

FELIX

"Keep the Cat Free"



08/02/13
Issue 1539
felixonline.co.uk

RAG Week Pullout

We've got the guide in this issue.
Yep, pull one out this Valentine's Day...



The Sex Survey closes soon:
felixonline.co.uk/sexsurvey

Imperial website redesign needs your input

Niall Jeffrey Reporter

The College has embarked on the Website Redesign Project 2013 and has requested volunteers to aid them in renewing the Imperial website for the first time since 2007. Events and consultations will take place over the next weeks in an attempt to gain insight into the views of student users.

According to the Rector's staff briefing on the subject, the project will be led by Imperial's Communications and Development and ICT department. Domain7, a web design agency, have also been hired to support the project.

The refurbishment is meant to update the website in order to meet the changing needs of the website. The College is keen to say that the current website is still "considered a sector example of best practice", but they aim at changing the suiting the site at what they see as a potentially different audience structure and to refresh the design with included mobile compatibility.

It will be the Domain7 agency that on 11 February will be organising multiple focus groups and interviews with different areas in the key audience, with users and other stakeholders. They are, therefore, still looking for some volunteers from prospective students, current students and alumni. Participation in this may involve testing and feedback to optimise navigation and user-friendliness. To find out more about taking part you can contact e.chesterman@imperial.ac.uk.

This will be complemented with a web forum on the 13th February covering development and design aspirations. This event can be attended by registering with Liz Smith: e.swift@imperial.ac.uk.

For more general information: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/webredesign>

Banned from UCL Union

Damage and theft on Medic RAG Pub Crawl

Maciej Matuszewski Reporter

Imperial students were banned from the University College London Union (UCLU) following accusations of criminal damage and theft by Medics RAG during their Circle Line Pub Crawl.

The ban came to light on Saturday 2 February when a group of Imperial students were turned away from the UCLU, located on Gordon Street, close to Euston train station. The students were told that the ban was the result of the actions of another group of some 30 students who had come in the previous night.

In a comment given to Felix Sam Gaus, Democracy and Communications Officer at UCLU, said: "Some students in Imperial RAG t-shirts were found having stolen something from the UCLU on Friday night. Our Commercial Services Manager is the license holder and so has the ability to ban people from entering the premises at his discretion. He decided that until he could talk to the Full-Time Of-



Image: UCLU

ficers on Monday, he would ban Imperial students from entering the premises over the weekend as a result of the theft." He added that while "Imperial students are now allowed back in the bar, ... the two students who stole the items are still banned from the bars".

The nature of the items has not been disclosed but it is known that they were stolen from UCL medical students. The Imperial students were wearing Raising and Giving (RAG) t-shirts and have been confirmed to be from ICSMSU RAG and not ICU RAG, which are separate. They ap-

peared to be taking part in the Imperial College School of Medicine Student Union's (ICSMSU) Circle Line Pub Crawl on Friday 1 February. The Pub Crawl is an annual charity fundraising event which finishes off ICSMSU's RAG week. The UCLU bar, however, was not one of the official destinations.

Shoab Rivizi, the ICSMSU RAG Chair, expressed disappointment at the behaviour of the Imperial students, saying: "I think it is important to point out that neither ICSM RAG nor ICSMSU condone theft or >>6

Syrian students face financial hardship

Nida Mahmud News Editor

Over the last few weeks most students at university have settled back into a routine of lectures, coursework and exams as they return to university ready to face the challenges ahead.

However, the story is very different for the Syrian students at UK universities; the civil war in Syria means they are unable to pay their fees or meet living costs, they face the prospects of deportation and death. Topped with this, they are dealing with the continuous anguish facing their fam-

ily and friends at home, in a war-torn country. A country that has had over 60,000 deaths since March 2011. It is currently uncertain what Imperial College will do if Syrian students are affected, although none have come forward to say they are at the present time. >>3

Education and Student Experience Survey still open. To clarify: this is completely anonymous. <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/educationoffice/strategy/students>

NSS Response: what has and hasn't been improved	Page 4
Business School to become a mentor	Page 5
News in brief: snapshots of what's going on	Page 8

Inside...>>

SCIENCE



What actually is love? >>14

COMMENT



How to be friends with benefits >>19

FOOD



Finding the best hot chocolate >>20

EDITOR'S PICKS

FEATURES

>>10

Volunteering Week

A feature on the week of volunteering opportunities to come. It details how to get involved and, more importantly, why you should.

WE DON'T
WISH THINGS
WERE BETTER.
WE MAKE
IT BETTER.

COMMENT

>>18

Being a banker

So you want to be a banker huh? This is the reality of the daily life. It's from someone who worked in the sector, so budding Gekkos, take note.



SPORT

>>45

Football in Mordor

Football with another one of their reports. This time they go on a journey that even Frodo would say "pffff, fuck that, I'll stay at home" to.



CLASSIFIEDS

Flyer Distributers wanted

Jump&Bounce is hiring a flyer distribution team and we would love to get the community involved.

Teams will be lead by team managers. Distributions will be taking place at evening times at Shoreditch, Hoxton, Southwark, Camden Town, Notting hill, Sheperds bush, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington.

Flyer distribution will start on the 21st FEB and finish March 7th.

Campaign days THURS - FRI - SAT
PAY £40 per 1000 flyers

For more information: Get in touch with Brendon Kasozi via events@jumpandbounceclub.com

Email felix@imperial.ac.uk to place Classifieds.

Boy/girl seeking boy/girl also welcome. Pictures of you smothered in peanut butter with "come hither" eyes not welcome.

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



THIS WEEK FELIX WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB.
Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk. Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065.
Printed by Iliffe Print Cambridge, Winship Road, Cambridge.
Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.
Copyright © Felix 2013.



Editor-in-Chief Tim Arbabzadah **Deputy Editor** Saskia Verhagen **Assistant Editor** Matt Colvin **News Editors** Aemun Reza, Nida Mahmud **Features Editors** Caroline Wood, Stephen Smith **Business Editor** Deepka Rana **Science Editors** Philip Kent, Laurence Pope, Philippa Skett **Politics Editors** Padraic Calpin, Marie-Laure Hicks **Food Editors** Carol Ann Cheah, Sophia Goldberg, Yango Mavrocostanti **Comment Editors** George Barnett, Navid Nabijou, James Simpson **Fashion Editors** Saskia Verhagen, Alice Yang **Arts Editors** Eva Rosenthal, Meredith Thomas **Books Editor** Maciej Matuszewski **Music Editors** Mark England, Ross Gray, Simon Hunter **Television Editor** Lucia Podhorska **Film Editors** Katy Bettany, John Park, Lucy Wiles **Games Editor** Ross Webster **Technology Editors** Jason Parmar, Maximilian Eggel **Coffee Break Boss** Matt Colvin **Travel Editor** Veronika McQuade **Sports Editors** Oli Benton, Sorcha Cotter, Margot Pikovsky **Online Editors** Philip Kent, Jonathan Kim **Puzzles Commanders** Louisa Byrne, Sotirios Karamitsos **Copy Chief** Annina Sartor **Copy Editors** Thomas Lim, Matt Colvin, Christopher Witham **Illustrators** Hamish Muir, Outi Supponen **Corrections and clarifications:** In the article "Imperial launches Education and Student Strategy Survey" there was a typo. To make it clear: the survey is anonymous. In an article entitled "Heatwave at the corona", the author was miscredited. The actual author is Pavitar Devgon. Both have been fixed online. Felix apologises for the errors.

Love your surveys



Tim Arbabzadah
Editor-in-Chief



Just in case you wondering if your eyes are being weird or not: they aren't. This week is the closest we get to a Valentine's issue, so I changed the colour of the top bit and the drop cap to red. How romantic.

Education and Student Experience

This was on last week's front page and is still going on. It's basically a chance for you to fill out text boxes on different aspects of Education and the Student Experience. It's a great idea, and is open to all students and staff. Hopefully you all use it as an opportunity to give your thoughts/have a massive moan/write an entire essay in text speak (delete as appropriate). The best thing about this is that the Pro-Rector (Education) will be personally reading the recommendations. This means that you get to go straight to the source with what you think should be happening. Do you think podcasts are great or a waste of time? Do you think they are taking too long to implement and you just need to get a camera set up and whack them on YouTube, or do you want a slow phasing in? You're being given the chance to have your say. I urge

you with all my heart (oh, Valentine's Day reference) to give your honest, frank opinions about everything. Also, don't sugar coat anything. What's the point on holding back? Better to be completely upfront as opposed to tip toeing around. Don't be afraid to say what you think, as it's all anonymous. If you think you have a great idea, put your name down in the comment box to bask in the glory.

Maybe you are apathetic and think that nothing will ever change. Well, this is your chance to test that theory. If you, and a lot of people you know, all put down similar suggestions and it's ignored, you can then be satisfied that there was a preordained outcome and it was just a consultation for consultations sake with an already decided strategy. At least you'll have learnt your lesson, and can know to never bother engaging again, keep your head down, get your degree and get out of here. Or, the other answer could be that your ideas are just terrible. Alternatively it could just be that loads of people thought something else and so that was acted upon. Either one. But you seem like a clever person so it wouldn't be number two.

To summarise: fill out the survey! And give me a tenner. No? Okay, just fill out the survey then. Worth a shot.

Syrian students

The phrase no brainer comes to mind with this one. The government should just guarantee to help them out. Failing that, Imperial should waive the fees and allow them to continue. It's max ten students and so wouldn't cost that much. Plus, how much is one person's safety worth? Just like that Mastercard advert, it's priceless. What if that one person was you? Exactly, you'd be pretty sure you're worth waiving the fees for. If someone complains that it's unfair treatment to waive one person's fees and not another's, then ask them if they'd like to be kicked out of university and forcefully removed from the country due to something they have absolutely no control over.

Hopefully the government will step in and this situation will be resolved.

Get ready to be bombarded with free sweets

Or perhaps be the bombardier? Nominations are still open. If you're considering running: talk to the current person, decide what you want to change and how, and then just click that "Stand" button.



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

NEWS

Government urged to help those who face deportation to Syria if removed from courses

» continued from the front page

The government has been urged to show clemency and help Syrian students who are at the risk of being ejected from their university and deported from the UK. There are approximately 670 Syrian students studying in the UK, approximately 80% are on postgraduate courses. The lack of funding means they face being removed from their courses. Mansour Shaeban, a former Computing student at Bolton was expelled last for not being able to receive money from his family to pay tuition. Many of these students were funded by Syria's higher education ministry, which has ceased awarding grants. Other students have had their fees suspended for standing against the Syrian regime. The Syrian embassy in London processes the payments, but it has come to a halt, being left with just a skeleton of staff; furthermore, international sanctions are in place on the country's banks. Consequently, self-funded students are unable to receive money from their family in Syria.

Last October, the UK Borders Agency announced temporary concessions for Syrian nationals, enabling visa extensions or the switching of visa categories without leaving the UK; however, this is yet to be addressed as these concessions will expire on 15 March. Many students currently face an uncertain future; some have had their student status suspended, while others will not be able to graduate till their fees have been paid. Without funding, many students are struggling to make ends meet for their living costs.

Liam Burns, President of the NUS, commented: "The situation in Syria is devastating enough without universities turning their backs on those currently studying in the UK. What we urgently need to see is every Syrian student is given support when finances aren't forthcoming so they can continue their studies. This has to be the least the UK can do considering the tragic circumstances of the conflict in Syria."

Imperial College London currently has ten students who have Syria listed as their primary citizenship. The International Office said that no students have approached them about the situation at this time.

When asked about what the College would do to help students, a College spokesperson said: "Any student who experiences an unexpected change in their financial circumstances, including tuition fees, can contact the Student Hub, the College Tutors or the Union's Student Advice Centre for information and advice. The College Hardship Fund is also available to help students experiencing unexpected financial hardship. The Fund cannot

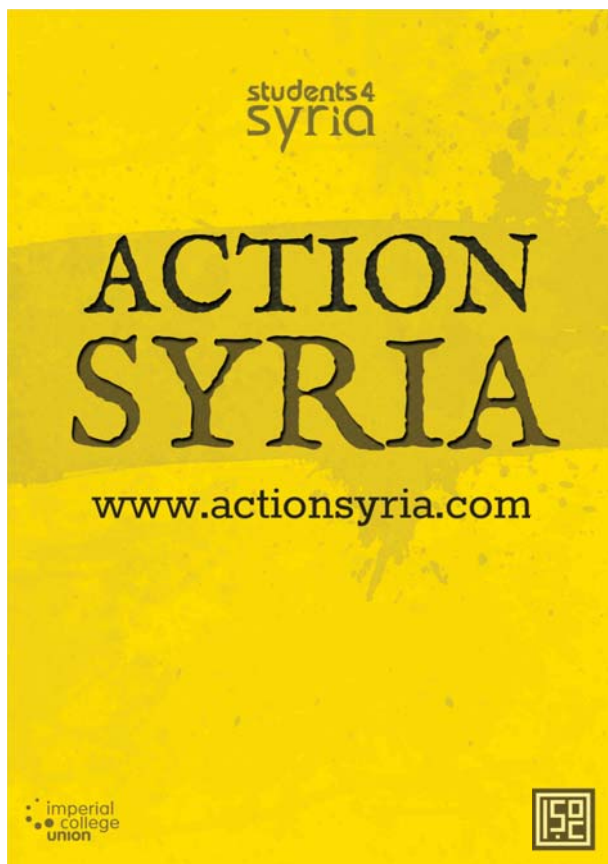
be used to assist with tuition fee payment but can help with living costs. Students can find further information by visiting <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/studentfinance/current-students/hardshipfund>."

Avaaz, an online pressure group, have set up a petition demanding the Foreign Office assist Syrian students, as was done in 2011 for the Libyan students during the Libyan revolution. The petition currently has over 46,000 signatures.

Avazz is appealing for the government ministers to step in: William Hague, the Foreign Secretary; Vince Cable, Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills; and David Willetts, Universities Minister, to ensure the Syrian students continue their studies in the UK. They have tracked many students who have been expelled from their courses, while there are others that could be expelled as they are unable to pay their fees. When removed from their courses, they run into difficulties with their visas and face deportation to war areas. If they have any connections to the opposition, they will be arrested on their return.

Luis Morago, the campaign director for Avaaz, commented: "The UK beats the drum for action on Syria but has done little to help hundreds of Syrian students in Britain who face being thrown off their courses. The UK government must intervene and ensure they can continue their studies in Britain."

Two weeks ago a statement was released from David Willetts, the universities minister, in association with the FCO and Treasury; he said that the government is working with the Universities UK Higher Education International Unit to identify ways to assist students. He said: "The government appreciates the potential challenges faced by students living in the UK who wish to receive money from countries that are subject to financial sanctions and looks favourably on licence applications to enable the financing of education. All applications are considered on a case by case basis and nationality is not a factor in any licensing decision. Syrian students within the UK



wishing to receive money from or via a designated Syrian entity should apply to the Treasury by email for a licence, setting out the amount and purpose of the transaction as well as the individuals, organisations and banks involved."

The British Council has set up a hardship fund to support the living costs to fund the 100 Syrian scholars who are studying in the UK on the main Syrian government scholarship. Certain universities are allowing the deferral of fees and providing support through hardship funds, allowing students to continue with their study. The Council for Assisting refugee Academics has been providing help to academics in danger for 80 years, has also launched an appeal to help academics facing hardship.

Christian Gilmore, a campaigner for the Syrian students, said "it is in the interest of the British government to help these people and to follow up in its commitment. They may not be able to solve the international problem right now but helping Syrian students is 100% in their control."

Husam Helmi, 32, who is finishing his PhD in economics at London Brunel University, said he had to take odd jobs to care for his wife and daughter. Between study, unpaid university fees and the news from his home in Dareaia, near Damascus in Syria, he said the pressure, was unrelenting. "We're struggling," Mr Helmi said. "We are struggling with more than one problem. They want us to solve our own problems, but to find a job, finish our studies and deal with our emotional situation is very difficult."

Action Syria

Nida Mahmud

News Editor

Now the big question: how can you help? And how can you learn more about the situation in Syria? Everything can be answered by two simple words: Action Syria.

Action Syria is a student led initiative, backed by the Union at Imperial to raise awareness and humanise the civil unrest in Syria. The organisers want to demonstrate solidarity and express that Syria is being remembered by Imperial College. The campaign runs from the 1st to the 22nd February. Detailed information is outlined on the website www.actionsyria.com. The website is packed with information, so make sure you visit it. The crisis in Syria was brought about by a few simple words. Do you know what they are? (Don't worry if you don't as they're on the website). There will also be a lecture by experts on the humanitarian crisis on the 12th of February so keep your eyes wide open for that, it is one not to be missed. Additionally, there is a full

timeline of events explaining what has happened over the last two years. Syria is a war-torn country, where hundreds die every day; this campaign is a great way for you to help make a difference (and wasn't that one of your New Year resolutions?).

The website also has a link to the Avaaz petition, the one that wants the Syrian Students to be able to continue with their studies in the UK. So if you want to help out, please sign it.

The organisers succinctly explained the motivation for this campaign, "we want to actively portray that 'we have not forgotten', the website and social media is a way of raising awareness and to humanise what can so easily become statistic after statistic. It's a campaign which also aims to raise funds for medicine, provide organised information about the situation and enables everyone to help out in any way possible."

There is also a Facebook page that gives daily updates: <https://www.facebook.com/ActionSyria>. Whether or not you are a tweeter, be sure to check out #ActionSyria. So get informed and get involved.

Sponsored Editorial

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

Men's cuts £22 (normally £35)
Women's cut and rough dry £28
**Women's cut and salon finish
blow-dry £38** (normally £55)

FRESH Hairdressers has been offering high quality, fashionable haircuts for over 20 years. All of our haircuts are by highly experienced stylists, NOT trainees.

TO GET A GREAT HAIRCUT

- 1) You don't have to spend a lot of money at expensive trendy salons
- 2) You don't have to spend hours as a Guinea pig at a training school
- 3) You don't have to be butchered at some cheap Barbers
- 4) You don't have to wait till you go back home

Come to **FRESH**, ask for a student

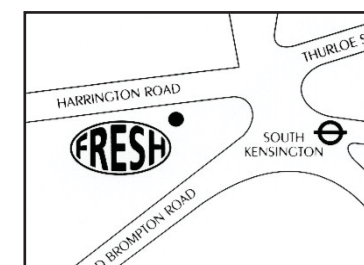
discount and bring your student ID we look forward to seeing you.

We use only the best products, Wella, Moroccan Oil, L'Oreal, and KMS and offer free coffee and herbal teas.

To book an appointment call **0207 823 8968**.

Tuesday to Saturdays 9.30 to 5.30 We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station.

www.freshhairdressers.co.uk



NSS Response: what has changed

With the NSS in full swing this year, **Yulia Negreskul** sees where progress was made and not made on last year's suggestions

The National Student Survey (NSS) is completed by every final year undergraduate student across the country and has been run since 2005 by HEFCE, an organisation responsible for public funding of English universities. Being the only way to assess student experience throughout their time in university on a national scale, it plays a crucial role in university ranking process and is widely held responsible for the poor performance in the *Sunday Times* League Table for 2012 entry, where Imperial lost 11 positions.

Following the NSS 2011 results, the Union President at the time Scott Heath, Deputy President (Education) Jason Parmer and the Representative Coordinator came up with a report, which provided 35 recommendations on how to improve student experience at Imperial. A year later current Union President Paul Beaumont and Deputy President (Education) Doug Hunt report on the progress made following those recommendations, as well as coming up with new ones to further improve student satisfaction. According to them, "Imperial College Union takes the NSS results seriously because we believe our students should be satisfied with the world class education they receive." They also note that 'potential talented students should also not be deterred from applying to Imperial by looking at our national league table rankings, brought down by the NSS results.'

Some of the suggestions made by the Union were fully embodied by the College. When it comes to rewarding innovation in teaching there have been great improvements with the Union providing funding for a teaching awards system run by students. The Union plans to extend the awards to include research supervisors since over 20% of Imperial's students are research postgraduates. Another success of the past year is the campaign 'You Said, We Did', which has been embraced by the College. Nevertheless, the Union feels that "further work is still necessary to completely convince students that the College takes SOLE seriously." Furthermore, this year the Union President and Deputy President (Education) were invited to become members of the Strategic Education Committee, which determines overall education strategies across the College, and this allows them to become more engaged with decision making.

All of these have possibly contributed to the improved NSS score in teaching, allowing Imperial to reach the national average. Nevertheless, a few other recommendations could be followed to further improve this aspect. For example, whilst staff are required to undertake courses when they start lecturing, further training is not always compulsory and varies between departments. The Union suggests that "baseline standards should be enforced across College, supplemented with frequent reviews."

As for 'Assessment and Feedback', which is still College's weakest section, with the satisfaction rates nearly 10% below the national average, ranking Imperial 143rd out of 168 HEIs, very few recommendations have been followed. This includes stricter deadlines to ensure prompt feedback, clearer marking criteria and weighting of each piece of coursework and exam, as well as making the assignments relevant rather than giving work 'just for the sake of it.' However, the Union feels that ICT projects such as 'custom' systems, which could act as an alternative to Blackboard, could be used to improve the feedback and assessment programmes. Moreover, this year Deputy President (Education) and Deputy President (Welfare) became members of Representation & Welfare Board, which will help to "inform the student representatives of what is happening in higher education at a College and national level."

When it comes to "Academic Support", the Union feels that this section has been addressed the least regarding the recommendations made last year – buddies, moms and dads and other similar schemes don't work well, resulting in lack of mutual academic support between different year groups. Consequently there is neither a feeling of community nor academic succession, which are particularly invaluable for those who are just starting their degree. The Union suggests that the departments organise social events so that 'parents' and 'children' could meet up.

As for personal tutors, there are different approaches within the university, making it difficult to determine a tutor's responsibilities. Furthermore, there is no proper feedback system to see how the tutors are doing. This means that the dissatisfied students, who are not likely to complain to the Senior Tutor, are never spotted. Furthermore, the Union feels that tutors should monitor the academic progress of their charges more closely and that the meetings should be timetabled and probably should take

time in a less formal environment, further encouraging community spirit, which is that valued by the NSS.

Another problem that hasn't been addressed in the past year is poor timetabling where sometimes students living across London need to come in only for one lecture. Moreover, last year the Union suggested moving timetable to a different software such as Optime or at least making it synchronize by default with calendars such as Outlook and iCal, to make the tracking of changes easy. Unfortunately this recommendation also hasn't been taken up.

Major course changes are still not discussed with the student body, who are often not told about them, as one biochemistry student noted: "Students are generally not consulted or informed of significant changes to the course that directly affect them, or informed at the very last minute." The Union highlights how important that is to avoid the scenario seen with the organization of Life sciences, which "attracted mass bad publicity."

"Learning resources" is by far the most successful of all the sections for Imperial with satisfaction at 92%, which is 10% above the sector average. Regardless of great efforts of some departments to provide lecture recordings and podcasts, it was suggested last year to allocate a few members of staff to e-learning to improve communication between ICT and the department.

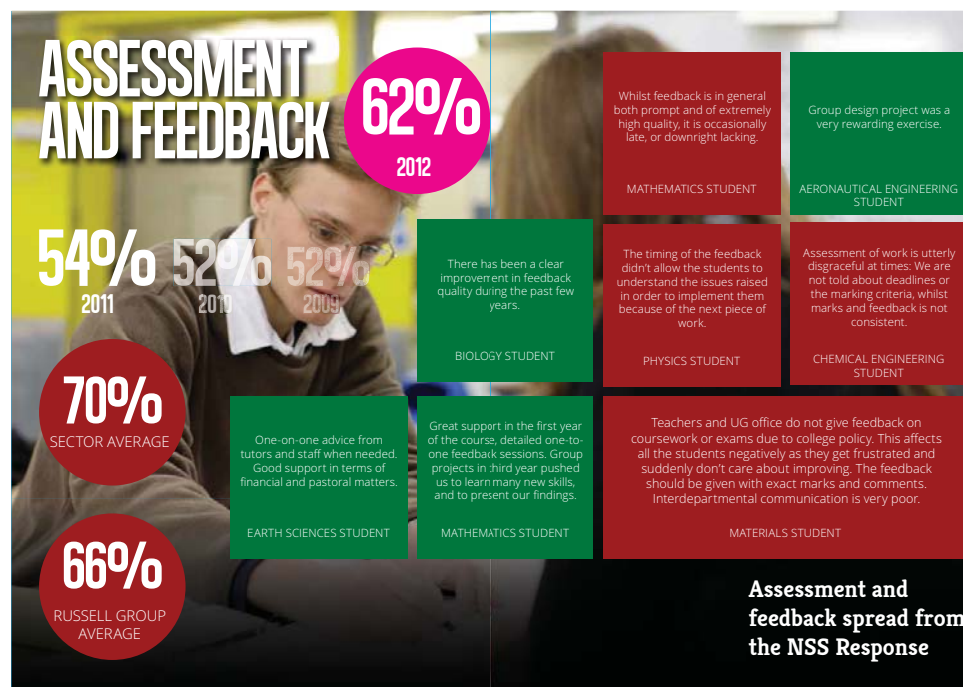
Unfortunately, it has not been implemented. Furthermore, the Union feels that ICT could be used to improve the rates of SOLE and NSS by pop-ups on College computers, for example, but this is something still to be seen. Nevertheless, when it came to the Library and the Union campaign to challenge unfair journal pricing, the College fully supported them.

In addition to the 35 made last year, three new recommendations were added and these include training of Graduate Teaching Assistants to improve their feedback quality as well as 'best practice' reports for each department, which reflect on the changes they've made. Furthermore, it has been suggested that the College invests more into the communication with students, as it will help to resolve many issues where students feel out of touch with

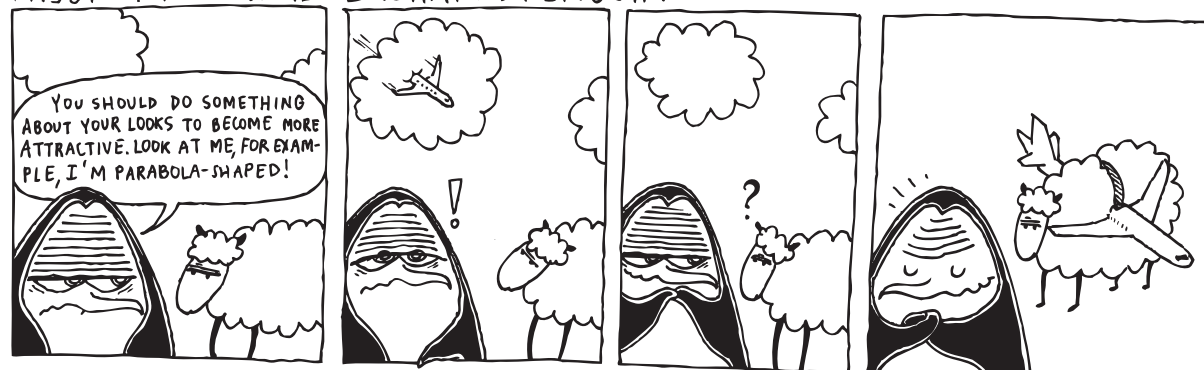
the university.

Even though most recommendations haven't been fully embraced by the College, some positive changes are seen as a result of these suggestions, which might well have contributed to the ranking for 2013 entry where Imperial has moved 6 positions in comparison to the previous year, making Imperial 8th.

College was contacted for comment and replied: "Feedback from Imperial College Union, both in the form of its NSS Response and through sabbaticals' regular meetings with senior staff, is always taken seriously and helps inform improvements the College makes. Individual departments have prepared action plans focused on enhancing the student experience they offer – including looking at elements such as teaching approaches and assessment and feedback."



PASSI THE PARABOLASHAPED PENGUIN



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

NEWS

Business School to mentor Indian school

Nida Mahmud

News Editor

Improving management education is the focus of a new alliance between Imperial College Business School and the Hero Group in India. The Business school at Imperial will assist BML Munjal University (BMU) in India, to develop its School of Management. The Business School will act as a mentor institution; helping BMU to form, develop and grow its School of Management. The collaboration will focus on both research and education activities. BMU will open to students in July 2014.

Professor Dorothy Griffiths, Principal of the Business School, said: "India is one of the fastest growing economies and this is a great opportunity for the Business School to be at the heart of this exciting story. Our partnership with

BMU will benefit our students, who can take advantage of the opportunity to study and learn in a fast paced and evolving environment, further increasing their expertise and experience. We look forward to exchanging ideas, students and knowledge with BMU."

The agreement was signed on 9 January 2013 in New Delhi. It was attended by representatives of Imperial College London, this includes the President & Rector, Sir Keith O'Nions; Professor Gerard George, the Deputy Principal for Faculty and Programmes at the Business School, and Director of the Rajiv Gandhi centre. Notable guests also joined them, including the Indian Education Minister Mr Pallam Raju, Minister of Law Mr Ashwani Kumar, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of the Republic of India Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and the Chief Minister of Haryana Mr Bhupin-

der Singh Hooda.

BMU aims to create a talented community of students that excel in teaching, learning and research; the major focus will be on technological advancement and socio-economic development. The Business School was chosen by BMU to participate in this alliance due to its expertise in innovation and entrepreneurship. Likewise, the Hero Group has over 50 years of successful business operations, with revenues of over \$8 bn. They are one of the most respected business houses in India and have a world leadership position in many of their businesses.

