

Newitt lecture

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change gives lecture at Imperial. Page 8



Imperial interfaith

A dialogue at Imperial for those of any faith will be happening next week.

Page 9

Union does not support closure of Translation Studies Unit

- Clarification sought on reason for closure.
- Union wants to know how students will be supported through their degrees.
- Union Council vote to oppose closure wins despite no sabbatical voting for it.

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Petitioning Imperial College Management Board
Petition against the transferral or closure of the Translation Studies Unit
Petition by Translation Studies Unit at Imperial College London

Nida Mahmud News Editor

The Union opposes the closure of the Translation Studies Unit (TSU), following a vote at Union Council on Tuesday 12 February. The Union will also be seeking clarification on the reasons why the Unit will be closed and how the students will be supported in the completion of their studies; this is because College's previous explana-

tions have been vague. Council voted to both oppose the closure of the TSU and to seek clarity, despite all sabbatical officers either abstaining or voting against first the motion. This increases pressure on the College, as an online petition has already received over 6000 signatures.

During the Union Council meeting there were two votes; the first was that the Union rejects the current approach to close the TSU and supports >>4

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NSS flaw found



Tim Arbabzadah Editor-in-Chief

A flaw in the NSS has been exposed once more. It is possible, and not too difficult, for students to fill out the survey on behalf of others, raising concerns over the security of the survey – particularly due to the importance place on its results in league tables.

Felix reported last year that it was possible to find students' names and corresponding CID numbers for certain departments. This time, the Business School have distributed the CID numbers and corresponding names of students on Blackboard. A student who wished to remain anonymous passed this information to Felix. The list on Blackboard was originally to show students >>3

A&E U-Turn

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Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Full story: Page 7

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COMMENT



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COMMENT

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Dinosaurs dying?

Comment has three great discussions going. There's the response to last week's banking article, the ongoing discussion of the EU and equal marriage.

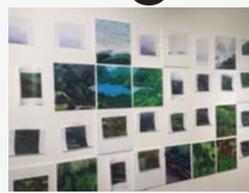


ARTS

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Arts are coming...

Artsfest is on its way. The image of art being all free flowing and relaxing isn't always true. It's often a lot of toil and organising to put together a show.



TECH

>>33

Is Watson smart?

Watson, as well as being Holmes' trusty sidekick, is an AI that can beat human contestants on a gameshow, but can it somehow cure cancer? Hint... No.



CLASSIFIEDS

Flyer distributors 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.

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Email felix@imperial.ac.uk to place Classifieds.
Boy/girl seeking boy/girl also welcome. Pictures of you liking Nutella off of your finger with "come to bed" eyes not welcome.

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



Council rises up



Tim Arbabzadah
Editor-in-Chief



It was a good thing to see that Council decided to vote to have a clear opinion on something. Especially that people came to a decision and didn't care what the sabbs thought and made up their own mind. This happened on not one but two occasions, which was refreshing. Perhaps it had something to do with the seating change, where it was a circle. I initially mocked it as "being like an A Level drama class", but maybe having a select few sit at the front of the room does make people think they are above them.

I have made no secret of my opinions on the Translation Studies Unit, and wish them well in their fight. If you want to know what I think then refer to my Editorial in Issue 1537. Hopefully they'll get some clarity and will be kept on. I just hope that the Management Board aren't too proud to reconsider their decision. It would be pretty childish to basically just stick it out due to not wanting to back down.

Hopefully the sabbs will all put forward the view of Council on their behalf in meetings, rather than their own. That is what they are there to do. It can be a tricky situation to be in, but hopefully they explain that this is the view of Council. Of course, they

are free to express personal opinions too, but should make sure they highlight what is their opinion and what is Council's.

The medicines decision was also great. The reason to oppose it based on it being hard to implement in the current framework is valid, but a lot of things are hard to do in current frameworks. It would be good to see just a tad more idealism. Obviously being unrealistic and imagining you can do amazing things overnight won't help, but having an ideal goal that you acknowledge that you want to slowly work towards is a good thing. Idealism, with a good dollop of pragmatism is the way forward. Have your ultimate ideal, and do everything to reach it. Don't dismiss a goal as it seems unlikely. Embrace that it's a tough challenge and that it is an aim that you know will take time and effort to reach.

Write to me to get a tenner

I was pretty happy with the response to the last call. We actually couldn't publish one letter (due to space restrictions, but it will be in next week). All you need to do is give me your thoughts on something in College, something in the Union, Felix (what you like and don't like; constructive

criticism is extremely welcome!), how sticky the floors of TigerTiger are nowadays, anything. Then we will put all the ones we can fit into the paper, and the best one each week will get a crisp ten pound note (crispness not guaranteed). If you want to be anonymous, just let us know.

Why am I doing this? Well, I want to revive the letters section, and get people giving a quick opinion on a matter. Not everyone wants to write a long enough blurb to become a comment piece, and not everyone wants to make comments on the website. I know that you can, but letters (or, emails) are a great way of giving a short opinion that will be seen by all who glance at the Comment section that week, not just those that look at that one article online. It seemed like an oddly opportune time to do so as you can just get your phone out and email in straight away.

Nowadays, with the internet, it is easier than ever to make a snap reaction and proclaim it to the world. That's why I want people to think over their opinion, word it carefully, and then send it in. Plus, it makes Felix a better paper if we know what sort of thing you are thinking about. The email to send them in to is: felix@imperial.ac.uk.

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Students in final of BP Ultimate Field Trip



The three finalists from Imperial

Philippe Rival

Reporter

Three second-year Civil Engineering students make up the only team from Imperial College to have passed onto the Finals of the 2013 BP Ultimate Field Trip challenge. Edward Courtneil, Stephen Rose and Dominik Sznajder are now facing teams from Oxford, Strathclyde and Glasgow Universities for the chance to win a 2-week trip on a BP oil rig in the North Sea and a cash prize of £1000. The group of friends went from regular term work of solving problem sheets and revising for progress tests, to climbing up the ladder and impressing BP executives at last week's Semi-Final.

The BP Ultimate Field Trip is a flagship competition not just in the UK but all over the world. It gives students the opportunity to have a go at tackling real-life engineering challenges and to come up with innovative solutions, which they then need to research and sell to a panel of 12 BP judges. Every year, the competition revolves around a new topic. This year, the challenge was to come up with a single technical innovation that could reduce the cost of PKT (Passenger Kilometer Travelled) in the UK by 2030. In other words, reduce the cost of public transportation. An interview of the three teammates has yielded valuable insight into just what it takes to wow the judges of the BP competition.

The first stage involved an on-

line questionnaire where questions were specifically designed not to have simple solutions available online. From then on, each step of the competition required more research and problem-solving to get the candidates into the mindset of what being an engineer actually entails. After successfully passing the first round, the team went on to produce a powerpoint presentation, and then a professional technical poster outlining their idea. Their main technical innovation is Regenerative Breaking with Onboard Storage. This technology would allow train operators to save money by harnessing the energy that is lost through braking when the trains stop. That energy would be stored onboard while the train is stationary, and then fed it back into the motors when the train leaves, which would allow for faster acceleration. The team has calculated that this technology could save train operators 105 million pounds a year. This would be achieved by installing lithium-ion capacitors on existing trains, which would store the energy.

However having a good idea isn't the whole story. The team had to be able to convince the judges of just how effective their technological innovation was. The structure of the competition intends to allow them to work on their presentation skills and their ability to perform under pressure, but what really separated them from the herd was the sheer amount of background research they produced. This allowed them to shine

when it came to Q&A after last Tuesday's Semi-Final 10 minute presentation; and could well be the main reason they are the only team that went through from Imperial this year.

All three members agree that this journey has showed them the importance of teamwork and perseverance. If you had asked them back in October, none of them would have imagined getting so far in the competition. All three describe the experience as "challenging but rewarding". They all recommend the competition to Imperial students. Despite the amount of work that is necessary, the journey is enriching, and you get to visit BP's London offices.

Emma Judge, Head of Graduate Resourcing at BP, said: "Submissions for this year's UFT have been better than ever and it's great to see Imperial College London making it though to the Grand Final. We wish Edward Courtneil, Stephen Rose and Dominik Sznajder the very best of luck and we're looking forward to seeing them again on the 8th March in London. It's going to be a great night, and they have the extra bonus this year of meeting the science man of the moment, Dara O Briain!"

The next step is to produce and edit a video and a pitch, which they will present to BP officials, judges and a press-corps on March 8th, 2013. They will be working with a professional editing company and BP experts to make sure everything is ready for the Final, which will take place in the Royal Institute of Great Britain.

Ipsos MORI stress security of NSS

» continued from the front page

where they are sitting in an exam. With this information, the only other piece to the puzzle that is needed is the day and month of birth; once this information is obtained, the NSS can be filled out. This can, of course, be found using some choice Facebook searching.

All of this leads to the possibility of fraud, as well as someone being able to build a programme that fills out the survey on behalf of many students.

Felix contacted Ipsos MORI, who conducts the survey. Sami Benyahai, Director of Higher Education Research, responded that they have multiple safe guards in place. Benyahai said: "Surveys submitted are once again checked electronically and where needed manually. Where there is doubt about the identify of a

respondent the interview is rejected. We send email confirmations to respondents to their university emails. We collect IP addresses, monitor response rates and response patterns. We work closely with institutions and students' union[s]."

To complete the NSS, a student must put in their CID, the first letter of their first name, the first four letters of their last name, and the day and month of their birth.

Research councils dictate that the College must take part in the NSS, and a failure to get a certain number of replies leads to the result being void. This affects the standing of Imperial College London in the league tables. The NSS is still going on, and students who have not filled it out yet will start receiving calls.

Felix also contacted the Business School, but is yet to hear back, as the story only came in very late.

Sponsored Editorial

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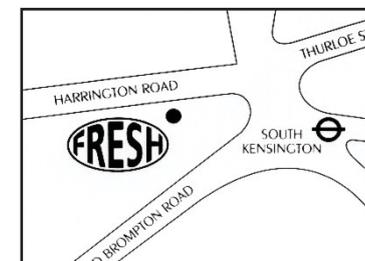
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Royal Institution forced to sell home

Give us your foookin' money, says Sir Richard Sykes

Eoghan J Totten Reporter

The Royal Institution (RI), one of the chief catalysts for the development of British science, has put its Mayfair residence on the market in an effort to overwrite mounting debts. Sir Richard Sykes, the current Chairman and former Rector of Imperial College London, has had to take swift action to remedy institutional losses. These were in excess of £600,000 in the 2012 academic year.

This figure is dwarfed by the staggering £2.6 million of losses incurred in 2010, mainly due to an expensive renovation of the building.

The priority has been identified as the generation of short-term cash flow. In a recently published article in *The Guardian* Sir Richard Sykes identified the urgent need to replenish the organisation's endowment by £7.5 million; however there have been insufficient acts of philanthropy thus far, with Sir Richard saying: "Support and offers of help for the Royal Institution

have been welcome, but must now be converted into action – and income."

Many believe that the repercussions would extend far beyond the inconvenience of having to move premises. As cited by Lisa Jardine, a former RI trustee and professor of Renaissance Studies at University College London,

"We're going to lose the [scientific] equivalent of Shakespeare's Globe." Many would agree, arguing that the RI is representative of the affinity between science and society; the two are inextricably linked. It cannot be denied that scientific discovery has always been fuelled, first and foremost, by research and hypothesis. In spite of this many believe that without passion few scientists would have persevered in order to reach closure in their field of work. The Christmas Lectures, facilitated by the RI, are perfect evidence of this, with recent success boosting viewing figures to four million in the UK, opening science to a wider audience.

Some are concerned that the ambience created by the RI "brand" could

die with the sale of the premises. For scientific research to continue to grow it must have new recruits; the Royal Institution is frequently identified as a key life-line for this. In this spirit highly regarded figures of the British Scientific community have united to fight for the RI's cause. Robert Winston of Imperial College London currently chairs the recently established Future Direction Committee. Their cause is bolstered by the public support of prominent physicists Brian Cox and Jim Al-Khalili. The latter has commented that, "It seems crazy that at a time when science and science communication is riding a wave of popularity not seen for generations, we hear that the very epitome of a British scientific institution is under threat."

It is clear to see that the controversy extends beyond the financial difficulties faced by the Royal Institution, extending right to the heart of British scientific legacy.

Sir Richard Sykes believes that the current issue could help to initiate the process of science being heavily in the



public eye, saying: "In my opinion, this is our opportunity to create a national strategy for science communication, advocacy and public engagement if we want Britain to be the best place in the

world to do science." Questions will still remain over whether mismanagement has occurred. For now, the building is still up for sale unless funds are found from another source.

College to be pressured to explain the decision

» continued from the front page

the campaign run by students to save the TSU; the second was that regardless of the outcome of the current consultation, the Union wants the College to say why the TSU is being closed and how the students will be supported. The first motion received 21 votes for, 4 votes against and 8 abstentions; the motion was therefore passed. The second motion also passed. Hence, the Union will be supporting the TSU students in their campaign to save the TSU.

The paper was presented by representatives of the TSU and the discussion was lengthy. The Management Board, who are a decision making body composed of senior staff at Imperial College London, made the decision to close or rehouse the Unit. The reason for the decision is unclear to students, who have been informed that the teaching quality is "high" in the department and has been evaluated as an "excellent" department by other universities. Furthermore, the TSU is a profitable department. Without proper supervision in place, there could also be implications for PhD students outside the TSU as students from other departments also use the TSU to translate papers. The MSc offered by the department is the only Masters

programme in the UK that focuses on translation within "scientific, technical and medical" areas.

The debate started with Michael Foster, Council Chair, reminded everyone "the effect on current students" is what can be discussed, and the impact to future students or staff is not the remit of the Council. The representatives of the TSU commented that they do not know how they will be able to continue without supervisors, College responded that this has not been decided yet. Other comments made by the TSU include the fact that the decision about Strategy was before a big strategic review. It was then the suggested the student input that is being asked for in a survey about strategy for Education and Student experience has no use, as the decision to close the TSU has already been passed.

A TSU representative also commented that their degree was devalued as a result of this, putting their careers in jeopardy and exposing them to the risk of losing their scholarships. Paul Beaumont, Union President, said there were "no facts" to back this up. Additionally, the TSU commented it "Seems like Debra [Humphris, Pro-Rector (Education)] has given us no options". The representatives also said that they believed that it is "irresponsible to do a consultation now and not in the sum-

Imperial College London



mer before [the College] enrolled us".

During the meeting it was also noted that History of Science, which was also moved, had a similar situation, where they were not given much information and moved without much consultation. However, that issue was never brought to Council.

Becky Lane, Deputy President (Welfare), cited the possibility of an unknown strategy and said that she "very strongly thinks forward planning and financial reasons" are the reason.

On the 18 December 2012, the Head of the TSU was informed "that the College Management Board has decided that TSU activities are not considered core to College strategy and that the Unit should be transferred to another

institution. If this solution is not feasible then consideration will be given to discontinuing translation studies from the 1st October 2013." Staff and students were also informed that there will be a 30 day consultation period for the staff from 18 January.

The TSU currently accommodates 96 students; 50 are MSc students, 22 are PhDs, 16 are UCL students and 6 are undergraduates.

The online petition has received over 6000 signatures, but more are still needed. The support has been on a Global level. Irene Ranzato, an English Translation teacher at Sapienza University in Rome commented that the TSU at Imperial "is considered by teachers, researchers and students

alike a fundamental point of reference for our studies. For those who study Linguistics and Translation, Imperial College is synonymous with Translation Studies." Gianluigi Desogus, from Portugal enrolled in 2001, the year the MSc was launched; she said "I've been working in translation ever since, initially in-house and as a freelancer later. I couldn't have done it without the skills I picked up thanks to this excellent course. I'd be extremely sad to see the MSc leave Imperial College's exciting environment. Please reconsider your decision!" There has also been support from across the Atlantic, Sonia Murray from California emphasised "scientific progress is essential to the well-being of humans everywhere, but communicating the impact of discoveries in a way that is easily grasped by the public at large is often difficult for scientists, even in their own language. The ability to transmit new knowledge is a critical ingredient of humanity's progress. We need translators with a focus on technical and scientific areas to ensure the transmission of accurate scientific information, which has the power to generate new discoveries."

College have no updates on the situation until the end of the consultation period.

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

NEWS

Union Council votes for access to medicines paper, despite no sabbatical officer voting for it

Zara Hason

Reporter

The motion 'Imperial College Union Access to Medicines Policy' was proposed to the Union Council on Tuesday by ICSMSU President Shiv Vohra and seconded by Kush Nake. The motion was passed. In brief, this motion was proposed in order for the Union to actively campaign to persuade Imperial College to sign the Global Access Licensing Framework. This enables affordable versions of research developed medicine to be made available in medical resource-limited countries. This framework was published by the international student-led organisation Universities Allied for Essential Medicines under the guidance of various experts.

The same motion was proposed last year in December 2012 and was not approved because of insufficient Council members voting in favour. This time round, 24 Council members voted in favour, which meant it passed. All sabbatical officers abstained from voting or voted against. When asked, Paul Beaumont, Union President, replied: "I voted against the motion because I believe the Union Council should base decisions only on something that has been fully researched. No-one knows what the impact of the proposal would have on College finances (as was admitted by the author in the meeting), and therefore on students should the College implement the framework."

The motion provided the following statistics and information. A third of the world's population lack access to essential medicines and each year, 10 mil-



lion people die from treatable diseases. 10% of funded research on medicine is spent on health problems that affect 90% of the world's population, the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Industry is increasingly relying on academia for new drug targets because universities are an important source of new medicines and drug targets. Presently, Imperial College develops and patents many of its healthcare-related technologies, which are licensed to members of the pharmaceutical industry. This makes it difficult for medicine to be produced inexpensively. Universities including Oxford, Harvard and Yale have had important roles in increasing access to needed medicines by implementing Global Access Licensing Policies and have not seen a negative impact on licensing nor profits. Generic pharmaceutical production has been shown to be the most effective method of ensuring access to resource limited countries by reducing prices of medicine as a result of competition. If Imperial College avoids patenting healthcare-related technologies, there

is an increased opportunity for prices of medicine to be made affordable to those who need them.

