is no surprise that Facebook will be mentoring the teams and scouting for talent in the event. This year we are happy to have more heavyweight partners. We are pleased to have Microsoft engineers joining us



Strict dress code applies

in the Hackathon, who will be providing mentors and judges, and Oxford Instruments, who will be providing Raspberry Pis for the event. Now we truly have broadened the horizon of possibilities!

Just as any other Hackathons, we will have enough food and snacks to keep everyone going over the week-end. On top of that, we have organised a few workshops to get you ready. We will have workshops on Git, Mobile Development, Facebook APIs and

Raspberry Pis. To help you make a lasting impact, each team will receive a server from us.

While you are free to work on whatever you want (in the true spirit of Autonomy). To qualify for the final, your product must make a real, lasting impact. That means your code will need to be on github, and your service must be able to serve real users after the event.

Of course, no Hackathon is complete without some handsome re-

wards. We have prepared cash prizes for the winning teams, and we have angel investors ready to take your products to the next level (hopefully not just the winners!). HR from Facebook and Microsoft will be joining us in the after party, I am sure they will be very interested in your CVs.

The Imperial Hackathon will be taking place in January – so get cracking and submit your ideas to ideas.ichackathon.com.

If I don't join/finish the Hackathon, I will need to do the same task but lose the prizes plus swags plus the job offer

Stand out from the crowd



Write for Felix Business



Bring Cyprus to London

Sophia Goldberg on her first taste of Cyprus

Last Thursday we, the Food Editors, decided to paint the town red! We hit the "Cyprus Hospitality" event, organised by the Imperial College London Cypriot society.

Yiango invited us along and, being food lovers, it was a great excuse for Carol and I to try something new. Being students we obviously took up her offer as the entrance was free and it was open to everyone.

The guests had an opportunity to try traditional Cypriot sweets like loukoumia (Cyprus delights), siousiokos (a dessert made from

grape juice and stuffed with nuts) and halouvas (asemolina and rosewater dessert). There was also pitta bread, fried halloumi (Cyprus cheese), taramosalata and black olives.

I'm not going to lie to you, the beverages were not for the faint hearted. The drinks on offer were zivania and commandaria, and they were very popular. They were deceptively sweet – masking the large alcohol content.

We loved it, so why not cook something inspired by Cyprus in your kitchen? Or head out to somewhere where they'll cook it for you?



How to make halouvas

Yiango Mavrocostanti Food Editor

Did you miss the Cyprus event? Don't cry - here's my family's recipe for halouvas, a super easy and ridiculously cheap traditional Cyprus dessert. Make it and your house will smell like Cyprus!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup coarse or fine semolina
- 1/2 cup blanched almonds
- 2 tbsp sunflower oil
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2.5 cups water
- 1 tbsp rosewater or vanilla extract

Method:

In a small pan put the water and sugar on medium heat. In a separate pan put the sunflower oil and almonds on medium heat and stir until the almonds turn slightly brown. Then add the semolina and stir. When the sugar is dissolved in the water add the rosewater or vanilla, stir and then slowly pour it in the pan with the semolina. Stir as fast as you can so that no lumps are created and continue until the mixture becomes thick and you can see the bottom of the pan when stirring. Then put in individual bowls or plates and decorate with almonds.



Cypriot restaurants in London

Sophia Goldberg Food Editor

Don't feel like cooking? Why not try a Cypriot restaurant in London?

The Kolossi Grill

56 - 60 Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4RR
020 7278 5758

Opening times: 12am-2:30pm Mon-Fri, 5:30pm-11pm Sat
A cosy Cypriot restaurant where you can sample lots of different dishes in one sitting.

Yia Mas

40 Upper Richmond Road, SW15 2RX
02088714671

Opening times: 6pm - 11pm Tue-Sun
This is reviewed as a 'terrific' Cypriot restaurant – the photos look pretty good too!

Yia Mas

73 Myddleton Road, N22 8LZ
020 8889 8760

Opening times: 12am-11:30pm Mon-Sat, 12am-9pm Sun
For a lively atmosphere and superior

taverna grub head to Yia Mas where, amongst other things, they have kebabs, pasticho or moussaka.

Cyprus Meze Bar & Restaurant

524-526 Lea Bridge Road, E10 7DT
020 8556 5866

Opening times: 7pm-1am Tue-Thu, 7pm-2am Fri, 7pm-12.30pm Sat
Like to pick? Here they have a wide selection of small Meze dishes that can

be chosen to make a meal.

Aphrodite Taverna

15 Hereford Road, W2 4AB

020 7229 2206

Opening times: 12am-11:45pm Mon-Sat

Make sure you book first for this restaurant. The menu mainly contains Cypriot food with a few international influences.



Rep Week 2012 26 - 30 November

Rep Week is starting on Monday and it gives our academic representation system a chance to show off its many successes on a departmental level. Just last month a record number of students voted in our Your Rep Elections and there are now over 400 Academic Reps working, for you, in every department of College. Their aim is to improve your education.

There have already been some great successes in your department and we will be showcasing some of these throughout the week which runs from 26 - 30 November. Keep checking the Union website and follow our hashtag #loveyourep on Twitter.

According to the Union Survey at the end of last year 33% of undergraduate students didn't know who their Academic Reps were. In response we have launched our "Your Representatives A-Z" section of the Union website. This is your one-stop shop to find out who is your Academic Rep as well as your Liberation Zone reps or Halls reps if you are a first

Your Representatives A to Z

You can find any of your 400+ student representatives here - everyone from academic reps to liberation campaigners and Hall wardens teams.

Understanding Your Reps

There are elected student representatives for every course and residence at Imperial College London, plus campaigners and liberation officers.

Filter the A to Z

BY TYPE

- HALLS OF RESIDENCE
- LIBERATION ZONE
- POSTGRADUATE REPS
- UNDERGRADUATE REPS

BY ALPHABET

A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X
Y	Z	#			

year. To see the "Your Representatives A-Z" head online now.

If you want to come talk to your reps and you want to give us some suggestions of how to improve your course then come to the Junior Common Room between 12:00 -14:00 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We will be rewarding the three best suggestions with £20 Union vouchers and you can even tweet your suggestions by giving your course and using #loveyourep on Twitter.



#loveyourep

Doug Hunt

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)
president@imperial.ac.uk

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



Union Survey - Open now



The Union Survey is your chance to let us know what you think about the many services that we run and provide. At the end of last academic year we ran the first ever Union Survey and we have already made positive changes as a result of your feedback. Our 'You said, we did' campaign highlights the changes we have made.

One of the most visible changes we made was in launching this new website!

You said that the old site was slow and hard to navigate, so when we were thinking about our new site these were the two most important elements for us.

Other changes include the reintroduction of a wide-range of real ales in the Union bars, an Everyday Value range in the Union Shop and a comprehensive Rep Finder that helps you find out how represents you in College and the Union.

It is now time to tell us again how we are doing. The November 2012 Union Survey will only take you five minutes to fill out and, as you can see, really does help us to improve everything we do.