The relationship includes the designing of teaching programmes and the development of the curriculum; as well as student exchange and summer programmes, joint research projects, faculty exchange and executive education. Professor Gerry George commented:



"We are starting from scratch to create the Business School as part of a global university with a focus on research and teaching excellence. Not only does it allow the Business School to play a vital role in shaping the next generation

of leaders in India, it creates a platform for collaboration and immersion for our students and our faculty. It is a window of opportunity for us to learn from India just as much as they learn from our experience and expertise."

Driving Lessons For Imperial Students

•A special offer for Imperial students
from **Denis Smyth**

•Driving Standards Agency (DSA)

Accredited Instructor

•Mock Test Examiner

*Free Mock Test from
retired Driving Examiner*

*5 Driving Lessons for
£95*

"Denis is a fantastic teacher and knows how to get people from completely inexperienced and utterly hopeless driving up to the standard to pass their test. He is always calm and his comments are constructive; his knowledge of London and his knack of engineering driving routes that test the learner make the lessons more than worth it. Since I have met him he has shown a great desire to offer cheaper lessons to Imperial students and with the backing of other students I am more than happy to support him."

- Alex Kendall, IC Union President 2010-11

"I learned to drive in one of the busiest cities in the world. I passed first time. Would I recommend Denis? Without hesitation."

- Leon Vanstone, Aeronautical Engineering

To make inquiries and book lessons,
call 07808 610 898

The 111th Bottle Match

Lewis Ryan RSMU President

The biggest event in the Royal School of Mines' calendar is once again upon us. On the 22 and 23 February, the second oldest varsity match after the Oxbridge boat-race will take the stage for the 111th year. The varsity is between the RSM and the Camborne School of Mines based in Cornwall, and is ultimately decided with a game of rugby that concludes a two day catalogue of sports.

The RSM and CSM began this sporting rivalry in December of 1906, playing rugby against each other to determine which prestigious institution had greater athletic dominance. 20 years later, the trophy was born after students of the RSM stole a 3ft Bottle from a Bass Brewery lorry and was decorated with the crests of the two mining schools. The winner of the rugby match gets to take home the Bottle for the year, some of the more observant of you may have noticed

such a bottle proudly displayed behind the Union Bar for the past two years. In fact out of the last 17 Bottle Matches, the Royal School of Mines has won a respectable 14.

Last year, the RSM had a very convincing win against Camborne of 22-0; let's hope they bring us more of a challenge this year. Despite the rugby being the climax of the weekend and the ultimate decider of victory, the two mining schools now challenge each other in golf, netball, squash, hockey and football. Each of which has its own trophy and glory presented to the winning institution. The RSM men's hockey team will be looking for their first victory since 2008, and the ladies will be looking to overcome CSM for the second time in three years. The football team is looking stronger than ever, and after holding CSM to a 0-0 draw last year will be looking to capitalise on their home soil. Squash was settled last year with a 5-0 victory to RSM, and golf was drawn at 2-2, but both RSM teams are confident of

bringing home their respective trophies. Finally, netball will be fighting to come back from their undeserved loss last year, and re-establish their winning streak over CSM.

The Royal School of Mines and Camborne School of Mines alternate in hosting the varsity weekend, and after a very successful trip down to Cornwall last year for RSM, Camborne will be taking the trip up to London this year. The Bottle Match is the definition of a great rivalry, and with a great rivalry comes even greater support. Last year the RSM had around 200 keen supporters making the cross-country journey, and it will not be a surprise to have just as many Camborne miners at Harlington next Saturday. For the first time there will be a food van and a bar open throughout the Saturday at Harlington, followed by the traditional player's dinner back at Imperial. The weekend is capped off with an awards ceremony and after-party in Metric.

Anyone is welcome to come along



4ft man holds bottle of wine

and support The Bottle Match, the Saturday (23rd) begins at Harlington at 9am, and the rugby will end the day kicking off at 2pm. Join us in the Union from around 8pm for the after-party. Let's bring the Bottle back to the Union Bar for the third year in a row!

UCLU was not on the route

» continued from the front page

vandalism. Everyone taking part in our events is aware of the negative effects that this kind of behaviour could bring to Imperial, the medical school and the charity we are collecting for." However, he also stressed that ICSMSU "never asked or even encouraged anyone to go to the UCL Union and it was not one of the assigned pubs on our circle line route", adding that while "RAG has organized the collect, [it] cannot be accountable for the actions of two irresponsible students acting out of their own accord". Furthermore "RAG t shirts ... were bought by medics and non medics, so [it] cannot be certain that [those involved] are part of the medical school".

While neither ICSMSU nor the central Union have received any formal complaint from UCLU the ICSMSU plans to fully investigate the incident when its President, Shiv Vohra, returns from annual leave later this month.



"AN EXPLOSIVE CLASH,
THRILLING ENTERTAINMENT AND
REAL EDGE-OF-YOUR-SEAT ACTION!"

VARSITY VENGEANCE

13.03.13

LUCKY FOR WHO?



MATCH TICKETS ARE FREE FOR IMPERIAL STUDENTS IF REGISTER IN ADVANCE!
GET YOURS TODAY AT:

WWW.IMPERIAL.AC.UK/SPORTS/VARSITY/TICKETS

JPR WILLIAMS CUP RUGBY MATCH KICK OFF 19.30 AT THE STOOP STADIUM, TWICKENHAM

IMPERIAL COLLEGE

IMPERIAL MEDICALS



THE
BIG
ELECTIONS
2013

**WE NEED
YOU!**

**NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN**

4 February
— till —
3 March

union.ic.ac.uk/arts/artsfest/2013

1

Pick your position

Pick the position you want to run for by selecting Positions on the menu in eVoting.

2

Click on the Stand button

Click on the big button on the top right of the webpage and follow the steps.

3

Get your Seconder

Get your Seconder to go online and support your nomination.

Find out more online



NEWS

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

Money Week offers prizes

There will be an event in Level 2 of the Sherfield Building at 11:30am - 2:30pm on Tuesday 12 February in aid of Student Money Week. The aim of the Week is to raise awareness of student financial issues and offer help, advice and offer tips on how to save money and helping students budgeting day-to-day. The Student Financial Support Team and the Student Adviser from Imperial College Union will be available and will be available to offer a money "health check".

The stand will be offering a "Guess the price" competition where students can win prizes by guessing the prices of groceries. There will also be prizes in a "Price is right" test, which will see what students know about accommodation costs.

There will also be the chance to win a £20 shopping voucher. To win, students must complete a short quiz, which will close at 14:30 on Tuesday 12 February and the winner will be announced on Wednesday 12 February.

Tim Arbabzadah

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to give talk at Imperial

Edward Davey, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, will be giving a talk at Imperial College London on Wednesday 13 February. He will be giving the annual Newitt Lecture on the energy challenge faced by society.

The title of the talk will be "The Energy Challenge: Technology and Solutions", and is hosted by the Department of Chemical Engineering. Spaces are very limited and it is mainly for those studying Chemical Engineering. Registration was released for staff and students in the Department of Chemical Engineering on Wednesday 6 February.

Tim Arbabzadah

Undergraduate applications for next year rise while postgraduates fall

A paper from the College Secretary reveals that Imperial College's undergraduate application rate has increased on last year against a backdrop of falling applicant rates to UK universities across the board. Postgraduate application numbers, however, are at present lower than last year.

The number of students applying to study undergraduate courses at Imperial for 2013 entry is up by 4.2% compared to last year's 2012 entry statistics. This is more significant against the trend in the UK, with last year's UCAS data revealing a 7.4% drop in application rates in a year.

The cause for the drop has been attributed to combination of various effects including ripples from the tuition fees rise and population effects. The main group causing the fall is UK applicants who, in the UCAS data, had an even greater 8.7% drop. Apparently, according to the National

Office for Statistics, the number of 18 year olds in the UK population is falling; the drop was at the rate of 1.4% last year. Imperial College has a large number of overseas and international students, with ~30% from outside the EU, so would be less affected than most other universities.

Of course, Imperial is still an attractive prospect. The is still high in the league tables and is a relatively well known university, so it may be that it is continuing to attract students even when universities seem to be a less credible choice.

In contrast to this, the postgraduate figures are down on last year. It is still early in the recruitment cycle, and so this figure is not yet concrete. The Management Board have responded by requesting monthly updates on the situation with fresh figures.

Niall Jeffrey

Union elections open

This week, the Union opened nominations for the upcoming elections for its part- and full-time positions. The Big Elections 2013, as the Union are publicising them, are this year the stage for 56 people to be chosen to represent Imperial students in their respective capacities.

Nominations opened on the 4th February, and at the time of writing many people have already been nominated according to the "Big Elections" website. The fact that there are already five people who have been nominated for ICU President also shows that the competition is hotting-up.

This should not deter any would be candidates, who still have until 23.59 on the night of the 3rd of March to go online and nominate themselves. For everybody to get involved in, the actual voting opens at 12:00 on Friday the 8th March and closes a week later on the 15th March. The final results will be announced at the Results Party in Metric the same evening.

Niall Jeffrey

Imperial College London

Moving out of halls and thinking about accommodation for next year?

Don't miss the **Private Housing Talk** Tuesday 26 February 2013!

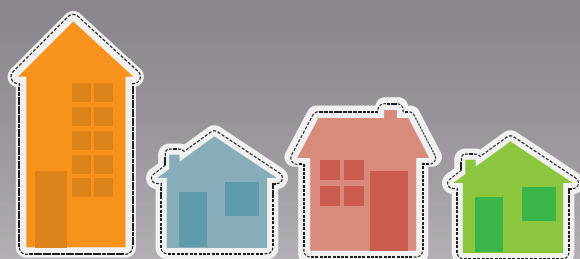
When and where:

- 16.30 Exhibition opens in the Queen's Tower Rooms
- 18.00 Talk in the Great Hall
- 19.00 Exhibition continues with a **FREE prize draw to win an iPad mini!**

Join us for:

- » advice on moving out of halls
- » tips and advice on when and where to start looking for a place to live in the private sector
- » learning how much you can expect to pay for rent and other costs
- » advice on your rights as a tenant and how to deal with landlords and their contracts
- » tips on moving in/out
- » exclusive opportunities to meet estate agents, landlords and other accommodation service providers

Win an iPad mini!
FREE prize draw on the night

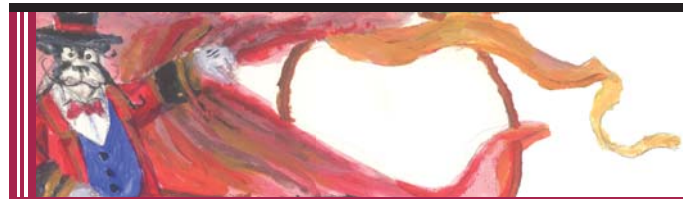


Learn more at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation

www.facebook.com/imperialstudentaccommodation

Sponsored by

F Foxtons



Features Editors: Stephen Smith,
Caroline Wood
felix@imperial.ac.uk

FEATURES

Imperial College International Development Conference

Dhanvi Bosamia

introduces you to the
inaugural event

Imperial Hub will be bringing to you Imperial College's inaugural International Development Conference (IC IDC) on 23rd February 2013. The conference will bring together leading thinkers in academia, government and global development to consider "The Role of Science and Technology in International Development".

With Imperial College having some of the brightest young minds in science and engineering, the theme for this IDC at Imperial is the ideal way to introduce the topic of international development.

But why is development so important? In 2008, 1.29 billion people were living below the poverty line (on less than \$1.25 per day). You might say it's not possible for us to make a difference and lift these people out of poverty, but estimates have suggested that the extreme poverty rate between 1990 and 2008 was halved! So it's not just negative statistics that are hanging about, but instead the positive ones like these are inspirational.

Imagine what a difference the use of science, technology and engineering in developing countries could make; healthcare accessibility could be rapidly improved through the use of mobile technologies, access to education and learning could also be made equally accessible. Engineering appli-

cations can bring clean water to rural communities, something which we take for granted on a day to day basis.

We only have two years left to reach the UN's 2015 Millennium Development Goals and progress towards reaching these targets varies country by country. This is where we as young scientists and engineers play an increasingly important role. Over the next decade, we will be the leading figures in the world and we will be the ones who have the chance to make a change and reach the next set of targets, what better place to start than at the IC IDC?

The IDC will bring together speakers from a range of backgrounds together to discuss international development in an inspiring environment. Speakers include Dr Kirsty Newman, from the UK's Department for International Development and Imperial's own Professor Alan Fenwick OBE talking on infectious diseases.

Early bird tickets are now on sale at www.imperialidc.org at £6 for students, which includes a day of seminars from leading speakers and your lunch!

IC-IDC will be your opportunity to hear from leading speakers in the realm of international development to see how you can be the one to make a change and a positive global impact.

Tickets available now:
<http://www.imperialidc.org/>
[facebook.com/ICIDC](https://www.facebook.com/ICIDC)
#ic_idc



THE ROLE OF
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY
IN INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
LONDON
FEBRUARY 23RD 2013
10 - 4 PM

Brought to you by



With thanks to our supporters



Charitable Trust



BARCLAYS

More information: Visit www.imperialidc.org

Twitter: @ic_idc

Get involved: Just drop an email to:
development@imperialhub.org

Write for us! Please.

Go on, you already said you do on your CV. Make that true...

Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk

facebook.com/FelixImperial
@feliximperial
felixonline.co.uk



FELIX

FEATURES

Features Editors: Stephen Smith,
Caroline Wood
felix@imperial.ac.uk

It's finally here! STUDENT VOLUNTEERING

Madeleine Maxwell let's you know what it's all about, and why you should care

Students – other than being the drunken, lazy, selfish creatures we're perceived to be by all those people with real jobs – are also an amazing resource. We are young, healthy (hopefully), intelligent people with a massive capacity to bring about real change.

Next week is Student Volunteering Week; a national week brought to you by NUS and your very own Imperial Hub aimed at celebrating the enormous contribution that student volunteers make to their communities across the country, and inspiring the next generation of student volunteers.

I can hear what's going through your head already – I don't have time for this. And I'm not pretending that everyone has limitless free time to spend volunteering. I know that Imperial's timetable is pretty horrendous. Some of us effectively have full time jobs with 9am to 5pm days, as well as social lives, maybe we play sport, there's so much good TV at the moment... and we enjoy sleep – so where does volunteering fit in? For most of us, it doesn't. This article will hopefully con-

vince you that it really, really should.

For those of you that have already pondered this topic, have decided that it's not for you, and are thinking about flipping straight to the centrefold... Please visit this website: www.sparked.com to find out about micro-volunteering. Here, 20 minutes or an hour of your time can truly make a difference. The "Sparked" platform involves matching a "request" from a charity or individual to a pool of potential "solvers" – the micro-volunteers.

For everyone else, read on to find out why I think we should all volunteer.

Discover your passionate side

Spending the afternoon in an old people's home listening to a woman with a beard repeating the story of her son's birth 20 times might be someone's idea of heaven... but maybe it's not yours. When you volunteer, you have to find a cause or organisation that you feel genuinely moved and motivated by. You will be in a much better position to learn something, to make an actual difference, and have an impact on those you're helping if

you're doing something that you care about.

It's a 2-way street

Volunteering undoubtedly leaves you with that warm tingly feeling that comes with doing a truly good deed. So, even though the primary aim of volunteering should be to help someone, or a cause, you ultimately help yourself too. Volunteering does and should benefit both the cause AND the volunteer – it's about doing good for others as well as for yourself. Before you volunteer, think about how you are going to help, and also ask yourself "what am I going to gain from this experience?" Whether it's developing skills, meeting people, or just the warm tingly feeling...(mmm)

Networking

It may seem superficial and contradictory, but networking is incredibly important – not just for corporations; not just for marketing and making a profit, but also for individuals, and for innovation. Volunteering is another way to meet a whole range of people from totally different back-

grounds and walks of life. Keeping an open mind and understanding other people's perspectives is essential to our future development. The people you meet volunteering, whether it's fellow volunteers or the head of an NGO, could one day help you to realise your ambitions. Volunteering can also supply you with references for job and internship applications. Even without the reference, research by Reed employment found that 73% employers would hire candidates who had volunteered over those who hadn't.

Don't be a slave of circumstance

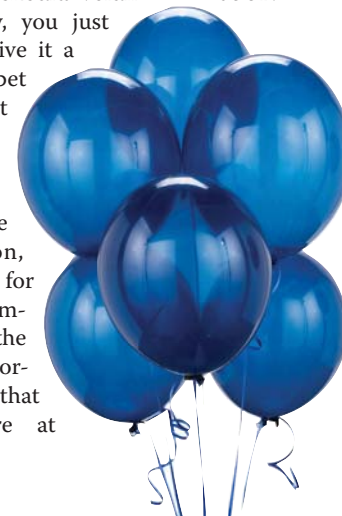
How easy is it... You spend all day in lectures and labs, maybe do a stint in the Library, eat some dinner... you eventually have a chance to relax – what do you do? Hang out with friends? Watch an episode of something with some really good looking people in it? And then bed. And the same thing the next day. And the one after. Wake up!

Every now and then we need something new; a fresh perspective to really shake up our routine

and to push us in a different direction. When you volunteer, you constantly find yourself in new and occasionally uncomfortable situations, and you deal with them. You become more comfortable with taking risks and putting yourself out there, and you grow as a person. You learn something about yourself too, maybe a talent you didn't know you possessed, a career path you hadn't considered...

There are many, many more reasons why you should volunteer. But really, you just have to give it a go – I bet you won't look back.

For some more inspiration, read on for some examples of the great opportunities that exist here at Imperial.



Great opportunities that you can get involved in...

Student Action for Refugees

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) at Imperial is part of a national network of students working to improve the lives of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK through volunteering and campaigning projects. Students from Nottingham University originally founded STAR 20 years ago, and the STAR network now consists of 34 university groups – student volunteering at its best.

Interact

If you're not sure you can make a regular commitment, Interact is the society for you. They organise a variety of one-off, student-led volunteer projects in the local community around Imperial. Past opportunities include helping out at homeless shelters, visiting museums with the elderly and conservation projects.

Imperial Paediatrics

Imperial Paediatrics is an incredibly popular new initiative involving students from Imperial visiting patients in the paediatric ward at St. Mary's hospital, dedicating their time to making inpatients' stays as happy as possible.

sible.

Talk to me London

As part of Student Volunteering Week, LSE, UCL and Imperial are launching a collaborative project – "Talk to me London". This student-led campaign aims to tackle the issue of social isolation by getting Londoners to talk to each other – on campus, on the tube... everywhere! Badges saying "Talk to me London" along with cards with conversation starters have been designed and will be distributed throughout the week – get yours at the JCR on Wednesday 13th, or come along to the Talk to me London pub quiz on Thursday! This project will hopefully embolden students to engage with their local community, and also create a great platform to discuss the power and impact of student volunteering.

WE DON'T
WISH THINGS
WERE BETTER.
WE MAKE
IT BETTER.

I truly believe that the value of volunteering, and the attitude that surrounds it – one of respect, generosity and open-mindedness – cannot be underestimated.

The point is: if you are volunteering your time for a cause or organisation that you feel genuinely passionate about, you don't begrudge this time spent: you want to be there!

We are students at an incredibly academically intense university – but also one that values innovation and interdisciplinary, creative research.

It is important for us to get out of our comfort zone every now and again, to reassess our priorities and

perspectives. To stay creative! Get out there and make a genuine difference. Learn something about yourself. Learn something about people. Become a better person. Spend your time IMPROVING A SITUATION. Imagine how well you're going to sleep at night... and all this – for free.

Student Volunteering Week is the perfect opportunity to get involved. To see the diversity of opportunities there are out there, and to understand why the volunteering should play a more central role in all of our lives. And if you're too busy next week, drop us an email or come in for a chat at the Imperial Hub. You never know... you might end up feeling just as passionate about student volunteering, and about the capacity of student volunteers to make things happen, as we do.

Register for one of our events here: www.imperialhub.org/svw2013



Features Editors: Stephen Smith,
Caroline Wood
felix@imperial.ac.uk

FEATURES

VOLUNTEERING WEEK '13



Jez

You feel like you actually make a difference



My name is Jez. I'm studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering. I am currently taking part in Pimlico Connection, an award-winning peer-tutoring scheme, as a classroom assistant. My job is to answer questions from year 7 students during maths lessons. I chose to do it because it seemed to be an interesting job and it is really rewarding when you can answer their questions and help them with their studies. You feel like you actually make a difference in the classroom as the students get more help and learn more. I would definitely recommend this.

Dil

When students have a 'penny drop moment' it is really worth it!



I'm Dill, and I volunteer for the Schools Plus program. It's been a great way to provide the extra help that so many school pupils need to succeed in their exams and beyond. I've been helping out in a GCSE Maths class at Bishop Challoner School in East London. They really value the tuition that they wouldn't otherwise receive. They are set to get at least C grades in GCSE Maths, but with our help we hope to unleash their true potential and achieve A grades! It is extremely rewarding work that only takes an hour or two each week. When the students have a 'penny drop moment' it is really worth it!

Michael

I love it so much that I'm even helping to organise Student Volunteering Week



I'm Michael and I volunteer at e.quinox, which is an Imperial based student led organisation aiming to find the blueprint solution to rural electrification in development countries. I am in the technical and marketing team and it's so much fun! Not only I get to know other people outside my course, learn some new skills and also help others who are less fortunate than us! I love it so much that I'm even helping to organise Student Volunteering Week, hoping more people will spend their time volunteering!!

Jacqueryn

I learn something new from every volunteering opportunity



I am Jacqueryn, a 1st year Chem Eng. I'm in charge of free instrument taster sessions in collaboration with Imperial Chamber Music Society and also some activities for Student Volunteering Week on Valentine's Day. I've also joined several volunteering projects locally and overseas. I volunteer because there is no reason for me not doing so! I learn something new from every volunteering opportunity and also come to appreciate what I have in life. I would recommend volunteering for the experiences and sense of achievement that you gain.



European society launches

IC European Society

People always discuss the European Union as though it were some mysterious and distant institution that has either too much, or too little power depending on the point of view. The current financial crisis has stepped up the discussions about the EU and here in the UK, the EU has become a hot topic in the last few months. However it seems that it is more and more difficult to follow all the changes currently affecting European policies.

The Imperial College European Society was created to provide a platform for Imperial students interested in joining the debate about the EU and to provide information to those that are curious about how this very large institution works.

We will organise debates to which every single student will be welcome to participate. We are very excited about hearing the opinions of as many people as possible and for this reason all our events and membership will be free.

Our members will have the amazing opportunity to attend our workshops and talks where we will have EU officials, MEPs and high profile EU experts as speakers. We are open to all the students of Imperial College, regardless of their level of knowledge on EU issues as we are here to inform and increase awareness starting from the very basics of the European Union.

Our society is connected to a broad network of London based organizations that debate about the EU. This connection will help us to get connected to high profile speakers.

To stay updated, keep an eye on the Politics section where we will be writing articles commenting on the biggest EU news. One of our first articles will be about the burning issue of the UK-EU relationship. As it was made clear by the Prime Minister in his recent speech, the government will hold a referendum if the conservatives are re-elected. The result of this referendum will have crucial consequences on the future career and lives of all current Imperial Students. We want to provide you with the information necessary to cast an educated vote if this referendum is to happen.

There is of course more to come and we welcome all of you to share your thoughts with us. In our Facebook page we post news, hold discussions and communicate with our members, so join us! We are looking forwards to hear your opinions and arguments.

If you have any questions feel free to contact any of our committee members:

Chair: Leonardo Paoli

EU liaison officer: Clara Hedegaard

Events Coordinators: Amanda Diez Fernandez, Jorge Mariscal Harana

Events Officer: Ana Gonzalez

Funding Officer: Matteo Malacarne

Press Officer: Yiangou Mavrocostanti

Public Relations: Michael Dinalexis



Flight of the Phoenix!

Ben Fernando reports on an easy theft of ICSM's mascot

How hard is it to steal a mascot? Apparently not hard if it's the ICSM one! At least, so suggest reports of the theft of the Phoenix from inside the depths of Charing Cross Hospital earlier this week.

Our correspondent can confirm rumours that a crack team of six first year physicists (the Phyxix) successfully struck the heart of the Medics' Union with a stealthy theft of the Phoenix from inside the ICSM office itself last Monday. Initial reports suggest that they met with minimal resistance, easily smuggling the entire costume (minus the feet, already possessed by RCSU) back to campus.

A mysterious YouTube video lat-

er surfaced, where a masked figure named Ragbinhead outlined the RCSU/RAG collaboration's demands. This distressing video showed 'Mr Phoenix' bound and gagged in a dark room, and required donations to ICU RAG as well as the prostration of the ICSM Committee at the feet of the RAG Committee and the pieing of the ICSM RAG chair. Our correspondent can also reveal that the Medics' faculty will be required to send out an email explaining the superiority of ICU RAG Week over ICSM RAG week.

Should the demands be met, it is thought that the four components of Mr Phoenix will be retrieved from their locations around campus and returned. Should they not be; the four components may well become six...



Picocon 30 at Imperial

The festival turns 30, and this year it's two whole days!

The Science Fiction, Fantasy and Gothic Horror Society is preparing for its annual convention – Picocon. The convention has gone from strength to strength since it started, with this being its thirtieth anniversary. To celebrate, Picocon 30 is going to be the first ever two day event in the history of the society – taking place over the weekend of February 16-17.

Given that we are all still here despite last year's apocalyptic predictions it seems fitting that the theme for this year's convention is "Resurrection". Upon arrival guests will be sorted into three teams, each to do with life and death – zombies, reapers and phoenixes. A scavenger hunt for items such as "a non-Euclidean triangle" and "happiness of greater than or equal to 0.1M concentration" will allow people to earn points for their team.

Other planned activities include a quiz, silly games, tabletop role-playing games and the 'Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise'. The latter is a long held tradition Picocon and often involves liquid nitrogen and large sledgehammers. Guests are encouraged to bring their own contributions to destroy. In addition, there will be stalls selling books and official Picocon T-shirt as well as all day LAN gaming featuring Unreal Tournament 2003 and DEFCON, a game produced by Introversion – a company set up by former Imperial students.

The highlight of the day looks set to be the four guests of honour, who will be giving individual talks as well as participating in a group panel. Peter Hamilton is a bestselling author whose works, often described as Space Opera, include elements of hard SF, fantasy, and classic horror writing to weave the complex intertwining stories of his characters. His books have been described by *The Guardian* as combining 'mind-expanding ideas, deft plotting and convincing depiction of political intrigue' and he has been nominated for the Clarke, Campbell and BSFA awards.

Kate Griffin is a pen name used by the twice Carnegie-nominated fantasy author Catherine Webb for her adult fiction. A lifelong Londoner she is best known for her urban fantasy Matthew Swift series of novels which reimagine the city as a centre of hidden magical power. *SFX* magazine has called it "one of the best fantasy sagas in years".

Richard Morgan first made his name with the Takeshi Kovacs series of cyberpunk novels – the first of which, *Altered Carbon*, was recently voted the fifth best SF novel of the 21st century (so far) by readers of *Locus* magazine – but has also shown himself skilled in working with other formats. He is credited as the writer for the videogames *Crysis 2* and the 2012 remake of *Syndicate*. He has also worked for Marvel comics, writing two *Black Widow* mini-series. He has



Reportedly where Heston Blumenthal stole the liquid nitrogen trick from

won both the Clarke and Campbell awards, and his latest work is the *A Land Fit for Hope* fantasy novel series.

Steph Swainston is the author of the highly acclaimed Castle fantasy series, described as "unique and challenging" by *Clarksworld* magazine. Heavily influenced by William Burroughs and M. John Harrison her work also draws on her experience of academic life.

The Write Fantastic collective; including Juliet McKenna, Kari Sperring, Ian Whates and others; will also be in attendance, providing two

panels on the Saturday – "Overcoming Death Through Science" and "Life after Death in SF". On Sunday afternoon they will be running a series of drop in Writers Workshop sessions.

All are welcome to attend with weekend entry £15 for students, £10 for society members and £20 for others. Doors open at 10am on both days for what promises to be an exciting event, and not just for fans of fantasy and science fiction.

More information can be found at www.icsf.org/picocon.



THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2013
 Clore Lecture Theatre • Huxley Building • Imperial College London
 FREE REFRESHMENTS

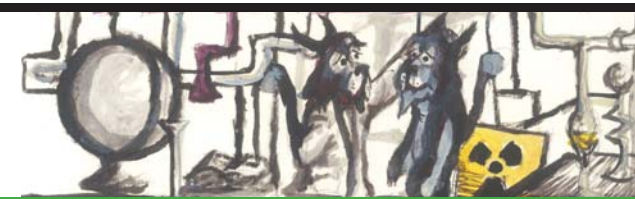
"If we actually want to make the world a better place and give joy and fulfillment to our students, and empower them to give the same for others, we have to build on the foundation of our education on human values" ~ Radhanath Swami

ENGINEERING A BETTER WORLD
 AN UNMISSABLE SPIRITUAL EVENING WITH HIS HOLINESS RADHANATH SWAMI

REPORT LIVE ON
VARSIITY 2013
 Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk

facebook.com/FelixImperial | @feliximperial

FELIX



Happy catecholamine day

Looking forward to your hot date? **Philippa Skett** explains why

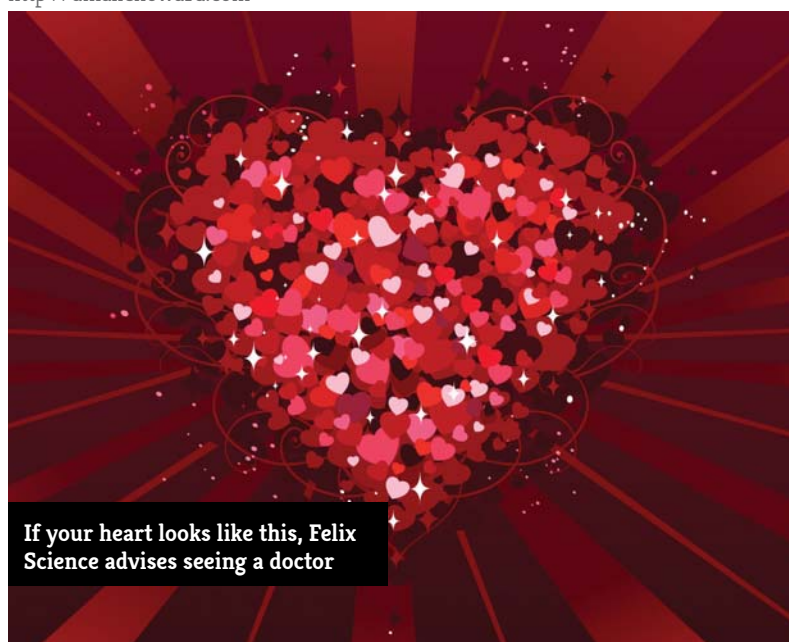
<http://amaliehoward.com>

Love is a many-splendored thing, according to experts. As someone who considers themselves a scientist and, depending on how many glasses of wine I have had, someone who has been in love, this week of all weeks I couldn't help but wonder, what exactly is love? Does it benefit us as a species? Is it an evolutionary hangover regarding altruism and mating preference, skewered by social etiquette? Or is it selfishness, projected on someone as a need to be with them, but in reality an obsession to obtain their gametes for you, and only you, and not share these amazing genes with anyone else? These certainly cross my mind whenever I am eyeing up someone in Metric, but for others it may not be as crystal clear.

And when I mean love, what exactly do I mean? The love I am referring to is the sort that caused Ryan Gosling to grow a beard and build that house. The sort that made Joseph Gordon-Levitt stroll into the park and sing and dance with what didn't seem like a coincidental arrangement of people for a Saturday morning. The sort of love that when Dumbledore asked, "After all this time?" made Snape reply, "Always." I don't mean the love between a mother and her daughter, a man and his dog, or a biologist and their agar plates. These are still legitimate forces of adoration and come under the large umbrella of the term love too, but in this case, it is romantic love that seems to need the constant dissection to understand it or justify behaviour done in the name of love.

This love is explained not so delicately by Helen Fisher, an anthropologist, but a scientist nonetheless. She sorts the progression of love into three discrete but not necessarily independent stages; lust, attraction, and attachment. These three are not listed in chronological order in terms of a romantic relationship's development as they are very much interchangeable. Each of these three stages comes with different boosts of hormones throughout the brain, to accommodate the different life strategies that are optimal for different stages in mammalian reproduction. Love is literally all in your head, although it can cause the usual racing of the heart, sweating of the palms or high quantities of alcohol ingestion too (or possibly chlamydia).

For example, lust accommodates the sex drive and the wish to mate and reproduce recklessly and repeatedly, regardless of where said mate lies on the Imperial scale. It is associated with oestrogens and androgens – hor-



If your heart looks like this, Felix Science advises seeing a doctor

mones that work for the reproductive side of things in the body, and are regulated within the hypothalamus. It is purely a chemical surge to want to get hot and heavy very suddenly, and can subside as quickly as it came (one orgasm joke in the bag). This neurological wiring is completely independent of attraction, which can explain just how easy it can be at times to kick that rugby guy out of your bed after a drunken night out.

Attraction, however, is associated with catecholamines (organic com-

“Ever found yourself finishing revision half an hour early to buy that special someone a jacket potato in the library café?”

pounds) like dopamine, which can act as neuromodulators – that is, they induce prolonged, neurologically derived emotive incentives to want someone, and that person only. It was pointed out by the big man himself, Darwin, that attraction facilitates mating preference as opposed to just mating alone (a masturbation joke? You decide). Heightened levels of these hormones are linked to the “reward centres” of the brain, making you think that the obsession you are nurturing is a great thing, as monogamous mating seems apt for bringing up the offspring of *Homo sapiens*, among others.

Attraction is the part where you consider the partner to be able to suit both yourself and your possible offspring in emotive traits and physical traits needed for resource acquisition and prolonged companionship. Intense attraction is considered to be this “love thing” people get upset about, and Fisher ruthlessly lists what psychological properties are associated with this stage of hormonal peaks – intrusive thinking about this person, a longing for emotional reciprocity, a feeling of uncontrollable passion, the eagerness to reorder daily priorities to be available to this loved person and the willingness to sacrifice for them...the list goes on and on.

Although such a list reads like Sheldon Cooper's diary entries as opposed to that Valentine's card you probably won't be getting, no doubt it will resonate with some of the more love-struck students out there. Ever found yourself finishing revision half an hour early to buy that special someone a jacket potato in the Library Café? You might be in love mate. This is the selfish element of love – and

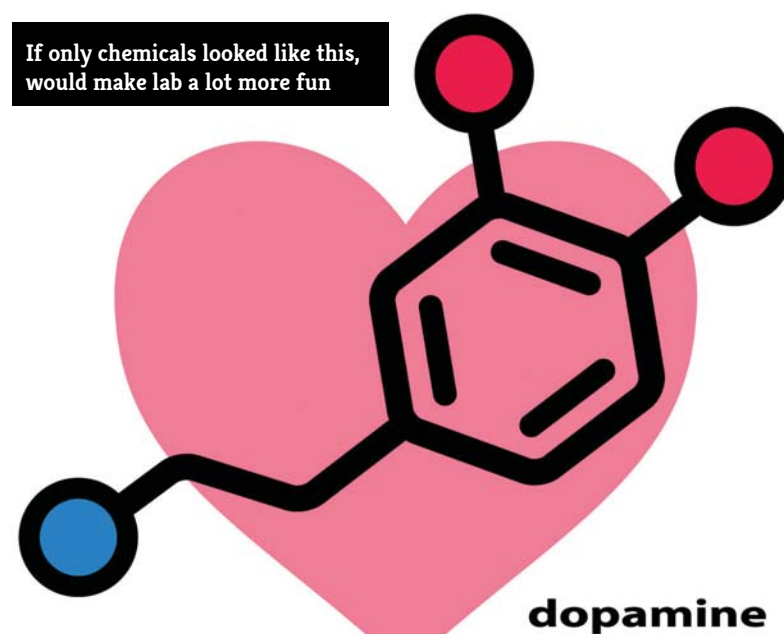
if it is required can solidify a mating pair for optimal offspring survival and make sure no-one else steals those golden gametes.

Finally, attachment is associated with long term companionship. Linked to oxytocin and vasopressin release in the hypothalamus of the brain, these act to maintain monogamous attachments between organisms and encourages mutual parental behaviour. This stage does bode well if it follows the lust of actually making a baby, then the attraction needed to keep the parents together through the pregnancy, but it doesn't necessarily have to be so. It has been suggested that this is the case for successful arranged marriages, or even in long lasting friendship. Even without the hormonal surges associated with lust and attraction, such couples can sustain a happy family environment regardless of not being hopeless fools or copulating like horny teenagers at some point.

So with this little guide to the science behind love now in your hands, please refrain from using it as some sort of aid to pick up girls after a few too many pints. No girl wants to hear how you can trigger oestrogen release in her in the shortest time ever. The same goes to lovestruck girls; please don't attempt to tell that guy whose back of head you have been staring at in lectures for most of last term that he gets your catecholamine level soaring.

Declaring love seems to work well by doing so through poetry, literature, interpretive dance, or even via tequila shots. So depending on your audience, consider using these methods instead this Valentine's Day to snag yourself a date, but feel free to keep in mind what might be going on under the skin too. However, if I do find a card in my locker declaring how you want to grow old with me and stimulate vasopressin release within me, don't think I will be put off too much either.

If only chemicals looked like this, would make lab a lot more fun



<http://lauraconsistentlyinconsistent.blogspot.co.uk>

Love Science?

(We know you engineers do too)

Why not write for us? Get in touch!
science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Follow us on Facebook, where we'll post up any interesting stuff we stumble upon (science-related, obviously).

 **Facebook** [facebook.com/Felixscience](https://www.facebook.com/Felixscience)



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

SCIENCE

Stem cells aid recovery from stroke

Sarah Byrne investigates a new, fat-derived stem cell therapy

The effects of a stroke can be devastating, with the initial loss of blood supply to part of the brain setting in motion a series of biochemical events called the 'ischaemic cascade'. This causes cumulative damage to brain cells and blood vessels during the first few hours after the stroke, often resulting in severe and irreversible brain injury.

However research has shown that prompt treatment with stem cells may be able to interrupt this cascade, limiting the damage caused to the brain and improving the prospects of the patient making a good recovery.

Most of us think of stem cells as originating from the bone marrow, and this has traditionally been used as the main source of adult stem cells for research and therapeutic purposes. But there is another source of these so-called mesenchymal stem cells: adipose tissue, better known as body

fat. In fact this is a very rich source of stem cells, yielding up to 500-1000 times more than can be derived from bone marrow. It is also easier and less invasive to collect cells from adipose tissue compared to extracting bone marrow from a donor.

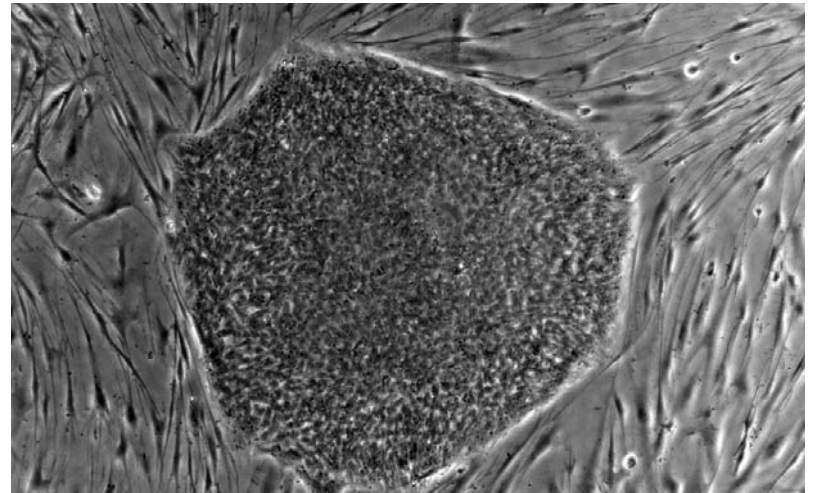
Researchers at Neuroscience La Paz University Hospital in Madrid recently studied and compared the effects of both bone marrow and adipose-derived stem cells for the first time, with results published last week in the journal *Stem Cell Research & Therapy*.

The study looked at the effects of the stem cells when injected into rats, in which the effects of a stroke had been induced by creating a blockage in their cerebral artery. The therapy was given 30 minutes after the 'stroke'; and physical abilities, brain function and cell death were measured over 14 days subsequently.

In both cases, the rats receiving the stem cell infusions showed sig-

nificantly improved function after 24 hours, with an improved recovery also observed after the full 14 days, compared to the control group. Changes in levels of 'brain repair markers' were also observed, indicating that the stem cells were releasing growth factors and other substances in response to the stroke-induced damage, helping the damaged brain cells to repair and replace themselves.

The effectiveness of stem cells in aiding recovery had been shown before, and this study added to the weight of evidence for them. However, most importantly, it showed that there was no significant difference in the effectiveness of adipose-derived stem cells compared to those taken from bone marrow. This points to adipose tissue as a potential source of plentiful, easy-to-obtain stem cells that could eventually be used for treatment of stroke in human patients. The success of the intravenous injection route of adminis-



tration was also a positive note, as this is easier and less invasive than injecting directly into the artery or brain.

Further studies will be needed, the researchers note, to establish safe and effective dosages in humans and to test for potential side effects. However

this is a positive result for the prospects of new treatments for stroke, and advances our understanding of just how stem cells have their remarkable healing effects on our bodies.

DOI: 10.1186/srct159

Protein-building nanomachines

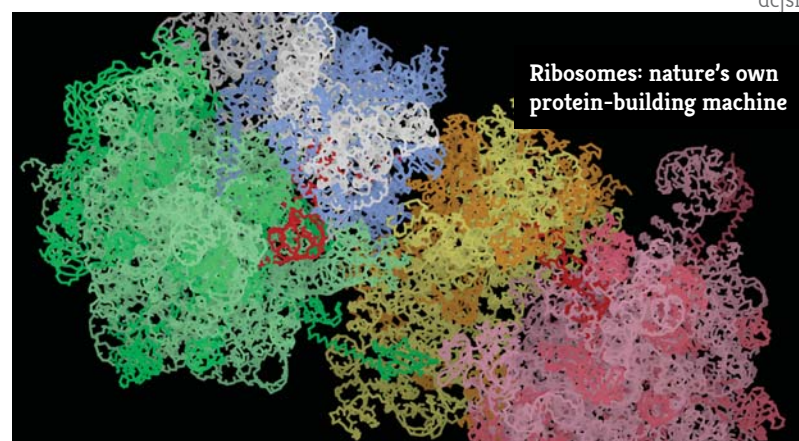
Sarah Byrne

Science Writer

Inside every cell, tiny biological machines are hard at work, constructing the proteins that will perform vital roles as enzymes, hormones, and a wide variety of other structural and biochemical functions. These molecular machines, called ribosomes, translate our genetic code into a protein sequence, and assemble the amino-acid building blocks into the peptide chain that folds into a functional protein.

Researchers led by Dave Leigh at Manchester University have recently developed an artificial nanoscale machine that can perform a similar function. This consists of a ring-shaped molecule called a rotaxane, which moves along an axle on which amino acids have been loaded. A 'reactive arm' then sequentially picks off each amino acid and adds it to a chain attached to the rotaxane itself, forming a new peptide molecule. Rotaxane nanomachines have been developed before, but never one that can perform sequential actions like this. In results published in *Science* (<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/339/6116/189>) this month, a peptide was successfully synthesised in milligram quantities – a significant amount and useful for analysis – with an incredible 1018 of the nanobots working in parallel.

However, the synthetic 'ribosome'



cannot yet do everything a real one can. It cannot, for example, read the genetic code and determine which order the amino acids should be assembled in – these need to be pre-loaded onto the molecular axle. It is also extremely slow compared to the real ribosome, taking hours rather than milliseconds to attach each new amino acid.

There also may be some questions to be asked about the usefulness of the approach in general: whether trying to mimic the way nature does things is necessarily the best way. Nature is by definition messy and at times overly complex: biological systems tend to come with a lot of baggage from their evolutionary history, and the randomness inherent in their development. If, for example, you want to synthesise peptide chains, we already

have much simpler and more efficient ways of doing that in the lab, using standard biochemical techniques.

Curiously though, Prof. Leigh seems to hope that beyond being a fascinating proof-of-concept, the synthetic ribosome will someday prove a more effective means of synthesising peptides than the current 'laborious' process of chemical synthesis. This is perhaps not as unlikely as it sounds: researchers have developed synthetic enzymes that are simpler and more efficient than the natural versions. It is often entirely possible to improve on nature, and with the new results emerging from the Leigh lab and the synthetic biology field in general, there are sure to be interesting developments to come.

DOI: 10.1126/science.1229753

Tiny protons?

Philip Kent

Science Editor

The radius of a proton has generally been considered to be 0.87 femtometers (fm), an incredibly tiny amount. However, a paper published in *Science* earlier this year suggests this minuscule distance may be smaller than previously thought.

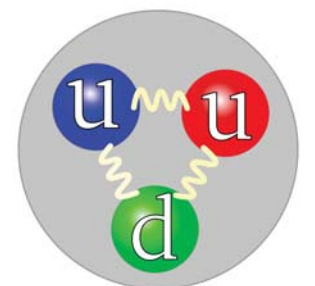
A team from ETH Zürich took a muonic hydrogen, a hydrogen atom where the electron has been replaced with a muon. Muons are similar to electrons, but heavier, meaning it spends a longer period of time within the proton's charge distribution. This makes it easier to probe the size of the proton.

Investigation into the size yielded an inter-muon radius far less than anything reported previously, except a similar paper published in 2000.

Both papers used muonic hydrogen spectroscopy, a process where the muonic hydrogen atom is probed with a laser to obtain data necessary to obtain a very accurate measurement as to the size of the nucleus. The newer paper, however, investigates using two energy levels instead of just the one used previously, reducing a potential source of error.

Scientists are confused by the two findings, both of which provide the same value to a very small error. Muonic measurements do not correlate with that of non-muonic hydrogen,

Picture: Arpad Horvath



leading to suspicion that a systematic error in the experiment provides erroneously small results.

Investigation using muonic deuterium and muonic helium would allow researchers to decide whether there is an experimental method to blame or not.

There is also the potential for error in the mathematical calculations needed to convert the spectroscopic data to a numerical value, the calculations and errors in which are in the process of being checked.

However, if all sources of error are ruled out, it must be the case that an entire new branch of physics is found, with some arguing it could lead to a rethink of quantum electrodynamics. A conclusion as to whether the smaller protons are real or the product of a mathematical error will only be a matter of time.

DOI: 10.1126/science.1233202



The legacy of the Arab Spring

As France pursues its intervention in Mali, **Alexander Soloviev** looks into Middle Eastern affairs.

AP

It has been just over two years since a street vendor in Tunisia set himself on fire. His act of protest against the country's oppressive and corrupt regime was not extinguished: the protest resonated with citizens across the Arab world, engulfing the region in political demonstrations, revolutions and even civil war.

A lot can change in two years.

Syria is embroiled in a civil war, which is already being viewed by some as a proxy war between regional and global powers. Al-Assad, Syria's embattled ruler, is supported diplomatically by Russia, as well as by Iranian arms. The rebels enjoy recognition from many global powers, such as the US, Britain and France, as well as alleged military aid from the Gulf States.

In the meantime the death toll runs at about 60,000.

But Syria's importance does not lie in the compounding humanitarian catastrophe. Rather, the war-torn nation can be viewed as part of a greater regional struggle, between the rising star of Iran and the Gulf States. Iraq similarly proved to be a staging ground between the two power blocs.

This comes at an unsettling time: the Iranian military is one of the

largest and strongest in the region and the unresolved issue of its nuclear ambition hangs in the air. The Gulf States, on the other hand, have been spending billions on modernising their military force. Open conflict between these regional players would be devastating. But the equal military strength of both powers' blocs could go a long way to stabilizing the region. Syria will certainly be the bellwether for this struggle.

In the other corner of the Arab world, another conflict is blazing. Mali's breakaway region of Azawad could potentially become a safe haven for terrorists. Needless to say, this would further destabilise a precarious region, where random acts of violence are already too common. Last week, a gas plant was attacked by Al Qaeda-affiliated Islamists in northern Algeria, leading to the deaths of 37 foreigners.

The international community has been quick to respond to the crisis, sending troops, military hardware and intelligence to Mali from all over the world. The operation so far has been a success, with a joint French and African force pushing deep into Azawad, taking over the last rebel stronghold in Kidal.

But recapturing lost territory will not solve Mali's problem. Libya is



the key factor in the equation. When Muammar Gaddafi was toppled in the early days of the Arab Spring, the country stabilised enough to hold democratic elections. While these proved largely peaceful and legitimate, the nation still has yet to deal with the armed militias that control swathes of land. Also of concern are the largely uncontrolled borders of Libya. When Islamists declared sharia law in Azawad, militants and arms flowed almost unimpeded from Libya. As such, secured borders will prove to be an asset to stabilising the region.

The Arab Spring hasn't all been

about war. Dictators weren't the only ones that suddenly went up in smoke. Stagnant governments and bureaucracies soon felt the heat. The people demanded more rights, more transparency and more democratic institutions. And while political changes have been taking place from Morocco to Oman, Egypt has proven to be of particular interest.

The most populous nation of the Arab world, Egypt has been plagued with problems following the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak. Morsi, the current President, managed to wrestle control from the armed forces,

preventing the formation of a military dictatorship that seemed inevitable. Egypt is not through the woods yet, however: alongside economic woes, a bill that effectively gives Morsi unchecked power has been the subject of current unrest. It seems that Egypt still has a difficult path to political freedom and stability.

The Arab Spring has been a mixed blessing. War and freedom blossomed in the wake of dictators. Political leaps forward have been just as common as a rising death toll. But no matter the consequences one thing remains clear: the Arab world has woken up.

Egypt: Two years on, new protests

Padraic Calpin Politics Editor

January 25th 2013 was the second anniversary of the Egyptian protests that led to the fall of the autocratic regime of Hosni Mubarak. Tahrir Square was once again filled with protesters, their anger now directed at the current elected President Mohamed Morsi, and the police who are accused of excessive violence in a series of clashes in recent months. Two years on, Egypt still seems to be on a precipice.

As police released tear gas across central Cairo, and concentrations in Tahrir Square approached "dangerous levels", thousands of protesters remained on the streets in open defiance of a curfew imposed by Morsi across three provinces following a series of fatal clashes with protesters and police. The words of the people on the streets echoed the cries of 2011,

accusing Morsi's government of being "exactly the same as the Mubarak gang", and of trying to establish a 'theocratic dictatorship'.

In fact, Tahrir Square has hardly stood empty these 24 months. Protests continued through the first half of last year against the interim "Supreme Council of the Armed Forces" established in the wake of Mubarak's fall, who were seen as dominated by figures of the old regime and accused of delaying over democratic elections. When the polls finally opened, it was hoped that the democratic election of Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood would see the country continue along the path to reform.

But the Egyptian people remain in the streets, concerned that Morsi is balking at the prospect of reform, or even trying to secure power for the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood. Tensions flared when, while drafting



the country's new constitution, many parties walked out of the negotiation process, claiming that the current document too heavily favoured the Muslim Brotherhood. Morsi followed by giving himself the power to push the draft constitution to a vote and, in the face of public protest, awarded arrest power to the military to provide security for a referendum. The constitution passed, but continues to be criticised for the level of judicial

power it passes to Egypt's upper parliamentary house, the Shura, which is predominantly controlled by the Muslim Brotherhood.

Many who voted yes in that referendum did so hoping that it would bring much needed stability. However, the fallout of another tragedy, just over a year ago, brought the people and the police back into confrontation. The death of some 70 Al-Ahly club supporters at a match

in Port Said was such an order of magnitude above any previous football violence that it led many to accuse the SCAF of attacking the club for its role in the 2011 uprising, and when residents of Port Said were sentenced for their role in the disaster it sparked mass civil unrest.

This string of events, culminating in the deaths of 40 Port Said citizens at police hands, are why Egypt is once again gripped by protest. Reports of police violence are multitudinous, and the parallels with Mubarak's own police crackdown in the face of public revolt are not lost on the people of Egypt. The government has pledged reform, and apologised for the strikingly public police assault of Hammad Saber, which sets it distinctly apart from the ways of the old regime. But Egypt remains in limbo, struggling on with its troubled transition from years of autocracy.

Rep Week 2013

Rep Week 2013 is running from 11 – 15 February and provides a platform to celebrate the great changes that have taken place with the help of your academic representative system.

Your Academic Reps will be wearing bright red t-shirts all this week so keep an eye out for them. Feel free to give them any tips on how your time at Imperial can be improved. You can do this by emailing, Facebook messaging or talking to them in person.

The 448 tips collected from Rep Week 2012 were typed up and sent to your academic reps, who were encouraged to bring them up at their next Staff-Student Committee. If you want to talk to your reps then come to the Junior Common Room between 12:00 -14:00 on Monday and Friday.

Alternatively, we will be in the Sherfield foyer on Tuesday and Thursday. 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 #loveyourrep on Twitter.

If you don't know who your rep is then please use Imperial College Union's "Your Representatives A to Z" directory on our website.

Visit imperialcollegeunion.org/repweek for all the info about next week.



Doug Hunt

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

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



#loveyourrep

Student Academic Choice Awards



imperialcollegeunion.org/academicchoice

This year, we are running our first ever awards for academics, nominated and chosen entirely by students. The awards are designed to celebrate and reward good teaching and emphasise teaching

as a skill of equal worth and value as research. We also want to build a community in which students, academics and staff all feel ownership of the development and delivery of their course.

There are eight awards in total that will cover all faculties, departments and campuses. There will also be specific prizes available for those who supervise doctoral students, teach master's students, and work in professional roles within College. The awards aren't designed to be a popularity contest but a recognition of innovation, skill, engagement and energy that students have received from academics.

We are looking for nominations from every department, centre, study type and campus, and that's where you come in! Nominations are open now on the Imperial College Union website at imperialcollegeunion.org/academicchoice. More information will also be added soon.

Awards

- Best Feedback
- Best Graduate Teaching Assistant
- Best Innovation
- Best Supervision
- Best Support Staff
- Best Teaching for Taught Postgraduates
- Best Teaching for Undergraduates
- Best Tutoring

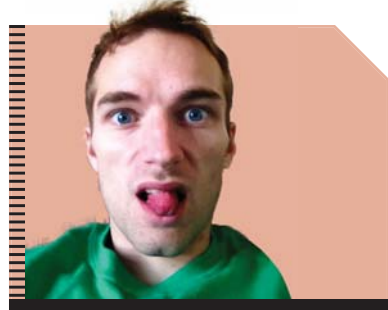
COMMENT

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



The Life of a Total WBanker

The City life ain't all it's cracked up to be, warns **Adam Billing**



Adam Billing

You've finished your degree. You worked hard and you got the grades. The world is your metaphorical oyster. With your hard earned piece of paper you can do whatever your heart desires. So why do nearly a third of us end up working in the financial services?

With banks as public enemy number one, the City is facing a crisis. New regulation promises to limit risky casino banking and with it the large profits and bonuses they brought are likely to disappear. So is finance a dream job to aspire to or do Imperial students just lack imagination? Let's meet one of them.

"Hello Lance. I hear you want to be a banker." "Yes, it's the best job and I want to be the best," replies Lance. "Why do you think it's the best?" "Well it pays the most." "But you'll be very time-poor." "That's okay. I'll only do it for five years, become rich, then leave."

This is a conversation we've all heard a hundred times before. It sounds reasonable, but does Lance's viewpoint actually stand up to scrutiny? Let's look at a real-life example. A 2008 Maths graduate got a job working in Mergers & Acquisitions for Goldman Sachs – this is basically Lance's dream job. His starting salary was £35,000 and he would usually clock around 85 hours a week. This works out to £7.90 per hour, which is actually below the London Living Wage. So Lance would be financially better off if he were to spend those hours cleaning the office rather than playing with spreadsheets. It's true that Lance's salary progression is better than your average cleaner's, so one day he'll outdo Dorris. But it's ludicrous to think you can make a life-changing amount of money in your first five years.

"That's okay," pipes up Lance, "I'll do it for ten years then." "Well Lance, firstly, I'm glad that your life plan is so well thought-out that a ten second calculation can throw it off course. But if you want to make serious money you're going to need to climb the corporate ladder." "So how do I do that? Be the best at my job?" "Silly Lance, these jobs could be done by a four year old. You'll never stand out that way. If you want to progress you need to brand yourself a winner, and that's an expensive business. There's no living like a student anymore. To act the part you need the expensive suit, Omega watch and to be blowing your money on nights out in Mayfair. If the team jets off to Monaco for the weekend, then that's what you do too whether or not you can actually afford it. Managing relationships (read:

sucking up) is key in this industry and you need to do your part, otherwise that next promotion won't be coming your way. Unfortunately, with all this spending it's going to be difficult for you to amass that fortune you were talking about."

Why is Lance so keen for cash? I'm not entirely sure he knows. But let's get one thing straight: money is not a reason in itself. No one actually wants a pile of cash. What Lance is after are the things that money can bring: financial freedom, lifestyle, a big house (status) and a fast car (penis extension). So is a City career the best way to achieve these things?

I have a confession to make: I was once a Lance. I went off to the City to seek my fortune, but instead this is what I found.

Financial freedom: because of the pressures to "live the lifestyle" my colleagues were the most indebted individuals I have ever met. There were people on £300,000 salaries that were "leveraged" ten times their earnings – i.e. they owed the bank three million quid! Losing your job with that much debt means immediate and definite financial ruin. In fact, most were screwed if they didn't get the right bonus. This is as far from financial freedom as I can imagine.

Far from being an isolated incident, massive leveraging is rife. It's fuelled by the belief that you're top dog; you'll be richer next year so why worry about today. This short sighted thinking can leave you trapped in a job you have tired of and leads to bodies littering the pavements of St. Paul's when financial crises break.