The motion put forward on Tuesday believes that the products of publicly funded research should be made available to all members of all societies and that research value should be measured on the impact it makes on society. Furthermore, the motion believes that Imperial College students should be encouraged to learn about and consider a research career in the field of the diseases that affect 90% of the world's population.

Imperial College Union resolves to actively campaign for Imperial College to sign onto the Global Access Licensing Framework. The Union also resolves to support inclusion of neglected diseases topics on all relevant course curriculums, particularly those in the Department of Life Sciences and Faculty of Medicine and to encourage UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme) projects on NTDs.

>> Editorial, page 2

Transport survey drives in

Yulia Negreskul

Reporter

As a scientific institution with intense research into energy and climate change, Imperial says it doesn't take these matters lightly and realises that its everyday activities and operations have a negative impact on the environment and carbon footprint, in particular. Along with other attempts to increase sustainability such as university wide StepChange campaign, which aims to reduce College's footprint by 20% by 2014, another measure, launched by Department of Energy and Environment, is coming – annual travel survey, which, in addition to staff, also covers students this year.

The aim of the survey is to assess how student and staff members commute to and from College and it comprises many aspects, including expens-

es, means such as public transport and walking, as well as how long it takes. This year there is a particular focus on a new bike-hiring scheme, which Imperial is planning to introduce, if it proves to be popular. It also looks at other potential improvements that will encourage more people to cycle. According to Sara Muir, the staff survey last year



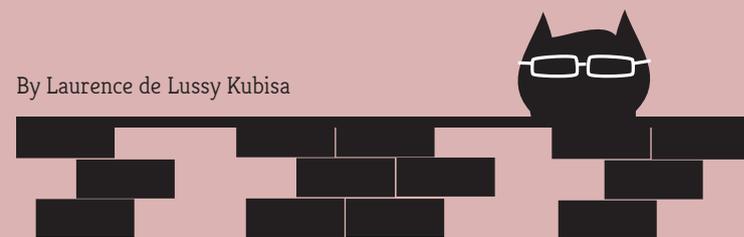
showed that people wanted bigger and more secure bike parking and some of these changes have been made as a result. She also notes: "It'll be interesting to find out when we repeat the survey this year if more people are cycling that reported last year."

The results of the survey will help to determine how successful current travel initiatives are and to further improve sustainability in future years. For example, last year's survey showed that Silwood Park is the most difficult site to get to and now Imperial is looking into setting up an online car share website to improve it. Moreover, not only the results of the survey will help to improve the College's own

THE WORLD BEYOND COLLEGE WALLS

There is a world beyond South Kensington...

By Laurence de Lussy Kubisa



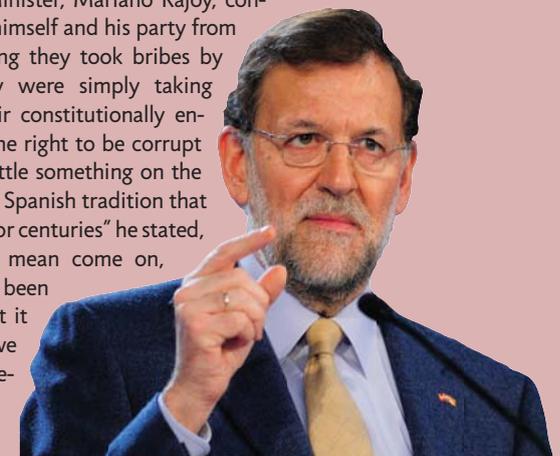
Pope resigns to spend more time with grandchildren

Citing declining health and a desire to "see the grandkids more" Pope Benedict XVI has resigned from his position as God's representative on earth. In a statement, God said he was "disappointed, but not as much as when Jean-Paul II died" and that Benedict XVI was "a hard act to follow, but ultimately not irreplaceable like that Jean-Paul II – man was he a good Pope".



Spanish Prime Minister corruptly defends right to corrupt system

Spanish Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, continues to defend himself and his party from allegations claiming they took bribes by stating that they were simply taking advantage of their constitutionally enshrined rights. "The right to be corrupt and to accept a little something on the side is a long-held Spanish tradition that has been around for centuries" he stated, before adding "I mean come on, we would have been more subtle about it had we thought we were doing some-



UN states it is no longer possible to isolate North Korea further

Following North Korea's latest nuclear tests, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon, has stated that North Korea is now "as isolated as it is possible to be on a globe". With all the UN member states now having slowly moved their populace's away from dictatorship, North Korea finds politically and physically isolated from the world. The UN will now, in all likelihood, resolve to make a motion to resolve to discuss the situation. Following discussions, loud tutting and suggesting North Korea sits on the naughty step are likely.



policies, they will also contribute to a bigger picture as they will be part of the Imperial's report to HEFCE, an organisation responsible for public funding of English universities, which will then feed into the Estates Management Statistics Survey from August 2013, which has been designed to help managers un-

derstand current state of affairs, as well as to promote best practice and drive improvement.

Lasting only 15 minutes to, Student Travel Survey is an opportunity not only to make a contribution to the reduction of carbon footprint but also to win a £100 Amazon voucher.

NEWS

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PhD students could get twelve month write up period

It is likely that PhD students will be getting their writeup period extended to twelve months for all Departments, it emerged on Tuesday 12 February.

Imperial College Union Council passed a paper that resolved to discuss the idea with key stakeholders and to lobby College. It was mentioned in Council that College are already for the idea, and so it seems unlikely to not work.

Currently, not all students get twelve months to write up their PhD after they complete their experiments. Some get six months, after which they lose access to College and the journal subscriptions. This is annoying for students and is why it is possibly changing.

Tim Arbabzadah

Heads of department extend their tenure

The Heads of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Electrical and Electronic Engineering have both accepted an extension of their roles.

Professor Andrew Livingston FEng has accepted an extension to his appointment as Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering to 30 September 2016. He has been Head of Department since 2008.

Professor Peter Cheung has accepted an extension of his appointment as Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, to 30 September 2015. Professor Cheung was first appointed Head of Department in 2008 and appointed Deputy Principal (Teaching) in the Faculty of Engineering in 2011.

Tim Arbabzadah

Education and Experience Survey to close on Tuesday 19 February

The Education and Student Experience Survey will be closing on Tuesday 19 February.

The survey is an anonymous way to tell the College your view on their future educational strategy. It is online and takes the form of a questionnaire with open text responses for students and staff to fill out with their thoughts on the education and student experi-

The survey can be filled out online here: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/educationoffice/strategy/students>

ence.

The survey is split up into four 'strategic objectives'. Each one relates to the educational and student experience at Imperial. There are examples that are deemed useful from other institutions around the world and data from within College is provided next

to the question.

An open meeting was held in Pippard Lecture Theatre in Sherfield at 17:00 on Thursday 14 February.

Staff and students are both invited to take part in the consultation. Professor Debra Humphris, Pro-Rector (Education), will be taking the data and creating a 'green paper' and finally a 'white paper'. This will then be taken to the Management Board and College Council before it can be put into practice and acted upon.

Paul Beaumont, Union President, and Sir Keith O'Nions, President & Rector, have both urged all to fill it out in as much depth as possible.

The survey can be filled out online here: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/educationoffice/strategy/students>

Any questions about the process can be referred to educationstrategy@imperial.ac.uk

Tim Arbabzadah

Kisses record confirmed

Sarah Greasley, an Imperial postgraduate student, has received her certificate for the new World Record. She managed a total of 127 kisses in the end.

The record was broken in Ethos by the Materials postgraduate student. She seems to be excited about the record.

Felix actually helped her by publishing an article last term about the record breaking attempt.

Sarah had previously broken three Guinness World Records: most sticky notes on a body, most CDs flipped and caught in one minute, and most champagne bottles opened in one minute. She had previously attempted the most kisses received in one minute record, however the record was discounted due to technicalities.

Tim Arbabzadah

Imperial College London

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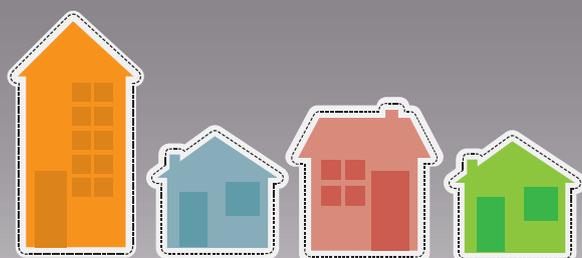
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- 18.00 Talk in the Great Hall
- 19.00 Exhibition continues with **a FREE prize draw to win an iPad mini!**

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News Editors: Aemun
Reza, Nida Mahmud
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NEWS

Charing Cross A&E Department saved

A&E Department to remain open after a U-Turn

Fulham Chronicle

Aemun Reza

News Editor

Plans to close the Accident and Emergency department of Charing Cross Hospital have been scrapped in a last minute decision. The original plan to downgrade Charing Cross Hospital has been changed so that the hospital will still have a 24/7 emergency service for those who make their own way to the A&E. More complicated emergencies, including blue light emergencies will be directed to specialist centres.

The final decision will be made by NHS North West London (NHS NWL) on February 19 but it is confirmed that the A&E unit will remain open. There will also be a £90 million cash injection to the hospital to help rebuild the site and will secure the future of the hospital.

Ealing, Hammersmith and Central Middlesex Hospital are expected to lose their A&E's as a part of the Shaping a Healthier Future programme that needs to save around £1 billion over the next three years as well as apparently aiming to improve standards.

However, the informal announcement by the Hammersmith & Fulham council was not seen as a major victory to the campaign groups. Campaign groups have said that this result is a 'second-best deal' and has fallen far short of their expectations.

They compare the deal to the one that Lewisham Hospital was given last week where its A&E was downgraded from category one to a category three unit.

Chair of the protest group, Carlo Nero, said: "If we're effectively being given the deal Lewisham was offered why should our local doctors be any less unhappy, and in some cases even outraged, than theirs?"

"It seems clear to me, having chaired this campaign since last June, that this is absolutely not the result that Save our Hospitals was set up to achieve, and that we should continue to campaign.

They believe that the 500 in-patient bed and 'blue-light' A&E will become somewhat of a cottage hospital with only 60 beds. The A&E usually treats 100,000 patients a year and has sepa-

rate funding for cancer, teaching and mental health specialist departments and a new community service role.

A spokesman for Save Hammersmith & Fulham hospitals said: "We welcome the news that NHS North West London seems to be prepared to listen at last to residents' concerns about its ill-thought out consultation plans to close four of the nine A&Es currently serving the area.

"However, until we see their actual proposal and read the small print we will continue to campaign for the preservation of full A&E services at both Charing Cross and Hammersmith hospitals."

Greg Hands, the Tory MP for Chelsea and Fulham said that "This is definitely a step in the right direction compared with what was originally proposed, which was to reduce Charing Cross to something like a tenth of its current size.

"But we need to see more details and compare this new plan not just with the worst case scenario but also with the status quo."

Hammersmith and Fulham coun-



cillor Marcus Ginn said: "The massive opposition from local people to the original proposals has forced NHS managers to rethink their plans.

"The £90m cash injection now proposed by the NHS would secure the hospital's future for generations to come and the top priority was always to save Charing Cross and the services so many of our residents rely on.

"In return, we have agreed to halt

our legal challenge to the NHS proposals as all but the most complex emergencies will continue to be treated at Charing Cross. We believe that we have secured the best possible deal for our residents."

Imperial College London were contacted for comment, however they had none until after the public meeting on the 19th February where all the details will be announced.

SOS Syria is underway

Nida Mahmud on the items collect and #getinvolved

There has been a fantastic response to the student lead initiative, Action Syria, raising awareness about the situation in Syria at Imperial College. The turmoil in Syria has become dramatically worse over the last two years. The situation in Syria is typically reported as political issue in the headlines; however, the focus of Action Syria has been solely on the humanitarian side.

The President of the Islamic Society at Imperial, Usman Siddiqui said "The interest and concern shown by many students for those suffering thousands of miles away has been really uplifting, as living in Central London many neighbours do not even look out for each other."

Last Tuesday, the Keynote lecture on Syria was held at Imperial. The speakers included Iman Murphy, a business woman, mother and an aid worker for the charity "Hand in Hand Syria"; Dr. Mahmoud Akraa, a medical doctor who has treated injured people in Syria; and Shafiu Amin the founder for Students4Syria. They all delivered

emotional speeches, speaking about their experience in Syria as well as motivating the attendees to participate and make a difference.

Iman Murphy kindly gave Felix a quote as to why students should donate "we share the same sky, live in the same world; regardless of age, creed and gender we have a responsibility. For what it

would cost you to buy a pair of shoes enough to feed a family in Syria for a month."

The good news is if you missed the lecture, don't worry you can still help out. As a major aspect of the campaign, there is an items collection for an aid convoy that will be leaving for Syria next weekend. This is an opportunity for you to directly make a difference to peo-

ple's lives! Old clothes will be used to generate funds and new ones will be sent to Syria. The Union is also helping and we have a drop off point at the Union reception. There are more details on the website.

One of the organisers commented "anyone can contribute, as students we tend to have a lot of little things that we rarely use or wear; this little will go a long way, it will provide them with hope and show the Syrian people that others in the world do care and do remember."

The Facebook page also mentions "When a similar collection was held in the Midlands, people cleaned, ironed, perfumed and wrapped the clothes before giving. Some people attached messages to the bags in the hope that those receiving would not feel hurt or inferior."

One of the students response to the campaign was "It's easy to feel powerless in the face of things that shock and upset us, yet instead of surrendering themselves to apathy a young group of Imperial students have built a campaign from nothing, it's very

impressive and has certainly inspired me."

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.

The suggested items are

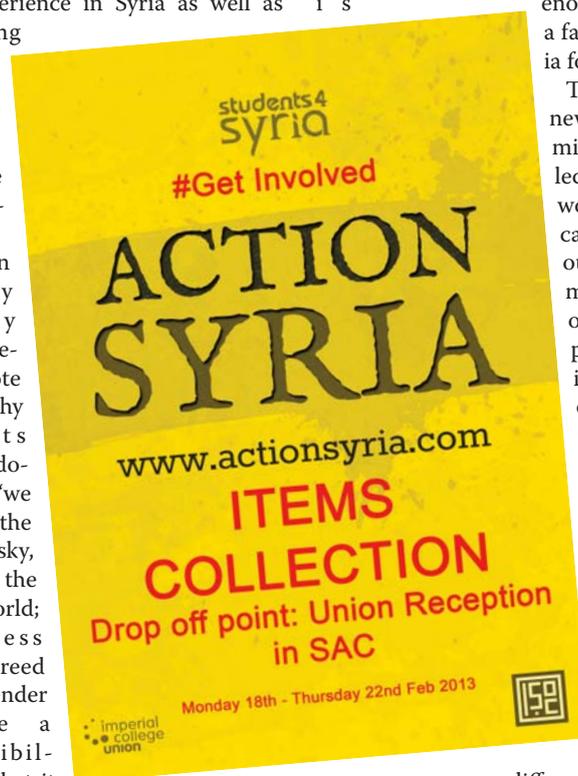
Medicine (high priority): Antibiotics, Insulin, Amlodipine, Atenolol, Ibuprofen, Colic remedy, Paracetamol, first aid kits.

Clothing: Blankets, sleeping bags, thermals, trousers, sweaters, socks, hijabs, hats, shoes, tights and all kind of clothes in good condition.

Toiletries: Sanitary towels, soap, nail clippers, combs, nappies, nappy cream, tampons

For children: toys, colouring books, pencils and crayons, children arabic books, Wellington boots

Make sure items are not expired, clean, and in good condition (used goods can still be sold to purchase life-saving medicine).





Newitt would be interesting

Caroline Wood finally enjoys a lecture at Imperial



Edward Davey MP,
Secretary of State
for Energy and
Climate Change

The annual Newitt Lecture, hosted by the Chemical Engineering department, was given by Edward Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on Wednesday evening. This was the first time that the lecture has been given by a politician – rather than a chemical engineer – a clear signal that the worlds of politics, science and engineering are becoming ever more entwined.

The title of the 2013 lecture was “The Energy Challenge; Technology and Solutions”. Mr Davey’s speech addressed key areas where engineering innovations could help support economic policies and lead to a greener economy.

Confessing that his Chemistry education ended at O-level, albeit with an A, Davey made no apologies about delivering a hearty political speech to an audience of engineers. Boldly, he set out what he believes to be the greatest challenge of our time: to power our

country and protect the planet.

In times of political volatility, where world power centres are shifting (by 2035 China and India together will be consuming 30% of the world’s energy) he noted two key realities. The first, that global energy demand will continue to be met by fossil fuels well beyond 2035 – despite only meeting 1/3 of global energy demand overall. And the second, that given this unpalatable practicality, the use of unabated CO₂ cannot continue.

The levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere are higher than at any point on the last 800,000 years, at least. With older records indicating that historic rises in CO₂ caused by volcanic eruptions led to acidification of oceans and extinction of marine wildlife the cost of not acting to mitigate and control climate change is too high. As Stern famously argues, the cost now is significant, but is far outweighed by the long term costs of inaction.

Davey illustrated the complexities of



Support act couldn't keep their attention



A lecture? Yay! We don't get enough of those around here...

“by 2035 China and India together will be consuming 30% of the world’s energy”

forming international climate agreements, and urged the students and professors in the audience to “not leave it to politicians”. Davey was insistent that the solutions to the impending climate challenges need to be met by a collaborative effort by society, with innovation, invention and engineering all playing a critical role.

A pragmatic 3-pronged approach suggested included saving energy through improving energy efficiency, lowering the cost of low carbon technologies, and investing broadly in research and development. All will no doubt be essential parts of the solution. However, Davey more ambitiously challenged the audience to focus their research efforts on 3 key emerging fields: Carbon Capture and Sequestration, Energy Storage and Hydrogen.

Given the continued use of fossil fuels for the foreseeable future is highly probable, improving Carbon Capture and Sequestration techniques will be crucial in ensuring global CO₂ levels don’t rise uncontrollably. Improved methods of energy storage could also be a game changer, with fly-wheels, batteries and electrolysis all noted as areas with potential for significant innovation. Hydrogen was the final area of research that Davey urged more engineers to consider. If it can be commercialised then hydrogen could be a viable component of our future energy mix.

Either way, the premise is the same. Carbon needs to be designed out of the power train. And there is still a huge gap between where we are and where we need to get to.