We will be selecting winners at random to win one of the following prizes:

- 2 x £20 Union Shop vouchers
- 4 x £10 Union Shop vouchers
- 4 pairs of Summer Ball 2013 tickets!

& YOU COULD WIN

SUMMER BALL TICKETS

SUMMER BALL TICKETS



SHOP VOUCHERS



•BOOTLEG.
KOKO POP

MUSIC



DRINKS OFFER
JÄGERBOMB

ONLY

£2.50

OFFER STARTS 28 NOVEMBER
IN ALL BARS

MIXER AVAILABLE IS SHARK ONLY

FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER
20:00 - 02:00

FREE BEFORE 20:00 | £2.50 AFTER

If you like bootleg then you will love Koko Pop! Get involved and hear the best current bootleg music.

DRINKS OFFER HOUSE SPIRIT
& MIXER

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
FROM 18:00 IN ALL BARS

£2.00

STICK IT ON!

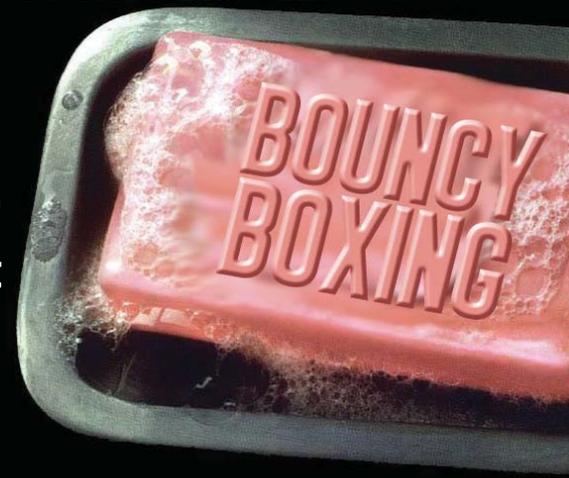


20:00 - 02:00 Free before 20:00 £2.50 after.
You choose the music!

BOOM
BOX

Wednesday 28 November
19:00 - 01:00 / Metric
Free before 21:30 £2.00 after

Boom Box is your weekly club night with amazing drink offers and Bouncy Boxing.



imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on

LIMITS
yourlimits.co.uk

imperial
college
union



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

COFFEE BREAK



Imperial Lovestruck



I heard you say "I always show my boobs" as I walked past. I would love to show you my boobs. – *A horny person*

I saw you in the library and when you talked about fluid dynamics I got a good test of my wetting system. If you want some, find me in the Library elevator. I'll be the one going up one floor. – *Stressed in the library*

When you dropped that test tube in the lab I wanted to fragment something else. Your ego. With my amazing loving. I hope to be your solute and make you wet. Me and you, now that's a good solution. – *Mixologist*

You solved an equation in the library and shouted "yes!" under your breath. I thought it would be a good idea to say hi but didn't have the courage. I also remembered that I thought it was a good plan to do engineering at university and that it would be all building cars. It makes me doubt my judgement a bit. – *Engineering who was lured in by the promise of F1 car making.*

See someone you like at Imperial? Want them to notice you? Go up to them and introduce yourself. Or, barring that, email: felix@imperial.ac.uk with your Lovestruck.



Nick Clegg: Kanye West's hypeman

INTERESTING THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

"Why do people think that chewing gum will instantly make bouncers at nightclubs not realise that they have been drinking? Surely, every bouncer knows this 'trick' and therefore would be on the lookout for it?"

"Has there ever been a time when someone really wants to know how many of one specific group of people it would take to change a light bulb?"

"Do different pasta shapes taste different? Why the plethora of options?"



TWITTER HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK



Ed Miliband @Ed_Miliband

The person who shouted during the speech by a year 11 pupil was totally wrong and doesn't speak for Labour. The hundreds who applauded her do

Ed Miliband, Leader of the Opposition, or, as Mitt Romney would call him "Mr. Leader", puts a heckler in their place with a slam dunk of a zinger. #theygotparred

HOT!

LEARNING ABOUT TYPOGRAPHY

BEING FRIENDLY TO EVERYONE

LISTENING TO CRAIG DAVID UNIRONICALLY

HENRY HOOVERS

BRUCE WILLIS

BEING BAREFOOT

THINKING ON THE TOILET

WATCHING TV NAKED

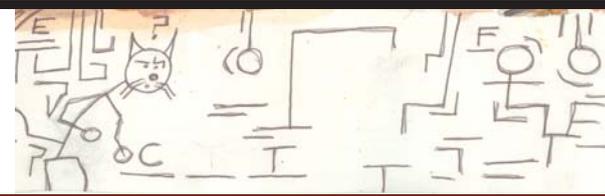
PROOFREADING A FRIEND'S CV

COVER LETTERS

NOT!

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



twatter



OBAMARAMATYME2012

ffs. I went to the kitchen to check on my pasta, came back and Israel and gaza were at it again.



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

you think that's bad? I'm at some shitty EU meeting in Brussels. I don't even know what a budget rebate is :(



Cleggmanxxx

I explained it all to you on the plane. You said you understood.



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

I just said that to make you shut up. Was trying to watch bridesmaids.



OBAMARAMATYME2012

I think I'm going to arrange a music concert in Jerusalem. You know like live aid.



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

omg that's an amazing idea. You can get Barbara Streisand, Neil diamond, Adam Lambert and...um...I don't know any Palestinian singers



willyoujoinmymiliband?

Paul Simon :D



Cleggmanxxx

Paul Simon isn't Palestinian Ed. how many times have I told you this?



OBAMARAMATYME2012

well Paul Simon will do. What shall we call it?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

we should call it 'live budget rebate'



Cleggmanxxx

yeah i really need to explain this budget rebate to you before your speech.

Find of the Week

As seen in a toilet in the Computing department

Greetings, toilet user.

Please note that core-dumping and clogging the toilet is considered harmful. Even if you put the toilet brush on the seat afterwards. It's *not okay*.

Imperial's shInternet Service Provider caps the download rate at 2 MegaButts per second, and exceeding this limit violates their Fair Poosage Policy. To avoid choking the network (and everybody else in the bathroom), please *flush the buffer* several times as you proceed with your download.

We understand that network congestion can sometimes be a problem. If you are continuously blocking the toilet when you empty your cache, we would recommend adding *fiber optic technology* to your diet. Fiber has been shown to greatly increase transmission rates and causes less noise on the line.

I would recommend raisins, prunes or dates. (Goodness knows computer scientists need to get more dates).

I hope you have enjoyed these puns whilst flexing your buns.