Many enter the City with the belief that they'll do it differently. Unfortunately, The Square Mile is a tribal place. If you're not with them, you're against them. If you don't take part in the lifestyle, part of which is living above your means, then you're implicitly critical of those who do – which is everyone. People will mistrust you and you won't form the relationships you need to be successful.

Lifestyle: You're never going to become Roman Abramovich by being a banker. It's a well-paid job but it's still just a job and selling your labour is not a scalable business model. However, there's no denying that bankers are generally wealthy. So what do they do with all that money? What experiences do they have, that we mere mortals can only dream of? Well as far as I could tell, their experiences weren't that dissimilar to my own: they lived in a house, drove a car, occasionally went to restaurants and would go on holiday once or twice a year. The difference was they would



No matter how hard you try, you will never be as cool as this man

spend a lot more money doing these things.

If they went on holiday it had to be somewhere with 'service'. I mean what's the point in money if you can't make plebs do things for you? The car has to be new and replaced frequently. My boss even paid £800 to have his Range Rover resprayed because a cat walked across the bonnet. The main goal of these excessive expenditures seems to be so you can talk about them loudly in the office. So I don't think it was appreciated when I suggested that a £5.99 bottle of T-Cut would have done the same job.

Status: It might impress your mum but is it really a high status job? Status is in the eye of the beholder. So if your aim in life is to impress Mayfair airheads then congratulations, you've found your calling. But they don't understand what it is you actually do. The truth is, depending on your job title, you're somewhere between an Excel monkey and a PowerPoint monkey; you're doing a job that doesn't challenge you and whose only social worth is to make rich people richer. So whom are you looking to impress? And is it worth it?

Everyone has different aspirations

in life and it's not for me to tell you how to live yours. However, the Imperial view of the City is far from the reality I encountered. Hopefully a few more people sharing their experiences might counter the multi-million pound propaganda machine that we are fed in College.

But for those still determined to follow in Lance's footsteps, a final word. We don't live in the 80s anymore. The mantra of "greed is good" has failed and there is a deep mistrust of the complex financial instruments that Imperial students were employed to deal with. In the coming years the City will face heavy regulation, and with it the inflated profits and bonuses they produced will vanish. Sure it won't happen overnight, but why get on a sinking ship?

There are more career options than finance, a PhD or teaching: change the world with an NGO; join the cyber war by breaking codes at GCHQ; or be the next David Attenborough. Science and technology are the future of our economy so why not join a start-up, or better yet, create your own. Your 20s are when you are most free to take risks, don't waste them on a grad scheme making tea for Lance.

This short-sighted thinking can leave you trapped in a job you have tired of.

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

COMMENT

Friends With Benefits?

Choose your own adventure: sexy edition!



Anonymous

Casual sex, no fuss no muss: the holy grail for most guys. In this modern society, the taboo has largely been lifted on satisfying one's own sexual needs. You only need to browse truelad.com for five mins to realise that most guys are probably whacking one out in the five minute break between lectures. As for the ladies, we've gone one step further; certain battery operated devices named after innocent woodland creatures that are endowed with not one, but three speed settings have been provided to satisfy our needs. And although these devices *are* life-savers, there is only so much love you can give yourself before the asymmetry between the musculature of your right and left arm becomes a bit of a giveaway. Solution: the fuck buddy. A number you can dial when you need to, someone who won't spend the night and a relationship in which it is considered perfectly acceptable not to swallow. What could possibly go wrong?

Everything. The mistake most people make is to interpret the term 'buddy' too literally. Do not, I repeat, do not select an actual friend. At best they should be a casual acquaintance. Why? Because a) you already like this person enough for them to be your friend, b)

you think they are attractive enough to sleep with, and c) you will be sleeping with them on a regular basis: one of you will develop feelings. The trick in selecting the perfect fuck buddy is choosing someone you find almost repulsive on an emotional or intellectual level, but whom you think is really quite fit (or failing that, at least fit enough to stick your cock in/have their cock stuck into you). An added bonus is to select someone who you can't be with seriously due to externalities, e.g. a friend's ex, an exchange student, a convicted criminal...

The key is to remember this is an exchange of goods (probably fluids, hopefully orgasms); it is not an exchange of personal burdens, it is not about your feelings, your friends, your coursework. Talking should be kept at a minimum at all times, but particular post coitus – a little dirty talk beforehand (i.e. verbal foreplay), however, is completely acceptable. Sleepovers are never OK; if you're telling yourself it's because it's 'practical', you're in denial: the reality is you want them to stay because you want to spoon and you want to spoon because you like them. In which case you are veering off the 'fuck buddy path', and onto the slippery slope to relationshipdom.

I have had two fuck buddy type arrangements. The first was a complete



disaster, although in the long run it actually turned out pretty well: we ended up dating for around two years (for the majority of which I was deeply in love with him). My second and current fuck buddy meets all the criteria above: there is no danger that I will develop feelings for him, mainly because he is a complete and utter twat. So far, the sex is adequate, he has a nice body and a nice cock but he is a bit of a selfish lover (aren't they all?). I've been seeing him since November. So far what have I learnt? As much as I like to pitch myself as a shit-hot, sexually liberated, independent woman and as much as I'd like to believe you could have great sex without succumbing to humdrum commitment, the truth is that prolonged sexual

relationships are always infinitely more satisfying with feelings involved. A vibrator will never and can never replace a man, not because you miss the weight of his body on top of you but because you miss the intimacy of being with another person. Likewise, guys may joke about women only being superior to a wank because they come with a pair of tits and are self-lubricating, but actually they too also crave emotional closeness. For this reason, although the idea of fuck buddies is conceptually attractive, in reality they tend to only have a shelf life of a couple of months. Mine is already beginning to curdle and turn sour. As a result, I've deleted his number and invested in some AAA batteries instead – no muss, no fuss.

Then I saw her face, now I'm a non-believer!

A shameless plug by IC Atheists, Secularists and Humanists



Josh Price

Religion is one of those awkward words. To some, it represents all that is good in life, and the celebration of the divine. For others, it's a term which is almost taboo, one of those awkward boxes that Facebook asks you to fill in. Yet, there's no doubt that many religions have shaped past and present events, and will no doubt continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Or so you might think; but just how many people are still religious?

The 2011 census results show that the total number of people with 'No Religion' was 25.1% of the total UK population, or 14.1 million people. In 2001 this figure stood at a total of 14.8%. While we've no doubt that the figures for Imperial College itself are probably rather different, this is more than just a large increase. So, then, as this is clearly a piece which serves no purpose other than that of shameless

self-promotion (read: encouraging discussion), where is the Atheist society?

Well, right here. 2 weeks ago, Imperial Atheist, Secularist and Humanist Society (or IASH as we like to be known) came into existence. After a highly successful inaugural talk (held jointly with the Feminist Society), we've got a lot more things planned, but first let us clarify a few points. To whom do we cater and why do we exist? After all, surely an atheist society exists only to poke fun at specific religions and circle jerk over how its members agree with one another? Well, not really, that's actually quite wrong.

So first off, what do we believe? No doubt you know of atheists who flat out don't believe in the idea God(s), or any other supernatural omnipotent entities. But what if that's not your style? Some of us aren't so sure. Perhaps there's a God, or two, or even more? You can't know for certain. We

welcome anyone who would be happy to label themselves as either of these, or anywhere in between. If you find yourself questioning God, scripture, or anything else to do with religion, we'd love to talk to you. We also consider ourselves secularists, we believe in the separation of Church and state, and that no religion should have any place in the activities of government. We also support the ideals of humanism; living on the basis of reason and science, and treating all others equally regardless of religion or belief.

That, in a nutshell, is what the majority of our members believe. But what do we aim to do? One thing we cannot stress enough is that discussion and debate are essential. It's obvious that curiosity about the world we live in, interest in how things work, or the desire to help people have provided the drive to obtain a place at Imperial. We seek to continue debate, and encourage others do so regardless of

their beliefs. It may come as a surprise to some that this fits perfectly with humanism. So, to conclude; we exist as a social group for anyone who feels that they fit the above labels. However, just like the many religious societies already established, we will be hosting guest lecturers and taking part in debates and discussions throughout this and coming years. If this sounds overwhelmingly appealing or even just mildly interesting, we would very much like to see you: we are a friendly bunch (or at least we like to think so). Our next big event is at 6pm on 25th February, where Robin Ince of Radio 4 fame will be giving a lecture "The Things I am Thinking Right Now: a finite life in a big universe". This will take place in the Pippard Lecture Theatre, on Level 5 of the Sherfield building; and is open to all, free of charge. We encourage you to stop worrying about your studies for a short while, and come. You might just enjoy yourself.



Hot Chockablocked with warm drinks

Kevin Ng explores the different options for hot chocolate

Some January we've had this year, huh? College and tests right after Christmas, Britain's coldest winter in 100 months (complete with that massive bout of dandruff from heaven), and the weather boffins are saying February won't be much better. Not to worry, though: at times like these, you can always count on a lovely, steaming mug of hot chocolate to make you nice and toasty (well, other than a warm cuddle from that special someone). Nope, not cocoa, not that mug of Nesquik, Swiss Miss, Milo or whatever you call it. There's a time and place for that stuff, but today, we're going to discuss real hot chocolate – the stuff that's thick, rich and unctuous, the drink that warms you to your toes.

With that in mind, I decided to seek out the best hot chocolates around Imperial. Make no mistake – this is no easy task. I had to sieve through a considerable number of insipid, weak cups masquerading as hot chocolate (some with ridiculous prices to boot, no less). Sure, one can make do with a sachet of Cadbury's stirred into boiling water or a cuppa from JCR, just as one can survive with nothing but Sainsbury's basics, but it's not going to impress that cutie from across the hall – and you gotta live a little, eh? Still,

there's a lot of hot chocolate out there, and only so much a student can afford. Being the selfless and altruistic person that I am, I shall aid you lot by sharing the results of my labours. So here's what you can find around school...

Chains – Paul, Caffé Nero, Starbucks

Lowest on the rung are the eponymous coffee and bread chains, Starbucks, Paul and Caffé Nero. Right off the bat, forget about Starbucks – there are far better ways to waste ~£3 than a cup of overly sweet brown-tinged water which barely resembles chocolate. Caffé Nero and Paul are far better – while Caffé Nero does have a 'normal' version, both serve a thick, European cup of hot chocolate. However, I found Paul's to be rich, intense and very chocolate-y, whereas Caffé Nero's just seemed very sweet and had a strong taste of cornstarch. It's quite a bit to pay for a drink, but for what you get, it's worth it.

Special Chains – Gail's Artisan Bakery, Oddono's, Pain au Quotiden, Ottolenghi's

Next on the list come these places which are still chains, but are far posher by nature. Surprisingly, though, the hot chocolate here isn't much to shout

about. For all their exquisite looking breads and decadent pastries, Gail's artisan bakery and Pain au Quotiden serve up rather lackadaisical mugs. Pain's seemed very sweet and runny but lacking in chocolate flavour, while Gail's initially encouraging use of packet Valrhona hot chocolate was ruined by an inept use of the steam wand and an easy hand with the milk. Oddono's, one of the places many netizens recommend for good hot chocolate, proved to be good – but the best still goes to Ottolenghi's, the super-posh café with a stellar reputation that is well deserved. The steaming mug delivers an intense hit of hot chocolate which isn't too sweet or too thick, and is extremely satisfying. Thing is, the location may be a bit of a trek for most.

Chocolatiers – Rococo Chocolate, Hotel Chocolat, Melt, Cocomaya

Last comes the cream of the crop – places which exude luxury and class and make you feel intimidated from simply staring through their windows. Feel free to stride in with gumption, though – prices for something like hot chocolate at these chocolatiers don't really differ that much from other places. Still, there's a great deal of vari-



ation between cups. Rococo serves a thick shot of chocolate that's more fondue-like in taste and consistency, and Melt's dark hot chocolate comes from a proprietary blend of in-store chocolate with a distinctive taste that can only be described as 'interesting'. For the thrill-seekers, maybe; but the rest of us who want our money's worth would be better off going to Hotel Chocolat. Despite its upmarket appearance, a mug to go costs a mere £2.50 (paltry, really, in comparison) and comes in three flavours, all of

which are intense, strong and delightful. Cocomaya's on the other hand was perfectly adequate, but just a little too thin and too expensive for its size.

Conclusion? Paul for that quick option, or if one is truly craving for some decent chocolate, head to High Street Kensington's Hotel Chocolat for a mug. Even better, their Liquid Chocolate is available in stores so that any desperate student can whip up their own mug in the comforts of their hall kitchen – and you can add as many marshmallows (or other extras) as you want!

Valentine's heaven cupcakes!

Yiango Mavrocostanti Food Editor

These divine cupcakes are perfect for the occasion, whether you are celebrating or not!

And guess what? You can make them yourself. They are extremely easy and taste just as good as they look. You will definitely impress...

Ingredients:

(Makes 12)

Recipe taken and slightly modified from the book Vegan Cupcakes Take Over the World.

For the cupcakes:

1 cup almond milk
1 teaspoon vinegar
3/4 cup sugar
1/3 cup oil
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup flour
1/3 cup cocoa
3/4 teaspoon soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup strawberry marmalade

For the chocolate mousse:

350 grams dark chocolate
1 packet silken tofu
2 tablespoons maple syrup
1/4 cup almond milk

For decorating:

5 strawberries
1/4 cup blueberries

Procedure:

Preheat your oven to 180 degrees. Place cupcake cases in a cupcake tin.

In a bowl, mix all the dry ingredients. In a separate bowl mix the milk with the vinegar and set aside for ten minutes so that it curdles. Then, add the rest of the liquid ingredients to the milk and vinegar mixture and mix. After that, add the liquid mixture to the dry ingredients and mix until the flour is dissolved. Be careful no to over mix otherwise the cupcakes will not be fluffy.

Pour the mixture in the cupcake cases so that they are 2/3 full. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until you can insert a toothpick in the middle and it comes

out dry.

Leave the cupcakes to cool for 1 hour. Once they are cool spread marmalade on top, creating a circle leaving 1cm from the edges. Place the cupcakes in the fridge.

To make the mousse, place the tofu, milk and maple syrup in a blender. Blend until it is completely smooth. You might need to use a spatula to stir and make sure that it is completely smooth.

Make a double boiler by putting water in a large pot and then placing a small pot on top so that the water covers 1/2 the height of the small pot. Bring to boil, turn the heat off and put the chocolate cut in small pieces in the small pot. Stir until it has completely melted. Leave the melted chocolate to cool for 5 minutes and then add it to the blender. Again, blend until everything is completely combined. Put the mousse in the fridge for 1 hour.

Using a piping bag decorate the cupcakes with the mousse and place a slice of fresh strawberry and some blueberries on top. Enjoy!



CHURCH

everynation.co.uk



SUNDAYS
ACTIVITY SPACE 1
STUDENT UNION

Free café – 5:30
LIVE BAND



Yarn wars declared as Knitsock turns 5



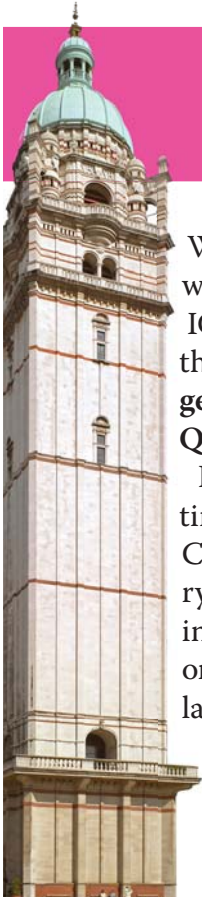
Rag WEEK

2013 FELIX GUIDE

11TH – 15TH FEBRUARY

IN AID OF...





DAY 1: MONDAY 11TH FEB – BUNGEE JUMP

What better a way to kick off IC RAG Week than a **bungee jump on Queen's Lawn?** For the first time in the College's history, we're bringing a crane onto Queen's lawn where students and staff alike will have the

opportunity to plummet from 180ft above Queen's Lawn. Tom Pearson, Imperial's Divisional Operations Manager of Communications, will be the first of the 125 jumpers on Monday. The spaces available for the jump sold out within just a week of the event being announced. Jumpers paid a fee of £25 to secure their jump and this included a sizeable donation to charity, but we expect to

raise much more than this from the jumpers being sponsored by their friends and family. Even if you're not jumping, **come down to Queen's Lawn from 10:30am on Monday to cheer on the jumpers and come along at lunchtime** to be entertained by some of Imperial's finest talent, watch our intrepid Kilimanjaro climbers exchange their dignity for your **donations and munch on Krispy Kremes.**



DAY 2: TUESDAY 12TH FEB –



The second day of RAG Week is our **Cartoon Collect**, which promises to be a day of fun and ridiculousness. You turn up in **groups of about 4-8**, we give you buckets and a list of tasks. It's then your job to run around London, making a fool out of yourself com-



pleting these absurd challenges and **collecting donations** from confused passers-by, all while dressed as your favourite cartoon character! Your main

aim is to collect as much money as possible, but tasks also give you points (the more outrageous and difficult the task, the more points you get). There will be prizes for the teams with the most cash and also the most



points! So top up your Oyster, get a costume and come in teams to Metric from midday on Tuesday 12th to receive your collection kit, and then head out for a day of ridiculous fun! Just make sure you're back before 8pm!



DAY 4: THURSDAY 14TH FEB – MASQUERADE BALL

FOR MANY, THE HIGHLIGHT OF RAG WEEK WILL BE OUR VALENTINE'S BALL. WE'VE SECURED TWO WHOLE FLOORS AT ONE OF THE MOST DESIRABLE CLUBS IN LONDON: **THE PENTHOUSE**

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GLAMOUR AND BLACK TIE, WHICH DESCENDING INTO A BASS FILLED PARTY INTO THE EARLY HOURS.

IF YOU WANT EVEN MORE CLASS, THEN YOU CAN BUY OUR **VIP PACKAGE**, ALLOWING YOU ACCESS TO THE **VIP 8TH FLOOR**, WHERE YOU CAN RELAX WITH

CHAMPAGNE, ENJOY THE SPECTACULAR VIEWS OVER LONDON AND WATCH OUR RAFFLE BEING DRAWN (PACKAGE INCLUDES ONE FREE TICKET). AND THE MOST IMPORTANT BIT... WE'VE GOT A **£5,000 BAR TAB**

TICKET INFO
STANDARD: £13
VIP PACKAGE: £17
BUY ONLINE AT UNION. IC.AC.UK/RAG



DAY 5: FRIDAY 15TH FEB – BIG NIGHT IN

Take it easy on the final night of RAG Week, and see away the remains of the Masquerade Ball hangover. Sit back and relax with

RAG in the Imperial Cinema where we will be showing The Dark Knight Rises. On top of this, we've got free Domino's pizza, food

and hot drinks (provided by ICU Fair Trade Soc). Bring some pillows, a duvet and even turn up in your pyjamas!

Tickets: £7.50
Friday February 15th -
10:15PM
Imperial Cinema (2nd Floor
Union Building)



ALL WEEK – SECRET VALENTINE'S

Let RAG and KOP play Cupid for you this Valentine's Week.

In return for a donation to Kenyan Orphan Project, we will deliver

a gift of your choice to anyone of your choosing!

Maybe it's the first move on your crush, a romantic gesture to a loved one or an

embarrassing incident for a friend (or lecturer!), during lectures, in halls or in an office (if you're a member of staff).

Lecture deliveries will be done by our cupids (dressed the part) on the South Kensington campus.

Place your order at the **RAG Stall** (Sherfield/Library En-

trance 12-2 All RAG Week) **during RAG Week**, or speak to a **RAG Rep in your halls**.

Delivery In Lectures:

Bag of Chocolates	£2.50
Card & Chocolate	£2
Hand-carved Stone heart	£3
Rose	£4
Engraved Stone Heart	£4
Serenade & Rose	£8

Delivery In Halls:

Card Only	£1
Card & Chocolate	£2

Whether you're courting, impressing or embarrassing someone, we can do it all!



ALL WEEK – RAG RAFFLE

This one's simple... we've got a raffle with some amazing prizes. Tickets are £2 each or 3 for £5. Come along to the RAG Stall (Sherfield/Library Entrance for the whole of RAG Week) to buy! The prizes include:

AN ENGLAND FOOTBALL SHIRT SIGNED BY ROY HODGSON
TWO CHELSEA HOME GAME TICKETS
DINNER + WINE AT THE HILTON
PUB LUNCH WITH THE RECTOR TICKETS TO 'THRILLER'
A HAIRCUT AT FRESH NANDO'S PLATTERS
AND MANY MORE....

ABOUT OUR CHARITIES

We're raising money for a local charity in east London. Richard House Children's Hospice, based in Newham, is a purpose-built children's hospice caring for children from across the Capital, Essex, Kent and the Home Counties. The core purpose of the hospice is to accompany families caring for children with life-limiting, life-threatening and complex healthcare needs, during their journey through life to death. The aim is to create positive experiences along the way that become good memories for the future.



Our national charity is Breast Cancer Campaign, a charity that works closely with Imperial scientists and does great work. They aim to have a pioneering approach to breast cancer research, which identifies and funds the research projects with the greatest potential to save and improve lives and, ultimately, to find a cure for breast cancer.



Concern Universal, our international charity, is an international development organisation tackling poverty from the grassroots. They create opportunities for people around the world to improve their lives and shape their own futures. By building skills and connecting people at all levels in society, they help communities deliver practical solutions with long term impact.

Concern



Universal

ARTS

Arts Editors: Eva Rosenthal,
Meredith Thomas

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

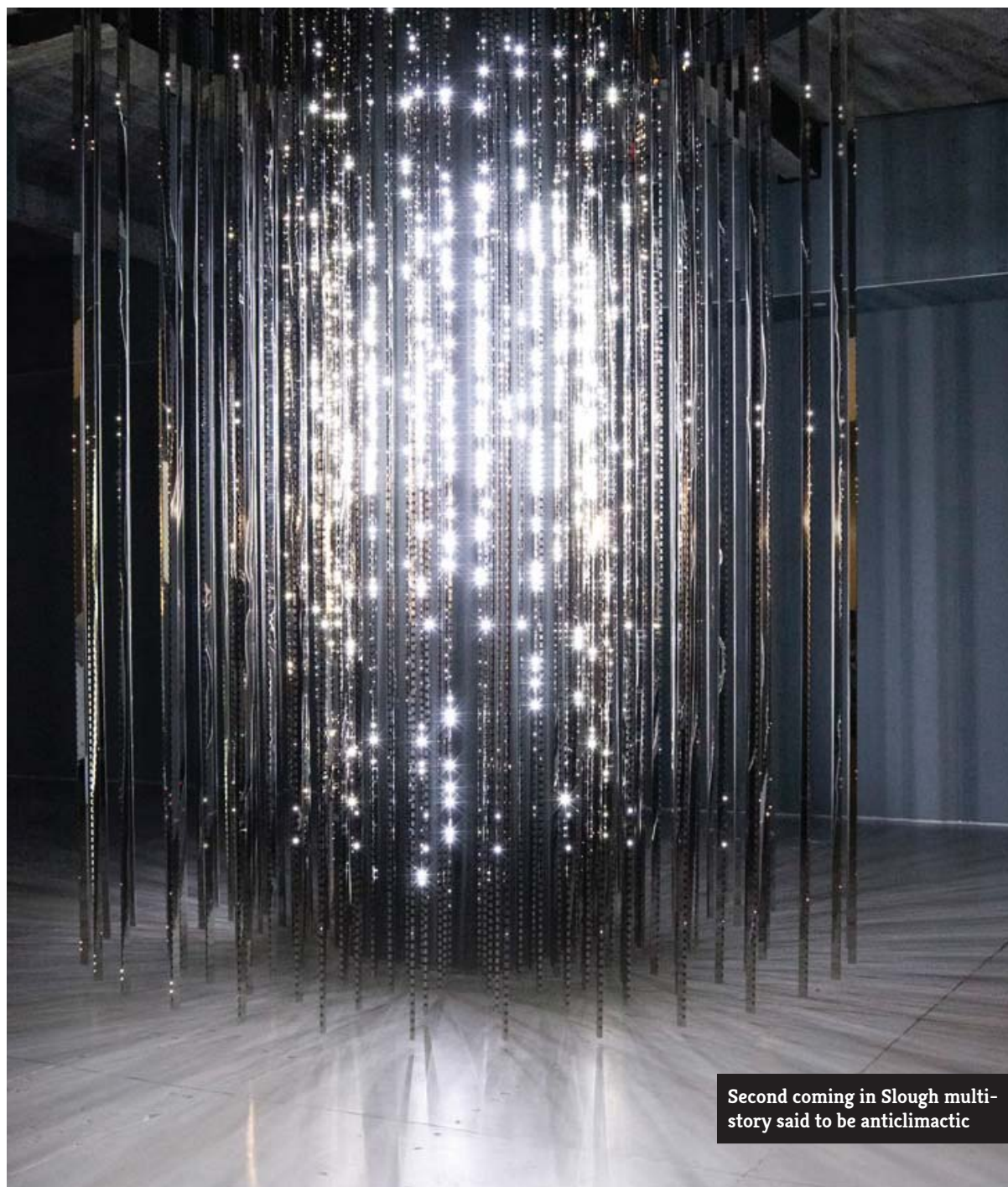


DOODLE OF THE WEEK



Why work? Instead, doodle all lecture long and then send us your drawings to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk. This doodle was done by Arts Editor, Meredith Thomas because we are short of submissions from actual readers.

Light entertainment



Second coming in Slough multi-story said to be anticlimactic

TIRED OF LOVE?

Our pick of what's on in London

The Judas Kiss @ The Duke of York's Theatre – Charting the life of Oscar Wilde from the trial for 'gross indecency' to his post-incarceration meeting with his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, this play has been garnering success in this new production featuring what is said to be a great performance by Rupert Everett. Tickets from £20. Now - 6 April.

Schwitters in Britain @ Tate Britain – A tribute to an early 20th century artist who fled from Nazi Germany and came to Britain in 1940. He died seven years later, leaving behind collages, installations, sculptures and even poetry. This exhibition introduces us to a relatively unknown (I admit to never even having heard of Schwitters until 2013) but very influential pre-pop master of different media. Tickets from £10. Now - 12 May.

The Love Nest @ The Old Vick Tunnels – For an art themed Valentine's, try *Love Nest*, hosted by Artful Badger at the tunnels under Waterloo station. Wander the subterranean labyrinth and discover a bohemian art gallery of dance the night away to live bands, DJs and interactive theatre. 14 February.

Eat your heart out @ Secret Location – Miss Cakehead and Emily Evens host three nights of romantic pop ups around (we're guessing) East London. Feed your stomachs on solid chocolate hearts and feast your eyes on unique arts and crafts pieces inspired by the same amorous organ. 8 - 10 February



Fred Fyles

Writer

In the centre of a large room in the Hayward Gallery, a cylinder made up of hundreds of glass tubes hangs from the ceiling. Contained within each tube are thousands of tiny LED lights, which flicker on and off, creating an endless series of hypnotising patterns. Explosions of light burst out, only to fade and be replaced by an image of flickering stars, which grow in intensity before returning to darkness. This cycle repeats again, and again, and again, but is never quite alike; we never see the same image twice. This mesmerising piece by American artist Leo Villareal opens the Hayward's latest exhibition, aptly titled *Light Show*, which explores how artists use the medium of light to create incredible, powerful and mind-boggling artworks.

Light, as the exhibition title suggests, is the true star of the show: it radiates out from neon tubes dangling from the ceiling, casts its beams upon the gallery walls, and bathes entire rooms in subtle hues. It is presented as a living entity, especially in Cerith Wyn Evans' piece *S=U=P=E=R=S=T=R=U=C=T=U=R=E* where three vertical columns of light slowly radiate and dim. Evans' inspiration came from James Merrill's poem *The Changing Light* at Sandover, which was composed from messages transmitted during séances, and this otherworldliness is reflected in the piece; the oscillation of light hints at a kind of breathing, the heat radiated by the strip lights reminds one of body warmth.

One of the most spectacular works in the exhibition, *You and I, Horizontal* by Anthony McCall, manages to do the

impossible: it turns light into a tangible entity. A projector screens slowly moving lines onto a wall, and artificial mist transforms this into a complex series of walls of light. Viewers pass through the piece, becoming enveloped by planes of solid light, which gradually shift and change around them. It is something that needs to be experienced.

This interaction with the pieces is continued with Doug Wheeler's work, in which the audience stands in the centre of a room illuminated with a square of soft neon light which hangs, seemingly unsupported, from the far wall. The room has no corners – all hard lines have been removed – creating an extremely surreal environment. I find it difficult to focus on anything; the room seems to have become enveloped in white mist and I feel like I am viewing the world through a soft-focus lens. Disoriented, I try to seek relief

Arts Editors: **Eva Rosenthal,**
Meredith Thomas
arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ARTS

in *Wedgework V*, another installation piece, this time by James Turrell, but I have no such luck. The work consists only of a wedge-shaped beam of coloured light, mostly red, but with a thin line of blue at one end. As I sit in the darkness something incredible occurs: the red begins to fade away, and a bluey-purplish apparition begins to spread like mould across the wedge. This then fades away as my eyes adjust to the light, and the scene is replaced by a solid wall of grey colour; I rub my eyes, and the red light reappears. It never actually changed colour, but Turrell has managed to create a piece which alters the viewer's sense of perception. It is truly astonishing.