Davey’s final remarks were about how his experiences as a student led to his interest in climate change and the environment. He told the audience

how he extensively read books on the subject, such as Jonathon Porritt’s *Seeing Green*, and was also part of student ecology group at Oxford university before helping transform it into to more resolute ‘Green Action’ group.

The resounding message from this speech was that passion and politics alone will not be enough to address the climate problems we are facing. There needs to an unprecedented effort from governments, engineers, scientists and the rest of society if we are to truly surmount “the greatest challenge of our time”.

Many thanks to William Brown and Theodor Bergstrom for organising the event.

Newitt Lecture

The Newitt Lecture is an annual event given in the name of Dudley Newitt. Newitt was a keen Chemist from a young age and although his career was interrupted for a number of years due to the First World War, he later gained a Bachelors degree in chemistry from the Royal College of Science – now part of Imperial. He then went on to do a PhD and DSc before becoming a member of founding committee of the British Institution for Chemical Engineers and later being elected as president.

Newitt’s academic achievements continued, as he became a professor of chemical engineering and then the Head of the Depart-

ment of Chemical Engineering. He was largely responsible for the expansion and improvement of the department, and also helped to restructure the students’ union to better facilitate overseas students. As a result of this, he was elected as Pro-Rector of the College, a post he held until he retired in 1961.

Newitt was an extraordinary individual, advocating the use of diversity to solve problems. With this in mind, the topic of climate change seemed fitting for the 2013 lecture – a challenge that needs to be confronted not only by engineers and scientists, but society as a whole.

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

FEATURES

Have interfaith in dialogue

College Chaplain **Andrew Willson** urges a dialogue between faiths

It's a dialogue, not a debate". This declaration is the first point from the guidelines for interfaith discussion written by Imperial students. Debates can dramatise conflicting ideas but dialogue is as much about listening as it is about speaking. Debates are necessary when making public and democratic decisions. But debates rarely help us understand views that are radically different from our own. This is because beliefs, both religious and philosophical, are not just ideas. Beliefs are frequently rooted in complex identities. These can involve shared culture, social relationships and family networks. In addition beliefs often have a physical dimension – food customs, dress codes, and postures for prayer. And all of these will have an emotional component and be part of deep personal memories, values and expectations. This rich human experience cannot be explored in a debate over ideas. Dialogue partners do not seek agreement, and there is no winner. The challenge of dialogue is in exploring profound differences of view – and staying calm. The bonus, however, is that we discover the unique personal perspective of the other person. We also start to see how our beliefs, and very identity, are seen by others. This is not always a comfortable experience. It is far easier to stay with our

own assumptions, projections, and tribal fears than enter into dialogue.

At a conference at Yale last summer I listened to Eboo Patel, President Obama's Interfaith Advisor. Patel, a Muslim, is the Founder of the Interfaith Youth Core. This is a student led interfaith movement across US campuses promoting dialogue and social action. Patel was originally motivated by witnessing anti-Semitism and bullying in his high school. He has gone on to champion better relationships between people of different faiths, and now between those who are religious and those who are secular.

Patel argues "I started to see attitudes, knowledge, and relationships as three sides of a triangle. If you know some (accurate and positive) things about a religion, and you know some people from that religion, you are far more likely to have positive attitudes toward that tradition and that community. The more favourable your attitude, the more open you will be to new relationships and additional appreciative knowledge. A couple of cycles around this triangle, and people from different faiths are starting to smile at each other on the streets instead of looking away or crossing to the other side."

In the next few weeks there are a number of student led interfaith dialogues. On Tuesday 26 February (18:15

in Huxley 311) the Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association (AMSA), with the Chaplaincy, are hosting a Muslim-Christian dialogue about the origins of humanity using the story of Adam and Eve common to both traditions. This is followed by a series of three weekly lunchtime dialogue groups hosted by Aemun Reza, the Union's Inter-

faith Officer, starting on Wednesday 6 March (13:00 in Room 2, East Basement of Beit). The first topic for dialogue is 'I believe in...Science'.

A Jewish-Muslim Dialogue led by Jewish Society and AMSA is planned for 4th March. And finally, Islamic Society are hosting a discussion on "Freedom of Religion in Britain" with

representatives from the Catholic Society, and the Atheists, Secularists and Humanists Society on Tuesday 19 February (Huxley 311). Let the dialogues begin!

Details of all these events on Imperial Interfaith's Facebook page or www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy

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FELIX

An Imperial AMSA & IC Chaplaincy Interfaith Event

Who Was Adam?

A Muslim-Christian Dialogue on the Story of Adam

Adam - Evolution or Creationism?
Science & Religion,
The nature of morality,
The purpose of creation, and more...

Tuesday, 26th February 2013

6.15-7.45pm - Talks + Q&A Dialogue Session
7.45 - Open group Interfaith discussions (Refreshments provided)

AT

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Imperial College London, SW72AZ

Father Michel Le Piouff
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Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Association



Debating in French

French Society want you for some light reparté

While English language debating is already well established as a student activity in British universities (such as Imperial) and indeed in many universities across the world, French language debating has, until now, been completely non-existent, even in proudly Franco-phone institutions.

This year, however, French language debating societies "Révolte-Toi!" have been set up in both Paris and London with the express intention of promoting French culture and public dialogue. Until now, London events have exclusively taken place far, far away, on the distant and sombre campuses of UCL and the LSE. Next Monday – the 18th of February, this sorry situation is set to change – as it finally becomes Imperial's turn to play host to the latest of these meetings, which will be co-organised with Imperial's French society and will take place at 6pm in Huxley LT145.

The workshop is designed to be accessible to everyone – regardless of their level of French or previous experience of debating. It will consist of a brief introduction, followed by speaking games in French, and will finally conclude with a passionate – though hopefully friendly – debate between a few brave souls willing to stand up and speak in front of an audience! It will be a perfect opportunity to practice public speaking in French whilst discussing topics of fundamental interest to society.

Whether you are a native French speaker from the hip suburbs of Paris or someone who valiantly battled through GCSE French – there is bound to be something there to appeal to you.

« Révolte-Toi ! » vous donne rendez-vous lundi prochain, à 18h, dans la salle LT145 de Huxley Building!



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FELIX

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Condomed to obscurity?

Tim Arbabzadah doesn't want a spray on condom

Condoms have been around for quite a while now, allowing men all around the world to awkwardly fumble and pretend they know what they're doing. The design has actually been pretty similar for over 50 years. The reason being that latex condoms are cheap and pretty easy to make, use, discard (discretely), and are thin enough for a transferred sensation to occur. A staggering ten billion condoms were used in 2005 (with probably only two million being used by Silvio Berlusconi). It's predicted that 27 billion condoms

will be used in 2015. Suggesting that the population is either growing rapidly, or just becoming a lot hornier. Possibly a combination of both.

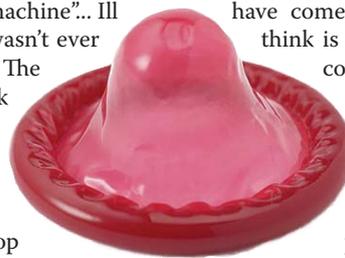
Every area has someone that wants to come in and shake things up. No pun intended there. These have taken many forms, from female condoms to some slightly stranger inventions. One guy, Jan Vinzenz Krause, invented a spray on latex condom. The trial didn't go too well: all of the volunteers didn't want to take part once they knew what it would involve. That would be a pretty awkward study to be part of. "So, what, I take a tablet everyday that may

be real or a placebo and then track how I am feeling?" "Erm, not exactly. Take off all your clothes while I get the condom spraying machine"... Ill fated tests aside, this wasn't ever going to be a winner. The reason being that it took three minutes for the condom to dry. Maybe I'm wrong, but I think it may ruin the mood a bit if you have to stop proceedings and say: "hang on, I'm going to spray latex on my penis and then wait for three minutes for it to dry. Watch out, just incase the latex

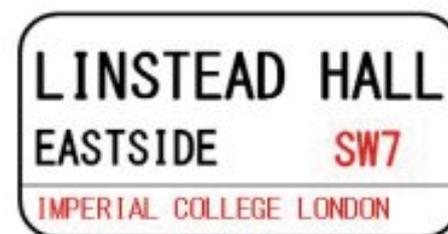
drips on your bed."

Recently, as reported in a feature in the *New Scientist*, two designers have come up with what they think is the next big thing in condom design (oh so many puns there). Danny Resnic and Ray Chavez have decided that making a condom with pleasure as the focus would make men more inclined to use them. They used silicone, not latex, and they 'fold' on rather than roll on; this means there are tex-

tures and ridges, which they say make it a hybrid condom/sex toy. They've also made the chamber where semen is stored a lock that is one way. They have held a trial where volunteers used them by themselves. You read that right. They gave people a condom, a room, and free reign on the internet. That's another slightly odd and awkward study to be included in and/or conduct. The results were all positive, but given what they were asking them to do, I'm fairly sure that they would say it was okay no matter what. Will this be the future of condoms, or condomed to a mere curiosity?



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Science Editors: Philip Kent,
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science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

SCIENCE

Electricity and Bubbles

Pavitar Devgon asks what ever could go wrong...

Blowing bubbles from soapy water has been a favourite past time for all of us. Struggling as we try to catch them before the breeze takes them higher and higher provided us with hours of delight. We never gave a thought to the physics behind it, because, well, that would ruin the fun.

Bubbles usually do not last for too long, and if we had restrained ourselves enough, we would have seen them pulled back under gravity by their own weight. It's true, bubbles do have a mass (a very small one at that). Bubbles are a good example of nanofluids; fluids with a thickness of the order of nanometres. Research has been going on in the area of microfluids and nanofluids, with the challenge of driving flows through ever smaller channels.

A research group from the University of Lyon have looked into the elec-

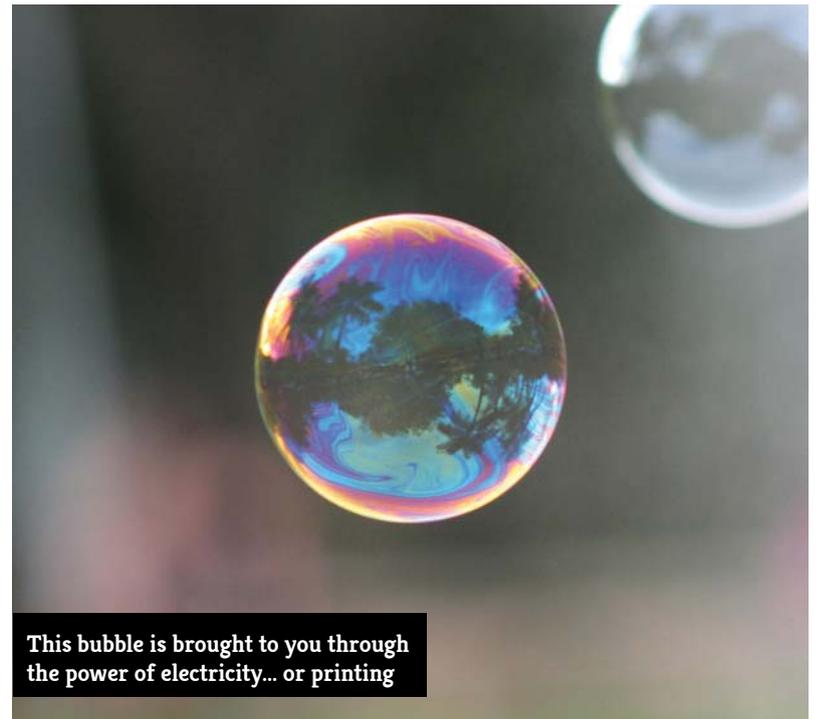
trokinetic properties of soft, deformable nanofluids, with some surprising results. Soap films were the fluid of choice for the team because they are easy to produce, nanometres thick and are a perfect balance between liquid pressure and surface tension. The experiment consisted of balancing a cylinder of the fluid between two platinum coated glass electrodes. The film is protected from evaporation by hermetically sealing in a water saturated atmosphere.

Applying a small potential difference between the closely spaced electrodes (5.5mm) caused a large electric field to be created within the bubble, altering its thickness and flow rate. Before passing a current through it, the film's thickness and conductance is recorded, and once energised, the conductance to a plateau after around 100s, due to the conducting surface becoming saturated. This provided a calibration method to infer the thick-

ness of the fluid from its conductivity.

The second stage was to swap the AC supply for a constant DC one, in the same direction as gravity. The result was a net movement of fluid from bottom to top, against the pull of gravity, a phenomenon known as electro-osmosis. Interestingly, a change in colour in the bubble was observed when the electric field was changed rapidly, as the film's walls fattened quickly. By solving the resulting equations, taking into account gravitational, electrical and viscous forces, the team concluded that the thickness of the bubble is formed in equilibrium from the electricity and capillary suction. The team also note: "Adapting this study to a real foam structure with films, nodes, and plateau borders is a great challenge in order to use this phenomenon in real systems."

So, spare a thought for this subtle balancing act next time you see a lonely bubble floating in the sky.



This bubble is brought to you through the power of electricity... or printing

You met the Deskjet, now meet the Drugjet

Philip Kent

Science Editor

Everyone has heard of the inkjet printer, you probably have one yourself. However, one application of the venerable office supply you haven't heard of is printing drugs, recently developed at the UCL School of Pharmacy.

An inkjet printer works by delivering small droplets of ink onto the page, controlled via an electrical signal. In most inkjet printers a thermal technique is used: heat vapourizes ink, which is then delivered onto the page and dried. A mixture of the colours (and black) are used to produce the desired output on page.

In this development, the same thermal process has been used to deliver the drug carbamazepine, a medication often prescribed to people suffering from epilepsy.

The original synthetic method for this drug involves delivery of a tiny amount of the drug. When deposited, the drug evaporates and crystallises almost immediately, producing the desired compound.

In this new technique, the same method is used, but an inkjet printer is used to precisely control drug delivery. This makes use of the fine control that inkjet cartridges have when deploying ink, with many inkjet printers capable of printing to 1,200 dpi.

The main advantage of using printers is their ease of conversion to print-



The new drug baron? Stringer Bell better watch out...

ing drugs, which also has the desirable quality of being cheap to do. A good quantity of crystallisation has also been reported, with even better yields

being achieved when multiple passes have been used.

This development is not completely without its flaws, however, with cer-

tain solvents having the potential to wreck havoc with the cartridge material. Common solvents used, water and water/ethanol mixtures, are fine,

however other commonly used solvents may cause more trouble.

DOI: 10.1039/c2ce26519b



Posing the Question: In or Out?

Silvia Davey asks what UK citizens should consider come referendum time

“I really hope that the United Kingdom pulls out of the European Union and that the Euro collapses – I could definitely do with a cheaper holiday somewhere nice and sunny in Europe...” was the conclusion to a ranting monologue I was faced with during a taxi ride back home one evening.

Little did this loquacious driver know that he was talking to an Italian whom, having being brought up in Brussels, is a strong believer in the economical and social benefits that the Union brings to its 27 members. With no intention of arguing back I got out of the cab and decided that the slightly angering experience might one day serve me as a funny anecdote, representative of the opinion of a contained minority.

Two years spent in the United Kingdom have made me understand that I was delusional in thinking of a minority: even PM David Cameron – spokesman of Britain’s population – is proposing the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. The speech he delivered a couple of weeks ago on the future of the United Kingdom within the European Union made me positively concerned: he proposes a simple in-out referendum, in which the decision of whether the United Kingdom shall pull out of the

European Union lies in the hands of the British public.

The promised referendum would be held only if he’s voted back into power as he claims that “a vote today (...) would be an entirely false choice”. He wants to give the EU enough time to emerge from the Eurozone crisis, allowing the UK to negotiate a new settlement that, using Nick Clegg’s words, would “benefit us and disadvantage everyone else”.

The depressing conclusion of it all: the United Kingdom could well not be part of the European Union by 2015, being the first country to leave the EU since its creation. What would the UK lose and what would it gain by renouncing its position as a member within the European Union? Britain has been part of the EU’s single market for 30 years: although it is not in the single currency (Eurozone) and is not part of the Schengen Agreement (the removal of physical borders within the member countries), it still benefits from the free movement of goods, capital, services and people within the member countries. The so called “Four Freedoms”, things that have generally greatly benefitted Britain’s economy.

Sure, Britain likes to be “an independent island nation” and often feels weighed down by the at times inflexible EU legislation but by being member it takes part in all legislative

decisions, a power it would lose once out of the EU. Europe is the main destination of UK trade: once out of the EU, and with the right to the Four Freedoms lost, trade with European countries would become more intricate and complicated, posing a serious economical threat to the country.

In addition, by leaving such an organization, the UK would be renouncing a great amount of power and influence in the world that it probably wouldn’t manage to have alone. Would the promised future freedom actually be worth it?

These are only a few of the numerous issues that every elector (including myself, as I am a British citizen) will have to consider once the referendum is proposed. It is important that the future large-scale consequences are properly understood so as to not to solely

The depressing conclusion of it all: the United Kingdom could well not be part of the European Union by 2015, being the first country to leave the EU since its creation.

have the more direct and short-term personal gains influencing the voter’s opinions.

To the taxi driver who might for some odd reason be reading this article, have you ever thought that if

the United Kingdom were to leave the European Union you might be faced with a lack of European workers and tourists to drive around the streets of London, potentially losing your biggest clientele?

Politics Précis

News in brief from around the world

NHS Advice Watered Down

Allegations of Prince Charles lobbying MPs through private letters refuse to go away, with the refusal to release the text of his communications only fuelling speculation.

The latest set of revelations concern the Prince’s enthusiasm for the alternative treatment ‘Homeopathy’. Despite the fact that there is no scientific evidence for the efficacy of these treatments, they are in some cases available through the NHS. The government ‘NHS Choices’ website, designed to inform the public about available treatments, offers only indirect criticism.

It has now emerged that a charity set-up by Charles lobbied the Department of Health to alter the text of the NHS Choices guidance on Homeopathy. The initial draft stressed the lack of scientific evidence, saying: “Furthermore, if the principles of homeopathy were true it would violate all the existing theories of science that we make use of today; not just our theory of medicine, but also chemistry, biology and physics.”

But writer David Mattin has since resigned, stating that the government had “sold out the NHS Choices editorial team” and “failed the public.”