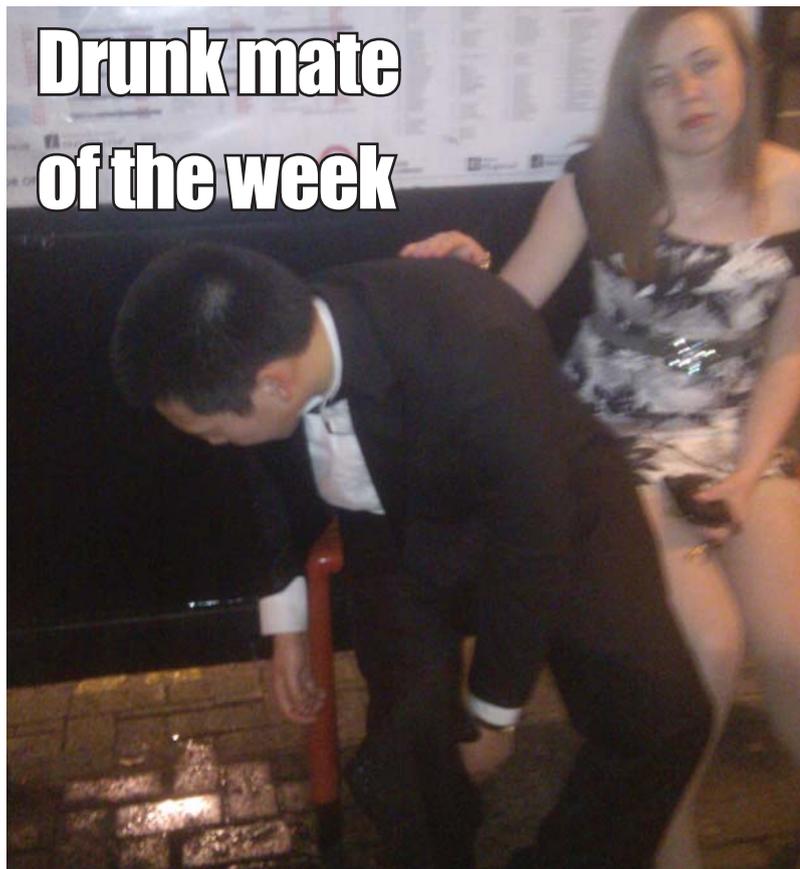
—KK

Find something funny on campus? Send it in to felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Want to write something funny? Great! What are you waiting for, an email address to contact about it. Fine, get in touch, please: felix@imperial.ac.uk

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

HANGMAN

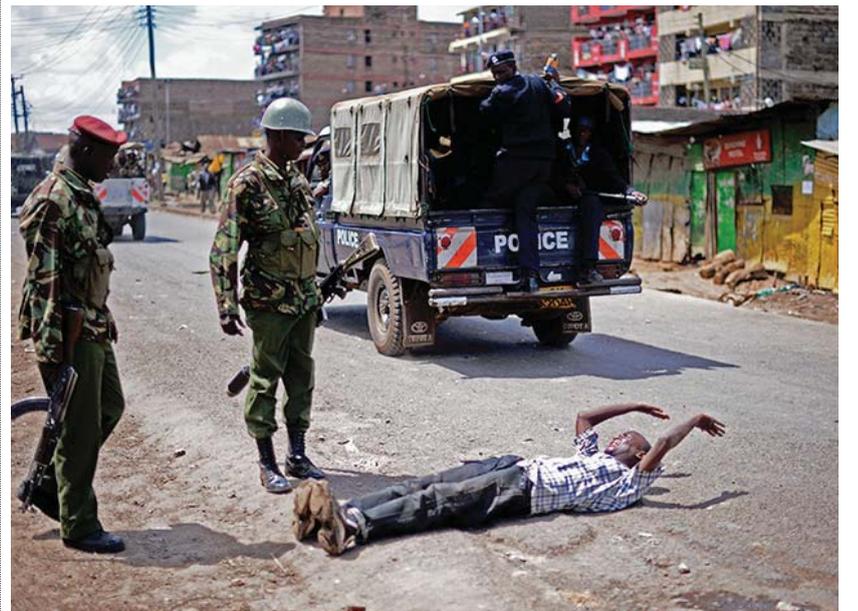


Drunk mate of the week

Well. The face of the girl on the left definitely sums up everyone's feeling when they realise they have to look after someone for the rest of their night. To be fair to him, he is wearing a tux. I guess that's the classiest way to vom at a bus stop. Right?

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



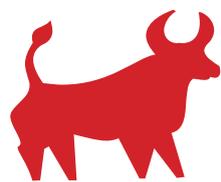
POLICE "UNIMPRESSED" WITH NEW DANCE CRAZE

HOROSCOPES – You can't fight your destiny



ARIES

This week you wonder: Kelly, can you handle this? Michelle, can you handle this? Beyoncé can you handle this? I don't think you can handle this. While these thoughts occur to you, your reaction boils over, all your product evaporates and you get 3/10 on your lab report. Bugger.



TAURUS

This week you find yourself pushing on a pull door in front of the whole JCR, who are staring at you, half chewed food sat there in their hanging open mouths. Shamed, you quickly buy your baguette and get the hell out of there. As you try to leave you pull at the door... this clearly isn't your day.



GEMINI

This week you're a computing student. I have no joke about you as I haven't got the faintest idea of what computing students do. Like are you actually those people that we pay £80 to when we leave our laptop at PC world or is it just like Maths but even more boring? Answers on a post-card please.



CANCER

This week you write an article about sexism at Imperial and publish it in Felix. BAD MOVE BUDDY, your Twitter account gets bombarded with non-stop abuse, your friends hate you and your personal tutor no longer looks you in the eye. You give up on liberal debate entirely.



LEO

This week you are made manager of Chelsea Football Club. There would've been a time when that was cool but frankly by now 3 of your mates, your gran and that hot girl from your lab group have all had a bash. You come home to find John Terry sleeping with your girlfriend. He racially abuses you.



VIRGO

This week you decided that enough is enough with overpriced, poor quality accommodation in Fulham and move into the Queen's Tower, pitching a tent in the room about 3/4s of the way up where the campanologists work. The view's nice, but ultimately, you are surrounded by bell-ends.



LIBRA

This week you are Nadine Dorries's gall bladder. Ironically, as you're literally full of her bile, you have moderate, progressive views on socio-economic policy but the rest of her body just ignores you. A message comes down from the brain, she's eating wallaby poo again. Sighing, you get to work.



SCORPIO

This week you decided to get ready for the holiday season by mulling your own wine, just enough for your own personal consumption over this festive period. Your flatmates don't look too kindly upon the state of the bathtub once you're finished with it, but you're too drunk on ethanol fumes and Christmas love to care.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you're in a dull tutorial when one of the really shy Chinese girls farts incredibly loudly. She looks almost deathly with embarrassed, the tutor is completely at a loss for what to say and everything stinks. If they think this is awkward, imagine what it's going to be like when they realise you just came in your pants.



CAPRICORN

This week you go up to a girl from the year below and say "hey babe, I wish you were my assessed problem sheet, so I could do you on my desk all night," she replies "If you were my assessed problem sheet, I'd know everything I'd need to know about you by fucking your hot flatmate" and walks away. Burn.



AQUARIUS

This week you decide to go for a swim in the Thames, fully clothed and holding onto your bicycle. Okay so decide was perhaps a kind way of putting it, you really should've gotten those dodgy brake pads fixed while you had the chance. Everyone on Putney bridge laughs at you.