Other pieces are simpler, taking their inspiration from the beautiful – and perhaps overlooked – sources of light in the world around us. There is a bulb that emulates the glow of moonlight, and a collection of glowing neon tubes which recreate the splendour of twilight in Las Vegas. *Chromosaturaton*, by the Venezuelan artist Carlos Cruz-Diez consists of three rooms, each bathed in blue, red, or green light; upon entering the first room everything is bathed in a cool blue light. Moving into the next room is literally painful – the red light is a brilliant scarlet, and burns my retinas. However, this soon fades, and when I move back to the blue room the cool tones have morphed into a brilliantly blinding cyan. Moving from blue to green turns the green light a vibrant yellow; moving from green to red, and a vivid fuchsia appears. Of course the light has never changed, it is only my eyes becoming adjusted to certain frequencies of light – a simple effect, but incredibly powerful.

The works are not solely illusionary; some are political in scope. Jenny Holzer, an artist who has been using illuminated words for the last 30 years, displays a column of scrolling LED signs featuring extracts from declassified US documents on the War

on Terror. The words scroll past the viewer, flashing in harsh pink and purple lights, almost forcing us to read the grisly details they confer. Iván Navaro has created a glass box made of one-way mirrors. The viewer steps inside, and seems to inhabit an eternal abyss; the floor is not solid, all one can see is a series of lights stretching down for what seems like eternity. The work is made all the more powerful when one is reminded that Navaro grew up under Pinochet's regime, where people would regularly 'disappear' if they displeased the government.

The exhibition closes with a kinetic piece by the Danish artist Olafur Eliasson, in which a garden of 27 fountains is illuminated by strobe lighting. The effect of this is that it allows the viewer to observe the shapes made by the water in minute detail; images of the frozen fountains are imprinted on the eyes, creating a scene of frozen droplets, which hang like crystals in mid-air. The work is ever changing, constantly shifting and morphing into a new piece. It is completely hypnotising; I manage to spend a good fifteen minutes alone in this room before tearing myself away.

The Hayward Gallery has always been a fantastic place to experience experimental art, and in the last couple of years its interactive exhibitions have gone from strength to strength. This exhibition however, blows anything else I have seen there completely out of the water. The way the artists have used light as a medium is completely mind-blowing, and utterly inspiring. I leave the gallery, still in a daze, and emerge outside. It is a beautiful winter's day, and the afternoon sun hangs brightly in the clear sky, but compared to what I have just seen – bulbs containing moonlight, gardens of shimmering crystal, dazzling explosions of light – it seems positively dim.

Light Show at the Hayward Gallery.
Tickets from **£9.** Now - 28 April.



FELIX

Sex Survey 2013

It wants you to do it.
Fill it out online at:

felixonline.co.uk/sexsurvey

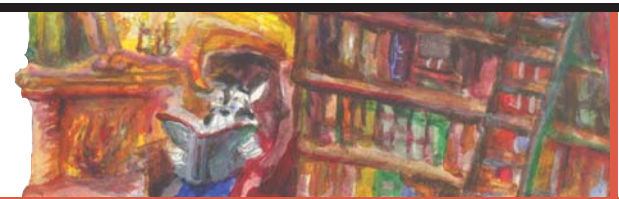
Note: the Sex Survey is completely anonymous, as is the Drugs Survey. At no point can anyone track the answers back to you. Please be honest.

Drawing by Hamish Muir



BOOKS

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



A Quantum Murder

Alex Savell gives part two of the Peter F. Hamilton SF detective series the pre-Picocon treatment



Don't get me wrong, I have not done a U-Turn on the Greg Mandel series in the last week; I am neither an Italian, nor a member of a Coalition Government. I am still an advocate of the series and of the man, and will be in avid attendance when he speaks at the Sci-Fi Society's Picocon Convention in a little over a week's time.

I am, however, a little unsure of the overuse of the word Quantum. Published in 1994, a year after the first of the series, *A Quantum Murder* was conceived when the Q word was still the buzz word of the time. We can at least be thankful that Hamilton did not go along with 'black-hole', a similarly popular 90s buzzword, which wouldn't have even had the snappy ring of Greg Mandel continuing on in true detective novel style.

Getting over my minimal gripe about titling we start to see why Hamilton doesn't consider this series a trilogy. Though it is more true of the final book of the series the title does work as a stand-alone despite several returning characters including the Event Horizon heiress Julia Evens and even the return of the massive conglomerate itself. A classic 'who-dunnit' murder mystery set in a country estate that manages to evoke the nostalgia

of a man clinging to tradition while merging this with the home of a paranoid scientist in the high-tech future.

A much tighter, more atmospheric plot with more interplay between characters than *Mindstar Rising* this is the sort of thing where you see why Mandel is good at his job. If you look closely you'll see that the Will Smith film *I, Robot* where it diverges from the revolutionary Asimov classic has some striking similarities to the plot of *A Quantum Murder*. A secretive professor murdered in a seemingly impossible fashion leaves high tech clues to the way to solve his murder. In fact it's a tale that's been told many times, *The Da Vinci Code*, for instance, is also not so very different. But remember that Hamilton is a trailblazer in this. And, in fact, there is plenty to help Hamilton stand out from the crowd of mystery writers; the backdrop of an England clawing its way back from the brink, or possibly past it, has progressed a little in the two years that have passed in setting.

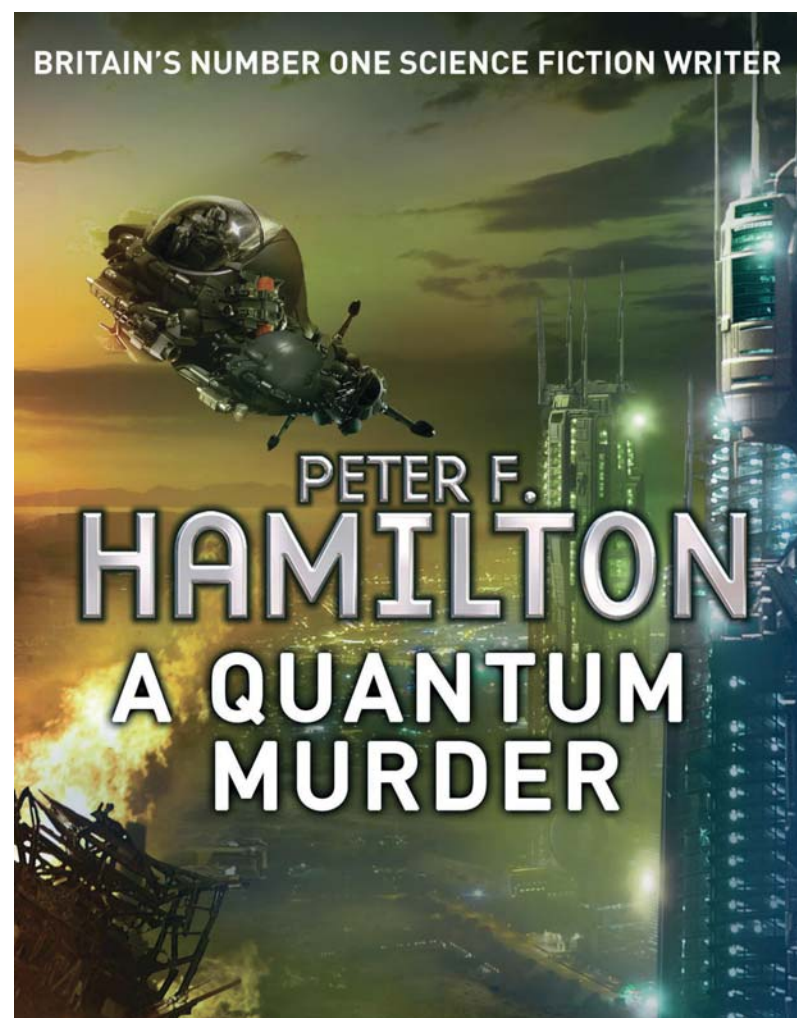
Seeing the country move forwards a little in this is an interesting experience. At the same time technology is starting to become more integrated; perhaps that's a mark of the crowds Greg is starting to circulate within, certainly the estate is a level of prestige and technology that isn't available

elsewhere.

In fact, it's the sort of think tank style setup that is a Physicist's wet dream. Still the levels of technology remain believably attainable in the near future, but they are gently progressing along with everything else and with the final instalment *The Nano Flower* set some time further on, *A Quantum Murder* provides an interesting hint of what might be coming from the last book.

In fact I am certain it is no accident that researchers are a feature of this book, providing solid evidence of the way the world is moving on and how hard fought that struggle is. And next week we will have a look at just how far things progress in a decade and a half and I will leave you to discover if and how Mandel manages to unravel the sinister motives of Double Nobel Laureate Edward Kitchener's demise and a plot he's more integral too than he could possibly have thought.

Peter F. Hamilton will be at Imperial College for Picocon 30 on Saturday, February 16. As one of the Guests of Honour he will give an individual talk and participate in the main panel with Steph Swainston, Richard Morgan, Kate Griffin and Jaine Fenn. For more information, and to register your attendance, visit icsf.org.uk/picocon



A lighter-hearted magical sequel

Courtney Williams

Writer

Stray Souls is Kate Griffin's latest book, the first in the *Magicals Anonymous* series, and is set in the same magical version of London as her Matthew Swift series (the first of which will be reviewed in next week's edition of *Felix*). The urban fantasy sub-genre is becoming increasingly popular but Griffin shows here, as in her previous work, that she is still someone to watch, even in such a crowded field. You don't have to have read that series to still enjoy *Stray Souls*, but there is some crossover and reading the earlier books first wouldn't hurt.

One major difference between the series is that, while the Matthew Swift books do have an undercurrent of humour, the laughs in *Stray Souls*

are a lot more prominent, which is a large part of the reason why I found it so entertaining.

The book centres on Sharon Li, a barista who's just discovered she's a shaman, able to become one with the city. Problem is, the city's soul appears to be missing, someone needs to save it and that someone seems to be her. And what would any of us do if we found ourselves in such a situation? Use Facebook and Twitter to set up a self-help group for fellow magical beings, of course!

Sharon is an interesting counterpoint to the more wacky secondary characters like Kevin the hypochondriac vampire or Sally the art-loving banshee, both of whom are part of the self-help group. She could have easily been lost amidst all of them, and she does spend a lot of the book dithering,

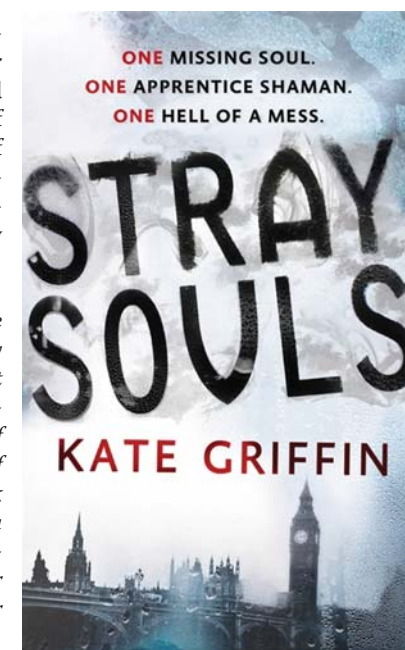
but in a way this just makes her easier to relate to.

Some people might struggle to get on with the book's short chapters, but I found the structure kept the story going at a decent pace, plus the chapters from the point of view of all the different characters really suited the self-help motif in addition to providing more opportunities for comedy. I also particularly enjoyed the naturalistic dialogue and how it added to the mundane side of things, as contrasted with the magical, which was itself a great source of humour. This book also achieves the not inconsiderable feat of working social media into a narrative in a way that's actually meaningful and enjoyable.

My principal feeling about the book is that it's just really fun. Obviously your mileage may vary, but if you like

your fantasy to not take itself too seriously (without sacrificing plot or action), with description that's vivid without being florid and plenty of memorable characters – or even if you just get a kick out of reading stories set in places with which you're familiar – then *Stray Souls* is definitely one to seek out.

Kate Griffin is a pen name used by the twice Carnegie-nominated fantasy author Catherine Webb for her adult fiction. She will be at Imperial College for Picocon 30 on the weekend of February 16-17. As one of the Guests of Honour he will give an individual talk and participate in the main panel with Steph Swainston, Richard Morgan, Peter F. Hamilton and Jaine Fenn. For more information, and to register your attendance, visit icsf.org.uk/picocon





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

MUSIC

Long Live the Radio Star

Simon Hunter on why radio is still as relevant as ever

At the end of last year I tried to put together a mixtape containing my favourite tunes of 2012. But I couldn't do it. My iTunes library just didn't do 2012 justice, and this got me wondering why that was. It's not that I've gone 'cold' on new music; I'm probably listening to more than ever, just in a different way. Two or three years ago I was finding music on blogs then heading to megaupload for a bit of socially acceptable thievery. Perhaps a combination of the internet federates' crackdown on the Kim Dotcoms of this world and my paid subscription to Spotify, but I pretty much stopped downloading music.

Now, however, I realise that it's the humble wireless (or the 21st Century equivalent: BBC iPlayer) that's been holding my musical attention. In a world where technologies and ways of consuming media are born, blow

up and become obsolete within years, the fact that radio is as relevant today as it was almost a century ago is quite staggering. 90% of the population listen to the radio every week and, on average, those listeners absorb a whopping 22 hours of music, news and Nick Grimshaw's drivel. Digital radio and the internet have made it all the easier to avoid Scott Mills and find something you actually want to listen to, and now almost 20% of us are using our mobile phones to tune in as well.

The BBC's continual evolution with the times is laudable. For such a large, stuffy corporation it would have been easy for them to plough all their resources into daytime Radio 1 for the kids and Radio 2 for the grown-ups. But the Beeb 1's musical finger is dead on the pulse of the dance music scene here in the UK with **Benji B** and new-recruit **Jackmaster** getting serious airtime. In fact **Gilles Pe-**

erson's departure from the station was a blessing in disguise as he now resides over on 6 Music where he is given 3 hours, every Saturday, to spin the finest cuts from all worldly genres. And let's not forget **Pete Tong** and **The Essssential Mix** – undoubtedly the most respected DJ mix series in the world. As for 6 Music, the quality they chuck out never fails to blow my mind, but I'll not go on about that here – for one I'll sound like one of those pretentious types who believe they saved the station from closure by ticking an online petition. I mean, I did that, but no one wants to sound like that...

But more than the BBC's continual relevance, it's the Rinse FMs and Boiler Rooms of the radio world that are pushing the boundaries of what radio is, as well as bringing music out from

the underground. Rinse FM has been around for almost two decades now, broadcasting for 16 of those years as a pirate station. The sheer tenacity of keeping a pirate station broadcasting for that period of time is hugely impressive. And were it not for the efforts of the dedicated DJs and geezers who let them use their bedrooms to broadcast from, the likes of Grime and Dubstep probably wouldn't be the forces that they are today. In 2010 Rinse finally got the appreciation it deserved and was given a license to broadcast on 106.8 FM.

My final tribute to radio is aimed at the Boiler Room. The online station's climb, starting with a few lads DJing to each other in a grimy London room three years ago, to a worldwide radio/podcast/party behemoth is almost incomprehensible. A couple

of years ago you'd look forward to Tuesday night to see which London DJ would be spinning to roughly one hundred privileged guests and a few thousand online listeners. Now, a different party is held almost every night in Berlin, Los Angeles, Sydney, New York or London, and all are streamed right to your living room, blurring the boundaries of radio, TV and the club.

I've obviously only talked about my thoughts on the state of radio in the areas of music that I love. No doubt many of you have differing opinions and experiences (hell, write a piece and send it in), but to me radio is the most important source of music – both new and old – around. And all this ninety years after the first entertainment radio station started broadcasting in Britain.

AMS album of the week

Unknown Mortal Orchestra: //

Unknown Mortal Orchestra's self-titled 2011 debut album did a great job of soundtracking my Freshers' Week with its warm fuzzy tones. I'm now midway through my second year, and UMO have returned with an album that is fresh yet nostalgic. Quite a few of its songs offer more than just a nod to the psychedelic rock of the 1960s, whilst dealing with themes of withdrawal and isolation.



Album opener and absolute cracker 'From the Sun' begins as a mellow guitar ditty with lovely harmonies you'd expect from the likes of **Grizzly Bear**, and ends as a punchy foot-stomper, with vocalist and songwriter Ruban Nielson crooning throughout with the wisdom of someone that's spent a bit too much time indoors.

I'd be tempted to say this album is written with more of a band set-up in mind than the first, but I've seen them perform the latter and it was pretty fuggin' great.

Another treat for the ears is the soul laden 'So Good at Being in Trouble', with one of the best vocal melodies I've heard in a long (sad, lonely) time. 'Swim and Sleep (Like a Shark)' is as cute and playful as the name suggests. Despite the lack of complicated instrumentation, there's no "stripped back" feeling, rather a charm that is super effective at showcasing the excellent songwriting.

My main gripe with this album, if I had to have one, is that some of its sounds suspiciously similar to the debut. I'm not saying artists have to be in a constant state of reinvention, but two and a half years is not long enough to have plausibly forgotten and rediscovered one of your own basslines. One thing I feel obliged to point out is that the track 'Faded in the Morning' runs 4:20 minutes long. Yeahhh...

I thoroughly recommend this album for pretty much everyone, even if you rolled your eyes at the very name of this segment. It is an unpretentious, unabashed, psyche-funk-indie-rock corker.

Yasmin Malik

Grouper's Ghostly Maritime Explorations

Matt Earnshaw Writer

Berlin-based record label *PAN* have a tough act to follow this year given the strength of the line up curated by label owner Bill Kouligas in 2012. Releases such as those from **Lee Gamble**, **Heat-sick**, and **Helm**, amongst others, received widespread critical acclaim for their cutting edge visions of contemporary experimental electronic music, making frequent appearances on the "Best of 2012" lists of critics and artists alike. Given the hitherto unfaltering creative vision of the label it should not come as too much of a surprise that *PAN's* first release of 2013 charts yet another high-water mark on their continued upward trajectory.

Commercial Mouth, is the debut LP of Greek sound-collagist **Jar Moff**, whose unique strain of plunderphonics and tape manipulation is a natural fit for *PAN* alongside labelmates **Joseph Hammer**, **Jason Lescalleet**, and **Ghédalia Tazartès**. While Moff's process may be similar to that of some of his colleagues, the results are uniquely refreshing. Rarely letting his source material give away its identity, he instead tears samples into tiny fragments and pieces them back into something wholly unrecognisable, never relying on the cliché of using samples as ironic cultural references. The source material that astute listeners have managed to identify include excerpts from composer Michel Chion's Requiem and experimental duo *Musique Concret's* 'Bringing Up Baby', works of musique concrète that themselves have already been pieced together from a myriad of acousmatic sounds. Moff mercilessly



disassembles them again, looping, distorting, and heavily layering his samples with artful precision. The result is two exceptionally strong twelve minute sides, unrelenting, seething maelstroms of samples. New noises constantly spring to the foreground and themes assemble themselves organically, just barely flourishing before being submerged under fresh waves of sound.

On the A-side, 'Tziatzomanasou', a rhythmic basis is provided in places by a series of clattering mechanical loops over which all manner of samples tumble endlessly, including what can only be described as sci-fi film sound effects. Moff's sparing use of rhythmic loops give the listener some orientation in what would otherwise be fairly unnavigable territory and unlike some of his earlier demo work he never resorts to a bland drum machine palette to provide this, rather favouring the organic nature of concrete sounds. The title track on the B-side is a slightly darker affair. Beginning with what sounds like a spectacularly malfunctioning machine, layered snippets of Ayler-esque saxophone improvisation briefly burst forth before being

engulfed by exhilarating, nightmarish splinters of acousmatic found-sound, which no extended metaphor can do adequate justice, but that will assuredly leave your head spinning even when the record has stopped.

To coincide with the release of *Commercial Mouth*, Moff's 2011 single 'Vidv' was re-issued on CD (albeit as a highly limited edition of thirty five, so readers will be best off pursuing it as a free download on leavingrecords.com where it is listed under the title Vid-R). 'Vidv' runs in much the same vein as the *Commercial Mouth* material with a near danceable psychedelic opening sequence giving way to the trademark disorienting sound collage technique that he went on to perfect on the new material. Although it doesn't quite reach the same levels of intensity as the *Commercial Mouth* cuts, it is still a worthy morsel that should go some way towards satiating the inevitable postprandial appetite for Moff's work that you'll work up whilst digesting the brilliant *Commercial Mouth*. All eyes are on *PAN's* next move in anticipation of what underground gem Kouligas will unearth next.

FILM

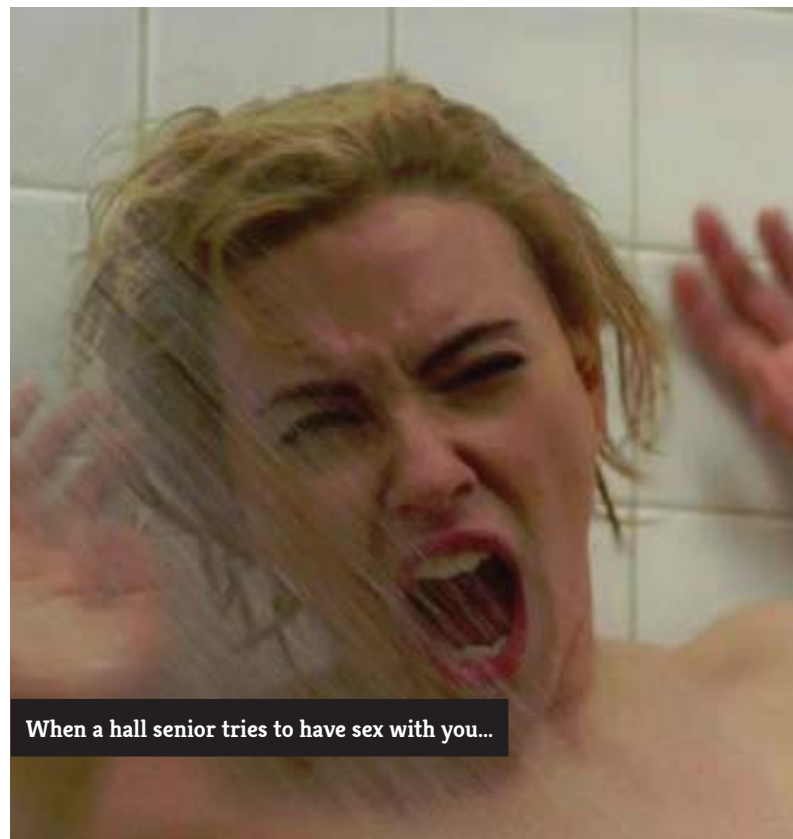
Film Editors: Katy Bettany,
John Park, Lucy Wiles
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



"The great and glorious g



What on Earth is that around her neck?



When a hall senior tries to have sex with you...

Hitchcock

Director: Sacha Gervasi

Screenwriters: John J. McLaughlin, Stephen Rebello (book)

Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren, Danny Huston, Scarlett Johansson, Jessica Biel, James D'Arcy



John Park

Film Editor

Once upon a time there was a man named Alfred Hitchcock (Hopkins) and he was as huge hit in Hollywood. Many of his pictures were critically acclaimed and considerable financial success stories, with audiences worldwide entertained with his suspenseful movies. The year is 1959, and the English director is enjoying the immense hit of his latest, *North by Northwest*. Aged 60, is it time for him to retire whilst he's ahead? A reporter asks. Never; as he is never finished exploring his artistic daring. With the bar set this high now, anticipation builds on what will become his next project. After a long period of searching for something he feels is exactly right, he settles on the story based on serial killer Ed Gein (Michael Wincott), who used to skin his victims. And of course, a film titled

Psycho has boardroom executives and censors troubled with its potentially bold, offensive content.

"Hitch" (his preferred nickname: "Just Hitch, hold the cock") has a lot of persuading and convincing to do since everyone is appalled by the idea of having a vicious mother-loving serial killer roam about on the screen murdering someone taking a shower. Will there be nudity? Hitch insists there won't be. Since the actress will be wearing a shower cap. The Motion Picture Production Code is neither impressed nor amused. His wife Alma Reville (Mirren) isn't keen on the idea at first, but eventually warms to the concept, fulfilling the role of an ever-dutiful wife who supports her husband no matter what. It's even her idea to have the leading lady killed off in the first thirty minutes.

The next hurdle comes in trying to secure funding for the film. Paramount, his usual collaborating company, respectfully declines to offer up the budget. Hitch, owning quite the fortune himself thanks to his previous successes, decides to self-finance the production: that's how much he believes in the screenplay. Alma is obviously weary of Hitch's big spend, but again, supports him by having to cut back on their usual expenses. She must also tread carefully when a close friend of hers, Whitfield Cook (Huston), insists on Alma having a read of his new script.

Now the casting: Grace Kelly, now

Her Serene Highness the Princess of Monaco, is completely off limits, much to Hitch's dismay. So he goes on to Janet Leigh (Johansson), Vera Miles (Biel), and as for the titular *Psycho* role, the nervous, shy and timid Anthony Perkins (D'Arcy) seems to fit the part, an excellent find Alma manages to pick from a rather large pile of resumes.

So the events leading up to the actual production seem interesting enough. We wonder just how much of a tough time Hitch will face, whilst directing his passion project. But when it comes to actually showing the audiences the process of filming *Psycho*, we are treated to very little insight, if at all. *Hitchcock* is more interested in what effects the filming had on the relationship between the director and his wife. Aside from a brief scene that shows how the infamous "shower scene" came into existence, we very rarely visit the set, let alone spend any time with the actors in front of Hitch's cameras. Johansson, Biel and D'Arcy all resemble their real-life counterparts and have a good crack at acting the actors' parts, but their performances are so brief that very little ends up of any use.

The film also wants to explore the psychology behind Hitch's attachment to the original material of the production. We are intermittently shown Ed Gein at various stages of his life. We see Hitch visualising the

serial killer's behaviour. Developing this to strangers territories, we also see Hitch conversing with his "inspiration." These scenes hardly ever work, since it is never really depicted just what lesson the director took away from studying his character in so much depth. So he makes a film that causes impact and its fair share of scandals. But how he goes about bringing everything together is never clearly addressed and therefore it all ends up looking a bit tame for its subject matter.

But yes, we do see the eccentric and quite possibly disturbingly perverted side of Hitch. He likes to stare at people through his window. He likes to stare at Vera Miles changing through a peep-hole. He cannot take his eyes of Janet Leigh. And he's hardly ever apologetic for his actions, even when directly in front of his wife. This does naturally cause some tension in his marriage. It's not the first time something like this has happened. The famous Hitchcock blondes are the subject of his obsessive desire it seems, and Alma's put up with them for years. With the added pressure of some tough hoops to jump through, it's only a matter of time until the two of them face off head-to-head.

And in these iconic roles, the two veterans are simply outstanding. Hopkins is full of odd qualities and is utterly brilliant in delivering his slow, deadpan, shock humour. With his awkward posture and gait, he

truly transforms into the master of suspense and there is no denying that Hopkins' portrayal is a fun, endlessly watchable one. Equally brilliant is Mirren, who is full of commanding energy, love and wisdom as the behind-the-scenes guide of her husband. ("I celebrate with you when the reviews are good, I cry for you when they are bad") Her frustrations are entirely understandable, and she very rarely masks her feelings. She too has the tendency to speak her mind and Mirren, who has never had a problem with the dramatics, puts everything she has into the more wordy scenes. "I put up with those people who look through me as if I were invisible because all they can see is the great and glorious genius, Alfred Hitchcock" says Alma, with bitter disdain when Hitch dares to accuse her of not supporting his work enough.

Once the film is eventually finished with the collaborative effort between the spouses, the result is an unexpected one, and despite the hurdles, Hitchcock has once again directed a classic that shocks us even to this day. His legacy lives on, and for good reason. And here is a film that tells us he had undying encouragement and help from perhaps the most important woman in his life. "I will never find a Hitchcock blonde as beautiful as you," says he, "Oh, Hitch. I've waited thirty years to hear you say that." "That, my dear, is why they call me the Master of Suspense." How sweet.