Released documents show someone in the department asked Mattin’s references to a House

of Commons report stating that Homeopathy is no more effective than a placebo be removed as they are “contentious” and “may well be subject to challenge from the Homeopathic community”.

Possibility of Talks in Syria

The leader of the opposition Syrian National Council, Moaz al-Khatib, is due to visit Moscow soon, amid the possibility of talks between the opposition leaders and the Assad regime. It’s rumoured al-Khatib will meet regime Foreign Minister Walid Muallem while they are both in the city, though Muallem has stated that any negotiations should take place on “Syrian Soil.”

It is hoped that the two groups may be able to agree to talks leading to “Free and fair parliamentary elections”, but the issue of Assad’s refusal to step down remains.

Meanwhile, fighting continues across the country, with the regime recently launching a series of attacks on steadily encroaching rebel forces in Damascus. The retaliation is described as a “major engagement”, as the government tries to hold on to the Syrian capital.

There is also a profound fear that this conflict could spill across regional borders, following the Israeli air strike on a Syrian ‘Research Facility’ and rumours of Iran co-ordinating with Assad’.

Violence in Bahrain

On the second anniversary of protests against the government in Bahrain, the streets were once again the scene of clashes between police and protestors.

The police deployed tear gas and bird shot to try and break up opposition rallies and protests, following on from the death of a protestor at the hands of security forces.

The protests come amid the opening of a political dialogue between the current government and opposition party al-Wefaq. The aim is to turn Bahrain into a constitutional monarchy with an elected Prime Minister, and al-Wefaq have demanded that the drafted reforms be put to the people in a referendum rather than submitted to the King for approval.

However, a former member of the Bahraini parliament has insisted that talks must result in real change, as there is a risk they will be nothing more than a PR exercise by the current government.

Ali Aswad warned that the government will try to frame the protests as minority and sectarian, despite the fact that as much as half of the protestors are from the Sunni majority.

The previous protests were quashed once they demanded democratic reforms.

Padraic Calpin Politics Editor



“Hopefully this’ll keep those UKIP sods off my back...”

Alex Folkes

What's new at the Union? Find out in our quarterly Impact Report

Over the last three months, the Union has been working hard to build on previous successes and to improve services to our members. Our latest quarterly Impact Report shares some of the work and activity we've done since November 2012 to January 2013.

This includes:

- working on a new NSS Response and updating on recommendations from last year;
- passing a number of policies through Union Council on topics including International Students' Fees and Imperial Horizons;
- our President attending a trip abroad to visit Alumni in India;
- our new initiative, 'Your Campaigns', our callout for new campaigns; and
- launching the National Student Survey for final years (more details about its progress is below).

To see the Impact Report for our last quarter, visit:

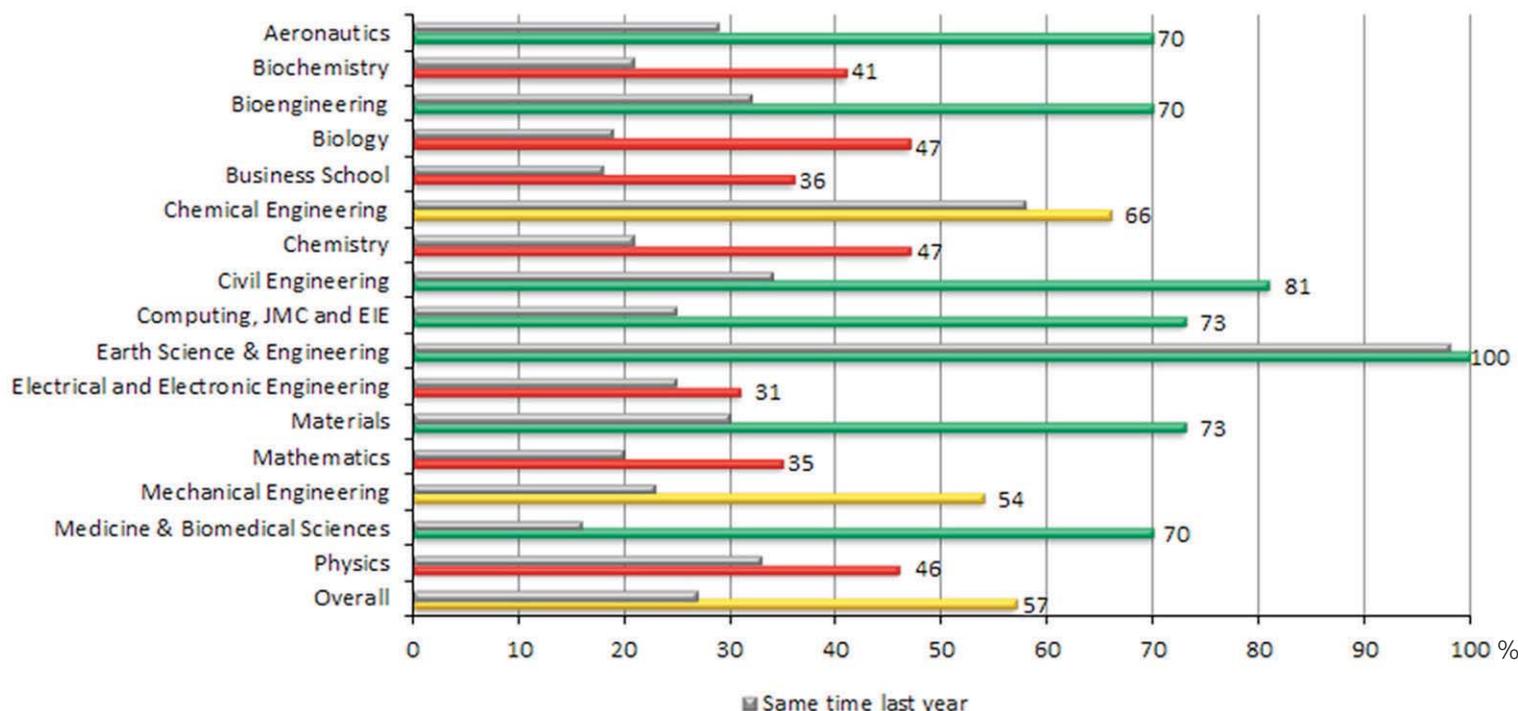
imperialcollegeunion.org/impact-quarterly



NSS - the response so far

On 13 February we had the highest participation rate in the country for all the higher education institutions who started the NSS on the 14 January. However, every subject needs a 50% participation rate for the data to be used and the subjects in red have not achieved this. So, if you are a final year who hasn't filled it in please go to www.thestudentsurvey.com and when filling it in remember to not be neutral.

National Student Survey Participation Rates on 13/02/13



Doug Hunt

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

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



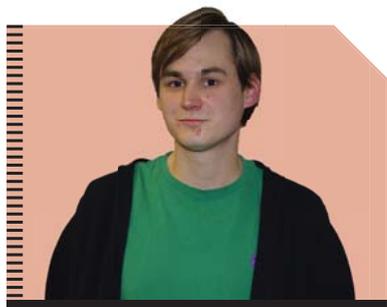
COMMENT

Comment Editors: George Barnett,
Navid Nabijou, James Simpson
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Dr. Strangelove: or why I just really love finance, not salary

Ross Gray provides a retort to last week's article about banking



Ross Gray

Following last week's article in Felix, and what I perceive to be a generally anti-finance attitude amongst Imperial undergraduates – you may think said attitude doesn't exist, but I can assure you I have had to defend my career choices many times – I decided to take it upon myself to fight the corner of investment banking. If you've never read Leveraged Sell Out, this will probably be the most pro-banking piece you've ever encountered.

To me, the draw to finance was never really about money. I do agree with Billing's points about the culture, but I think it's painted a little too extreme. My own experience within investment banking is that while this culture of excess and living far outside your means exists, it's certainly not the case for everybody. I would say that far from people being ridiculed for frugality as you might imagine would happen, the most irresponsible spenders are sometimes viewed in a negative light by some of their colleagues. Sure, there's a lot of money flying around, but in the places I know well, I can't think of a single person who is 10x leveraged. I have to admit that this is likely to be more common in the senior ranks, as people try to maintain their three cars, huge rent payments, private school for their kids and so on, but certainly for the analysts (who make up most of the 'culture' of the firm you'll really see as an intern or recent graduate), even 0.2-0.3x leverage would be quite extreme. Many do start hitting the credit cards as bonus season approaches, which is obviously a dreadful idea from the viewpoint of fiscal responsibility, but this is usually as bad as it gets. The big spenders live lavishly, but within their (substantial) means.

Regardless of this, I do not believe anyone who will end up getting a return offer from their internship, or more definitively, not get axed in their first two years, is driven solely by money. When you realise at 3am that all the assumptions driving your model are wrong and that it's pretty unlikely you're going to sleep tonight, it's not the thought of that bonus in a year that keeps you going. It's a passion for what you do, and the huge sense of responsibility on your shoulders.

One of the strongest reasons for

me to pursue a career in investment banking is the sheer level of responsibility given to an analyst. Let's face it, in every graduate scheme you're going to be doing the most boring work in the organisation for at least two or three years; as far as I'm aware, there's no magical job that lets you immediately start running accounts or deals, or making important decisions (except your own business of course). The difference between banking and some of these other jobs is that while you may be the bottom of the ladder, and occasionally feel underappreciated, you're still absolutely key to the deal. It's likely that you built the valuation (an important part of the service offered in investment banking) completely from scratch with little help or outside intervention and nobody, not even the people more senior than you, understands it as well as you do. You might be doing the Excel work instead of brokering the deal and being involved in high pressure negotiations, but this work is still absolutely critical to the deal closing. If your model is wrong somehow on a live deal, this could not only lead to the complete collapse of the deal but potential lawsuits and scandals. I can't think of many other career paths where someone could derail a transaction worth billions of dollars in their first year.

I think a common problem for those trying to consider the mindset of those of us who choose this career path is that they don't understand that to us, this is not boring. I can't speak for every undergraduate with an internship, but I can assure you, mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buy outs, hostile takeovers and issues of corporate governance are infinitely



Aaniya Ahmed

When you realise at 3am... that it's pretty unlikely you're going to sleep tonight, it's not the thought of that bonus in a year that keeps you going

more interesting to me than plasma physics or synthetic chemistry.

I didn't have my heart set on physics then get to university and think "Wait, instead of doing something I love for not very much money, I can do something I absolutely despise for 100 hours a week for a good salary and a hefty bonus? Sign me up!" To me, the reasons to do banking seem analogous to those for coming to Imperial. Why did most people come here specifically, instead of, say, a slightly less respected university where they wouldn't be worked to death? We want to learn as much as possible. We want the best exit opportunities afterwards. Why are we willing to work so intensely to achieve these goals? Perhaps it's because regardless of where we're going afterwards, most of us are still, or were at some stage, incredibly passionate about our subject. Perhaps we just love working hard in general. So next time you go to ridicule your friend for being a sell-out when they text you from their desk at 5am, think

through why they might be there.

Nobody is claiming that finance is some magical land where you'll be perpetually happy and there are no problems at all. Every path has its difficulties and its victories, and in finance these moments tend to be rather bipolar, with the worst moments being utterly dreadful, but the best moments being some of the most satisfying I have experienced. At the very core of it, that's why, despite rarely leaving the office before 1am, being perpetually tired, often ill, and sometimes a little downtrodden, I still remain passionate about investment banking and look forward to starting my full time job in the summer. If you can't understand this at all, then follow Mr. Billing's advice: please do not go into finance, you will hate it. But if this means anything to you, in some weird way you love it when you're forced to pull an all-nighter for a lab report, then forget the money and put some serious consideration into a career in finance.

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COMMENT

A European Citizenship

In the first of two articles about our friends from across the Channel, **Leonardo Ialongo** lays out the case for European integration



Leonardo Ialongo

For an outsider to European politics, or indeed politics in general, it can often be difficult to understand the need for the European Union. Of course it helped maintain peace, but was war really possible after the atrocities of the Second World War? Although the common market was a good and necessary step, why do we need such a powerful body to regulate and limit our national sovereignty? Not to mention the incredible amount of money we have to 'donate' to other countries because they cannot manage their economy well. All reasonable objections, except they happen to be slightly false, or at least misguided.

The first myth, although probably the least controversial, is that war was not possible after the Second World War. This always reminds me of the famous H. G. Wells quote "the war to end war", referring to the First World War. Many in fact believed that after the horrors of the Great War, no country would be insane enough to once again start the race to arms. However it did happen, and not because Hitler was a madman, but because the war left behind poverty and resentment, sparking the rise of nationalism once again. The ECC and then the EU have brought countries closer together, allowing for the sorrows of the war to be a shared tragedy and responsibility. If after World War II the Marshall Plan and the ECC had not set the conditions for growth and intergovernmental relation, war might have not been such a remote possibility.

If you believe that the EU had done a good job protecting peace, you might still question why, for example, British nationals have to pay higher taxes to rescue countries that did not manage their national budget well. Very often in fact, when discussing the Euro-crisis, conservative politicians in Britain, and other 'rich' countries such as Germany, complain about the fact that their taxpayers will be burdened by other people's faults. This is however a slightly misguided truth, as in fact most of this money is in the form of a loan, and should therefore be paid back. It is however even more baffling that the citizens are frequently not aware that Europe works both ways. It is not just giving: all the countries receive aid and benefits as well. The difference is that it does not go on the front page of every newspaper. Recently *The Guardian*, in an article by Simon Sweeney, listed all the benefits Britain received from the EU. I will list just a few to stress this point:



"Structural funding to areas hit by industrial decline; restrictions on landfill dumping; cheaper mobile charges; cheaper air travel; improved consumer protection and food labelling; single market competition; Europe-wide patent and copyright protection; freedom to travel, live and work across Europe; funded opportunities for young people to undertake study or work placements abroad; access to European health services; labour protection and enhanced social welfare; holiday entitlement; the right not to work more than a 48-hour week without overtime; strongest wildlife protection in the world; EU-funded research and industrial collaboration; counter terrorism intelligence."

There are more, but I think these will probably suffice.

The advantages Britain, and all the other countries, receives are not limited to internal competitiveness, funding for research and infrastructure, and improved welfare and security. The biggest contribution is probably

in terms of international standing and competition. The individual European countries are not powerful enough to stand against giants such as China or India; the EU however is. It is the largest economy of the world, the biggest market and the number one exporter and importer worldwide. This could further improve if the EU had a single foreign policy: its influence would be comparable if not superior to that of the United States of America, allowing the EU to defend even more the interests of European citizens. A united foreign policy and representation could further help the European countries, which are at the forefront of dealing with most issues related to sustainability and human rights, to further demand the implementation of European

or similar legislation worldwide. In confronting big challenges such as climate change, the European Union could be the major player in triggering the global reforms necessary for safety and prosperity.

In an increasingly globalised society the role of single nations has necessarily been reduced. More European integration allows for the interests and

security of European citizens to be protected on an international stage where single nations have lost their influence. It would also encourage the EU to take a firmer stand on some of the issues that plague our world today, such as climate change, human rights and regional conflict. It further allows greater international and inter-European competitiveness, strengthening our economies and decreasing internal tensions. The last and often less mentioned benefit is the increased mobility and opportunities, which encourages the collaboration and sharing of culture and ideas.

These are all benefits which European countries should not forget at the first sign of a crisis.

Next week Leonardo will address the issues facing a collective Europe today.

There are benefits which European countries should not forget at the first sign of crisis

COMMENT

Comment Editors: George Barnett,
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The extinction of the political dinosaurs

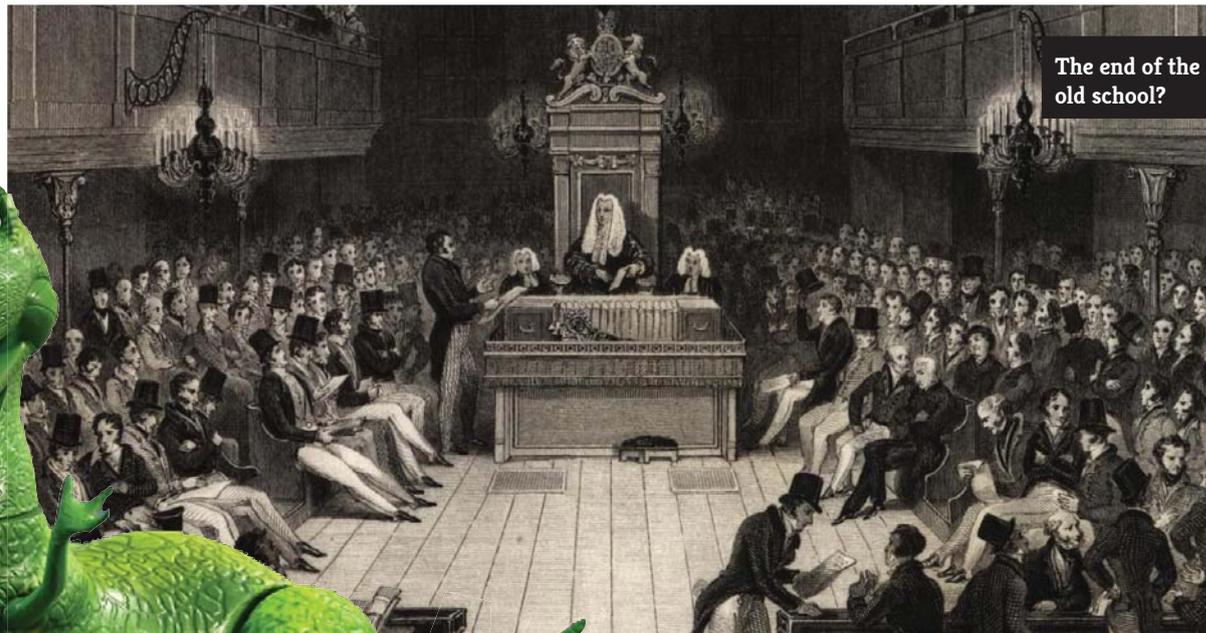
The recent equal marriage vote is indicative of a wider trend



Alex Morton

Free speech is a wonderful thing. It is one of the things that makes this country an amazing place to live in. Granted, it may not be absolute, but the opportunity to be introduced to new ideas, impart mine in return and argue over them is a positively delightful experience. To me, there is nothing more enlightening than thrashing out some political philosophy, looking at issues from different perspectives, amending your way of thinking or even dropping it and searching for a new one. This is not a weak compromise – it is enriching your understanding of the world through debate which helps build a better and coherent way to view and deal with it.