PISCES

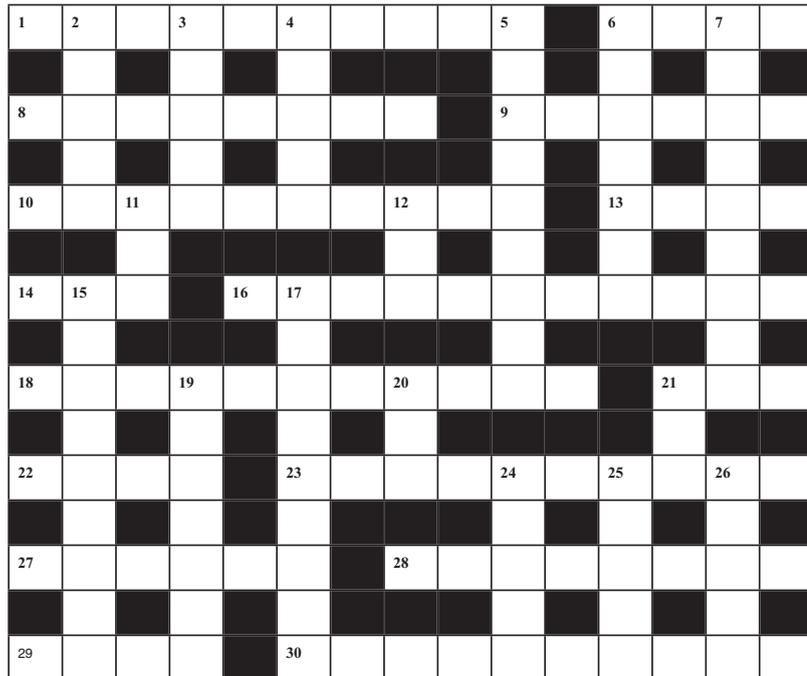
This week you are on a visit to London Zoo when one of the monkeys catches your eye. Like actually catches your eye. Screaming you run around with 3 escaped Tamarins clawing at your face. You regret not listening when everyone told you not to wear that stupid banana costume.

Puzzles Commanders:
Sotirios Karamitsos
Louisa Byrne
 puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

PUZZLES

Cryptic Crossword #4

Set by: Romandjul



Scribble box? A postmodern artwork on the concept of space in a newspaper.

Across

- 1. A cord whips, thrashing a lack of bravery (10)
- 6. Choose weapon (4)
- 8. Find record on top (8)
- 9. Attack working with hustle (6)
- 10. Strum a beat excitedly and arouse yourself! (10)
- 13. Number 10 contains a neo-Nazi (4)
- 14. Detect secret agent (3)
- 16. Fleet commanders need joint to display naval skill (11)
- 18. Middle of the road quizmasters cover topical subject (11)
- 21. Lea orders a beer, but not lager (3)
- 22. Old money left with terrorists (4)
- 23. Crane truck disassembles a mechanical device (10)

- 27. Rock out Southern tunes in the evening (6)
- 28. Exposed monster is in the state of being uncovered? (8)
- 29. Extremely, extremely valuable track (4)
- 30. Duplicate for broken doorbell? (4,6)

Down

- 2. The French agree, the Germans agree – together they're aboard! (5)
- 3. Company follows, as Tony heads to the races! (5)
- 4. Characters hand over a Kentish town (5)
- 5. Pilot came out with a superseded model (9)
- 6. Family members clothe soldier in underwear (7)

- 7. It clouds a manoeuvre relating to the legal right to take care of someone (9)
- 11. Every other story is saucy? (3)
- 12. Arena lights reveal the greatest boxer (3)
- 15. "Pythagoras' long-admired theorem is totally untrue," declared Einstein. "Foremost, it's just a cliché" (9)
- 17. Clutching a note, gave money and seized power (9)
- 19. Listen and respond to gossip (7)
- 20. Teetotaler secretly has a small amount of whisky (3)
- 21. Vessel filled in darkness (3)
- 24. Whichever way you look at it, it's a detection system (5)
- 25. Law about French disagreement (5)
- 26. Make sure no King is to follow (5)

Cryptic Crossword #3: Solutions

Scratching your head harder and faster than a person with a serious scratching fetish. Don't pull your hair out. Relax, sit down with a cup of tea, and remember, help is at hand... Below is last week's worked solutions. Hopefully this makes some sense?

Across:

- 1. CATCHMENT - charade of game (CATCH) + soldiers (MEN) + time (T)
- 6. POLE - (cryptic double definition)
- 8. ESTIMATE - hidden (crossing) in GoodgE ST I'M AT Euston
- 9. MAKING - first letters of Mozambique And Kenya Is Not Good
- 10. ADDICT - charade of count on (ADD) computing facility (ICT)
- 11. TIRAMISU - anagram (fudge) of IS IT A RUM
- 12. WALLET - hidden (retainer) in reneWAL LETter
- 15. DOORNAIL - cryptic definition referring to the idiom 'As dead as a doornail'
- 16. DEMOCRAT - anagram (crazily) of ROM + ACTED
- 19. SWEDES - hidden in (some) Regardless WE DESpise
- 21. INACTIVE - part of (not entirely) IN ACT I VErona
- 22. TYBALT - hidden in (frames) CraftY BALThasar
- 24. ENRAGE - Anagram (mutant) of A GREEN
- 25. DARKROOM - (cryptic double definition)
- 26. USED - hidden backwards (some + hindsight) in sweDES Unwisely. Swedes was the answer to 19 Across.
- 27. SINGAPORE - anagram (misfits) of ARE POSING

Down:

- 1. CASED - reversal of DE-SAC (i.e. Cul-de-Sac without CUL - French for bottom)
- 2. TRIVIAL - L (learner) follows (pursues) TRIVIA (general knowledge)
- 3. HEART - Insert (during) R (run) in HEAT (warm up)
- 4. EVERTED - anagram (twisted) of VET + DEER
- 5. TOMORROWS - anagram (BINGE) of WOM + SORR + TO (with ANY removed)
- 6. POKEMON - hidden (discovering) in besPOKE MONsters
- 7. LANDSLIDE - before IDE (Biden's inside) put LANDS (earns) + L (left)
- 13. APENNINES - charade of A (one) + PENNINES (mountain range)
- 14. TARDINESS - anagram (about) of ISN'T ARSED
- 17. ORCHARD - charade of OR + CHARD (vegetable)
- 18. TREAD ON - anagram (crushed) of AND TORE
- 20. EMBARGO - anagram (breaks out) of MOB RAGE
- 22. TERRA - TERRAPIN (turtle) loses PIN (leg)
- 23. LOOSE - E (ecstasy pill) follows (behnd) LOOS (toilets)