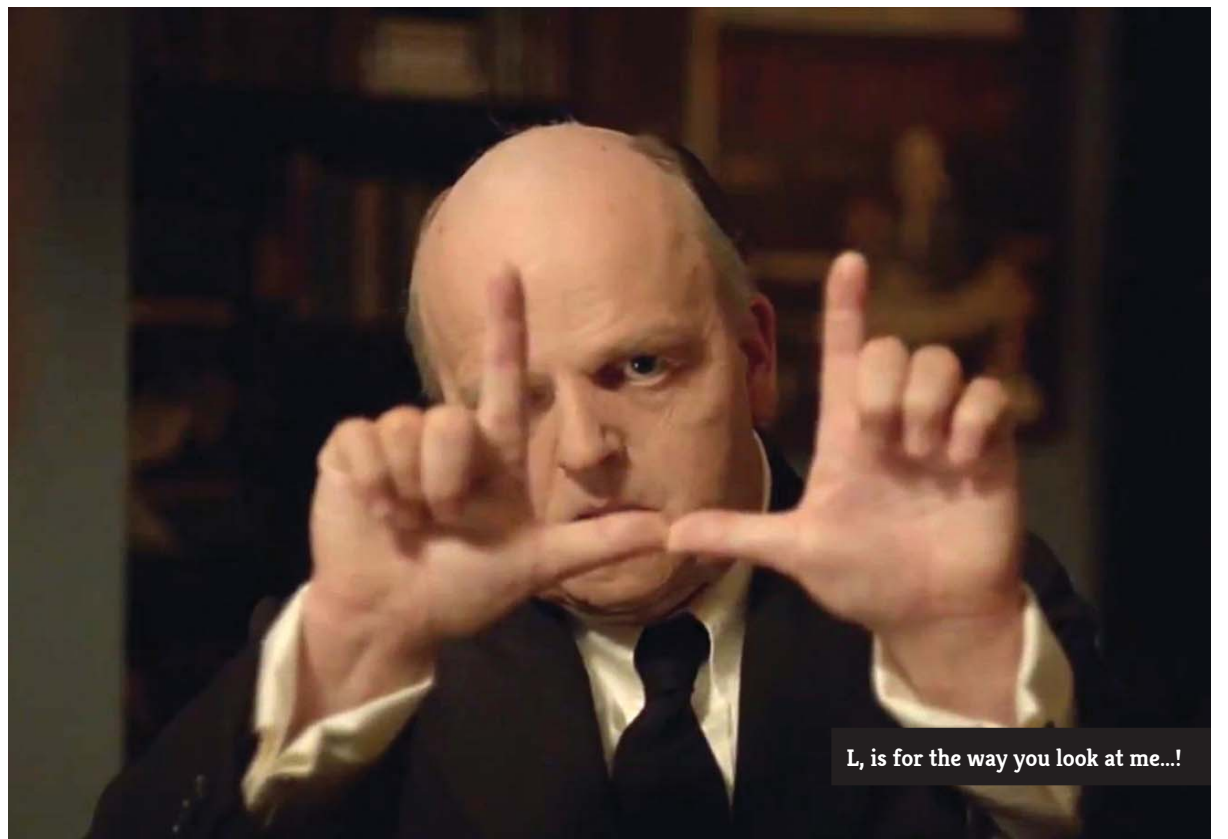
Film Editors: Katy Bettany,
John Park, Lucy Wiles
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

"Genius, Alfred Hitchcock"



My vibrator has a light on it



L, is for the way you look at me...!

The Girl

Director: Julian Jarrold
Screenwriters: Gwyneth Hughes,
Donald Spoto
Starring: Toby Jones, Sienna Miller,
Penelope Wilton, Imelda Staunton



John Park

Film Editor

Tippi Hedren is not in the least bit inhibited when it comes to talking about the relationship she had with director Alfred Hitchcock. Starring in two of his films *The Birds* and *Marnie*, Hedren got the first-hand experience of the eccentric director, and claims she was subjected to continuous harsh, unfair treatment and cruelty under a genius, brilliant director who had a rather unhealthy obsession for the rising starlet. These claims, of course, come years after his death, after Hedren spoke warmly of the director whilst he was receiving his American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award, claims that have also been refuted by other actresses (Kim Novak, Eva Marie Saint) who had also worked closely with him. So the degree of authenticity of her accusations is difficult

to judge no doubt, but there is also a believable amount of substance here to make for a potentially intriguing movie. That there were no sexual harassment laws back in the day to protect working actresses supposedly prevented Hedren from taking much action. And here is what should be described as a partially fictionalised account of how Hedren became but ultimately declined the role of becoming Hitchcock's next "Girl."

Hedren (Miller) is barely starting out in the industry when she catches the eyes of Hitchcock (Jones) and he is immediately captivated by her looks and her potential to become the next big star in his films. Her screen-test is successful, and her overnight stardom appears to be well underway. And despite her very limited experience in the acting industry (she had a successful modelling career prior to this move), Hitchcock personally takes her under his wing, with the young beauty experiencing all sorts of glittering benefits of being tied to one of the most influential figures in Hollywood. But it becomes all too clear soon enough that his interest in her is not entirely an innocent one.

As Hitchcock's infatuation moves past the long stares, he swiftly decides to quite literally throw himself onto the vulnerable actress. She manages to fend him off when he puts his predatory moves on her in a car, an action that deeply upsets and troubles her. But with a daughter to

support, her chance to become a big star, and also at the kindly advice of Hitchcock's secretary Peggy Robertson (Wilton), she decides to forget about the incident and soldier on. A small sacrifice to pay it seems, for a guaranteed future. But his approach becomes more and more direct as time goes by, and becomes challenging to cope with. He even tells her directly that in exchange for being under exclusive contract with the director, she needs to obey his commands. It all seems ludicrously one-sided but hey, Tippi Hedren insists things like this were commonplace in the film industry back in the day.

With repeated rejections Hitchcock resorts to even sneakier, slier and more despicable methods to get back at his young blonde obsession. The film in production, *The Birds*, requires its lead actress, Hedren, to be attacked repeatedly by vicious birds. And Hedren is given assurance that these birds will be mechanical and that the set will be a safe environment. So imagine her surprise when she discovers that real birds in cages are being prepped to be set free to fly all over the actress. Even worse, Hitchcock requests for several days of the same take, leaving Hedren exhausted and traumatised. Not getting what he wants, he resorts to bullying her, physically and emotionally.

Played by the steely determined Miller, Hedren was right to be pleased with the casting of the actress to play

her. She starts off as the innocent and naïve woman whose dream has come true thanks to a timely Diet Coke advert, but her quiet, persistent strength shows in her necessary coldness towards her legendary director, fearing the possibility of an end to her short-lived career, but also holding onto her dignity. She possesses the beauty and icy glamour of the actress in the 1960s, and comfortably settles into the lavish background atmosphere that has been impeccably set up for her by the technical team.

For someone portrayed in such a negative light, Jones tries to bring out as much sympathy in his character as possible. Essentially his character boils down to being a sex-crazed maniac who pines for his leading ladies; inappropriately and relentlessly pursuing relationships with them. And yet there is almost a child-like fascination and curiosity in his eyes as he never gives up chasing the things he cannot have. His interactions with his wife Alma (Staunton) are briefly glossed over, and a sub-plot involves how the long-suffering wife decides to take off for a few days after a particularly bad episode in their marriage; this is when he realises that in fact, without his wife, his life is quite meaningless. It is in these brief moments of weaknesses that the audience can feel sympathy towards the otherwise very much unlikable director. The feeling never lasts long, but those scenes to come.

It all sets up to become a nice little piece of television soap drama set in the 60s, where we would also get the recreation of some of the famous scenes of Hitchcock's fascinating *The Birds*. The main problem here, however, is quite simply how lifeless and dull everything feels. The film has already done a tremendous job in finding the right cast members to play the big names, but when it comes to telling the story, it feels muddled and confused, never quite establishing a convincing enough link between its characters. It feels oddly detached, and moves at such a dreary pace that it becomes difficult to maintain any sense of serious drama or any tension in the narrative. It's a relatively short film too, and yet it still struggles to engage with the viewers on any level.

Forget about the one-sided view argument. Yes, we'll probably never know the real truth behind what actually happened on the sets and what Hitchcock's true motivations and desires were, but this still could have made for a fun, trashy television movie. *The Girl* doesn't even come close to being that. Instead what we have here is a film more interested in relishing in its artistic side, trying to make everything look pretty and authentic. And on that front the film succeeds – but it's a real shame that style takes over substance a few too many times to tell a coherent story.

The Girl is available on DVD.

FILM

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

Felix Film favourite



Jessica Chastain
Zero Dark Thirty

Previous winner? No

Previous nominee? Yes
The Help (2011)

Why she will win:

Chastain is on a roll, rapidly rising as one of the most sought-after actresses after only a couple of years of exposure. Back in 2010, no-one had heard of this talented individual. 2011, all critics could talk about was her extraordinary versatility. And this year she has done it again, heading Kathryn Bigelow's war drama to hunt Osama bin Laden.

Why she won't win:

She missed out on the vital Screen Actors Guild Award to fellow nominee Jennifer Lawrence. Now this is by no means a straightaway loss but it does decrease her chances.



Jennifer Lawrence
Silver Linings Playbook

Previous winner? No

Previous nominee? Yes
Winter's Bone (2011)

Why she will win:

Lawrence is also becoming a household name in Hollywood as a young, fresh-faced, incredibly gifted actress who can handle various roles ranging from small independent films to huge, blockbuster movies. Her most recent performance as an unstable woman gave the critics plenty to cheer about: singling out her mature performance as one of the film's big highlights. Plus, she won the SAG Award for Best Actress, always a good sign when predicting the Oscars.

Why she won't win:

Is she too young? Do 22-year-olds win Best Actress Oscars?



Emmanuelle Riva
Amour

Previous winner? No

Previous nominee? No

Why she will win:

The oldest actress to have ever been nominated in this category (85!!!), distinguished French actress Riva got a surprising but certainly deserving nomination starring in Michael Haneke's foreign indie favourite, with a beautifully heart-wrenching performance of a stroke victim that eventually leaves her bed-bound and incapacitated.

Why she won't win:

It's very difficult to win in a foreign language performance, and only a handful of actors have won in the past. In such a tough category, and without many wins so far, this one will have to be all about the honour of being nominated.



Quvenzhané Wallis
Beasts of the Southern Wild

Previous winner? No

Previous nominee? No

Why she will win:

The youngest actress ever to be nominated for the Best Actress Oscar (9!!!), she was even younger (6!!!) during the filming of Benh Zeitlin's indie hit. Hand-picked from over 4,000 girls, her performance is a fearless yet adorable one.

Why she won't win:

Now she is definitely too young to win this thing. Young performers have succeeded in the past to score some "Supporting" awards but when it comes to the "Leading" category, more seasoned, more experienced people tend to scoop the prize. This doesn't diminish her startling efforts however, it's just that there's no way she'll win this year.



Naomi Watts
The Impossible

Previous winner? No

Previous nominee? Yes
21 Grams (2003)

Why she will win:

Oscar winning actress Reese Witherspoon was so incredibly moved by Watts' performance that she wrote an open letter praising the actress' utterly fearless performance in Juan Antonio Bayona's tsunami disaster family drama. And Ms. Witherspoon is absolutely right: a performance of immense strength as well as vulnerability, it's a powerful display in one hell of an emotionally draining film.

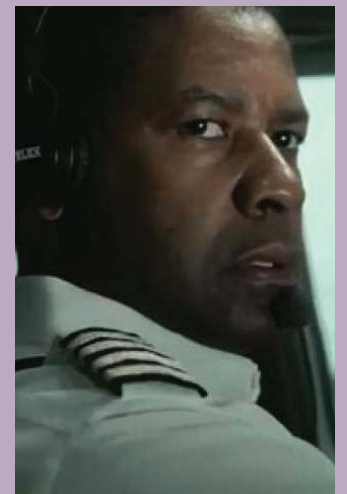
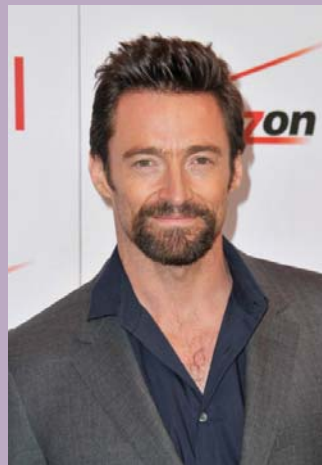
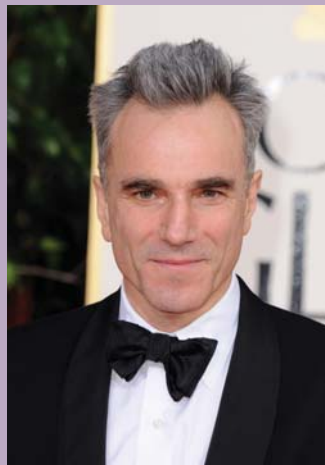
Why she won't win:

It's just Watts representing the film now, with the movie having been ignored on all fronts in other categories = not a very good sign.

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

FILM

ates for the Oscars



Bradley Cooper
Silver Linings Playbook

Daniel Day-Lewis
Lincoln

Hugh Jackman
Les Misérables

Joaquin Phoenix
The Master

Denzel Washington
Flight

Previous winner? No

Previous winner? Yes
My Left Foot (1989)
There Will Be Blood (2007)

Previous winner? No

Previous winner? No

Previous winner? Yes
Glory (1989)
Training Day (2001)

Previous nominee? No

Previous nominee? Yes
In the Name of the Father (1993)
Gangs of New York (2002)

Previous nominee? No

Previous nominee? Yes
Gladiator (2000)
Walk the Line (2005)

Previous nominee? Yes
Cry Freedom (1987)
Malcolm X (1992)
The Hurricane (1999)

Why he will win:

With the tough concept of mental illness, Cooper does a stunning job in bringing out both the comedic and dramatic sides of his complex character. His performance has been described as "carefully developed" and "perfectly pitched". Not bad at all for a first-time nominee.

Why he will win:

This is as Oscar-friendly and Oscar-baity as it gets. Playing a celebrated, iconic, forever-loved American President, in a film focusing on one of the most important years of American history, Steven Spielberg's latest biopic has been lavished with awards, a lot of them rightly going to Day-Lewis' stunning portrayal of the man himself. A win with the SAG doesn't hurt either.

Why he will win:

There is a lot of backlash on the actors' singing abilities in Tom Hooper's stirring musical epic. And yes, the actors aren't all perfect live-singers, but within the context of the film and what's going on in the screen, their vocals match the intense performances everyone is giving. Jackman gets better as the film progresses, and his final departing scene is one of true wonder.

Why he will win:

Paul Thomas Anderson's films have almost always secured acting nominations even if his films would sometimes go unnoticed. Here is Phoenix at his most volatile and unpredictable, one of the best in his career, right after his... ahem... "rap/singing/comical farce career" sidetrack.

Why he will win:

As an airline pilot struggling with dangerous addiction to alcohol and drugs, two-time winner Washington is in a deep character study for this one as he is forced to confront his demons when a horrendous accident leaves his future in jeopardy.

Why he won't win:

The film itself has been criticised for being a bog-standard romantic comedy with a cop-out ending. Plus he's up against one of the greatest actors of this generation in one of his greatest roles yet. Anyone competing with Daniel Day-Lewis is in for some tough times ahead.

Why he won't win:

A third Oscar is always a tricky one to get.

Why he won't win:

Whatever anyone says about Jackman's astounding turn here, there will always be detractors when it comes to musicals and especially with this live-singing that brought out some wobbly notes.

Why he won't win:

The Master had fantastic buzz – back in September. But now, not so much, next to nothing. And remember when he dissed the Academy calling it "bullshit"? It's lucky he got this nomination – he could have been tossed aside entirely.

Why he won't win:

There is just far too much competition here for a repeat winner to shine in a film that hasn't been receiving that much buzz as of late. He'll have to sit this one out.

GAMES

Games Editor: Ross Webster
games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



It's time to partner up

Ross Webster asks "Will you be my player 2?"

Love is in the air. At least, I think that's what the smell is. Whether you're in the mood for romance, bro-romance, an XX-only party, or a takeaway for one, this duo of Felix's current go-to co-op games will get your pulse racing this Valentine's Day. And if you don't have a special someone/something close to your heart, we'll always have each other the internet.



Games Editor's note – the Felix Games team takes no responsibility for broken hearts, poisoned meals, cakes which turned out to be lies, or wine bottles which suddenly make the world go in slow motion.

Aim for the heart... and try not to miss

Unsurprisingly, the sequel to the 2005 tactical shooter *Sniper Elite*, *Sniper Elite V2* sees you ripping your way through Berlin, and anyone who looks at you slightly odd. The campaign co-op plays as you would expect – both players are identical in gameplay terms. You'll look different, and you can choose different weapon loadouts at the start of each mission, but that's about as far as your individuality gets.

That being said, the co-op playthrough of the game with the people in the Felix office couldn't exactly be called 'stealthy', so it seems like quite a different game, when compared to the solo campaign. We found it much easier just to run around and snipe everyone, with no care being put into hiding bodies. There's no reward for being unnoticed, so we never really bothered.

As a team, your goal is to halt the work on the V2 rocket project, by placing bullets in the heads of those who helped create the weapons. The levels feel open at times, with large areas to make your way through, yet at other points, it just feels like you're being bottlenecked, ready for the next trap. We tried to have one player act

as a runner, and another one providing covering fire, but it's not long till you reach a point where you need both players together, so that plan falls apart quickly. Use Overwatch for that.

With hidden Nazi gold and well... wine bottles, there's a bit of replayability, but the sole attraction of this game is not just the co-op campaign. There is a variety of non-storyline modes that are great for you and your plus-one. There are three extra modes – Overwatch, Bombing Run and Kill Tally. Overwatch sees two different roles for the players – one player is a sniper, and the other is a rifle-less runner, who has to make their way through the piles of bodies to get plans/set bombs/mark targets – you get the idea. This is the one-and-only game mode where you can't revive the other player, which actually makes you depend on your partner a lot more. Secondly, Bombing Run has the two of you running through ruins trying to repair an escape vehicle, before your timer runs out and you are blown to pieces in a bombing run. The third and final mode – Kill Tally, is your run of the mill horde mode.

I would say the main gimmick of

the game is the slew of slow-motion videos you get when you head-shot an enemy, (even slower motion when you hit the fuel cap of a tank, or a wine bottle), but that kinda implies that it gets boring after a while, and I don't think it does. Thankfully, both players only share slow-motion kills when it's something big, so your partner can continue covering the walls of Berlin with knee-originating blood-spatter, whilst you enjoy getting those sweet, sweet headshots.

You don't have to aim for body parts either, to get the most bang-per-bullet. Aiming at the grenades on your

target's belts always leads to a satisfying explosion, and can save ammo if it's scarce.

The graphics are great (and don't seem taxing on average computer hardware) as is the audio and music, so I've no quibbles there. One thing I will question, however, is the choice of the overused over-the-shoulder camera view. I think we would prefer to play this as an FPS, as the controls can feel a little 'clunky' as they currently are.

The game is currently out on Steam (£29.99), PS3 and 360, so if you fancy a night in, taking people out, then I'd highly recommend this game.



Valentine's Day: The Heist

Ross Webster Keeps his money under his mattress

Nothing says "I love you" more than robbing a bank together. Even if it's four guys with a fetish for masks and gold.

In *Payday: The Heist* your fine self, and up to three other humans/A.I.s aim to steal as much money as you can, whilst under the imminent threat of being tazed in the groin. You're not really the bad guys in all this though, as you're not just going for banks, but you're more often tasked with stealing money gained through illegal means. Think of yourselves as a modern Robin



Hood and his band of merry miscreants, as you don't give the money to the poor afterwards (unless you include yourselves).

Teamwork is key in this game, along with communication. The levels will see the team separated as the drills/circular saws/computers have jammed or crashed at the most inopportune times, and on opposite sides of the map, so you need to be able to trust each other.

What I love about *Payday*, is that the games are pseudo-random, and that the difficulty curve is punishing. For example, in one mission, you'll have a limo dropped onto a roof. However, there's a good chance that it'll break through the ceiling and fall down a stairwell, stopping at any floor. Enemies can spawn from random locations around this randomly-located car, so it's tough to get a strategy that works everytime. Overkill (the highest difficulty that most people will encounter) alters parts of the level sometimes – possibly filling a once-safe room with timed explosives that'll turn you into

pink mist if you're not fast enough.

There's a simple levelling system, where you don't use experience for improving your equipment, but cold, hard cash. Headshots etc. won't give you more points, but it'll mean you actually get to live long enough to possibly finish the level. There are three (four if you get the Wolf Pack DLC) different unlock routes – assault, sharpshooter, support (and technician, with the DLC). Any time during a mission, you can change which path you're on, and when you pick up enough money to increase your reputation level, you get the unlock from that class. The path you travel has no impact on your gameplay, and due to some upgrades being locked until you reach a certain level, it's impossible to simply expand along one tree – you need to diversify. With this system, until you're at the highest levels, there's a good chance your team will all have slightly different unlocks.

Your enemy in this game is the police, in all its shapes and forms. The enemies will dribble in, until there's



an assault, when you'll be swamped by unlimited enemies until the timer runs out. Just like L4D2 (there's a lot of inter-weaving of the two universes, I won't spoil much) there are special cops – some with tazers, riot shields, snipers and the dreaded bulldozer, more affectionately known as 'that goddamn astronaut guy', so it's not always a one-sided slaughter of cops.

Stealth isn't needed in this game, but it helps. There's one mission where you can finish without anyone even noticing you there, whilst on others, the police are going to turn up at a set time,

and you can't stop it from happening.

If there is one modern game that I would have to tout as having the largest replayability value, this game would be one of the top contenders. Just a few months ago, a team managed to find a massive hidden vault in the first level – it took months of research and work to complete the puzzles needed to reach the final vault. *Payday 2* is in the works, and it should be a great game if they follow the same recipe – I have only one request – give a versus mode, where humans can play as the special cops, trying to stop the heisters.

Games Editor: Ross Webster
games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

GAMES

Loud and clear: Auditorium HD

Louis Gall

Risk Jockey

As a physicist there is something about making particles swirl round and making pretty pictures from the results which I totally get deep down inside my soul. *Auditorium HD* is a game about directing a stream of coloured particles into audio containers. These audio containers light up when sufficient particles of the correct colour touch them, adding a new instrument or phrase into the mix progressively unlocking what are often beautifully atmospheric tracks. To achieve this each level gives you a wide variety of tools, including splitters, black holes, coloured bubbles that change the colour of particles and accelerators amongst others.

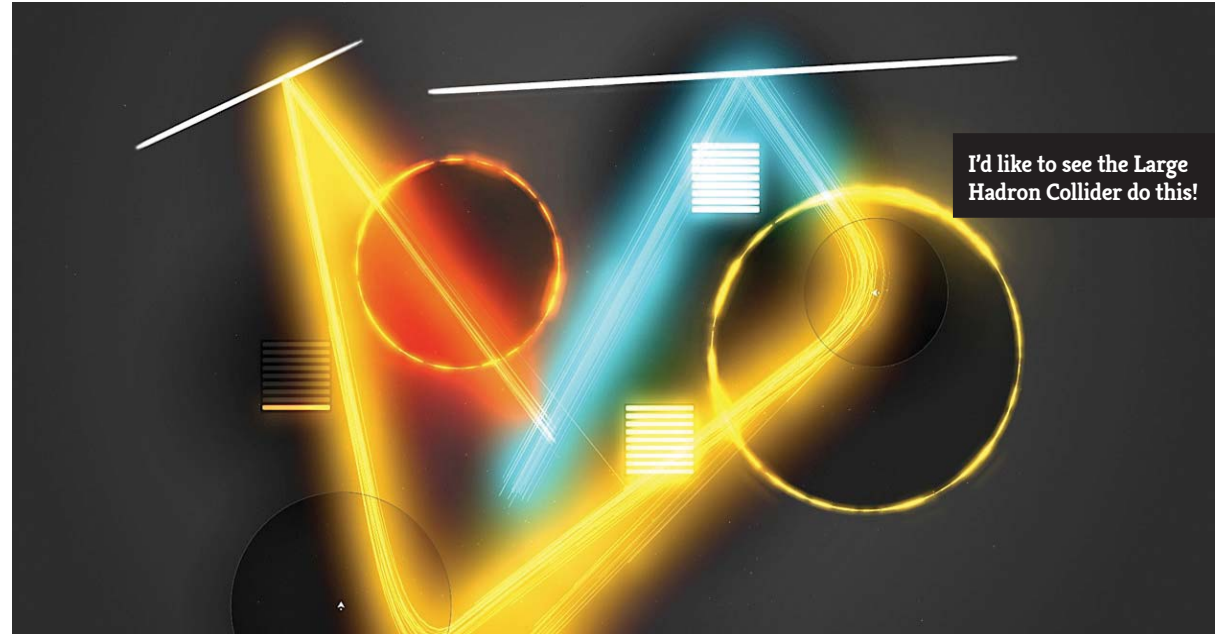
The first thing you notice is the incredible start up loading time. It takes at least 5 minutes to get into game from PS3 on to swirling them beams. This is far too long for a puzzle game, a genre best suited to 5-10 minute bursts when you have nothing else to do. Everything else from there on out is instantaneous, which evens out over a long play session where the initial loading time isn't 50% of the time you have to play it.

Auditorium first saw the light as a

flash-based game on the PC before moving on to great success as an iOS game. Soon after it was ported to PS3 as *Auditorium HD* and this is the version I am reviewing. Whilst I think the fundamentals of a puzzler of this type are more suited to iOS the PS3 version does have some definite positives.

Dual analog control allows precise location movements and concurrent resizing of the tools, this would be difficult to do both at once in a precise manner by touch or mouse. I can also imagine getting the various pieces in the perfect position to be much more difficult when your thumb is obscuring a significant portion of the screen, especially as some of the harder levels require pixel-level precision.

Most of the time, *Auditorium* is successful at invoking that 'I am such a genius!' level of elation that the best puzzle games are capable of summoning. Sadly, some of the harder levels can dissolve into a tedious trial and error process: changing the location and size of each component by a pixel at a time to ensure the beam goes in exactly the right direction. I found the swirly-attractor tools were the worst for this. My tactics with these quickly become 'make it bigger to catch more and hope the resulting mad swirl touches the



right things'. And if that failed I moved it a pixel to the right. They look good in action though.

The music is a core part of the game (wouldn't have guessed by the name) and it is generally fantastic in an atmospheric kind of way. The 'Classic' tracks are often a twinkly piano and accompanying violin producing an almost melancholic feeling. The

'Modern' songs display greater variety, though sometimes it can feel like they just replaced the piano with a keyboard and the violins with a synth. Each piece is broken up into 4-7 levels; each level forms a movement of the overall track until you have unlocked the entire song.

However there is quite a jarring problem lurking beneath this level

structure. Namely, when you get stuck on a level and are unable to light up that last phrase to complete a piece. The resulting ten minute looping of a half-complete song can become very annoying. These difficulty spikes come out of nowhere too, as the game is not a progression but isolated individual tracks, though generally these go from easy to hard through their own levels.

Keep rollin' rollin' rollin'

Ross Webster

Bad mother-trucker

I feared this would happen. It was foretold by an ancient Mayan calendar, and Nostradamus mentioned it somewhere. It's a simulator game that I like, and won't take the mickey out of. Much.

From the studio that brought us *Euro Truck Simulator* (numbers 1 and 2), *Trucks & Trailers* has you in the shoes of a trucker. Your job: to navigate your way through loading depots, various car parks and rest stops. It's nowhere near as easy as I thought it would be. Why? You have no control over the trailer you're hauling around

the place. This suddenly makes the game interesting, when reversing your truck doesn't do what you want it to. Don't let me get started on parallel parking either.

There's a smorgasbord of missions, and you can get 4 rankings – gold, silver, bronze, and completed for each one. You can only get a medal if you finish the mission without your cab or trailer hitting anything, however. As per usual, the shininess of your medal is dictated by the swiftness of your parking.

Everything seems simple, but then you've got to navigate the other vehicles/obstacles in the area, as well as take the actual size of the compound

into account. The controls are great, and unlike other driving simulators I can mention (I'm looking at you, *Bus and Cable Car Simulator: San Francisco*) not every button on your keyboard does something. For example, I'm not going to be driving along and then accidentally open the doors on the side of the bus, and spill my fleshy contents onto the sidewalk (American game, American lingo). The worst I can end up doing is unlocking the trailer and having it slide along the ground, ready for me to pick it up again.

There are a couple of things that I think are a bit of a shame – you start the game with all the trucks/cabins unlocked. I feel that there should be something to work towards – I'm still going to be wasting my time trying to get the gold medals on everything, but why not be rewarded by more trucks (or maybe decals and extras. I wanna pimp up my cabin with a Hello Kitty sprayed on the side, and a little wobbling hula-girl on my dashboard)?

Graphics-wise, the game looks fine for a year-and-a-bit old game, and the audio's rather simple but realistic (not that I'd expect much else from a driving sim). I managed to crank video settings up to their max, keeping a steady frame rate, so no worries there.

A solid buy, if you're into... haulage..



Promising screenshot of the week



The DayZ Stand(s)alone

That's right! We've now seen footage of the DayZ standalone, and some of the great work that's gone into it – proper scavenging for loot, swampy areas of Chernarus, clothes that aren't just onesies, and real clouds... Unsurprisingly, this video stoked the fandom for the game, and prodded at that sore bit, left over from the chafing departure of *WarZ*.

Got a screenshot of your CoD scoreboard after a killing spree? Cosplay fails? Rage quitters? Xbox on fire? Too many question marks???

Send 'em in! - games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Crackberry or Crapberry?

Maximilian Eggel looks at the fortunes of a different fruity company

Back in the early days of mobile electronics, a BlackBerry phone was the thing to have. The first true smartphone, BlackBerry (formerly known as RIM), was the first company to really attempt to make a really portable computer. With the miniature keyboard, BBM, Mail services etc, it really was a success in the corporate market, as well as with the general consumer. However with the advent of the touchscreen based smartphone, BlackBerry failed to keep up with the market. In fact over the last 5 years their stock has shed more than 90% of its value, wiping roughly 70 billion dollars of the value of the company. They have released several failures, most notably the Playbook and in general have been making losses the last few quarters. Even their core business, the corporations and governments have started to drop them in favour of Apple, Android and Microsoft.