Last week a rare but delightful oddity occurred. Democracy. The Government and Opposition did not order MPs how to vote, but allowed them to make their own decision. As the dust settled, an overwhelming cry of support for gay marriage was heard. Despite being glad with this outcome, I was a



tad frustrated. My grudge does not lie with those for voting against it generally, as the discussion over whether marriage is a religious or civil institution is a valid one, but with those people who use faith to wrap up their discriminatory view that homosexuals are in some way inferior. Yes, the

Conservative party was split on the vote and I would not be surprised if a good number of those were guilty of my accusations. However, I imagine that a good number of the Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs were equally culpable. There is no place for such neanderthals in any political party. Thankfully, if they do not evolve, they will perish.

These fossils are the sort which makes people associate the Conservative party with wanting to keep things as they are, or turn the clock back. With an ever changing social environment, such traits are clearly evolutionarily disadvantageous. However, the Tories

have been consistently evolving, the radicals leading the party accepting arguments for change that are for the betterment of society, with the neanderthals passing away into the mists of time. David Cameron was a Leader that night. He championed a tolerant, fair future that the previous Government did not. However, unless the rest of the Conservative creature advances with him, they will drag his Premiership into extinction at the next election. The history books will not remember him as a leader but only as the reforming founder of the new Conservatives. I assume though, that even the relics would not be so stupid as to be the cause of the collective extermination of their genus.

Last week a rare but delightful oddity occurred. Democracy

Letters



Star letter

Dear Sir,

Imperial is a relatively old university, and I cannot help but feel that we don't celebrate this history enough. Oxbridge comparisons are regularly made by us Imperialites across all manner of things, and while we don't quite match them in terms of age, we still have plenty of tradition of our own. The indomitable Queens Tower, the RCS and RSM, a huge number of Nobel laureates, Fields medalists, a proud sporting tradition and social clubs over 85 years old that are still going strong. (And this is without long and hugely successful history of the constituent hospitals that now make up the medical faculty!)

We are slowly losing some of the important things that separate us from the mediocre ex-polys that are creeping up on us academically, with the Holland Club a case in point. When things like that have gone, they're gone forever, part of the faceless beaurocracy that is taste/sport/(insert business area here) Imperial. Medic sport in its own right is the next thing on the list; over a century of history and tradition gone forever because of a need for 'BUCS points'.

Gone are the days of 'mascotry' (and no, the poor, ill-judged and miscalculated attempt at the beginning of this year does not count), the days of being proud to represent not just your university but your faculty and subject too.

Some people are fighting the good fight and not letting tradition slip from our grasp: this year sees the return of the Sparkes Cup, an inter-faculty rugby tournament, the RSM

still smash the Cambourne 'miners' every year across every sport imaginable and occasionally Jezebel the firetruck comes out; but unfortunately the numbers of volunteers that support these kind of things are slipping and soon they too might be a forgotten relic, left on the side as we slip towards being just another university.

How many of you when talking to friends at home about Imperial bemoan the ratio, the terrible state of the Union or geekiness of Imperial? We are all Imperialites, nobody was forced to come here and it's a really cool place to be. We have a unique blend of the academic, history, sport and a huge number (the largest in the UK) of clubs and societies, but if you're not proud to be here and if you don't get involved, then in the words of a Super Cool Ski instructor, You're going to have a bad time.

tl:dr: Imperial's great if you whole-

heartedly buy into it. If you're not interested fuck off to a poly.

Regards,

A concerned undergrad.

Sir,

I was disappointed by the headline of a recent article, 'Life of a Total Wanker'. It seemed to draw a comparison between bankers and wankers and, as a long time wanker, I take great offence at this.

I have done no harm to society whilst engaging in this pleasant and financially risk-free activity and do not force the resulting mess onto others; unlike bankers whose mess has ruined life for the rest of us and cannot be avoided no matter how careful you are.

Anon

We want your thoughts. Each week, the best letter to the Editor will get

£10

Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk

Get rich or die tryin'
Get money get paid



Food Editors: Carol Ann Cheah,
Sophia Goldberg, Yiang
Mavrocostanti
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FOOD

Flapjacks, pasta and meatballs in 1!

Michael Yat Kit Chung gives you breakfast and dinner ideas

When you see me, you would probably guess that I like eating. And you couldn't be more right! I was lucky enough that my food was cooked for me for most of my life. So when I was finally let loose in the kitchen, I have been going bonkers. Here is some of my favourite recipes that I have made.

Blueberry flapjack

Revising hard and need a snack? Need something to go with your tea and getting bored of Hobnobs and (chocolate) Digestives? Here is a yummy and healthier alternative - and it's super easy to make!

Ingredients:

300g Porridge Oats
150g Fresh Blueberries
200g Golden Syrup
170g Butter
4 tablespoons brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Procedure:

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees.
2. Melt butter, sugar, syrup and cinnamon in a saucepan.

3. Boil for a minute then remove from heat.
4. Fold in oats until fully combined
5. Scatter blueberries into mix and stir well.
6. Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden. Lick the pan if you wish to.
7. Leave it to cool in tin before cutting, otherwise it will just break! But do it before completing cool.

Scientific bonus – Oats will zap any fatigue and blueberries can slow down memory loss! Yummy and it might actually help you get a better mark in exams!

Have it with a cup of tea.

These flapjacks can be enough to give you energy for the whole day, so forget about lunch! What's for dinner?

Spaghetti Bolognese

Spag Bol is a typical student food. For me, this food is always exciting, you just can't get bored of it. This was inspired by a burger recipe, but I just make it in ball shapes.

Meatballs

500g of mince beef
1 red onion
Bits of chilli powder or actual chilli



without the seeds.
1 clove of garlic (crushed/finely chopped)
Some coriander
1 tin of Chopped tomatoes

- 1) Put the beef in a pan (saves washing up!) and press it down so that it is across the pan.
- 2) Put the chopped onion, chilli, garlic and coriander in.

- 3) Mix it up with your hand. Perfect if you have had a stressful day...
- 4) Make it into balls. Don't worry if you have too many onions, you can use it for the sauce!
- 5) Fry the leftover onions in a pan. Brown those meatballs!
- 6) Add chopped tomatoes, low heat to simmer!
- 7) Add anything else you want! I tend to add a bit of chopped herbs (that

comes in a bottle) and frozen vegetables (which is amazing, because no chopping and washing)

Serve with pasta that happens to be in your cupboard. Or if you feel like a bit of fusion, this also makes perfect sauce for rice!

And that's it! Give it a go and share it with your mates!

Aperitivo all' Italiana!



Yiango Mavrocostanti Food Editor

Yes, Aperitivo all' Italiana. The first official event of the newly founded Italian Society at Imperial! Of course, it was food related and that is why I was very excited about it. It took place at a traditional Italian bar called Da Lisa at Gloucester road and it was indeed very Italian and also a heaven for people who appreciate good food. If a room full of typical Italian desserts, pastries, biscuits and of course the smell of that perfect espresso

cannot be called heaven, then what can?

The lucky people who attended the event, had the chance to experience the Italian culture through food and I don't think anyone could complain. The "cannoli siciliani", which is basically fried dough filled with a sweet cream seemed absolutely divine. You can see them in the photo below and be jealous. Short crust pastry called "crostatine" and a special kind of biscuit called "ciambelline" were also available. All of these were perfectly combined with wine from South Italy

which was very rich and fruity. The famous Spritz was also offered to the guests and if you have never tried it before it is highly recommended that you do. It is basically a cocktail served as aperitif and contains sparkling wine, orange liqueur and soda and it definitely is very appetizing. Apart from the food and the drinks, everybody seemed to be having a good time.

All in all, a great event that celebrated Italian cuisine and the importance of people getting together and being social. Well done Italian Society!

Rachel's yummy Lamington cakes...

Rachel Hounslow

Writer

Australia Day came and went more than two weeks ago but if, for some unfathomable reason, you forgot to celebrate, fear not: find an excuse to pay homage to your favourite antipodeans. These traditional Australian lamington cakes are ideal for sharing with your loved ones, whether it be a boyfriend or girlfriend or your flat-mates afflicted with the late-night munchies.

Ingredients:

Sponge Cake:
220g caster sugar
125g butter
1tsp vanilla extract
3 eggs
220g self-raising flour
120ml milk

Or (if those coursework deadlines are just a bit too imminent and you want your cake sooner rather than later) just use a light, store-bought sponge cake and skip to step 3.

Icing:
450g icing sugar
75g cocoa powder

75g butter (melted)
100g dessicated coconut

1) First, make the sponge cake. Beat the butter, sugar and vanilla together until the mixture's fluffy and then add the eggs one at a time with plenty of beating in between.

2) Add the flour and the milk a bit at a time with plenty of stirring to make sure it combines properly. Bake the mixture in a 20cm square cake tin (or similar) at 180°C for half an hour (or until a skewer comes out clean). Turn the cake out onto a wire rack and allow to cool completely.

3) Now to make the icing. Mix the icing sugar and cocoa well and add the melted butter and around 75ml of boiling water until you've got a smooth, fairly runny consistency.

4) Slice up your cooled sponge cake into squares or rectangles of whatever size you please (I prefer smaller, to allow for a greater chocolate to sponge ratio) and dip the squares first into the chocolate icing mixture and then into a bowl of dessicated coconut so that you end up with squares of delicious chocolatey, coconutty goodness (see picture).



The evolution of Dodgeball



ARTS

Arts Editors: Eva Rosenthal,
Meredith Thomas

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DOODLE OF THE WEEK



Why work? Instead, doodle all lecture long and then send us your drawings to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk. This doodle was done by Cyprien de Saint Guilhem during an enthralling horizons lecture!

TIRED OF LIFE?

Our pick of what's on in London

ARTSFEST @ Imperial College – There is art to see right here on campus, all of next week. Find out more at www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/artsfest. February 18 - 21.

La Traviata @ English National Opera – Traviata gets a sexy make-over in this wonderful ENO production, heavy on the purples and reds. The singing is superb, especially from Corinne Winters (Violetta), who carries the tragedy swiftly to its sad end. The 2 hours in the theatre (no interval) could almost be five minutes. Tickets from £16. Now - March 3.

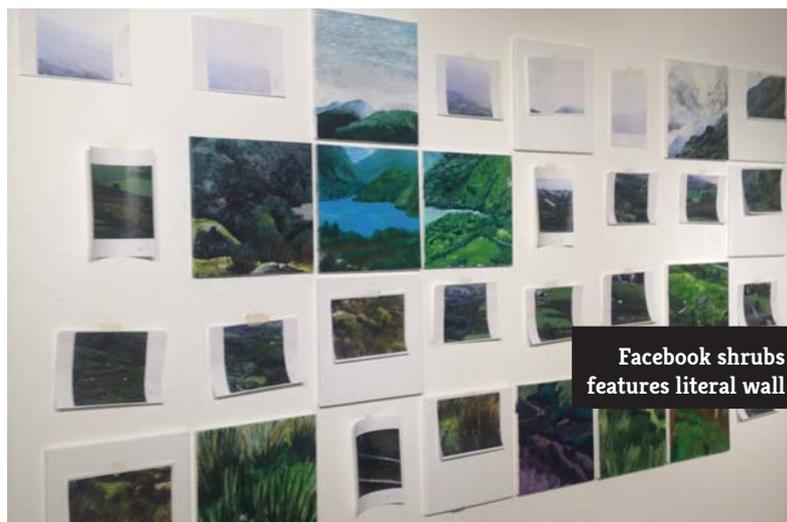
Lichtenstein: A Retrospective @ Tate Modern – The Tate Modern's spring blockbuster is a retrospective pop arts premier superhero. His images are totally synonymous with pop art in popular culture so do not miss the chance to see icons like 'Drowning Girl' and 'Whaam!' in all their technicolour glory. February 21 – May 27.

Through A Glass Darkly @ Stephanie Hoppen Gallery – Four contemporary photographers explore female beauty through decidedly sepia toned glasses. The exhibition feature painterly lighting, Elizabethan costumes and carriage-loads of classical references. February 19 - March 13

Kinetica Art Fair @ Ambika P3 – This annual exhibition is the spiritual home of kinetic, electronic, robotic and new media art generally themed around science and technology. Be prepared to be astonished by shiny lights and the whirring of servos. Get tickets early, it sells out fast. February 28 – March 3



Flukeworms



Facebook shrubs features literal wall

Rocío Molina

Writer

The Artsfest exhibition is an annual institution that has existed since I arrived at Imperial. It is an important event for those who are involved with the Arts on campus. The show, which is planned to coincide with Imperial College's festival of art, music and dance, features collaboration between members of Leonardo Fine Arts Society and Photographic Society. Some reader might remember the maze of string last year or the flock of paper cranes the year before.

Being a spectator over the past few years allowed me to marvel at the achievement of people who managed to put these breath-taking, genuinely innovative exhibitions up. As part of the LeoSoc committee last year I had a glimpse of the managerial effort it required. This year the job finally fell to me, there was a lot to live up to.

Herding cats is a polite way to describe the task of encouraging artists to produce work. When you add photographers to the mix things start to get really tricky. Disasters, miscommunications and frankly fuck-ups are bound to happen; in fact I believe they are important facets of the creative process. By that measure this year should be a roaring success.

The first round of creative ideas was forged, as all good ideas are, in the pub. Every Monday LeoSoc gathers for a few refreshing pints and we persuaded some photographers to tag along. I started encouraging the regular photographers and artists who attend our bar nights to share their ideas.

Trying to understand the vision of a fellow artist can be a surreal journey, more so when it comes to sharing your own. Bits of paper or the surface of an iPad become a conduit to illustrate different concepts. Initial rampant, creative outbursts lead to compulsive googling of that installation you remember having seen or that cool image you saw in someone's deviant art's profile. Soon afterwards, the voices of pragmatism rise, not in short supply at this university, and cry out to bring all those ideas down to

earth. Then follows the fuss over where to procure kilometres of wool, or hundreds of LEDs or where to buy a few thousands polystyrene cubes.

Day-dreaming continued while deadlines loomed and in my head a warning light began to pulse as the day-to-day running of the society started chewing up my time and spitting out bones. I needed to put something together now. Ideas, once decided started to transform again and after a brief meeting with Photosoc a new feasible idea sprung out.

Time is ticking but the aim was clear now. I was to get sixteen painters from LeoSoc to paint a piece each. I had to start making calls to gather the first group of painters, then call CassArt to ensure there were enough canvases in stock. I received an image from the photographers that we were to paint.

This is the part where the fun really started, bohemian scenes of intense painting sessions and banging tunes in succession, by the start of the week we already had ten paintings.

Hanging day arrives; we still do not have all the paintings but plenty to get started. Showing the paintings to Photosoc it dawns on me that there has been a massive communications breakdown, our paintings were not what they are expecting.

The ability to improvise and make of the mishap a source of inspiration is one of the things that I adore about this job. Fortunately the very way we had conceived the exhibition, in terms of pixels, helped form an idea to salvage the exhibition. As ever the last minute change proves more interesting than the original plan.

As I write, some paintings are still in the making and the prints are coming tomorrow but I feel positive. The paintings look outstanding and a few people have already asked if they are for sale.

If you as curious about the end of this story as me, the show opens next week. There will be wine and you can meet all those that put the show together by pulling it out of a spin dive at the last minute.

Opening party on February 19th 8pm, Blythe Gallery, Sheffield Level 5

Back to collage

Eva Rosenthal

Arts Editor

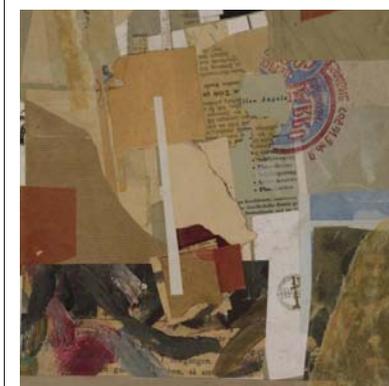
Kurt Schwitters was a key influence on the development of pop-art, one of the most important movements of the 20th century, but if you have never heard his name before, do not fear. Tate Britain is having a major retrospective of his work and, in any case, it is a catchy name, with a tingling ring to it that sticks delightfully to your brain walls so that you could find yourself Schwittering (muttering Schwitters to yourself whilst trying to look sane) around the sweltering rooms the Tate Britian.

Schwitters, a member of the avant-garde art scene in the 20s and 30s, driven to Britain in 1941 by the Nazis, must be introduced through his collages and through the theory that pervades his work: *Merz*. This was the belief that any material was as valid and as valuable as paint for the creation of a work of art. Ticket stubs, magazines, porridge and half-spoons were all used by Schwitters to create his subtle and delicate collages.

These are by far the most beautiful things he made. They are delicate, intricate and often funny – although always melancholic. Those collages, made as he was nearing the end of his life in the deepest Lake District, are especially lovely, abstract representations of the natural world.

He worked best in miniature. His small pieces are charming, allowing the viewer to swiftly imbibe the feeling of the work. Schwitters' larger works however, are dull, plodding creatures. His portraits and landscapes are unimaginative and heavy: everyone runs past them without even meaning to. Enthusiastic art students attempt to glue themselves to the gallery floor in front of his abstract paintings but are quickly distracted; even they cannot manage to give them more than a minute of their time.

Schwitters was an artist with various interests, dabbling in experimental poetry, he was prolific writer. In the context of the show, what stood out for me were his views on imitation in art. Imitation in his (simplified) view could not result in anything truly worthy and for him, at least, this was true: his finest works, his collages, were also truly original.



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BOOKS

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



The Nano Flower

Alex Savell looks at the final Greg Mandell novel



In just a day's time Peter Hamilton will be arriving for Sci-Fi's annual convention, Picocon. Before that we are going to finish off our look at the Greg Mandell series with a look at the final novel; *The Nano Flower*. Set fifteen years after *A Quantum Murder* there's plenty that's changed in that time. *The Nano Flower* concludes the progression of the world around Greg out of recession. Technology is blossoming and the world has started to move forwards in leaps and bounds.