Set by: Romandjul

PASSI THE PARABOLASHAPEDPENGUIN



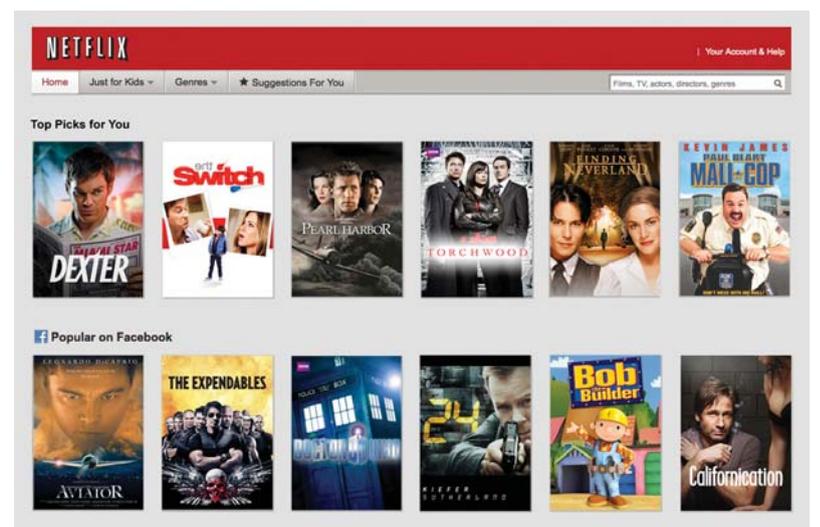
2012 Outi



Netflix is the world's leading internet subscription service which gives you access to hundreds of thousands of films and TV series at the click of a button and they've given us 2 six

month subscriptions per week to give away to the lucky winners who successfully complete the most puzzles correctly. Send your answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk to be in with a chance of winning.

Visit netflix.com/uk for more information



RCSU Welfare Week!

From the 26th to the 30th of November is RCSU Welfare Week! Every day RCSU are running welfare related events with tons of good advice, fantastic services and (very importantly for us cash-strapped students) **LOADS OF FREE STUFF!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** Don't miss out - sign up for events now!

Monday

Theme: Personal Safety

FREE Self Defence Session with an Ex-Met Police Officer- Includes grab and strangle releases, as well as crime prevention advice.

To sign up email rctu.welfare@imperial.ac.uk

Location: Union Activity Space 1
12:00 - 13.30



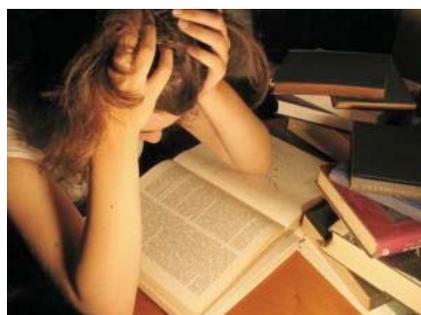
Tuesday

Theme: Sexual Health and Stress Management

FREE HIV Testing from Terrence Higgins Trust - Takes 60 seconds and you get the result then and there!

You can also pick up **FREE** take home Chlamydia tests and RCSU branded condoms.

Location: Union Meeting Spaces 4 and 5
11:00 - 3:00



FREE Exam and Performance Anxiety Workshop- Imperial College Health Centre are doing a 2 hour Workshop on managing stress in exam periods.

For more info go to <http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/eworkshop.php>
5.30 - 7.30

Wednesday

Theme: Exercise (in the form of Ice Skating!)

Ice Skating at the Natural History Museum for only £7! Normally costs £13.50!

Location: Meet in front of the underground entrance closest to Imperial on Exhibition Road.
17:15



Thursday

Theme: Healthy Eating

FREE Healthy Food- Fruit and smoothies! Limited number so be quick!

Location: Sheffield Level 1
12:30 - 1:30

Friday

Theme: Bike Maintenance and Safety

Come and get your bike security marked and looked over by Dr Bike mechanics for

FREE,
and get **FREE** Safety Equipment!

Location: Outside the faculty building bike shed!
12:00 - 2:00



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

SPORT

Dodgeball Dominate University Champs

Steve Ndumbe Dodgeball Club Captain

This weekend saw the Wolverines tackle the University Championships, fielding teams in both the Freshers Championships on Saturday and the Elite Championships on the Sunday.

On Saturday, it was the turn of the Wolverines Freshers to hit up the dodgeball circuit in their inaugural team appearance. Interesting pre-tournament tactics included all 6 players sleeping on the minibus on the way to Cranfield University. Such an unorthodox tactic had never been seen in the Wolverines before; was this a sign of things to come?

Despite complaints that they felt awful upon arrival (maybe the nap wasn't so good after all), the fledgling Wolverines soon got into the spirit of the day, winning 3 out of 4 of their group qualifying matches, captained by the eccentric Cyprien de Saint Guilhem.



Highlights of the group stages included fantastic team throwing from everyone on board, crucial catches from Kunal Sharma, and Clinton Chan performing a 'suicide' to the delight of the crowd. Confidence was rife within the team; could they go all the way?

Their quarter final game saw them face the Lincoln Mighty Swans; with a name like that you'd expect great things from such a team. Indeed, the Swans went 2-0 up, leaving our boys one game away from crashing out of the competition. However, some impressive catches from Edwin Newn and David Leonard and some great team throwing saw them claw their way back to 2-2. The final game ended up being one of the most dramatic dodgeball games ever captured on video, with outrageous catches left right and centre (Iacapo Russo plucking a catch off his shoelaces comes to mind). Unfortunately it was not to be for the Wolverines, who narrowly lost the final game. Still, coming joint 5th in the first tournament for 5 of the 6 players was a great team feat, echoed by the fact that Man of the Tournament was a tie between David Leonard and Iacapo Russo.

After hearing news that the fresher team had played exceptionally well, the 1sts and 2nds were determined not to let them down themselves. It was in true Wolverines fashion, then, that the minibus left Sunday morning an hour late. Not one, but two of the star 2nd team players' alarms had failed to go off, and a third player had spent much of the past 12 hours participating in what can only be de-



Despite appearances, this is a brand new dodgeball picture...

scribed as questionable activities. The Wolverines still managed to turn up on time on the Sunday, only missing Tom Bell, who would be travelling in at a later stage; and Zain Abbas, who although was present on the minibus, might as well have been missing. Early attempts to recruit a temporary 6th man for the 2nds proved difficult, with requests to nab the Welsh captain in attendance duly ignored. However, finally they managed to secure one of the freshers from the Manchester Uni Club. Despite claims that he "had a cannon arm", after a couple of games it was clear that the Wolverines had been trolled hard by this rogue player. A sneaky attempt at sabotage, classic Mancunians.

Nevertheless, the group stages proved almost trivial for the Wolverines, as both the 1sts and 2nds coasted through to the quarter final round. In particular, the 2nds came up against local rivals UCL 1sts in the play-offs

for a place in the quarter final. As is becoming the norm with the Imperial sports teams, the Wolverines quickly stuffed the inferior uni 3-0 with the help of Tom Bell who finally decided to turn up, becoming the only university 2nd team to reach the quarter finals.

The 1sts saw a tricky quarter-final against Nottingham Balls of Steel, a team renowned for their solid, iron-clad, impervious catching. However, the pinpoint accuracy and timing of Thomas Peake and Steve Ndumbe's throws proved too strong for the Balls of Steel, and the 1sts went through to the semi finals. The 2nds saw an even trickier quarter final against Bedfordshire Bulls 1sts. Despite having recruited the ex-1st teamer Adam Cutmore out of student retirement (read: graduate unemployment), they could not stop the charging Bulls.