Now after a long delay, the lauded saviour of the company, BlackBerry

The vast majority of actions are taken care swipes and flicks

10 has been released (30th of Jan). A complete overhaul from the previous OS based on the software of the company QNX software systems, it has the job of save the failing Canadian tech company. Available for all future BlackBerry devices, as well as the Playbook Tablets, hopefully allowing them to achieve their full potential. This OS released with the

Z10 phone, which has no physical "home button", means this OS is very gestured reliant. If BlackBerry decide to license (a first for the company) BB10 to other companies, this may or not affect if those devices have physical buttons. The vast majority of actions are taken care of with swipes and flicks, with the tech giant having called this "feature" Flow. While certainly innovative, it is a bit of a steep learning curve for those of us who like the occasional button on their phones. The standout features of BB10 include "Active Frames", similar to Windows 8 tiles, where a "preview" of the app with live info is displayed, as well as "peek", a window with all your notifications which is in fact seems very similar to the notifications centre in iOS. There are several other features, including a brand new Camera app, browser and new BBM. However all these things don't really feel new, as most have been seen either on Android, iOS or Windows 8. The only thing that really stands out for me is flow, and I can't wait to get a hands-on with that

to see how it works. Lastly concerning the OS, BlackBerry have now rebranded the app store, calling it BlackBerry World. This store now has roughly 70,000 apps with more coming every day due to the tech company's increased encouragement in making apps for BB10 (e.g. Portathons for developers)

As well as releasing a new operating system, they released two new devices, the Z10 a full touchscreen phone as well as the Q10, which remains in line design-wise like its predecessors. The Z10 looks like a beautiful phone, with a powerful processor and generally good specs. However, I do agree with some critics, that although well designed, it does look similar to most smartphones out there. This will make it harder for the average Joe to pick it out of the multitude of other devices. However recent sales figures in the UK have beaten expectations, with the white Z10 being sold out quite rapidly.

The Q10, release date purported to be mid-2013 on the other hand is vintage BlackBerry, with its instantly recognisable keyboard. It also has a touchscreen, similar to the Storm.

With quite respectable specs, I can see this phone being quite a hit. All in all the Z10's task to attract attention back to BlackBerry, and get with the times, while the second is more of an offer to the corporate world as well as the hardcore fans.

The big question is if the Canadian Tech company can slow the descent, and return to the world stage of the big phone makers. The delay with the release BB10 did not help, as expectation of the new products has just risen as well as pressure on BlackBerry. The OS does seem promising, and the two new phones look good on paper, yet it may be a case of too little, too late. While some critics have been praising the bold steps that BlackBerry are taking, others are not that optimistic citing a strong opposition in the smartphone market. Investor confidence is very low, with the stock price sinking immediately after the new product release. However things do seem to be on the up. After the Super Bowl ad (the first in the companies history), the stock has risen, and the new products have been quite a success. Could this be the start of a long and arduous journey for BlackBerry's back to the top?



Two new beautiful phones, one 'new' and one 'old', with some serious specs behind them. Honestly, I wish I had one...

The News Bubble

General news from around the tech world, so you can keep up to date with the newest, weirdest and most futuristic things around.

Dell buys...Dell...?

Micheal Dell, founder of the third largest computer manufacturer, is buying back his own company in a bid to make it competitive again. Maybe it will actually work!

3 Clicks of Freedom

Recently a report was published, describing how an innocent video of sesame street on youtube can lead to a rather graphic video of a woman giving birth. Thus a child can relatively easily access explicit nudity as well as violence. What we all have to take from this? Sesame street is bad, M'kay!

New Apple Interface?

Apparently Apple is looking for someone in a job ad to help them completely redesign Mac OS as well as iOS. With the firing of Scott Forstall, and with Johnathan Ive in charge we probably will see lots of changes!

Leave-Facebook Syndrome

Facebook data now reveals that two thirds of their users log off for weeks at a time. Apparently due to them not being able to deal with the drama of their friends and boredom of general Facebook. While this may not impact Facebook directly, it might show that this social network has lost its appeal.

Instagram on the PC

Instagram is not mobile exclusive anymore! For all you who are Instagram addicts, this is just another way to feed your addiction. For anyone else it doesn't really make that much of a difference.

Technology Editor: Jason Parmar
 Maximilian Eggl
 technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TECHNOLOGY

Love for Android Fragmentation

The bane and boon of Android, the world's biggest mobile ecosystem

Yong Wen Chua Technology Writer

The big F word in the Android world: fragmentation.

This is the word that Android sceptics and users both decry and hate. It is both the bane and boon of Android. When Google made Android open source, it created a whole new set of problems and opportunities for users.

Android handset makers have created a whole plethora of devices, ranging from the low end to the highest end like the coveted Samsung Galaxy S3, for example. These devices across the whole range of price points have helped catapult Android to being the number one smartphone operating system worldwide. However it has also caused numerous problems, both for software developers and the handset manufacturers. Software developers find it hard to develop for the huge range of devices and handset manufacturers have been notorious in their slow speed in the updating of Android phone's software. Save for Nexus line of devices blessed by Google, it is hard to find any device out there with the

latest version of Android within a few months of its release by Google. This is because manufacturers tend to move on to their next product very quickly after they have released them, reducing their commercial interests in continual support for older devices.

But Android is also open source. And the open source community has risen up to the challenge of updating phones that have long since been abandoned by the manufacturers. Bring forth Cyanogenmod.

Cyanogenmod is an "aftermarket firmware" for phones that is built entirely from the source code of Android released by Google. Cyanogenmod supports a whole range of devices. It is the saviour of users who are unable to upgrade

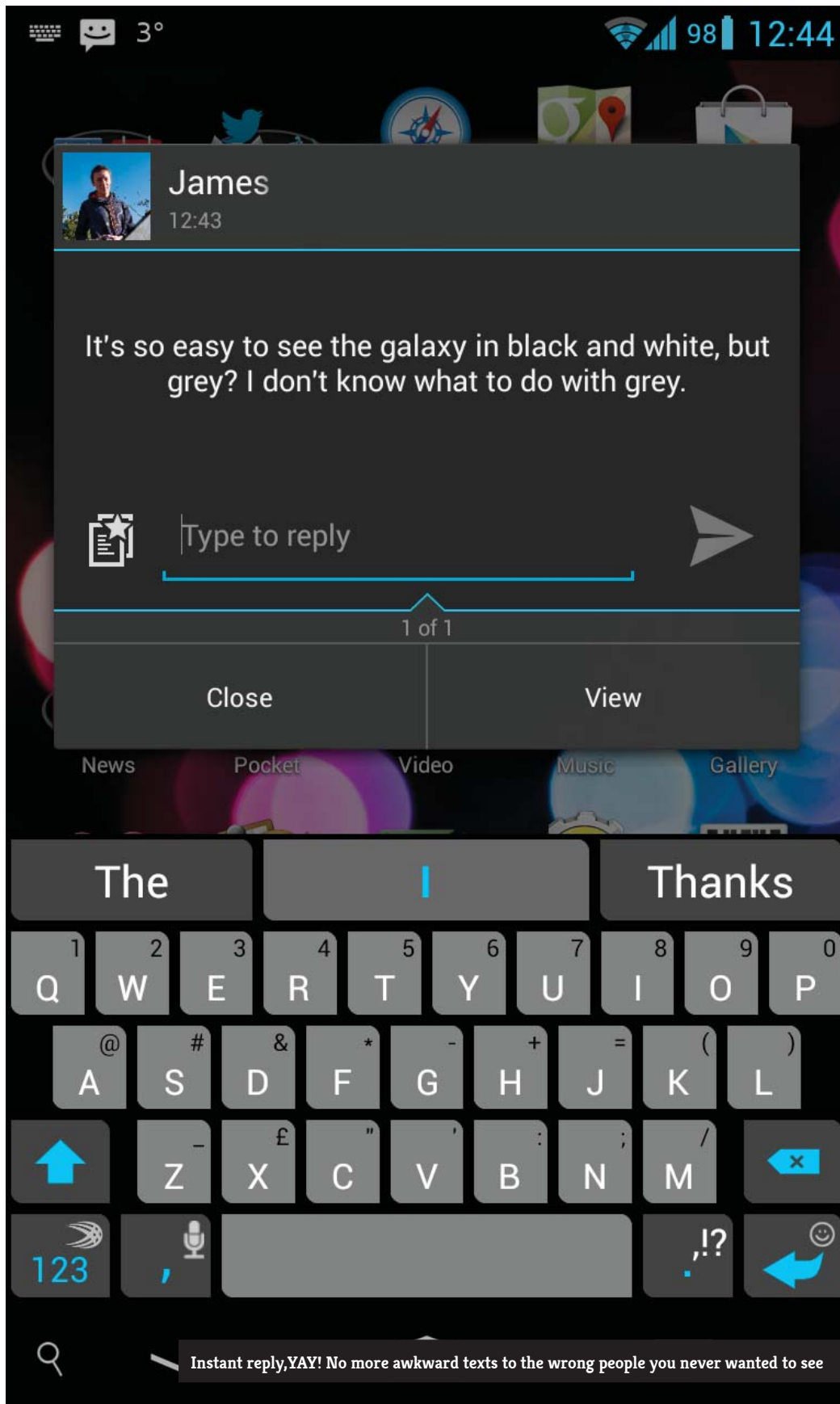
The dynamics between hardware manufacturers creating too many devices and developers making aftermarket firmware for phones create a very unique consideration for buyers seeking to buy Android devices. One might ask "will my phone be widely supported by developers so that I can have the best selection of aftermarket firmware?" Generally, phones in the Nexus series enjoy the most amount of developer's attention, while historically, phones by HTC have also been widely supported. Samsung, however, is notorious for their lack of documentation for the chips used in their phones. On the other end of the spectrum, Sony has been tireless in encouraging developers to develop for their devices by release source code, for example. It is an interesting consideration for phone buyers, possibly unique to Android at the moment. It can only be beneficial to phone manufacturers if they support the developer community.

phones long abandoned by their manufacturers, and savour the latest version of the Android OS. It can literally bring a fresh breath of new life to their ailing phones. It is also an opportunity for users who dislike the skins and customisations that their phone manufacturers have slapped onto the phone to use something that has less bloat.

Inspired by Cyanogenmod, many other developers have begun their own projects that seek to bring more radical new features to Android. Projects such as Paranoid Android bring about very innovative features like "pie control" and different "modes" to the phones. Projects such as these have once again proven that open source projects can bring about highly innovative outcomes. The tenacity of developers in supporting many devices that have long been ditched by the commercial entities is probably one of the best outcome that can come out of Android being open source.

Open source software has always played a massive role in the software community. The most popular kernel, Linux, is open source. When contrasted to the extremely closed nature

of the iPhone, it is extremely easy to see how being open source has both harmed and benefitted Android. I would argue that the benefits that being open source has brought Android greatly outweigh the problems of fragmentation. Being open is the way forward, and it is with this great foresight that Google first made Android open source from the get go.



It is hard to find any device out there with the latest version of Android

Techhead?
Yes?
Write for us:
tech.felix@imperial.ac.uk

METRICLIVE



RASCALS

TONIGHT

20:00-02:00 / £2.50 / METRIC

metric

FEB OFFERS

BELHAVEN BEST

£2.10 Every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday only.

STRONGBOW CAN

£2.00 Every day throughout February.

RUDDLES BEST

£2.70 Every day throughout February.

ASPALLS DRAUGHT

£2.70 Every day throughout February.

BELVOIR PRESSE **£1.50** Every day throughout February.

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY FROM 18:00

HOUSE SPIRIT & MIXER

£2.00

JÄGERBOMB ONLY

£2.50

IN ALL BARS, EVERY DAY



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

COFFEE BREAK

Election super special

Coffee Break hits the campaign trail to determine the movers and shakers that won't be appearing

Election fever is gripping Imperial!
Wait, sorry. Did I just write that? Let me start again.

Lukewarm anticipation towards elections is gripping Imperial!

Maybe I'm being a little harsh. Election season is no-holds barred event stuff, granted. But then Tom Daley's primetime ITV 'smash-hit' *Splash!* is event stuff in my mind too.

Nevertheless, it's that time of year when a few people go ahead and nominate themselves for a bevy of illustrious sounding positions in an attempt to scale the heady heights of the Union Political Scene™. When you play the game of #voteicu you win or you get beaten by RON. There is no middle ground.

Personally I can't wait for the results of CGCU Bolt and Spanner Bearer – at least you know what you're getting for your money.

Anyway, any election needs a good campaign team, so we here at Coffee Break have put our heads together and derived the ultimate team that you'll want by your side in your quest to be head honcho on the Imperial campaign trail.

Donald Trump: Communications Officer

Recommended for his measured use of social network Twitter

An example of this can be found from antics last week, when 'The Donald' took a no-nonsense approach to American rapper **Mac Miller's** unauthorised use of Trump's name in his hit single, entitled, well, 'Donald Trump'.

"Little @MacMiller, I'm now going to teach you a big boy lesson about lawsuits and finance. You ungrateful dog!"

I presume Trump followed this zinger up by proclaiming Mr Miller an irascible hound, or perhaps a mangy cur.



Will Daniel Day-Lewis run for Union President?

President Barack Obama: Team Leader

Recommended for being the President of the United States

The guy's already won the biggest election in the universe. What else would you want? You could even buddy up and make one of those ritous political advertisements where you make your opponent out to be a bit of a shady character, and implicate them in business scandals and all that kind of stuff. That might not be within the Union's rules though. It probably isn't.

Daniel-Day Lewis: You

Recommended for being an Oscar-winning actor

When I say method, you say actor. The gentleman chooses his roles wisely and has loads of awards for portraying people who aren't him. So why not just hire him to be you for a couple of weeks? That way, if you have project deadlines stacking up, you could stay in the Library while he goes around lecture theatres doing shout-outs and throwing out sweets. I'm sure he can play socially awkward very well.

TRASH TALK



Cutting to the heart of the week's big topics

STUDENT FAILS TO ENJOY WORK



A frustrated student wrote in to Trash Talk to vent his anger when it emerged that his computer code wasn't working. Computing student Raj Denton was undertaking a project when he "ran into a brick wall, metaphorically".

Denton has since been struggling to rectify his mistakes. Speaking to Trash Talk, he spoke of the "disappointment" he currently felt. "You know that feeling when

you look on the back of the packaging for a Chicken Caesar Wrap expecting it to be properly healthy, then you see all the red values for sugar and saturated fats and stuff? That's basically how I felt when my code didn't compile, and it's how I still feel."

"I took to Facebook and posted a status about how frustrated I was with the work," he continued, "It got seven likes, which was nice."

DROPPED BAGUETTE – NOBODY CARES



A mystery surrounding an abandoned baguette on Sheffield Walkway was unravelled in thrilling fashion earlier this week.

Potential hypotheses for its placement ranged from consumer distaste to (as special services probably no longer refer to it as) a 'dead drop'.

Student Alex Parr came forward to explain that the lone baguette simply came about due to an incident where she accidentally dropped

her lunch and coffee: "Looking back I really should have picked up the baguette, but spilling the coffee really was one step too far and it was all just too embarrassing. Going back for it was never an option either, someone might have recognised me from earlier."

When asked for an outsider's opinion, a third year mathematics undergraduate said that he had "no knowledge" of the event.

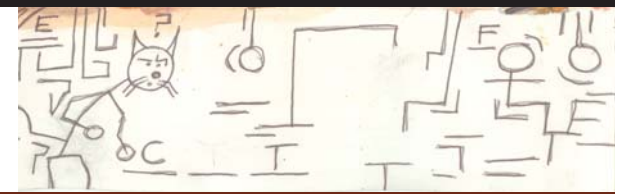
FELIX



If you want to experience the Felix Office first hand, drop us an email.

We always need writers, illustrators, photographers and probably more.

felix@imperial.ac.uk



Rap lyrics of the week

Chip: "Rack City"



"You might even get paid if you cook good,
Tell a model it ain't enough to look good"

Wow, you're lucky "good" rhymes with "good", or you would be in some serious trouble. Also, it seems as if you're going about this the wrong way. You're hiring models (presumably) and then hoping they are also good at cooking. Wouldn't it be better to hire a chef that you deem to be attractive? That would be a much easier way of ensuring both criteria are met. You could audition for them, then you even get a free meal! You'd be like Abercrombie & Fitch, but without the shit, generic clothes.

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
For lolz, cc in the *Daily Mail*

That day again: remember that nobody loves you day

The infamous **Valentine's Day** is here, but don't worry...

Nah, just kidding. That subtitle is a lie. You should be scared shitless right now. If everyone thinks you're a repulsive loser now, when you're in your prime, imagine what they'll think about you in a year's time: exactly the same... Anyway, don't worry about feeling bitter and having a way too long term relationship with your hand, it's not like Hangman is a fan of this holiday designed so people can be irritating and rub it in our faces how much they love each other. They usually come in a variety of annoying twattiness, but here are some of the classics:

The gesture topper:

This person is insufferable even if you are in a real, loving relationship too. You: "Yeah, we just stayed in and got cards and I cooked dinner and it was really nice."

Them: "Huh? Yeah, that sounds alright. I didn't do too much."

You: "What did you do?"

Them: (Cue smug look) "Well, I secretly booked a table three months ago at Heston Blumenthal's restaurant and I got Beyoncé to personally sing, well, mime, a love song. Then 1000

doves were let loose while the fifteen boxes of chocolate I bought were presented by tamed lions. Yours sounds nice though. Do you think mine was good enough?"

The public love displayer

It will come in the form of someone saying "BEST VALENTINE'S GIFT EVER!! WEEKEND IN PARIS!! LOVE YOU BABES xxxx". The more likes, the more public they get. If anyone comments something like "Ohhh sounds nice" you should immediately write "I've heard the sewers are flooding at the minute".

The we don't celebrate Valentine's Day couple

Yeah sure you don't. You just do nauseating gestures normally right? You always buy each other cards saying Happy Valentine's Day? Usually these people are also the same people who say they "don't want to do anything" and then squeal with delight at tacky crap.

Single people that complain



about being alone on this day

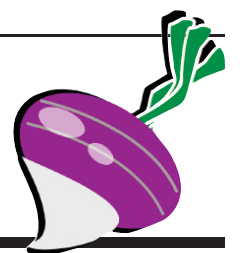
Fuck off. You get no sympathy. Seems harsh? There's logic. You're alone on every other day too: what makes this one special? If you complained about being alone on every day, and it so happened your complaint coincided with Valentine's Day, you get a token "awwwwww". Then you may get a hol-

low offer of a cup of tea. Note that this is actually an "I'm making tea and think it's rude not to offer, but I can't be bothered to make you one too so please don't say yes".

There you go. That's all you're getting for a "topical" feature. Enjoy Valentine's Day. And don't be a tool. That's the end of the article. Yep, it really is. Go away now.

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



Imperial men pretend to know absolutely everything about American Football

A record number of Imperial males have been found to have researched American Football in the lead up to the recent Super Bowl, with the hope of impressing attractive Americans in the Union and other bars. In a study by *The Turnip*, over 60% of single Imperial males (99% of the Imperial male population) who are lonely and getting desperate (98% of the Imperial male population) had read and memorised the entire Wikipedia entry. Reports suggest that some students even watched a couple of highlight reels on YouTube to understand what they were going to see.

On the night itself, unprecedented numbers of males were seen acting in an oddly masculine way and shouting "touchdown" and "quarterback" nonsensically, whenever they thought they may have seen an American with a "thing for a British accent". Imperial student, Rob Banking, told *The Turnip*, "I gave it all I had. I'd even looked up funny anecdotes about the players. Something like brothers playing I think. Unfortunately, it all fell apart when a joke about the 49ers really being called the 69ers went astray". The last straw seemed to come when Mr Banking made a reference to guns be-

ing "not great", only to be slapped in the face.

The length of the game also confused some revellers. "I thought that the thing was over like 2 hours before it actually was", said James Stiriper. Many others had their stamina tested, in a way that their hand doesn't usually test, when they realised that for every one minute of actual stuff happening about 10 minutes of replays, adverts, people walking around on the pitch, and referees making stupid hand gestures had to be endured.

The usually placid straight males were also reported to have had to



"try really hard to not look turned on when the cheerleaders were on the screen". With the addition of alcohol, the students became more confident and even started to insinuate that they

"wouldn't need all that padding", and that "rugby was definitely a tougher game". Reports suggest that the men went home alone and obsessed over every word they said that night.

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



IMPERIAL MEN GO TO NEW EXTREMES TO ATTRACT PARTNERS ON VALENTINE'S DAY



MAN ADMITS TO FRIENDS THAT HE "MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED ABOUT HAVING A GIRLFRIEND"

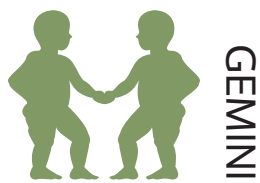
Horoscopes – A replacement for companionship



This week your saliva becomes too acidic. When you manage to pull a girl in Metric, your mingling mouth fluids erode her lips but you're both too drunk to notice until her whole face has been dissolved. The only screams you'll be coaxing out of her tonight are of terror at lacking a face, not pleasure.



This week you are craving cheezburgerz SO BAD you can't think about anything else. But it's 3am on Monday morning and everywhere is closed. You kill, mince and fry a pigeon in desperation, smother it in knob cheese and wrap it in the crumbs it was pecking. It's not on a par with GBK but it'll do.



This week your ears are swapped with your balls. This redistribution of your erogenous zones is at first disconcerting, especially when you have to put your earphones down your pants to listen to your iPod, but you soon learn to appreciate it. But, it's now a lot harder to listen to your brain over your penis.



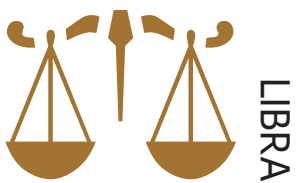
This week your flat becomes the battleground for a rat civil war so you become a refugee in the Library. 11pm on Friday night, you are cruelly cast from your asylum into the barren wilderness of Queen's Lawn. You try to shelter in the protective shadow of Queen's Tower but the stone lions gobble you up. Pint?



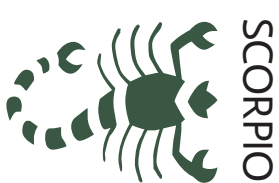
This week you are super excited about Valentine's Day and decide to prepare a special dessert to mark the occasion: cupcakes with whipping cream, melted chocolate and strawberries. You set one place for yourself, one for your lecture notes and one for your lab report in preparation for a wild, passionate threesome.



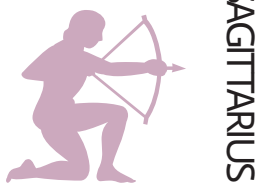
This week your bucket of tears at your loneliness causes Silvio Berlusconi to pop up as your love guru. He teaches you the ways of seduction, and, within no time, you find yourself accidentally being voted in as Prime Minister of Italy. There's loads of work to do, but at least you know how to turn people on...



This week your hair is ripped out by a Lizard King that has taken over your halls and enslaved the freshers. You are now expected to suck it's cock at all opportunities. You didn't even know Lizard King's had cocks. You tweet David Attenborough with your question but he doesn't reply. Sigh. Oh well. Pint?



This week you speed and get your wife to accept the fine. Woop woop. No points, no ban, oh yeah. What could possibly go wrong with this plan. You email your old mate Chris Huhne to tell him of the scheme. You get an out of office reply that says "Don't ever leave your wife if she is part of your evil plans".



This week the Mega Bus man haunts your dreams and brutally stabs you. You're so disorientated when you wake up that you swear this horoscope is in bold and is blue. **But it's not. Is it?** You're still asleep and the Mega Bus man is finding new ways to torture you: with low value long haul coach trips. Scary.



This week you morph into 50 Cent and start participating in dry bys. As you're at Imperial, the only drive by opportunities are revision ones. You merk someone with a mental maths problem. That'll teach them for not helping you out on that last problem sheet you had. They resent you for ever.



This week you get laid. Nah, joking. You're still a virgin.

VIRGIN

Just thought it would be easier for you to understand if printed bigger. Some time though. Maybe. Pint?



This week you have to choose between spending Valentine's Day sober and alone at a couples' massage class or sober and alone in a romantic restaurant. Either way, you're going to be sober and alone, miserably drowning in a sea of PDAs while simultaneously electrocuted by sparks of others' sexual anticipation. What's it going to be?

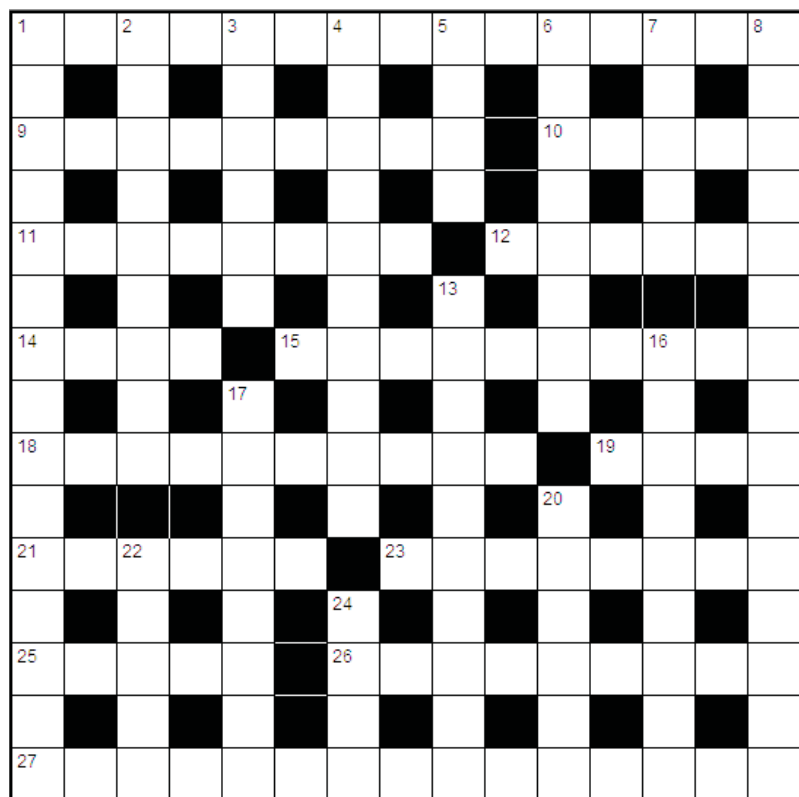
PUZZLES

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



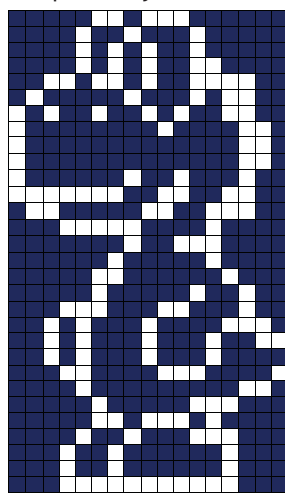
Double Crossword

with thanks to Paolo Giaccone



A tricky bit of magic

The numbers in each row and column show you how many groups of black squares are in a row or column, as well as how many black squares each group consists of. Filling in the grid produces a pretty picture, which in turn produces points if you send it in.