This is the first big difference with *The Nano Flower*. Although the change in background maintains continuity with the previous books, it does set a new dynamic and is certainly the first time that Hamilton pushes towards a harder sci-fi setting. Asteroids are hauled into orbit in order to mine new resources, clean energy sources have put an end to the climate change problems of the recent past and in some ways it's an extremely optimistic outlook on the future. However, perhaps more interesting is seeing the world move forwards while Greg stays still.

When returning character Julia receives a strange package and rumours of new technology that threaten to throw off the balance of power across the globe and bring her company, Event Horizon, to its knees, it's Greg that she turns to for help; pulling him out of retirement. It's interesting to watch Greg face a world where the ad-

vantages he held in previous missions are mitigated by technology that's increased without him. While he now gets to jet across the globe in a hypersonic plane, Mandell also has to cope with the fact that the world has become a smaller place and the schemes of criminal organisations can easily encompass an entire globe.

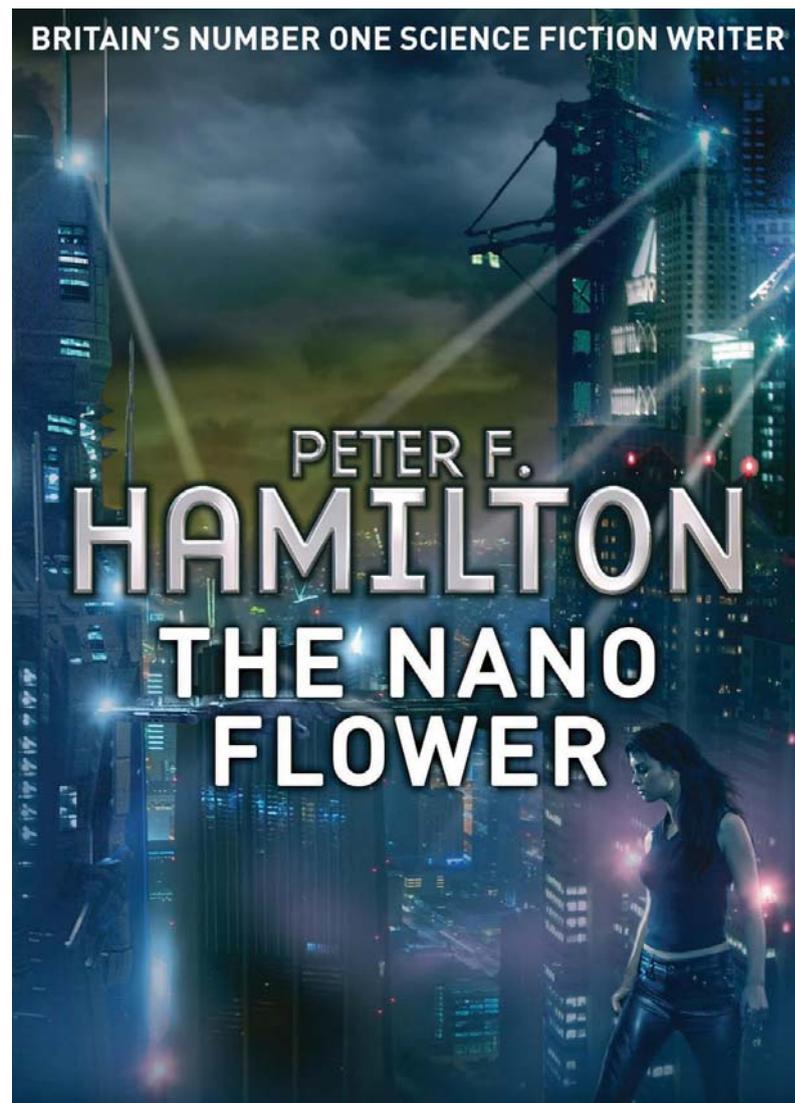
Not to mention potentially the most contentious issue of the book; aliens. The 'package' that Julia receives is in fact the eponymous Nanoflower and it is certainly a mystery. Containing DNA that is far in advance of any of our own and with genes completely foreign to Earth, the Nanoflower presents a dangerous and intriguing mystery. However, for me it was very much a confusing addition to the Mandell setting. I wasn't initially convinced that the world needed the addition of any extra-terrestrial influences. To me the series had been all the more interesting due to its plausibly near future outlook so I was going to take some serious winning over to be convinced that this was a necessary addition.

I must admit, I'm still a little on the fence, but Hamilton's writing remains engaging and enthralling and he certainly goes a long way to winning my opinion back round to the inclusion of this new theme. I still don't necessarily understand the decision, perhaps I will get the chance to find out tomorrow in his talk, but I have a sneaking suspicion, or at least an inkling, that

it might be to do with the following. Hamilton has openly said that part of what he enjoys about writing is creating worlds and the backdrops upon which the plots play out. As such I think it may have been a decision to – almost aside from Greg, Julia and Event Horizon – show mankind's slow ascendancy into a much larger universe. That's a very optimistic view from where the world is in *Mindstar Rising*; in less than a couple of decades humanity moves from a narrowly averted apocalypse to begin their forays into the starts.

Despite several things that, with hindsight, look a little less than realistic, the Greg Mandell series is still compelling and an excellent read and, as it hits its twentieth birthday, it's still doing extremely well. The covers you may have seen opposite these articles are the 2011 incarnation of the series, where Greg got a bit of a facelift and, in an homage to the trilogies of 70s sci-fi, put together, they form one extended image of Hamilton's world progressing from ruins through to a skyscraper clad metropolis reaching to the sky. A fitting visual for a world that grew up as I once did while reading it.

Peter F. Hamilton will be at Imperial College on Saturday, February 16 as one of the Guests of Honour at Picocon 30. For more information, and to register your attendance, visit icsf.org.uk/picocon



We be light, We be life, We be fire



Lucy McGregor

Writer

Books were better when I was younger. I'm sure of it. I don't know if I'm becoming more experienced, or more cynical, or if I was simply lucky enough to be introduced early to a large amount of really excellent fiction, but I find it very hard to bring to mind any books in my adult life that affected me as powerfully as my childhood favourites.

This book is the exception.

The modern urban fantasy genre has experienced a resurgence over the past decade, and in some ways *A Madness of Angels* is part of that movement. At base, it's the story of urban sorcerer Matthew Swift, who wakes up one day with vivid and troubling memories of his own death and

no understanding of how he has returned from the grave or how the city he used to know has changed. Oh, and he's now sharing his body with a group of powerful entities of elemental magic, the blue electric angels. Everybody wants to get their hands on Swift and his new passengers and he/they are precipitated into a plot-line of battles, alliances and betrayal as they struggle to come to terms with their new existence and destroy a powerful sorcerer – Swift's mentor and later his murderer – to win the right to their freedom.

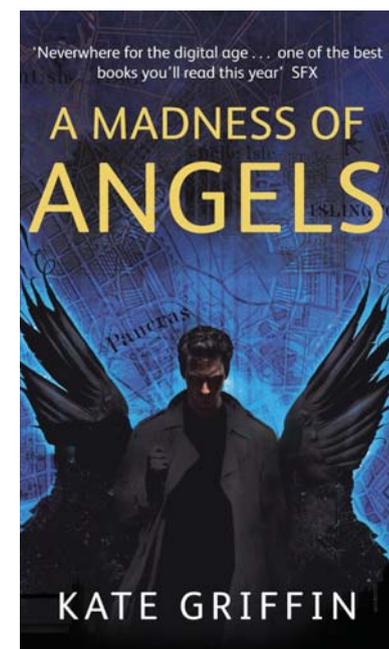
So far, so generic – but what lifts Griffin's book above its genre is the execution. *A Madness of Angels* is surreal. It's vivid. It's alive. It's disturbing and enthralling and spectacular, the kind of book that grabs hold of the reader's imagination and won't let go,

long after it's been put down. It's not only about Swift and his return from death: it's about London and magic and life, and Swift, with his/their unique, not-quite-human, viewpoint is the perfect narrator for a London full of Gaiman-esque urban legend – graffiti artists whose work comes to life after dark; the Old Bag Lady who reads the omens in tattered shopping bags; the Last Train that travels the Circle Line eternally, chasing its own tail. Griffin revels in the madcap fantasy trappings of her setting; but with a deft twist of perspective she also uses them to turn the mundane and ordinary into something glorious.

The book has flaws, of course. The changes of perspective between Swift and the angels can be confusing, as can the terse, often unattributed dialogue, and some characters

don't receive enough fleshing out, like apprentice sorcerer Dana Mikeda – what's she up to anyway, and why do we even care? But the book rises above all this, becoming a delight to read through the evident fascination and wonder Griffin finds in her story. Above everything else, *A Madness of Angels* is full of pure joy.

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, she 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



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MUSIC

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Veronica Falls at St Leonard's

Mark England goes to church on a Friday night, and enjoys it...

I have recently discovered the real reason the Pope is giving up on wearing his natty white gown and driving about in his suped-up Pope-mobile to devote more of his time to chillaxing. He must have been present at St Leonard's Church last Friday where **Veronica Falls** blew away the congregation with an outstanding set. Evidently it became clear to him that the best way to get bums on pews and religion back into the hearts and tweets of the young is to be in a swoonsome twee indie band which specialise in jangly guitar pop. It is not surprising that this idea must have dispirited Herr Ratzinger (as he is more of a dubstep or electro-crunk kind of guy) to such an extent that he had no choice but to step down.

Now I have got the frolicking introduction out of the way I must get to the important part of describing the actual gig. It goes without saying that Veronica Falls are more C86 than it is

possible to be but what sometimes can seem somewhat one dimensional on record has a much fuller sound when you hear it live. St Leonard's suits the band down to the ground with songs like 'Found Love in a Graveyard', 'Stephen' and 'Wedding Day' echoing hauntingly around the cavernous venue.

The purpose of tonight's show, however, is to give the ears of Shoreditch a preview of material of the new album *Waiting for Something to Happen*. I found the title track one of the more grating but there were some real gems in 'Teenage' and 'Tell Me'. The noise pop that Veronica Falls hustle has evolved to become more muscular but still keeps its timid, eyes across the indie-disco dancefloor, quality.

The sold out show was crammed full and you couldn't even fit another Japanese hipster girl in if you tried. There was a sense that the band were preaching to the converted but this should



not detract from how accomplished the band were as a live prospect. The lo-fi fuzz of the records is lost and is replaced by a more elegant sheen. The last time I saw Veronica Falls, admittedly a few years ago now, was in the basement of a dingy record shop in Camden and they were bloody terrible. They had minimal presence and their lyrics were lost beneath a sea of

feedback. I was startled by their transformation into indie heavyweights and I am sure that their latest release will be as good as their one time Rough Trade record of the month self-titled debut. I have never had so much fun in a church before (although I am not sure if this is a large accolade) and I definitely have Veronica Falls to thank for that.



AMS album of the week

My Bloody Valentine: *m b v*

Whenever I have an article to write I find the first sentences and phrases always come to me when I'm walking on my own. My rough draft for this review emerged the same way; I was ready to talk less about the album, which was okay, and more about the promise of **My Bloody Valentine** recording once more. But then I listened to it again.

For me and, anecdotally, for many fans of the band, *m b v* is a definite grower, and that's probably as much the fault of 'weight of expectation' as anything. Unfortunately, being their first new material in 12 years, it's consigned to exist in the shadow of *Loveless*, the album that almost bankrupted their record label with its technical demands, and defined shoegaze as a genre.

But, My Bloody Valentine's albums have always been the kind of records that reward repeat listens, the kind of records that don't necessarily 'click' the first time you hear them. What makes their albums so evocative is not just the music itself, but the way it blends with your mental state; being able to lose yourself in its tidal waves of sound, hearing Kevin Shield's and Bilinda Butcher's vocals float around you.

I once saw *Loveless* described as sounding like "druggy sex or sexy drugs". If that's the case, then *m b v* is the morning after that hazy fugue. Album opener, 'She Found Now's gently flowing river of noise pulls you into that limbo like state of a rainy sunday afternoon. From there, the album only opens up, beginning with elements that would've sounded at home on *Loveless* before branching off into new territory, that sees the album close with a track that somehow blends Shield's trademark 'Glide Guitar' with a punchy drum and bass beat.

It says something about the impact that album had that *Loveless* has been mentioned in this review almost as much as *m b v*. But, this is a great record that deserves to stand up on its own. It's both familiar, but strikes a clear course out of the shadow of that 1991 epic. Kevin Shield's said as much himself, explaining that *m b v* "really frees us up, and in the bigger picture it's 100 percent necessary." Critical acclaim can crush a group, but My Bloody Valentine have ridden out the storm; here's to hoping they keep recording albums like this.

Padraic Calpin



Album review: Maranata - *Royal Hex*

Riaz Agahi

Writer

Free-noise duo **Maranata** have collaborated with some big figures in the experimental scene including **Maja S.K Ratkje** and **C.Spencer Yeh**. On this effort, released on a 175 cassette run (remember that, it's important), they collaborate with Sayaka Himeno, Sakaya Himeno of Japanese all girl trio **Nisennenmondai**. This is probably the main thing that piqued my interest, as she is a drummer of the highest order and she shows it with aerobic but tightly controlled drumming which takes as much from free jazz as it does from **Lightning Bolt**.

My first impression of this album was that it had a very lo-fi aesthetic, as might be expect. You may recall, however, that this was a cassette, and after rigorous cleaning of the heads I discovered that this wasn't the case at all, or certainly much less than I expected. The perils of using a non-digital format...

If I haven't exactly been forthcoming in describing most of the album, it's because I was a little flabbergasted. It's an assault on the ears, firing through a selection of genres, and while it may only have appeal to noiseheads, it is worth noting that it is very diverse and subtly unlike any other album I've heard to date.

Jon Wesseltoft's guitar is almost ever present, bringing in at time punky and doomy motifs and at times simply



noisy. Dag Stiberg performs saxophone duties. As well as its contribution to jazz, people like Mats Gustafsson have used the saxophone to add noise, and this is certainly the role here. The saxophone is just as ever present as the guitar but lower in the mix, sounding a little like a screamed vocal at low volume. It does, however, rear its head at appropriate moments, giving it almost a tidal feel and any moment where it prevails seems to have a rather climactic air to it.

It does have some less dense moments, the start of the second side - 'Royal Hex' (each track is a side long) is a good example, where the sound is more groove oriented, as the drums slowly speed up bringing the music back into the noisier territories where it belongs.

Aquarius Records compared the album to **Borbetomagus** jamming with **Lightning Bolt** and, to be honest, I'm not sure I can top that.

Maranata
ROYAL HEX



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FILM

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



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



The ABCs of Death

Directors: Kaare Andrews, Angela Bettis, Hélène Cattet, Ernesto Díaz Espinoza, Jason Eisener, Bruno Forzani, Adrián García Bogliano, Xavier Gens, Lee Hardcastle, Noboru Iguchi, Thomas Cappelen Malling, Jorge Michel Grau, Anders Morgenthaler, Yoshihiro Nishimura, Banjong Pisanthanakun, Simon Rumley, Marcel Sarmiento, Jon Schnepf, Srdjan Spasojevic, Timo Tjahjanto, Andrew Traucki, Nacho Vigalondo, Jake West, Ti West, Ben Wheatley, Adam Wingard, Yudai Yamaguchi

Screenwriters: Kaare Andrews, Simon Barrett, Hélène Cattet, Bruno Forzani, Adrián García Bogliano, Lee Hardcastle, Noboru Iguchi, Yoshihiro Nishimura, Simon Rumley, Jon Schnepf, Srdjan Spasojevic, Nacho Vigalondo, Dimitrije Vojnov, Ti West, Yudai Yamaguchi

Simon Boyd

Film Writer

26 directors, 26 ways to die. As horror anthology goes, this is the Concorde moment, 26 short films from some of the most twisted horror minds, it's a brave bold stab at something that may never be repeated.

Thankfully there is no hackneyed attempt to link them with an overarching story, each film just starts and ends with a red screen and a title card. The directors vary in nationality, style and insanity. As with any anthology film, there will always be high and low points. Some were just too weird for my liking (and I have a pretty high tolerance for weird), they are all pretty different and the fact that the ones I didn't like seemed to me to have similar themes might just reflect my tastes.

It's always refreshing to see how each director tackles the brief. Some present just a climactic scene from what you imagine as a longer film, some present whole stories in twisted worlds (think *The Twilight Zone*), others feel almost like bizarre advert skits but without any product, and a couple attempt to make meta-horror. Many have a low budget, Troma-like feel to them (think *The Toxic Avenger*), there are plenty of nods to classic films and directors, and it's a truly international undertaking (I don't think there is a word of English spoken for the first 30 minutes). Clocking in at over two hours it is long, but I found that when it lagged the slack was quickly picked up by another short.

There are plenty of jaw-droppers. The unparalleled Ben Wheatley (*Kill List*, *Sightseers*) shows the closing scene of a monster film, from the

view of the monster. Jake West gives a great chase scene, and I now forgive him for the terrible Danny Dyer vehicle *Doghouse*. Chilean director Ernesto Díaz Espinoza (almost unknown in the UK) gives a nice, tight little time travel film, similar in style to Nacho Vigalondo's *Timecrimes* (who directs the first of the anthology). Less well known Timo Tjahjanto, gives one of the weirdest and most vile premises, but actually ends up making one of the most intriguing (it definitely stayed with me the longest).

The best in my opinion comes from Marcel Sarmiento (the mind behind the crowd dividing *Deadgirl*). The cinematography, pacing and suspense he manages in 5 minutes is better than most full lengths. Other treats (if you can call them that) include French Xavier Gens' (frontier(s)) gorefest on body image, and the stop-motion fun of Lee Hardcastle (the winner of a competition to send in home-made films).

There are also a few duds. The usually great Ti West (of the spectacularly retro *The House of The Devil*) gives the laziest and most pathetic entry. Noboru Iguchi gives one entitled *Fart*, which I definitely could have done without. However he did direct *RoboGeisha* and *Machine Girl*, so it's to be expected. Infamous director Srdjan Spasojevic's piece (of the un-watchable *A Serbian Film*)

pretty much passed me by. Weird? Yes, violent? Yes. But it just felt like it thought it was being cleverer than it was (much like the detestable *A Serbian Film*).

As the film nears its end, the most extreme parts appear. W (aptly entitled *WTF*) is the most acid-trip like, and then Y and Z hit real depravity which for me was too far. Z, from Yoshihiro Nishimura (of *Tokyo Gore Police* fame, so it's to be expected) could easily cause offence, although the more easily offended won't get this far.