After the random draw, the 1sts then saw themselves up against the same

Bulls. The pre-match talk showed positivity; team scout Nuno Cunha had overheard the opposition team talk, and came to the 1sts bringing news that the Bulls were feeling rather bearish about Steve Ndumbe's powerful throw, a comment which no doubt boosted team confidence. The tactic was clear; give the ball to Steve every time. Indeed, this tactic very nearly worked, with the 1sts coming within spitting distance of a place in the final. Unfortunately the Bulls just managed to overcome the Wolverines 3-2 in a best of 7 match.

Still, this left the 1sts with a 3rd place match against Warwick Warriors 1sts. Despite a shaky start, solid catches from Scott Esnouf saw the team clinch a Bronze medal. All in all, it was a top weekend of dodgeball for the Wolverines, with strong team cohesion across the board. With the title of best university 2nd team under their belt, the 2nds will be keen to establish their dominance, with some excellent freshers rising through the ranks proving worthy competition for team places. The 1sts exceeded themselves, becoming the 3rd best university team in the country, and the Freshers should be extremely proud of a 5th place. Man of the Tournament for the 1sts was Justin Ioanna, displaying great leadership in his inaugural captain appearance having taken over as a result of Zain's tragic state. Man of the Tournament for the 1sts again highlighted how well all 3 teams had played together, with Edmund Teo clinching the title after every player had earned a nomination (apart from Will Robinson, soz Will).

Rugby League off to a flying start

Steve Dias

Sports Writer

Once again Imperial College Rugby League would be travelling to Woking College to play their first game of the season. After some inspirational words on the tube from the clubs newest fan, Henry, Imperial College arrived fired up to avenge the two defeats that were inflicted upon them last season by Woking.

The game got off to a quick start with a try a piece, Imperial's Stephen Dias crossing the line first with his trademark dive from dummy half however Woking were quick to reply with a strong kick chase with the ball ending up in a Woking players hands over the line for them to score their first try. Shortly after Dias mimicked his first try but Woking responded, exposing

a weakness in the Imperial defence out wide to convert two tries in succession. Imperial regained their form and after sustained pressure in Woking's half, it paid off with Comerford pulling out a Thurston-esque grubber which Marek Broda read beautifully to pounce upon and score his first of the day. He then followed it up with a great solo effort, running from his own 40 to score under the posts. As the match reached half time, Imperial were only up by 2 due to failed conversions by Padhraic Comerford.

After the break Imperial were first to score, maintaining the momentum they had gained in the first half. Debutant Oliver Herbage scored first for the visitors and Imperial's fitness was showing as Woking's hooker went down screaming with cramp (though some of the sounds he was making

were highly questionable) with James Bromley who capitalised on the tiring defence. Imperial were to score three more unanswered tries with James Holt crossing twice and Marek Broda crossing for his hat-trick. Alex Riley produced some fine solo carries; the kit bag to and from Woking.

Woking regained their composure, after some encouraging words from their head coach and managed to score on the 5th tackle. However Imperial were to have the final say when Hamish Mackenzie (always the opportunist) dived on a loose pass in the Woking dead ball area to complete the 48-24 victory for Imperial.

The result was dedicated to eternally injured club President David Hobson, who had been watching from the sideline and was proud to witness the club's first win.



SPORT

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Shorinji Kempo

Dave Krishna Sports Writer

It is a Sunday morning in Finsbury Park. Unusually for London in November, the sun's rays play across the city, giving relief from the slight chill in the air. The lack of any discernible tension in the air conceals the fact that the area will soon see the commencing of the 2012 British Shorinji Kempo Federation (BSKF) Taikai Competition.

Although generally non-competitive, Shorinji Kempo, a Japanese martial art that combines striking techniques with throws and pins, does occasionally hold tournaments in order to showcase its practitioners' skill. Since its inception, Imperial College dojo – training under the expert tutelage of Sensei Sean Dixie – has been feared throughout the land for the intensity and flair of its martial artists. Indeed, more than one Saturday afternoon training session has elicited complaints from neighbouring residents due to the noise emanating from the Union Gym.

With a sharp call to attention, the day's contest began. A quick, group warm-up receded into the opening ceremony and without any pause to catch breath the audience was thrown straight into a heady maelstrom of competition.

Opening proceedings was the kumi embu category, where a choreographed fight sequence is performed by two competitors. Imperial's entrants were the maverick duo of Maksim Mijovic and Aditya Narayanan, dubbed 'The Flying Moustaches' for their matching, Movember-inspired moustaches (<http://uk.movember.com/team/563989>, in case anyone is interested). A frenetic 90 seconds of action unfolded, transfixed the audience who gasped and groaned at the audacity and flamboyance on display. The main challenge for the title came from Cambridge dojo, responding with a slick, polished fight showing no less ability. The judges deliberated for what seemed like an eternity on what was a tough-fought category, but although Cambridge was a worthy contender for the top slot, Imperial's superior facial hair made the difference – prevailing by three points.

After emerging victorious from the first event of the day, the whole of Team Imperial were fully psyched up for the oncoming battles. The next contest of interest would be the dantai embu, where groups of more than two people perform various sequences together. Representing the fine institution we call Imperial would be our very own magnificent six – all of whom had only started kempo a few weeks previously. The sextet moved in perfect unison with a fluidity and passion that belied their relative lack of experience. Alas, it was not to be their day as a strong City University line-up struggled to narrowly pip them to third place despite greatly outranking their Imperial counterparts.

The final contest of the day was the eagerly anticipated randori (sparring) competition, with the club being represented by housewives' favourite Maksim Mijovic. Buoyed by his earlier victory in the kumi embu category, Maks began his first round bout in style, bamboozling his opponent with a flurry of fancy footwork. Unable to

contain his enthusiasm, he risked disqualification with a flying kick that drew a warning from the judges. Undeterred, Maks put this setback behind him to prevail with a succession of accurate blows. His second round opponent was Canute of City dojo – a formidable opponent widely considered favourite to take the trophy. This match-up required a special performance, and Maks did not disappoint, bringing his patented 'crab foot' technique to the party. Shimming here and there, Maks launched a series of attacks, making a few clean contacts. Canute himself showed his previous taekwondo experience with impeccably timed counters. The match drew to a close with Maks having made more hits in total; it just remained to be seen whether they were considered clean enough on points. A sigh of tension rippled through the crowd as it was clear that the decision was being hotly debated by the judges. The verdict came in, and Maks was controversially denied progress to the next round leading to no rioting in the stands whatsoever.

With that, Imperial's odyssey was ended prematurely having earned one trophy for the cabinet (read: locker) and the hearts of the neutrals with the dojo's trademark panache. As the dust settled on the arena and the entire team of competitors and support chewed over the action they'd seen. With one victory claimed, and a team of newcomers giving seasoned veterans an almighty fright, the verdict was unanimously a resounding success.

Shorinji Kempo train every Wednesday 6-8pm in JCR and Saturday 12-2pm in Union Gym



A mo worthy of the 'flying moustaches'!