	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	3
	1	5	2	1	1	2	5	1	1	5	2	2	1	1
5 1 6														
2 2 2														
1 1 1														
2														
4 1 4														
2 2 2 2														
2 4 1														
1 1 1 1 1 1														
1 1 1 1														
2 2 2 2														
4 4														
0														
3 3														
10														
8														

QUICK CLUES

Across

- 1. Academic institution (8,7)
- 9. Pointed part of weapon (9)
- 10. Nincompoop (5)
- 11. Opposing force in physics (8)
- 12. Turned to liquid (6)
- 14. Type of sword (4)
- 15. Payment in full (10)
- 18. Type of verse (10)
- 19. District of London (4)
- 21. Branch of physics (6)
- 23. Laziness (8)
- 25. Under the duvet (2, 3)
- 26. Make ornamental improvements to a park (9)
- 27. Insensitivity (15)

Down

- 1. Person who revolts against a government (15)
- 2. Widespread (9)
- 3. Scarceness (6)
- 4. Device for measuring wind speed (10)
- 5. Extra section at the end of book (4)
- 6. Literate (8)
- 7. Something that happens (5)
- 8. Promptness (15)

- 13. Act of being present (10)
- 16. Free someone from blame (9)
- 17. TV programme presented by Anne Robinson (8)
- 20. Playing against, in sport (6)
- 22. Social prohibition (5)
- 24. Excess (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

- 1. Eager police mill about where you study (8,7)
- 9. Pierce has brains to be pioneer (9)
- 10. Dimwit stows Europe in even places (5)
- 11. Response to Rancine plays (8)
- 12. Girl and boy like cheese on toast? (6)
- 14. First of elm planks enterprising employee used for fencing (4)
- 15. Colony let test confusion overwhelm soldiers (10)
- 18. Finally inspect sheep trapped in rock - it has four fet (10)
- 19. Consequently prostitute may be found here? (4)
- 21. Operation Titanium gets Lewes behind bars for fixed amounts (6)
- 23. Eric by loch, doing nothing (8)

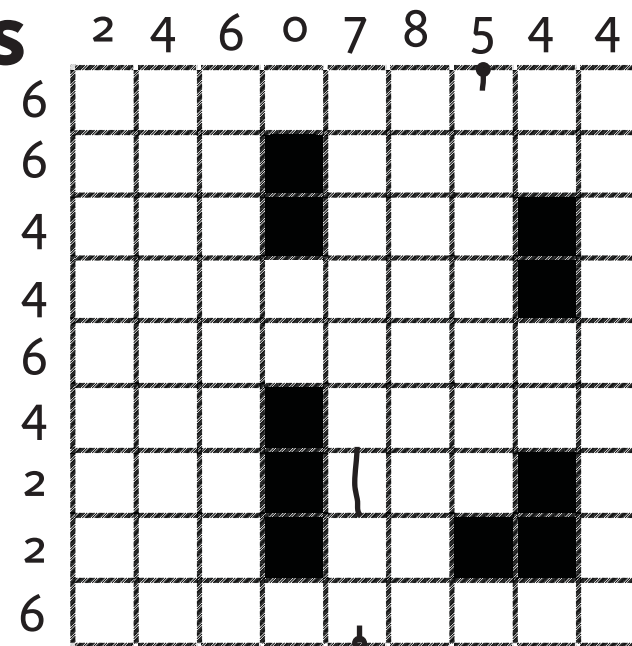
- 25. Where to find flower - rose? Not if still here! (2, 3)
- 26. Painting Den Pascal composed (9)
- 27. Should not as much nitrogen captured by Nazi guards mean lack of consideration? (15)

Down

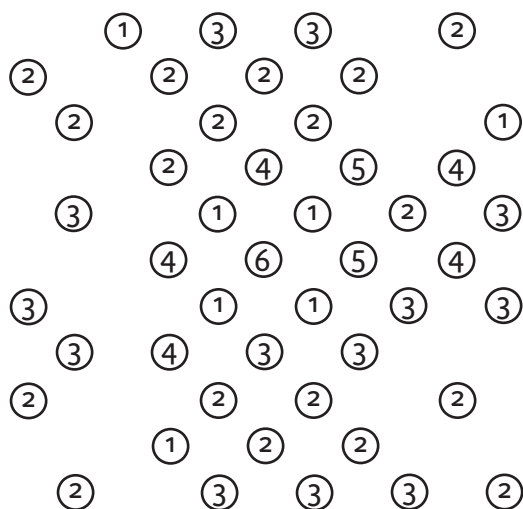
- 1. Rebel runs riot, incites chaos (15)
- 2. Popular vicar has father round before Easter (9)
- 3. Equivalence of currencies with rupees for pence is something very unusual (6)
- 4. Film fish gathered in a hospital room, as wind instrument... (10)
- 5. ...a medic set up gives final piece of music (4)
- 6. Knowing lots about the arts, allow little Edward to hug the Queen (8)
- 7. First lady books gig (5)
- 8. Quick nature trips around centre of Odessa take us in (15)
- 13. Time for news on prom turnout (10)
- 16. Old flame on drug charge let off (9)
- 17. Monitor eye shadow (8)
- 20. Poetry we hear America is against (6)
- 22. Thanks to catcall, it's forbidden (5)
- 24. Stuff belly with lamb starter (4)

Ophis

Fill the cells with a continuous line (the "snake") that does not pass through a cell twice, doesn't intersect with itself, and passes through all white boxes. The numbers show you how many times the snake turns in the corresponding row or column. The snake enters and exits the grid at the shown points (and only those points). There's a hint to get you started.



Hashi



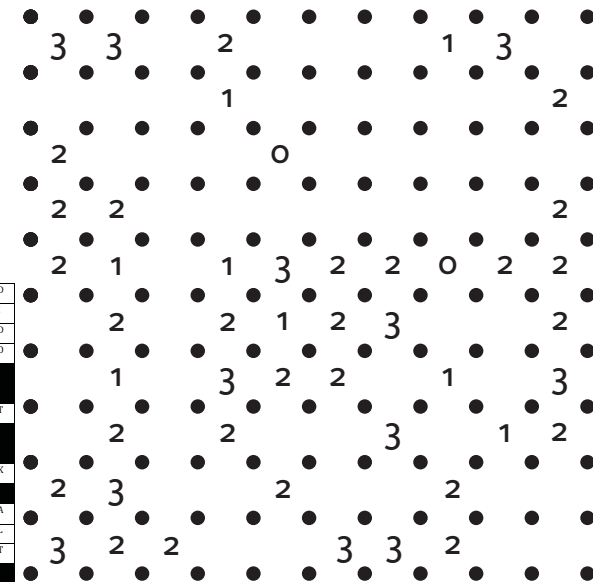
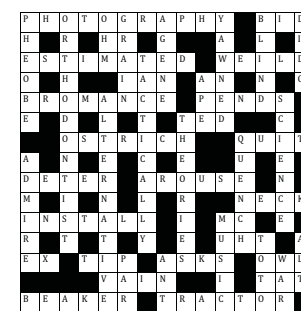
Connect all the islands with bridges so that you can get from any island to any other one. There are restrictions, though: the bridges have to be either vertical or horizontal and they must not intersect. You can have up to two bridges between any two islands and, last but not least, each island must have exactly as many bridges stemming from it as the number on it.

FUCWIT League Table

TEAMS	
Requiem for a Bean	28
Sexy Beasts	15
G.A.Y.S.	4
I ate all your bees	4
INDIVIDUALS	
Wael Aljeshi	22
Yufan Zhao	21
Helix	17
M-Soup	15
Tan Wei Jie	4

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

Draw a single closed loop by vertically and horizontally joining the dots so that the numbered squares are surrounded by the corresponding number of lines, but no diagonals please. It has never happened, but you never



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

SPORT

Not drowning but waving?

Football tackles Canterbury on less than ideal terrain, with mixed results...

Henry Garner Sports Writer

A depleted ICUAFC 1s team made the long journey down to Canterbury for the second time this season; a trek so long that Frodo and Sam would have called it quits once they had inevitably run out of lembas bread. Amjad, Wedemeyer and Cherif Jnr were notable absentees, and with Murphy (Imperial's resident wildlife expert) in the Library and captain Woodhead out with a broken nail, the team had a fresh new look to it. Thomas and Dabbagh were called up from the 2s to make their first appearances for the 1s this season, whilst new recruit Jones was looking to impress. Imperial started the day top of the BUCS league on 9 points from a possible 12, with Canterbury in joint 2nd, making at least a draw imperative. Minds wandered back to 2 months before where a defensive masterclass allowed Imperial to advance to the 3rd round of the BUCS cup on penalties, something that Canterbury were sure to remember.

The journey to Mordor, I mean Canterbury, took the best part of five months, and upon arrival most players had forgotten the purpose of the journey. Having had their memories refreshed, a warm up took place for the purpose of getting accustomed to the interesting and dynamic terrain. The pitch was composed of approximately 15 parts water to one part grass which would serve to level the, ironically, uneven playing field; a gale force wind added to the interesting conditions. With Murphy absent, much of the interesting flora and fauna on the side of the pitch went unnoticed, much to the disappointment of approximately no one. Due to the aforementioned changes in personnel, Hill was moved to centre back with Cherif Snr, with Thomas given the nod at right back and Nielsen completing the back row. Tim 'Smithy' Beasley was alongside Jones in midfield with Maizonnier and Tofis on the flanks. Robinson and Bjorkstrand started up front together, in what has recently been a partnership more fruitful than the Garden of Eden.

Imperial lost the toss and thus were designated to spend the first half in the deep end of the pool (pitch); a combination of bogginess (akin to the Dead Marshes, North-West of Mordor, minus the randomly strewn dead war victims), a prominent head wind and Apollo's mocking rays of light would make for a tricky first 45 minutes. From the off Imperial were made to soak up pressure in precisely the same way that the pitch didn't soak

up water. Robinson was lively up top, making intelligent runs despite the abuse received from the Canterbury staff and subs, many of whom had the unique accolade of having IQs smaller than their shoe size. Although the conditions favoured Canterbury few clear cut chances were created by either team; that was until Canterbury decided that what they really wanted was to let in a goal. A Canterbury goal kick was taken short to the defender who, in a surprising turn of events, played a sumptuous through ball to Bjorkstrand. Bjorkstrand rounded the keeper before placing the ball into the bottom corner with his left foot. The lack of celebration from Imperial was a textbook example of how the team fully expected him to score. His strike drew him level with goalkeeper Garner for number of goals scored for ICUAFC this season.

The goal seemed to kick start Canterbury who applied sustained pressure for the next 10 minutes. With half time approaching, a Canterbury player, recently nominated for the Fallon D'Floor award, went down under the mere presence of right back Thomas. The referee, who up until this point had been anonymous, decided this was the chance to kick start his acting career and took centre stage by awarding a penalty. The penalty was dispatched, with Garner remaining fixated in the mud like some kind of hapless Medusa victim (or maybe like those trolls in the *Hobbit* when Gandalf splits the rock and they get turned to stone by sunlight; basically something like that). The first half ended, but not before Jones managed to acrobatically head a Canterbury corner over his own bar from a yard out, even managing to draw praise from some of the opposition.

Half time gave Imperial a chance to catch their breath. At this point a draw was widely considered a good score, given the conditions. It was widely agreed that the advantages of being at the other end second half would provide an excellent opportunity to get a win.

The effect of changing halves was instantly noticeable and Imperial started to dominate. Not long after the restart, a cynical foul on Nielsen allowed Hill the opportunity to float a sumptuous ball through to Jones who marked his debut with a Jack Nicklaus-esque chip over the keeper; 2-1 Imperial. Imperial were as desperate to get a third goal as Odysseus was to once again reach his homeland of Ithica after the battle of Troy but, ultimately, chances were few and far between. Bjorkstrand, with his taste of glory (which is in no way foreign to

him) whetted by his first, nearly scored his second by attempting to deflect a free-kick into his own goal, but Garner managed to tip it onto the post. Dabbagh replaced Thomas midway through the second period to provide a pair of fresh legs and clean knees. By this point the referee had become relatively apocryphal, something that he very quickly changed. A long ball played through to the Canterbury striker produced no offside flag from sub Thomas who, correctly, waited until the opposition player touched it. The striker finished it bottom corner whilst the referee ignored the offside flag, much to the frustration of the Imperial players. This display of questionable sportsmanship especially upset Hill, who was irate and then calmed down and then became irate again, a cycle that repeated itself multiple times ("much like a Polymerase Chain Reaction" – Amjad). The sense of injustice spurned on Imperial who

were looking dangerous on the wings with Tofis and Maizonnier working hard and Nielsen joining in a number of attacks. A corner towards the end of the game evaded everyone and somehow did not end up in the back of the net, punishment for failure to gamble at the back stick.

The full time whistle blew leaving Imperial with mixed emotions; 2 points dropped seemed more appropriate than one point gained. Ultimately the draw was enough to main-

tain top spot in the league at the half way stage of the league and may yet prove to be vital point come the end of the season.

Garner was voted man of the match, increasing his lead at the top of Imperial's very own Fantasy Football but Jones made a very promising debut and, despite the result, the team put in one of the better performances of the season. The journey back is ongoing, and the team are expected back shortly before the summer ball.

Proud to be sponsored by



Read this and more online at felixonline.co.uk

Don't forget to fill out the Drugs Survey at: felixonline.co.uk/drugs

FELIX

ARTSFEST 13

18-22 FEBRUARY

WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS, MUSIC, DANCE - AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN - THAT IMPERIAL HAS TO OFFER!

TOWERING BAND
18 FEBRUARY, 12:00, QUEENS LAWN
IC BIG BAND KICK-OFF ARTSFEST 2013 IN SPECTACULAR STYLE, PERFORMING ON THE QUEENS TOWER BALCONY!

DANCE NIGHT
18 FEBRUARY, 20:00, METRIC
IMPERIAL'S DANCE SOCIETIES PERFORM A SHOWCASE OF THEIR BEST ROUTINES FOLLOWED BY A CEILIDH LEAD BY CALEDONIAN SOCIETY AND IC STRING ENSEMBLE!

MEET THE ARTISTS
19 FEBRUARY, 20:00, BLYTH GALLERY
YOUR CHANCE TO MEET THE STUDENTS FROM PHOTO AND LEONARDO FINE ARTS SOCIETY WHO CREATED THIS YEAR'S BLYTH GALLERY EXHIBITION!

CINEMA FILM QUIZ
19 FEBRUARY, 20:45, UCH
FOLLOWING THEIR SHOWING OF SIGHTSEERS, IC CINEMA WILL HOST A FILM QUIZ NIGHT!

IC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHOIR OPEN REHEARSAL
20 FEBRUARY, 19:00, GREAT HALL
COME AND SEE IC SO PREPARE FOR THEIR SPRING CONCERT, WHICH TAKES PLACE IN CADOGAN HALL ON THE 2ND MARCH.

A VERY VOCAL EVENING
20 FEBRUARY, 20:00, UCH
A CAPELLA AND MUSICAL THEATRE TEAM UP FOR AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT AND A SNEAK PEAK AT MTSOC'S UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF "PARADE"!

IMPERIAL FRINGE THE ARTS EXPERIMENT
21 FEBRUARY, 17:00, IMPERIAL MAIN ENTRANCE.
WITNESS A UNIQUE EXPERIMENT AS IMPERIAL'S GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH COLLIDES WITH ARTSFEST!

FRINGE AFTERPARTY
21 FEBRUARY, 20:00, METRIC
JOIN THE IMPERIAL FRINGE PARTICIPANTS AND ORGANISERS IN METRIC AS THE ARTS EXPERIMENT CONTINUES INTO THE NIGHT!

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR CURRENT INFORMATION ON ARTSFEST 13 GO TO:
union.ic.ac.uk/arts/artsfest/2013

SPORT

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

Men's Water Polo handle their balls right

Alex Simpson Mens Captain

The men's water polo team are midway through what has already been our most successful season to date. This year we found ourselves in the top division after being promoted last year, along with Warwick, Oxford and Cambridge in what some would call the most intellectual sporting league in the UK.

After our first match however, we certainly thought much less of Warwick. Arriving one and a half hours late for the match, some would be happy to call it a walkover, but the Imperial boys were keen to play and we would not let some incompetent navigator put us off. Indeed it was total annihilation. Due to lateness Warwick were neglected a warm up and were forced to jump straight into the match. They were sluggish in attack and defence, and Imperial could work the ball easily around the arc and into the pit. We were also superior on the counters, with Andreas and Daniele taking advantage of their less than able defence and goalie. Final result 15-3 Imperial, the season ahead was looking promising.

Up next was an away game at Oxford. We once again had to be subject to Jackson's stereotypical, awful Greek driving – "oh I forgot I had to stop at red lights, it's not like being on my bike". We made it to Oxford, in one piece, just. This we knew would

be our hardest game of the league, and it was a physical, scrappy game. Daniele played so well in fact he was wrapped after the 2nd quarter; he claims he just needed a rest. We were subject to some very suspicious refereeing on Oxford's part, who managed to miss a very clear Imperial goal, and award an Oxford goal that very clearly hit the post. Going into the final quarter with a minute left and 9-10 down, timeout was called by coach Adam to discuss a play that could see us get equal. It worked to perfection and brought the score to 10-10 with less than 40 seconds left. A strong Oxford attack followed and they were awarded a penalty for reasons unknown. Of course the Oxford number 4 smashed it into the back of the net, bringing the final score to a disappointing 11-10 loss for Imperial. Special mention has to go out to Brad Sanders for scoring 6 of our 10 goals, an almost impossible feat some would say, but not for Brad. Not forgetting Andreas too who drove the bus back: far better than Jackson, but still with three stalls.

Finally, our deciding match against Cambridge was played just this last Sunday. This served as the decider for who went through to the semis, and it was either Cambridge or us. This was to say the least, the most important match this season. We played a tight game, with a drop defence to deal with their tricky centre forward who whenever got passed the ball found

himself drowned by 3 people. This worked wonders, save that of one or two sending outs, and subsequently only allowed Cambridge to score 2 goals from outfield play. Their third goal came from a penalty, foolishly given away by Vincent. Thankfully at this stage it didn't matter, as Imperial were already 6-2 up with 1 minute to go, after strong offence from Nick

Von G, Andrea and Daniele. Daryl kept things under control in defence and we dread to think what these score lines would be if it weren't for our ninja goalie Jen Wei.

Imperial have exceeded all expectations this year in the top division where we are normally relegated back to division 2. Never have we got through to the semi-finals from the

top division before: a historic achievement for both coach Adam and captain Alex. We will now probably face Bristol and Bath, along with Oxford again in the semis at the University of Bristol Pools on the weekend of the 9th/10th March. If we're successful here it'll be up to Leeds for the finals on the 23rd/24th March. Onwards and upwards!

No horses were harmed in the making of this photo



... and so do the women!

Adina de Wit Sports Writer

On the morning of January 26th, three Waterpolo girls teams arrived at Imperial from Nottingham, Norwich and Birmingham for a competitive weekend of games against three London-based teams. Our own captain Lil had organized for all the matches of our BUCS league to take place on January 26th and 27th at Ethos, and so we all had to get ready for playing five matches in two days. The Imperial ladies felt reasonably fit and reasonably confident of their ability – although we had quite a few less substitutes than most of our opponents (especially King's, whose team consisted of about 15 players and 3 poolside supporters).

Imperial played their first match against University of East Anglia, which was fairly tight and ended in a 4-4 draw. After a 2-game rest Nottingham was easily defeated by 7-2. This great score made us all highly enthusiastic. So enthusiastic in fact that we all jumped into the pool while



the match preceding our next game was still going on. Of course this was all our coach Adam's fault, who had

convinced us that the two teams were playing the fourth quarter of their match instead of the third. Fortunately

this tiny mistake didn't set us back too much, as we won from Aston 4-3 in a fairly tight match.

After a successful Saturday everyone was excited (and yes, a little bit scared) about the Sunday matches against King's and UCL. With the muscles still tired from the three battles of the day before we didn't manage to get enough goals past the King's College goalie and the match resulted in a 4-3 loss. Four other games separated us from our final match that was to determine whether or not we would go through to the semifinals. The spirits were lifted and we started off energetically, but unfortunately UCL were too strong for us and they beat us 5-3.

This means that for us this year's BUCS ended after the weekend of the 26th and 27th. We played as well as we could and the results were better than some of us had expected beforehand, so that still makes this result a success!

The King's College ladies came in first in our league, and therefore they will be promoted to the first division for next year. With UCL coming second, these two teams will be competing in the semifinals.

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

SPORT

High hopes for Handball at Champs

Red Elmadi Sports Writer

Last weekend saw the eagerly anticipated UK universities Handball tournament of the year – the Association of British University Handball Clubs (ABUHC) University Championships 2013. After winning 3rd place in the 2012 tournament and a dedicated start to year for the Imperial Eagles handball club, with weeks of intense recruiting and months of training, this tournament was due to show us just how we compare to the rest of the UK's university enthusiasts in this popular European sport.

The tournament promised to be the biggest UK tournament so far with over 600 players from universities across the UK entering 60 teams to compete for the much coveted 1st place trophy. Imperial entered three teams, including a womens' side, and with this year's tournament being held in the Mayesbrook Park training courts in East London where handball athletes from across the world trained for last year's Olympics, even the lo-

cation held the promise of inspiring victories for the Eagles.

The first day's play showed a more than promising start to the tournament for Imperial Men's I, with a victory against every team played, putting them at the top of their group and easily helping them to qualify for a place in the quarter-finals. Sadly, the Imperial Men's II and Women's did not fair quite so well in the competition. Due to a lack of players the Men's II had to forfeit the entire second day of play and despite a surprising victory against Bedford whilst one player down, Imperial Women did not qualify for a place in the Women's quarter-finals.

The height of excitement for the Imperial Eagles Handball Club was seen in the second day of play during the Imperial Men's quarter-final match against sports university side Loughborough. With a relentless assault of goals by star shooter Lucas Carstens, a solid defence most notably held up by club president Yannick Seis and an exceptional level of precision, speed and execution of team strategy, Im-



MOAR medals MOAR

perial illustrated exactly what kind of side they can be and breezed into their semi-final match against Oxford.

Towards the end of the second day of play however, with energy and concentration levels running low the side finally began to come undone and lost their semi-final match, a painful turn of events made even more frustrating by a win against this very same

side in the group stages. At the peak of frustrations during this disappointing match, when the 4th of 4 penalties had been missed by one of our shooters, the Men's I goal keeper was overheard to say that if he'd started shooting they may have more of a chance at scoring, a comment followed up with a flurry of colourful language from all players. Despite tempers running high

at this stage a level of calm was reinstated with a serious team pep-talk which provided the side with the focus required to defeat the "Norwegian Army" AECC and take third place in the overall running. Watch this space for results of Imperial Eagles' performance in up-coming Engineering Schools and European University Tournaments in March and April!

ICURFC 3rd XV win uphill against St Georges

Lukas Michalitsch 3rd Team Captain

ICURFC 3rd XV going uphill against St. George's

After a chequered first term for Imperial College 3rd XV and a great performance resulting in a disappointing draw against King's Medics three weeks ago the social side of ICURFC wanted to show what they are capable of and bring home the first win this term. A promising squad featuring five new 3rd team players made their way to Wimbledon RFC this Wednesday to face the challenge against St. George's 2nd XV were a pitch that could have been used as a skiing piste over the last weeks rather than for a game of rugby welcomed them.

Knowing the importance of the game new coach James Hayward led the team through a professional warm-up integrating the new players and preparing them for a physical game. The team seemed to be in good shape and was switched on from the start raising hopes for the game.

Alex Leonard kicked off and Imperial chased downhill making the first big tackles that would be needed throughout the game. From the start the 3rd XV were dominating the game hardly playing in their own half, pushing for the opposing try line. However, St. George's defence was tight and the conditions

made it almost impossible to get the ball wide. At least Jean Casademont, inside-centre and Frenchman, claims that this was the reason rather than the fading trust in his nation's skills.

25 min in the good work by the forwards pushing hard against the opposition led to what IC thought was their first try. Unfortunately the referee, being a bit too slow to follow Will Griffiths quick touch down, didn't award it and left the team disappointed. This unrighteousness only made IC work harder and five minutes later flyhalf Alex Leonard twisted himself through St. George's defence like a ballet dancer completing a full pirouette before putting the ball on the ground. He did not show the same elegance but his skills on the conversion, managing to put IC 0-7 ahead after slipping on the kick. With the confidence gained the ball even made it out to the wing, something rarely seen at 3rd XV performances, where Will Cathy showed good runs and chips in his rugby union debut for Imperial College. Alas, the first half ended with prop, Alexander Karvelas, coming off injured and Edoardo Cavallazi, interim captain and learned flanker stepping up to fill the gap.

Imperial came back onto the pitch highly motivated, knowing that they would have to keep up the hard work to control their opposition especially



If you ain't dirty, you ain't here to party

as they were playing uphill now. The first 20 minutes of the second half were even with Imperial gaining territory but losing the ball in scrums and lineouts. Especially after Hugh MacKinnon had to come off and Imperial was left with a flanker and number 8 instead of two props St. George's could have been dangerous. Luckily the team managed to keep up the intensity and their centre did not seem too keen to actually pass the ball. His bright ginger hair made him

easy to spot and the backs stopped him before he could get anywhere close to the touch line.

With 15 minutes to go Imperial were the team in much better shape. Rob Searle and Tim Harrington making good runs on their debut, forcing the opposition to give away penalty after penalty bringing the 3s close to the try line once again. Continuous offenses by St. George's forwards resulted in a well-deserved yellow card for their flanker leaving them with

one man down for a crucial phase of the game. A phase in which Imperial probably wanted to push for a try instead of taking the penalty kick to try and go 10-0 up... Especially as they missed the kick. Although there were only ten minutes left on the clock St. George's spirit was not broken and they managed to turn the ball over inside their five meter zone and bring it close to Imperial's try-line within a few minutes. A few unlucky plays including scrumhalf Luke Armitage showing his skills, kicking the ball backwards (instead of taking it into contact himself as usual) eventually resulted in a scrum for St. George's three meters away from the try-zone. With only one actual front row player left Imperial was pushed over the line and the try in the 76 minute was inevitable. Fortunately, those five points from the try were all they scored that Wednesday as the kick did not even get close to the posts. Imperial managed to keep the ball for the last few minutes of the game and celebrated a hard-fought 5-7 win.

Considering the 0-24 loss in Harlington in the first leg this is an excellent result for Imperial College 3rd XV and with two games against similar opponents left this could be the start of a winning streak. Especially the win of St. George's against the Imperial Medics 3rd XV last week leaves ICURFC confident for varsity.



"Keep the Cat Free"

Mud, mud, glorious mud!

Sophie Kirk
Eoghan J Totten

Sports Writers

1000 runners, miles of mud and one epic after party can only mean one thing, BUCS Cross Country 2013!

This year saw the biggest team ever (44!) from Imperial travel to Leeds for what is the highlight of the Cross Country calendar. Imperial College achieved their strongest team finish in the British University Cross Country Championships in recent memory with the Men's A Team producing an incredible 6th place finish in the long 10km race at Bodington Hall Playing Fields, Leeds University.

Eoghan J Totten (34:41) led the team home with a 20th place finish over the 10km course, just over a minute short of a medal (Stephen Scullion, St. Mary's London, 33:32). He was strongly supported by a headstrong team who battled ferociously through the mud-laden course to produce finishes all within the top fifty. The American, Clinton 'Abs' Cahall produced a massive 36th place finish (35:23). Clinton had to realign his concept of cross country to one more attuned to the English weather, coping exceptionally with the treacherous underfoot conditions and finishing strongly. Christopher Bannon successfully transferred his prowess on the track to the mud bath, producing a 47th place finish (35:41) with Faron Hesse giving chase in 49th (35:43), moving strongly through the field in the closing lap. Sam O'Neill competing in his 6th and final BUCS competition, was the 5th

Imperial College man home (with four to score), produced a solid run in 168th place. First year Chris Thomas had an interesting race after being ill the previous week it appears he took 3 hours to complete the course but who really knows what happened here? We look forward to seeing him progress in future years. The team result was a tremendous achievement (topping Oxford) given four of the top five team positions were occupied by Universities receiving significant funding for sport. The top three (St. Mary's London, Birmingham & Loughborough) receive funding from London Marathon and UK Athletics and are established endurance running institutions. For Imperial College to be in tow shows that it is possible to balance sporting and academic prowess.

Next up was the Women's race on what was now a tumultuous, freshly-churned course. Melissa Newton-Mora led the Imperial College team home in 169th position with Sophie Kirk in 190th position and Kimberley 'very possible' Mason in 214th place. All credit must go to Sophie for organising transport, accommodation (in the swish Jurys Inn!) and general co-ordination. However, the greatest achievement was the size of the Women's team from Imperial College; with all 12 completing the gruelling course making this double previous years!

There were a significant number of competitors from the Cross Country club in the Men's B race. The affectionately named 'Banter' B race saw over 400 runners take on the now shin high mud slog, and with experienced

club members Reuben Bogg (98th), James 'Captain' Ellis (102nd), Ben Toomer (127th) and Milan Misak taking the lead for the club, all 24 of the team finished.

Liam 'Car park attendant' Smith and Jean Claude Besse were the first freshmen to finish, special congratulations to Jean Claude who had never seen so much mud during his triathlon career so far! Completing the second team was Matt Douthwaite who made an incredible recovery from a squash 'injury' finishing just behind Chris 'Zoolander' Charles. Many of the B team were first timers so to see them all complete the course in respectable times was a great feat. Despite the mud and cold smiles were evident all round particularly from Adrian 'Too Keen' Grutter who wore a grin throughout so it can't have been that bad.

Following the race, there was much celebration not only for the 6th position but also celebrating the clubs successes thus far. This has been one of the best years in the clubs history with 100 members and participation going through the roof. Anticipation for the infamous after party was high at Captains' drinks, and with the freshers' challenges completed it was time for curry! At Leeds University Union we joined hundreds of other runners for a celebration complete with foam. Armed with our bandannas we took to the floor pulling moves that haven't been seen since last year. We certainly left our mark at Leeds Union, I would say more but what happens in Leeds stays in Leeds (or at least on Facebook). After 6 hours of partying it was time to head back and get what sleep we could for the long journey back down south.

First year Isabel Holding summed up her experiences of the weekend: "As a fresher it was a daunting thought to sign up for the XC weekend trip to Leeds. I was prepared to endure the physical challenge of running 6.5km, as well as the freshman humiliation, which was probably my greater worry.

Looking back this presentiment seems baseless and I am grateful that the worst of it involved picking an item of fruit or veg, giving it a face and carrying it around with us for the entirety of the weekend; ensuring a dapper look at all times.

Other than this, my experiences at BUCS involved: meeting people, mud, curry, more mud, foam, and even



Mmm...muscle, mud and man. The perfect combination



Photobombing seminars are given at lunchtime in the Sherfield building



Today's Cross Country stars were yesterday's kiss chase Kings and Queens

more mud, (plus some running as well). Overall, brilliant weekend!!

Thank you to the whole team for making the weekend so enjoyable, and with Hyde Park Relays this weekend

no doubt the fun shall continue. Hyde Park Relays is the place to be this Saturday, whether you are running, organising or supporting, so come on down!