I've seen mixed reviews for this, and to be honest, it's the kind of film that is almost pointless to review. If you find it over the top and in poor taste, then what did you really expect? If it's too scatterbrained and plot-less, then don't watch a 26 part anthology! It's like the most twisted YouTube session you will experience, it's a selection of some of the most idiosyncratic directors trying to outdo each other, and it wears its heart on its sleeve before tearing it up and spitting it in your face. If you are a fan of horror or weird (ideally both), then watch it as it should be, with a group of mates, and your poison of choice. It's purely a genre piece, and proud of it.

Shown in 26 UK theatres on the 26th April, and currently available online on Video On Demand services.



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

FILM

This is love, this is love, this is love

Felix Film get romantic for you as Valentine's Day passes

Warm Bodies

Director: Jonathan Levine
Screenwriters: Jonathan Levine, Isaac Marion (novel)
Starring: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich, Dave Franco



You may think you know all about the zombie genre. They're dead, they walk about aimlessly, bumping into things, and as soon as they smell living flesh, they will not stop until they get their share of raw human meat/organs in their mouths. But have you ever seen a zombie fall head over heels in love?

That's right, here we have R (Hoult), a zombie who falls in love with Julie (Palmer), one of the very few humans on Earth after it is overtaken by the walking dead. Ha, R+J... Get it? These two star-crossed lovers have a lot of obstacles to overcome if they want to make their romance work. There is even the obligatory balcony scene.

It's certainly an interesting spin on a genre that isn't known for creativity. With some excellent voiceover

work from Hoult, who also masters the American accent, it does raise intriguing questions. Here is a film that provides a humane look at zombies without immediately painting them as cold-blooded killers. They all have their own individual thoughts, they show potential to change, all in ways that seem to make some sense, relying on the audience's tolerance level towards the "love conquers all" type of message.

Hoult, now all grown up from his *About a Boy* years, is a likable lead, who initially appears as a horrendous, gothic figure (look at the first picture on the right there and see if he's quite the "Romeo" material) but in fact he successfully plays on the goofy, dim-witted side of his character with maximum comedy value. A lot of the film's laughs come from his strange, hunched-over gait, as well as his inner thoughts.

There are some marked inconsistencies, and some not very well explained plot strands that lazily go unaddressed for the sake of getting to the nice and neat, simple ending the film has been planning all along. And it does have the tendency to move quite slowly throughout, somewhat similar to how the dead walk on a daily basis, although building up to a rather sizable finale.



This is 40

Director: Judd Apatow
Screenwriters: Judd Apatow
Starring: Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann, Maude Apatow, Iris Apatow, Jason Segel, Megan Fox, Charlyne Yi



A follow-up to *Knocked Up* without actually holding onto any of its main characters, we instead have a closer look at how aged, mature relationships work, and in this case, how the "happily ever after" is much easier said than done.

Debbie (Mann) is 40 now although she would never admit it. Impromptu shower-sex with her husband Pete (Rudd) on her birthday seemed all great to start with, until she discovers he took some viagra beforehand. "I don't want a turbo penis. I like your medium soft one" she says, with great disappointment.

And so begins Apatow's portrayal of gradual marital decline as well as his excellent gags and one-liners. Whether the film itself closely follows what Apa-

tow may be going through in real-life we'll never know, but the use of his actual wife (Mann) and their children (Maude and Iris) seems to suggest there is an element of truth.

Aside from the lack of spice in their marriage, the family faces financial difficulties, stemming mostly from Pete's record company that is not doing well in the modern market, as well as Debbie's struggling jewellery store where she suspects one of her employees (Fox and Yi) is stealing from her. Pete's father (the excellent Albert Brooks) is also constantly on the prowl, asking his son for more money, whereas Debbie's wealthy but awkward father Oliver (John Lithgow) makes things tougher.

It offers no great original wisdom on how a marriage should work, and despite pondering on the question for over two hours (a long running time that is occasionally felt), it goes down the traditional corny route that involves a seemingly random accident that makes everyone realise just how much they love each other. Hurrah.

But Apatow is no amateur when it comes to writing the gags and finding the right people to deliver them. There are plenty of hysterical moments, along with some exceptional cameo appearances.

Wreck-it Ralph

Director: Rich Moore
Screenwriters: Rich Moore, Phil Johnston, Jim Reardon, Jennifer Lee
Starring: (voices) John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Jack McBrayer, Jane Lynch



A *Toy Story* for the video-game generation, instead of having cuddly little toys that come to life when no-one is around to look, we have a bunch of arcade game characters who are free to roam around their own little world via intricately designed trains and the "Grand Central Station".

Ralph (Reilly), as his name suggests, wrecks things. In his game "Fix it Felix" it's his job to break everything, whilst the player controls Felix to fix all the damage caused by the big bad guy. But Ralph doesn't want to be the bad guy anymore. He isn't invited to any of the cool parties his "good" characters are having, and whenever anyone comes across him outside his game, they are too busy running away from the brute to even hear what he has to say.

Wanting to be fully accepted into

the game characters' community, he decides the only way would be to win a medal, any medal, that will prove that he can also be a hero for once, instead of constantly being outcast as the villain.

He stumbles across a sci-fi shoot'em up, where he meets the charismatic leader Sergeant Tamora Jean Calhoun (the invaluable Lynch who has plenty of dry, no-nonsense one-liners in a true Sue Sylvester style) and from there after a series of unfortunate accidents he ends up in another game land where the sweets-covered Sugar Rush kart-racing game takes place. There, it turns out he would need to win that race to get ahold of his medal. Befriending Vanellope (Silverman) another outcast/a glitch from the game, the two unlikely pair form the sweetest bond to work together.

There's the whole "be yourself" type of repetitive and tiresome message that gets jammed down everyone's throat which marks the film's only serious misstep. Yes, yes we get it Ralph can still be a hero whilst being the villain in the fictional game, we all need to embrace who we are blah blah blah.

But there is plenty of imagination, grand visuals, and head-spinning action here to keep everyone of all ages thoroughly entertained.



Song for Marion

Director: Paul Andrew Williams
Screenwriter: Paul Andrew Williams
Starring: Gemma Arterton, Terence Stamp, Vanessa Redgrave, Christopher Eccleston



"Let's talk about sex baby, let's talk about you and me, let's talk about all the good things, all the bad things that may be, let's talk about sex!"... hardly something you would expect to hear in a choir that consists of retired pensioners but with the OAPZ (Old Age PensionerZ), formality isn't their thing. Led by the bright and lovely volunteer music teacher Elizabeth (Arterton), the oldies have a blast singing away to some lively music.

Marion (Redgrave) loves these sessions, although her husband Arthur (Stamp) can't think of anything worse to do with his time, and considers this his worst nightmare. Always refusing to join in on the fun, this grumpy old man isn't the least impressed, more so when his wife collapses and falls seriously ill.

With an impending choir competition, everything depends on Arthur to sing Marion's solo. Cheesy yes, but it deals with Arthur having to deal with fulfilling his ailing wife's dream, which mostly works thanks to the heavy-lifting done by the talented cast. Stamp is comically cold and distant but with an easily noticeable sensitive side that comes out in his scenes with his on-screen wife. Redgrave is hugely effective as usual, with her tear-inducing, superb rendition of Cyndi Lauper's 'True Colours' showing there is no limit to her abilities. Arterton adds a touch of youth and vibrancy to the mix.

There are convincing links between the characters – Marion and Arthur, Arthur and Elizabeth, and a particularly poignant one between Arthur and his distant son, James (Eccleston). The father-son relationship is something that could have possibly been expanded a little more, but the chemistry the two actors share say a whole lot more than you would initially expect, and it's a surprising, enriching addition to the narrative.

It's, of course, entirely predictable, with a rousing, feel-good ending you will see coming from the very start. But when everything is handled so tastefully with a dash of the occasional humour, a lot can be forgiven.

FILM

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

IC Cinema Listings

Sightseers



Chris wants to show girlfriend Tina his world, but events soon conspire against the couple and their dream caravan holiday takes a very wrong turn.

Tuesday 19th February at 18:30

Thursday 19th February at 18:30

Artsfest Film Quiz

The legendary annual film-quiz returns. Join us at Imperial Cinema - bring a team (of up to 8) or join one when you get here.

Free to enter and fabulous DVDs to win.

Tuesday 19th February at 20:45

Seen a film that isn't shit? Write about it.

Seen a film that is shit? Write about it.

Send in anything about cinema to:

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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FELIX

Goodbye, George

A Place in the Sun (re-release)

Director: George Stevens
Screenwriters: Theodore Dreiser (novel), Patrick Kearney (play), Michael Wilson, Harry Brown
Starring: Montgomery Clift, Elizabeth Taylor, Shelley Winters



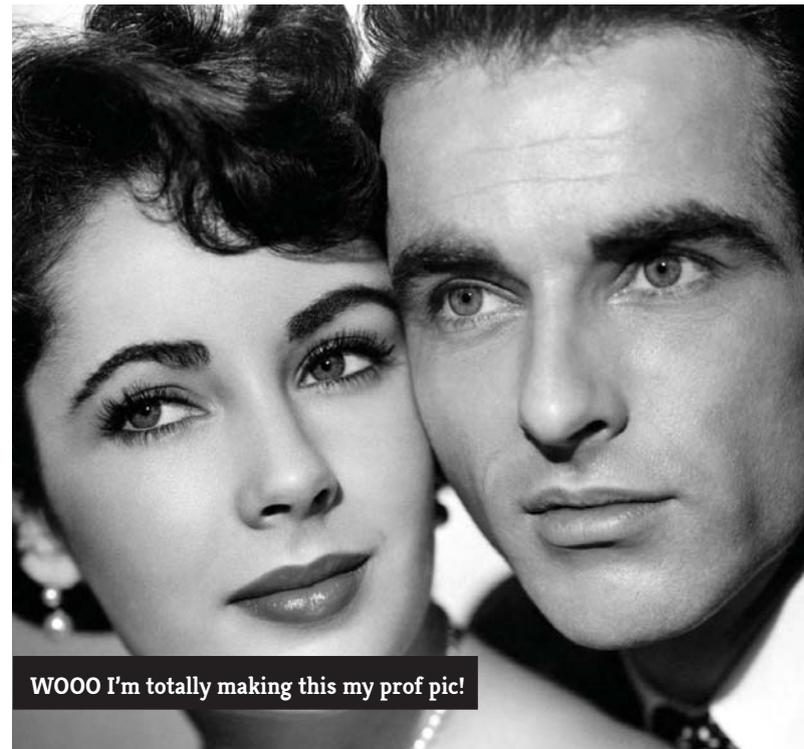
John Park

Film Editor

A Place in the Sun shows the tragic fall of a man who strived to gain everything in life: wealth, power, class, love, and ultimately, happiness. He worked hard; very hard in fact, since he had to work all the way up from the bottom of the corporate food chain. A little misunderstanding jeopardises everything and in a heart-beat, the man is left with nothing. It shows us the fragile nature of objects around us, mirroring our very own human emotions.

To start with, George Eastman (Clift) is a not a well-off guy. His rich Uncle Charles (the owner of the family business (Herbert Heyes)) gives him one out of sympathy: he's in charge of packaging swimsuits. It's a repetitive and boring job but he appreciates it anyway. He meets a lovely girl called Alice (Winters). She's not the prettiest of all dames but her personality wins him over. Which is why, despite the department policy of "no dating co-workers," they start a secret relationship; but only for a short while. Realising what good work he's been doing for the company, Charles gives him a promotion, a promotion that would introduce him to the high and fancy class whilst pulling him away from his love, Alice. Initially he believes that nothing will change but Alice doesn't quite buy that. She's a smart girl and thinks that he will be corrupted by the spoiled, upper-class money sharks. The more time he spends with them, the more suspicious she gets. She can't help it; she just doesn't trust him and those around him.

But it turns out that Alice is right to be concerned. George has met Angela (Taylor), the most beautiful aristocratic young girl who shows interest in him. So George is torn between two women. The woman he's vowed to be faithful to, and the woman who seems perfect for him. It also confuses the audience. He really does love both of them. Alice is sweet and reliable but Angela is beautiful, guarantees wealth and gives him plenty



of connections. But eventually, he starts falling for the flawless looks. He wants to ditch Alice and live the life he always dreamed of. Alice is appalled by his behaviour and tells him that she is in fact, pregnant. A scandal like that can ruin a man of such reputation. So when she threatens to reveal this little secret, he panics, and is desperate for a way out. Acting on an impulse, he decides that murder is the best option. But a tragic accident occurs that paints him as a cold-hearted criminal with no witnesses to prove otherwise.

Clift, no matter how many mistakes his character makes, is always the likable victim anyone can feel sorry for. His camera-friendly features work exceptionally well to suit someone who goes through drastic changes over the course of two hours. When he's poor, he's humble, willing to make sacrifices, and incredibly sincere. He evolves, sees the bigger world and the endless opportunities to gain something more out of life. He has a dream, a little far out of reach of course, but a dream nonetheless. Clift adds more and more intensity to his performance building to the climax, proving to everyone that he's not just a pretty face. Just watch the close-up where George starts having second thoughts about killing his pregnant girlfriend. He's wrecked with guilt and fear. Even throughout the long, sustained shot, Clift is fully engaged and never flinches, not for a second.

The two women surrounding George, providing two opposite lifestyles are perfectly cast. Taylor, from

the moment she makes her first appearance, establishes herself as a striking character, a lively, energetic, fun-loving gal. She's not manipulative as one might expect her to be – she has absolutely no knowledge of Alice. Even after the accident occurs, she stands by him, supporting him through the painful ordeal. She wasn't involved in the relationship for the looks. She was after something deep and meaningful.

Winters plays Alice, the kind-hearted, quieter girl. She is also immensely lovable, although she does become too inquisitive for her own good. But how can anyone blame her? It's no secret that George has been changing ever since he got the promotion. Alice may have come from a humble background but she's far from blind. She notices that something is off and naturally, as a woman who wants to hold on to her man and the baby's father, she tries everything to make him stay. Her desperation never appears malicious, but more heart-breaking, which Winters captures beautifully.

No true villain exists here, and no-one is ever fundamentally evil. The film has aged a little, and the shocking moments have less impact. George trying to convince Alice to get an abortion must have been an unthinkable request in the 50s, although today it's a common occurrence. But the fantastic performances have withstood the test of time and still remain as impressive as ever. It's a slow-burning melodrama with a fascinating love-triangle that doesn't have a simple answer.

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

FILM

2013 BAFTA Winners

Best Film:
Argo



Best British Film:
Skyfall



Best Director:
Ben Affleck - *Argo*

Best Actor:
Daniel Day-Lewis - *Lincoln*

Best Actress:
Emmanuelle Riva - *Amour*



Best Supporting Actor:
Christopher Waltz - *Django Unchained*

Best Supporting Actress:
Anne Hathaway - *Les Misérables*

Best Screenplay - Original:
Quentin Tarantino - *Django Unchained*



Best Screenplay - Adapted:
David O. Russell - *Silver Linings Playbook*

Best Foreign Language Film:
Amour

Best Animated Film:
Brave

EE Rising Star Award:
Juno Temple

Best Cinematography:
Life of Pi



Best Editing:
Argo

Best Production Design:
Les Misérables

Best Costume Design:
Anna Karenina

Best Film Music:
Skyfall



Best Make-up/Hair:
Les Misérables

Best Sound:
Les Misérables

Best Special Visual Effects:
Life of Pi

Best Documentary:
Searching for Sugar Man

BAFTA Fellowship:
Sir Alan Parker



GAMES

Games Editor: Ross Webster
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Welcome to the insane asylum

Population: **Ross Webster**

It has been a long time since my brain has hurt this much. I've just worked out how to reach the bottom of an endless staircase, and now I'm faced with a laser puzzle that needs 30 pieces, when I've only got 12, and I can't even move them around. Welcome to *Antichamber*.

Imagine a game like *Portal*, where you have to complete puzzles to reach the next room, but where your path to the end of the game isn't linear, nor is how you complete each chamber. Instead of placing portals around the level, you can instead pick up and place brightly coloured blocks – think of them as mini *Minecraft* blocks if it

helps. So far, this description would make for a *Portal*-esque game; you've got a mission, a gun that helps you get around the game, and some puzzles thrown in. That's not all *Antichamber* is, however – if Escher could have made a video game – I feel it would be a lot like this. For example, say you are walking along a corridor, turn-

ing 90 degrees to your right, every 5 metres, with no incline. Then, after doing this 10 times, the corridor suddenly becomes straight when you turn the corner. Being an FPS, it's weird to know that your mind is being tricked quite easily, yet you don't see how or where it happened.

The artistic style of *Antichamber* makes you feel like you're trapped in a modern art museum, with pristine white walls, ceilings and floor. Little motivational images are posted around the game – often giving subtle hints as to how you should approach the next chamber. There's sporadic use of colour in some areas – you may go through multiple white-walled chambers, before coming across a large room, where you need to make your way to the end, using the coloured corridor sections as a guide.

Once you've learned the tricks of trade, and know what to expect, the game will then throw something obvious into the mix, and stump you for another good 5 minutes before you facepalm, and wonder why you even thought it would be good to procrastinate this way.