Undefeated Women's Rugby top LUSL

Kath Fok Sports Writer

Having made a fantastic start to the season with two impressive wins, the fixture against King's College London was eagerly anticipated, if approached with slight trepidation. In the previous three encounters last season, King's had won convincingly on all occasions which led to their promotion in BUCS. However, they many of their starting line-up had graduated in the interim. In form, this fixture was set to be the first true test of how far Imperial has come since gaining momentum last season.

Things did not start well for IC. Taking to the pitch, Kings were already warmed up and firing on all cylinders. They kicked off the game and set up camp deep in the IC territory for much of the first half, kicking effectively to put themselves inside the 22.

The IC pack dominated in the scrum to win back some possession, with hooker Lana Lee turning over the ball on several of Kings' put-ins. However, the pressure was too much and a failed clearance kick from the IC try-line was taken in by the Kings forwards.

From 0-5 down, kicking let IC down again. At the restart, the

ball was caught by the opposition 10 who evaded several tackles and showed her pace to cross the try line. The conversion was simple and IC found themselves 0-12 behind.

The half was drawing to a close but not before IC could respond with a try of their own. After the pack drove King's off their scrum again, substitute Caitlin 'Red' Jackson made an immediate impact, picking up the ball from number 8. Handing off three players, Red then off-loaded to scrum half Kath Fok who ran a tight supporting line and was put through in space behind the King's defense. Sprinting to

leave the opposition behind, Kath scored under the sticks and Lana secured the extra points with the conversion.

The second half began with the score at 7-12 and IC immediately turned up the heat on Kings who fumbled the catch from the kick. Strong rucking at the breakdown and more good scrummaging put King's on the back foot. They attempted to clear their lines from just outside the 5m line, but the King's kicker was charged down by the face of Kath who followed the ball under the posts to score a second try in a feat of impressive reflexes and creativity. Another

conversion from Lana put IC in the lead 14-12.

With the half barely underway, the King's pack tried to plough their way back making it into the IC 22, but IC were wise not to commit too many players to the breakdown and maintain the defensive line. Turning over the ball in the scrum, the backs carried the ball away. IC were then able to hold their composure, despite high tensions, until the final whistle. The win against a team in a higher league puts the thus far undefeated ICUWRF at the top of LUSL whilst they await BUCS matches beginning at the end of November.

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SPORT

Cyclists Explore the Peak District

George Barnett Sports Writer

It's 5pm on a Friday as I join 16 other somewhat intrepid cyclists by the Queen's Tower, prepared for a weekend of cycling on some of the Peak District's finest roads. The plan was pretty simple; load up the buses, drive in a vaguely northerly direction, find the Youth Hostel in Edale, spend the following two days bashing out some miles in some nice hilly terrain. Return to London unscathed. Simple.

Well, not really. Within minutes of leaving Imperial we lost the other bus only to be confronted by the inevitable London Friday night traffic. Eventually it eased as we hit the M1 and we soon stopped for a quick 'dinner' (read: sandwich) from Sainsbury's. Our journey continued towards the hills but after a few more hours of minibus discomfort we arrived at the Youth Hostel as rain started to fall over the Peaks.

Luckily the following morning saw blue skies and promise of sun at some point. After waffling down a vaguely passable cooked breakfast we headed for the hills. The route for the day fell just short of 60 miles – not the longest by any stretch – but with enough climbing to just about keep the sadistic amongst us happy including Mam Tor and Winnat's Pass to name but a few.

The climb up Mam Tor was almost straight out of the blocks, a nice (depending on your opinion of hills) way to warm up on a chilly morning. Midway up the climb Tom Gibb had what some might call 'a bit of a mechanical'. Somehow the rear derailleur hanger on his bike (the bit that holds the rear gear shifting mechanism onto the frame) snapped. Bugger. With no more than 3 miles cycled it was game over for Tom. Back to the Youth Hostel he went.



There's always one badass who doesn't wear a helmet

After reaching the top and letting everyone catch up we set off again down a short, fast descent. As we reached the bottom (and a T-junction) a view of the road off to the right stretched out for at least half a kilometre – what I'm saying is that if someone (a group of cyclists, for example) went right, you'd be able to see them pretty easily. We carried on along the route (turning left at the junction) and battered along the smooth, undulating roads. A good fifteen minutes later we turned off the main road and waited a few seconds for a couple of stragglers to join us. It became apparent that we were missing two from the group. Oops. A few phone calls later we discovered the whereabouts of Mihai and Johannes – they'd turned right at the T-junction. We pushed on having arranged to meet up later on the route. Surprisingly after not too long, we were reunited at a top of a hill as agreed.

Off we set again. We must've man-

aged a meagre 5 or so more miles before Dan got a puncture which was fixed in not too long at all. Thankfully that was the final hiccup of the morning and we actually managed to get in a fair few decent miles before stopping off for some well deserved lunch at a café. £3.60 for a giant bacon and sausage bap. Bargain. Hot drinks were served in pints – the north really knows how to do things properly.

A picturesque climb out of Grindleford was a challenging way to warm up again having been sat outside the café for far too long in just lycra. However, the long, fast descent was a brilliant reward for the climb up. After miles of fast undulating A-roads the main feature of the day was looming ahead of us; Winnat's Pass, a 12%, 1.6km long climb with a maximum gradient of 20%. One of the hardest climbs in the UK.

As we approached, the climb didn't look as bad as expected. A third of the way up I realised I had been lulled

into a false sense of security, the climb opened up around a corner that was hidden from sight from the bottom and the gradient suddenly ramped up. With calves and quads burning and the feeling that a vein was about to pop out of my forehead I remembered the rules of the Velominati (a list of rules, truths and simple cycling etiquette). In particular, Rule 5 which states simply "Harden the fuck up". With this in mind I pushed through the pain and pressed on to the top.

After regrouping and a little rest we carried on climbing, just a gentle climb back up to the top of Mam Tor (the first climb of the day) the descent back down the side we climbed at the start of the day was sublime. Smooth, dry tarmac meandering it's way down the side of the hill with speeds in excess of 45 mph were reached. Hugely rewarding after such a brutal climb. A few minutes later we were back at the hostel. Time for the pub.

As per usual with Cycling Club trips,

the pub is always a 40 minute walk from wherever we stay. It is, however, always worth the walk and much food and beer was had by all.

The following morning again saw blue skies with a distinct chill in the air. After loading up the minibuses we headed into Buxton to start the route for the day. A few miles in we pulled off a busy A-road onto some nice quiet country roads. Minutes later we were gifted a dead straight, steep descent down to a reservoir – scarily fast for roads so damp; above 50 mph this time. Beyond the reservoir we climbed for a few kilometers and soon reached the peak. It seemed like the luck was on our side for the day – 10km in and no problems at all. Maybe we'd be set for a perfect day's cycling?

Nope. Not quite. The first corner of the descent saw 6 riders take a bad tumble with some flying comically onto the verge. A combination of damp roads, adverse camber and foolhardy attitudes could be blamed for this incident. Luckily no one was seriously injured, although Pete endured some nasty road rash. The most serious injury, however, went to Max's bike – a mashed rear wheel saw the end of his weekend. As we were so far from anywhere we were forced to jump ship; a few went back to fetch the minibuses whilst the rest of us waited in the cold, unable to push on.

All was not bad though – an extended pub lunch made up for the lack of cycling that day and eventually we headed back to London. The weekend didn't see as much cycling done as was planned and perhaps not as quickly either, but good times were had by all. A top weekend.

Obviously a huge thanks to our main sponsor, Eaton, who's help in subsidising trips and kit is making the club bigger and better than ever!

ICUREFC loses high scoring affair with Hartpury

Olisa Ufodiama Sports writer

A crisp sunny day at fortress Harlington surprisingly saw none of the legendary gusts of wind. With the ground firm and the mercury approaching a lofty double digits, the scene was set for a challenging contest against UWE Hartpury 2nd XV. With Cap'n Jack side-lined, or perhaps an unwilling to play against his former teammates, outside centre Mike Floyd admirably stepped up to captaincy.

Imperial started well and whilst

each team earnestly traded blows, a series of good phases of play saw Imperial camped in the opponents 22 looking poised to score. Alas, it was not to be as an errant pass from fly half George Lane was plucked from the air by the opposition's winger to run the length of the pitch for a converted try.

Quick to retaliate, Imperial seized upon the opportunity provided by a poor kick-off return. A mauled line-out on the 5m led to a pop from the scrum half to the two flankers, with Olisa Ufodiama rolling off the tackle to wriggle through and score a try.

The fast paced game saw 2 more tries a-piece before the half came to a close, a lack of conversions leaving the home side trailing 19-17.

The second half began in much the same manner as the first, before a turnover by Hartpury led to them being camped in the 22. After a good period of defence Imperial finally succumbed and Hartpury opened the scoring again. Two tries in reply including a collected kick chase and storming run under the posts from Mike Floyd, and a further try from an excellent display of footwork from the Hartpury winger had the score

tied at 31 all with only ten minutes left to go.

With Hartpury pressing hard, a patch of poor concentration led to another converted try for the opposition. Rallying around their captain, Imperial surged forward once more but they couldn't convert pressure into points and Hartpury sneaked for the last try in this high scoring affair.

The whistle blew shortly after; bringing an end to this thrilling encounter. Imperial gave a great showing of themselves as an ever improving side, however mistakes proved too costly this time round. The final

score Hartpury 45- Imperial 31.

Man of the Match went to Olisa Ufodiama returning from injury, whilst notable mentions should also go to fresher Tom Hobson for stepping up as hooker, some quality runs by centre Mike Floyd and thundering tackles from winger Nathan 'Brucey' Fitzpatrick and lock Tom Chavas.

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Immortals rout Rhinos

Romylos Jackson Sports Writer

The Imperial Immortals opened their first home game of the season with a heavy win against the Anglia Ruskin Rhinos, a newly formed team in the South Eastern Conference, following an away win against the Kings Regents last week (10-6). A dominant display by the defence during both matches was key to the victories with ARU scoring no points against the Imperial defence; they only scored off an intercepted pass thrown on an Imperial offense drive.

The match opened with Yuh Ocada scoring a touchdown having started the match at running back and running impressively.

Having tripped over his size 15 feet, Ron Werlsterherlm carried the offense's momentum at the next drive to stumble into a catch to score a second touchdown for the Immortals and secure a two touchdown lead.

This lead was quickly cut at the next offensive drive to 8 points as an ill timed pass was picked off by the ARU defense to be run in for a touchdown, their first of the season. The extra point attempt was charged down, however sadly our illustrious captain, Dexter Morgan, celebrated his return safely with some swagger far too early and ended up getting laid out to the embarrassment of

himself and the entire team.

Fortunately Kevin 'the Man(e)' Kim redeemed us with a late touchdown just before the end of the second quarter following some poor defence and some lightning pace which was reminiscent of our MVP running back last season, Sungho II.

IC picked up where they left off after the break with Bob Wartzhem picking up a lovely pass from Yanaux to run in another touchdown, pulling out a substantial Imperial lead.

The Immortals did not let up however as Emanuel trucked his way to a touchdown in the corner with Jordan McDouglas waddling in vain across the pitch to try to get a piece of the action.

The final score of the game went to Imperial, when the offensive line proved they had better hands than the wide receivers as the ball was caught but fumbled by an Imperial slot back, only to be picked up by Frederico Sanchez for the first (and likely only) score by an offensive lineman this season.

Next week the Immortals face the reigning national champions, the Hertfordshire Hurricanes, at home in what promises to be a bruising encounter against a team who have put up a massive 114 points in their first two games of the season. All supporters are welcome at what promises to be a hard fought and exciting encounter



Woo woo! Pain train's coming!
Photo courtesy of Alan Liu

Falcons do the double

Chris Carter Baseball Vice-President

The Imperial Falcons are back to winning ways after club President Dan Harris went 3 for 3 and Sidney Louzon hit a home run to fire Imperial to two victories against UCL.

Following on from defeats against ULJS and a minor identity crisis after Felix thought we were the basketball team, the Falcons were back at their nest in Harlington for a double header against UCL. The Imperial supporters were out in force (there were three horses in the next field this time) for the Falcons' first home game of the season.

The first game began with both teams

scoring runs in the first innings, as Dan led off with a base hit, with Sidney and Kevin "Movember" McDonald both getting RBIs. The Imperial defence then kept it tight for the next two innings, as pitcher Hajime Urata didn't give up a single hit. Imperial tacked on another run in the third, putting us 3-2 up going into the fourth inning. After a pitching change by Imperial, UCL grabbed two runs to take the lead with no outs, but Imperial's fielders recovered the situation to keep UCL's lead to a minimum after three and a half innings.

History was made in the bottom of the fourth innings as right fielder Chris Carter became the first player at the club to be hit in the head by a pitch. All

were relieved that the batting helmets actually work, and even more so when Dan got another base hit, leaving us with two runners on base. A neat delayed steal tied the game up, and Dan came home on a ground-out to put Imperial in the lead. UCL now had to score to make Imperial bat again.

Sidney, now our closing pitcher, struck out the first two batters meaning the Falcons needed only one out to end the game. UCL's next batter got on base with a walk, then rounded the bases, only to be caught trying to steal home by catcher Marcel Ngan for the final out, completing a 5-4 win for Imperial.

The Falcons opened the batting in the second game and were unlucky to

end the first innings with three runners stranded on base, after hits by Kevin and Rory Thomas. Imperial then scored early in the second innings, followed by a monumental home run by Sidney in the third. The Falcons' defence held firm, helped in no small way by the performance of "demon pitcher" Vincent Li (according to the UCL captain).

After the top of the third innings, the game was appropriately called off for bad light, with UCL graciously accepting a 2-0 defeat. The opposition held their own, despite being inexperienced as a club, and both teams will have learnt from these games. Imperial's performance was very promising, and



Mmmmm mustard trousers

we hope to build on these victories as we begin our league campaign against Oxford this week in the coming weeks.