The block-play isn't too repetitive either – there are upgrades available to your launcher that make older puzzles

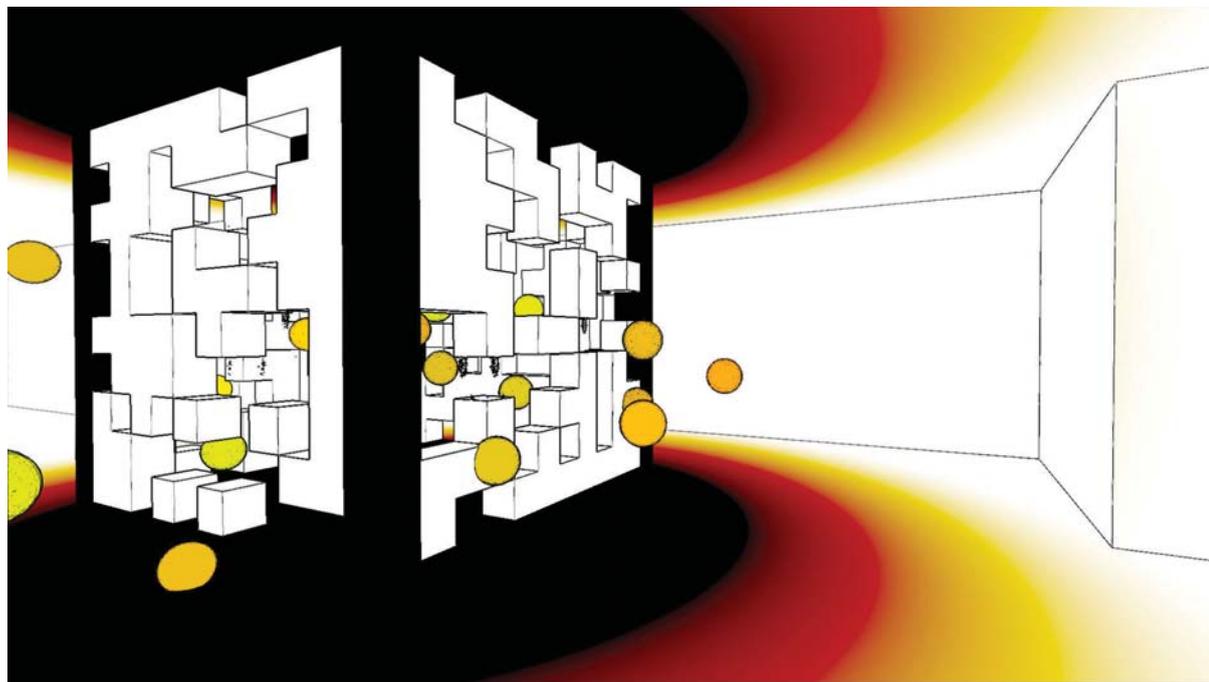
quicker to run through, and new puzzles, manageable.

As soundtracks go, *Antichamber's* may not be as odd as you think – it's not your normal game OST, with a thematic motif... or any emotion – it's just sounds. Relaxing sounds at least. I expect that if they added anything more energetic, there'd be more temper tantrums than usual. Being made in the Unreal engine, the graphics look fine and will work on any relatively recent and decent laptop, although you might find there are some issues with the screen resolution (nothing too hard to fix with notepad).

There's not much, in terms of replayability, as a lot of the 'fun' is from not knowing what to do. There's a timer in the menu room, that counts down from 1hr 30min, so at least you'll be able to speedrun the game...

It's available on Steam for £14.99 – and I can't see any reason, why after this great success, we wouldn't see a 360 or PS3 version. With DLC though. :(

WTF!



Valve games into films? Sign me up!

Laurence Pope I want to believe

It has to be said that films based on video games don't tend to get critically praised. Browsing Wikipedia shows that the highest Rotten Tomatoes score one has ever achieved is 43%, which is less than impressive. They are not, in general, the kind of films I pay to see.

But things might well change.

Cue J.J. Abrams' production com-

pany Bad Robot and Valve coming together to make films based upon Valve's game series *Half-Life* and *Portal*. The announcement was made at the end of a keynote speech delivered by Abrams and Valve's co-founder and CEO Gabe Newell, entitled "Storytelling Across Platforms: Who Benefits Most, the Audience or the Player?". The speech, part of the 2013 D.I.C.E (Design, Innovate, Communicate, Entertain) summit, took the form of a

discussion between the two men as they talked about the strengths and weaknesses of films and video games as storytelling mediums.

Previously other Hollywood directors have approached Valve about making a *Half-Life* film; in Newell's words, "...their stories were just so bad. I mean, brutally, the worst. Not understanding what made the game a good game, or what made the property an interesting thing for people to be a fan of." Up until this point Valve had considered making their own HL film in order to do the series justice, and their work with the *Team Fortress 2* 'Meet the Team' shorts was part of the experimentation process. The joint announcement by Abrams and Newell seem set to change this idea.

So when can we expect something? Though much talk has no doubt gone on between Newell and Abrams there's still little in the way of concrete information available to the public. Like all things Valve undertakes the project will take

time, so don't expect a 2013 release (or even a 2014 one). Good things come to those who wait, however, and I for one am confident whatever Valve and Bad Robot Productions come up with will trump all the other video game movies in the market.

I guess Episode 3 can just wait a little longer...



My money. All of it. Take.

Circus of games news

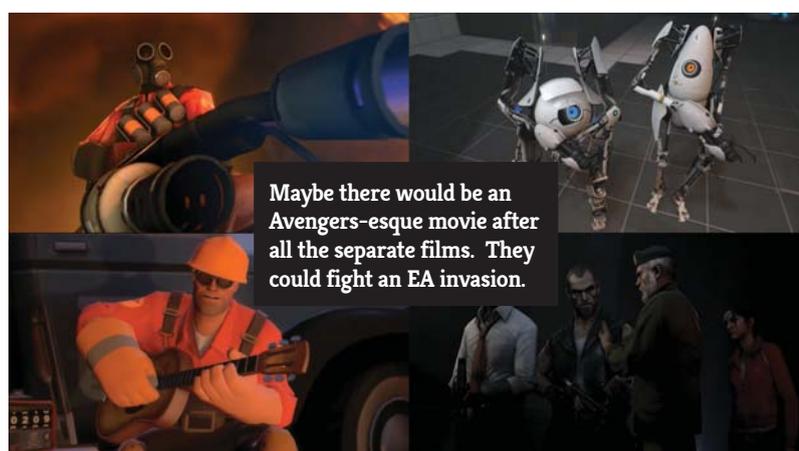
Not a waste of our time?

InXile have shown us a good bunch of gameplay footage of their alpha build for *Wasteland 2*. Despite the UI looking like it's from the 90s, the in-game graphics are promising, and the gameplay looks very solid. This should stop some of the worrying that's been going on in Kickstarter-backer-land.

Batman Arkham Again

Those lovely people at Warner Bros. has confirmed that there'll be a new Batman game coming out this year. We don't know a title, nor if London developer Rocksteady is still on the case – we'll let you know when we're updated.

Come back when you get some money, buddy.





Technology Editor: Jason Parmar
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TECHNOLOGY

Elementary, My Dear Watson, Now Go Cure Cancer

Yong Wen Chua is wondering if he could beat Watson at Jeopardy

Watson might be becoming smarter than Holmes after all, if IBM gets its way.

Watson was first unveiled in a game show *Jeopardy* two years ago. *Jeopardy* is a game show where contestants are presented with the answers to questions they are supposed to come up with. Unsurprisingly, even though Holmes wasn't on scene, Watson managed to beat the two human contestants (who were widely considered to be the best *Jeopardy* players) hands down. Now that Watson has defeated its human overlords in a game of *Jeopardy*, it is ready to take on the task of curing cancer.

Developed by IBM since 2005, Watson was always envisioned as having a higher purpose in medicine. Watson is an artificial intelligence (AI) system that is able to answer questions posed to it in a natural language (i.e. a language spoken by humans). It does this by analysing connections and trends in data that humans may not be able to. The clever Machine used this to play the game show and is using this now in cancer treatment. It compares a patient's medical records with what it has in its mas-

Watson is not what philosophers call a "Strong AI"

sive database, before recommending treatments with confidence levels on effectiveness. However, Holmes, and in fact humans like the rest of us, need not be worried – Watson isn't as smart as it seems.

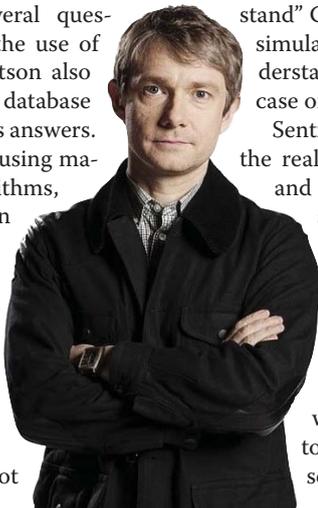
There are things that can stump Watson. Natural languages pose an extreme challenge to the AI, with its use of subtle nuances and implicit meanings. This was demonstrated during the *Jeopardy* game when Watson answered several questions wrongly due to the use of implicit meanings. Watson also depends heavily on its database to be able to generate its answers. It is fed with data, and using machine learning algorithms, 'learns' the information to build its database and make the necessary connections. So if there is something that is not in its database, Watson would not be able to know about that piece of information. It would not

be able to make any 'educated guesses' either. This all boils down to Watson not being what philosophers call a "Strong AI".

A "Strong AI" is roughly an AI that has an intelligence that matches or exceeds that of humans whereas a "Weak AI" is simply an AI that can act intelligently. A "Strong AI" would be able to understand and act on information, showing signs of sentience. Watson is not a "Strong AI". Watson is simply a machine that is following a set of instructions to analyse what it has in its database. It does not "understand" the data it has in the same way that humans do. This situation is illustrated in the "Chinese Room" thought experiment presented by John Searle.

In the "Chinese Room" experiment, Searle hypothesised that if a computer can, given sufficient and comprehensive instructions, produce outputs to input Chinese characters in such a convincing manner that it passes the Turing Test, it will be able to convince a human Chinese speaker that the program is itself a live Chinese speaker. However, the question is whether the computer can literally "understand" Chinese, or is it merely simulating the ability to understand Chinese. This is a case of "Strong vs Weak AI".

Sentient AI still remains in the realm of Science Fiction, and we are unlikely to see situations like those in the *Matrix* films come true in the near future. Watson might be able to enable us to cure cancer in a more effective way, but it is not going to be able to think for itself any time soon.



Watson is ready to take on the task of curing cancer.



I have not lived for years with Sherlock Holmes for nothing.

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.

Phone for a Pretty Penny

Vertu, the maker of luxury smartphones, has just released its first android device. Previously owned by Nokia and producing symbian based phones, the British company has decided on android for its future models instead of Windows 8. These phones reportedly cost up to £7,000, and sport ruby keys, a titanium body and a scratch-proof sapphire screen. On the spec side, the phone does seem somewhat lacking. The big question for me is, who would want such a thing?

Honey, there's YouTube on TV

YouTube is becoming a TV channel on subscription free Freesat. However it will not really be a channel, with shows and set-times etc., but more like an app on your TV. You will be able to watch videos and clips that you would normally see on your PC on your TV. Yay?

DON'T UPDATE YOUR iPhone

The new ios 6.1 was released roughly a fortnight ago, and it hasn't come without controversy. According to various European mobile networks, including England's Vodafone, iPhone users should not update. Apparently customers have received texts, warning them of the problems coming with the new software update. These include decreased battery life, weak 3G signal strength, loss of calls and throttling of Exchange servers.

Lol Catz on Twittr, Srsly!

Finally Twittr has gotz wif teh trend, catz on teh internetz. While it still iz in beta, dis will be welcome addishun 2 teh micro-blogging siet when it finally comez out. How lotz da peeps will akshully use dis settin is still up 4 debate tho.

iWatch the Time.

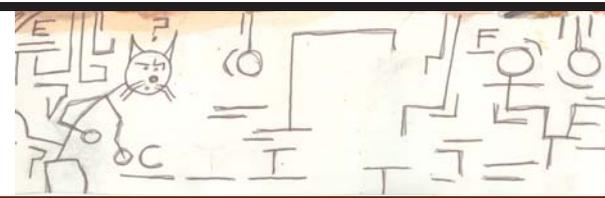
Yes, everyone, you have read correctly. The next big product is purportedly to be released by the Cupertino tech giant. To combat the falling revenue on the iPod side of things, this little gadget is being readied to dominate the new emerging market of wearable tech. It seems pretty certain that this actually will come out as well as its role to hook up with your bigger iDevice. However what the "smartwatch" will actually do is still up to debate. The price voiced by experts range from \$50 to \$100, which all falls in the frame of a good watch anyway. Knowing Apple, the price could be double that though. It could either come with a touch-screen with in-built apps or used solely with Siri. Other features that the internet and consumers want to see are: unlocking your phone remotely, ringing when it gets to far from your phone (so you don't lose or forget it), showing text messages and generally other notifications. Nobody seems to care about it showing the time though!



Maximilian Eggl Tech editor

HANGMAN

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Rap lyrics of the week

2 Chainz: "Wut we doin?"



"Polo on my drawers, Polo on my shirt
Polo on your bra bitch, that Polo,
Polo, Polo"

Rule 1 of rap is that stuff should rhyme or there should be some clever wordplay. This doesn't rhyme and saying polo repeatedly isn't clever wordplay, it's just lazy product placement. It's actually fun to pretend that he is just really into mints with holes in them and eats so many that they are stuck to his boxers (drawers) and shirt. He probably isn't, but it would be funny if he were.

Oh, and one more thing while we are here: can rappers please take five minutes to just look up how to spell words. It's not 'hood' or 'gangsta' to not spell stuff. It just makes you look like a teenager on MSN.

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* and the former Pope. He's gonna be well bored and has fuck all else to do.

Looking wistfully into the distance

with Professor Brian Cox



Heya guys!! I'm proffy B Cox, and I'm here to teach you how to be a real life science TV presenter. It's so simple. Here are some tips. You could be the next me!! :P

Stare wistfully into the distance

Yeah, the title gave it away. Look at all these photos I put in this article. Looks like I'm really contemplating life and the universe right? Well, my trick to achieve this is to really need a piss. Then I concentrate on not wetting myself and have a steely faraway look in my eye. Simple!

Unnecessary travel

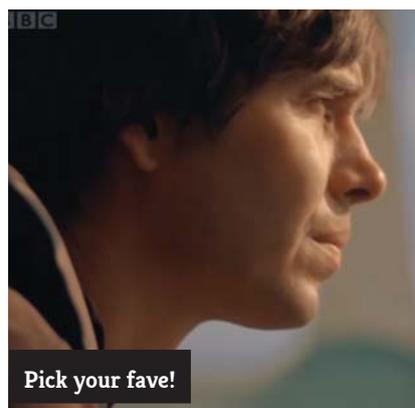
Come on. You can't learn about Physics in a normal place like Luton or Slough or a BBC studio. How could I have possibly explained about heightened sense of hearing when the room is dark anywhere but an exotic cave? It's not like I could have just gone into a really dark room or anything!!!

Point I'm making is that you **HAVE** to travel about a bit. Manilla, LA, Jupiter, try and go to all of them. Then people won't notice that if they listen to what you say rather than look at the pretty pictures, you're actually talking about dull thermodynamics. Try to make as many tenuous analogies as possible.

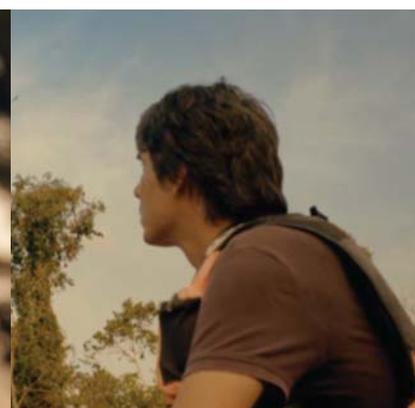
Free gap year here I come!

Get blitzed while making it

All this stuff about DNA and evolution is actually pretty boring to script.



Pick your fave!



I've got to do like 5 takes of each little bit too just to make sure that I say it right. Also a monkey shat on my head once when I was half way through a really good take and I had to take a shower. It was seriously not as funny as that sounds. To combat the monotony and boredom of having to do A Level experiments on national TV you just get really wasted and sometimes light up a spliff. I totally get away with it too. Only a few eagle eyed viewers

ever spot that I'm off my nut.

Never do a voiceover. Even when it would be really useful

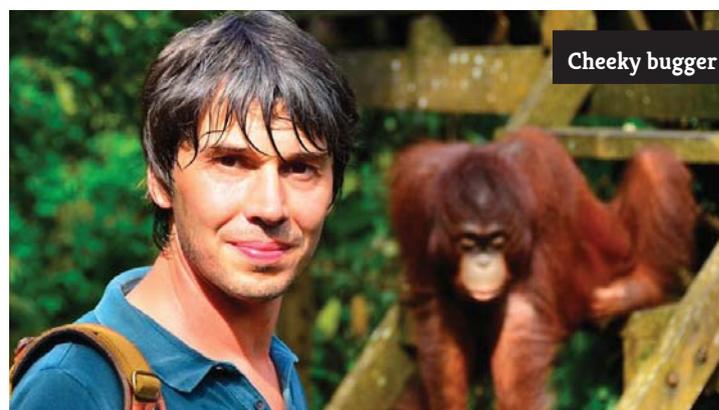
Got a snorkle over your mouth? Diving in the sea? Skydiving? So what? You can just attache a little mic and have really unclear vocals. It's more authentic, and you're not saying anything of any importance anyway, so who cares if you say something that's

not audible! ;)

Use random graphics

Modern TV is great! They have all these amazing little graphics to use that explain everything and look pretty! I can be talking and then a bunch of H⁺ ions can float all around me. Amazeballs

Well. That's it from me. You now know how to be a top presenter. Now have a look at some of my amazing holiday snaps! :)



THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



YEMEN ADMITS TO OVERESTIMATING LIKELY ATTENDANCE OF BIEBER GIG



NEW UMBRELLA DESIGN DEEMED TO BE "A BIT IMPRACTICAL"

PUZZLES

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



Wordoku

U		I			O		Y	
O			T		U		I	
		H				A		O
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	H	E		R				
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Nonogram

The numbers in each row and column tell you how many groups of black squares are in a row or column, as well as how many black squares each group is made up of. Filling in the grid produces a pretty picture, which in turn produces points if you send it in, so get solving.

		2	3	13	9	1	3	4	4	4	3	2	3	12	9	7
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1	1	1	1	1												
1	1	3	1	1												
4	3	4														

FUCWIT League Table

TEAMS

Requiem for a Bean	38
Sexy Beasts	15
G.A.Y.S.	4
I ate all your bees	4

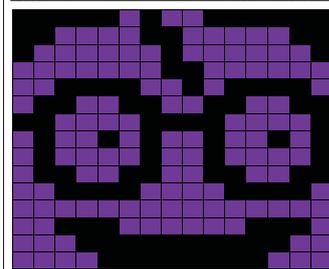
INDIVIDUALS

Wael Aljeshi	28
Yufan Zhao	28
Helix	22
M-Soup	17
Tan Wei Jie	4

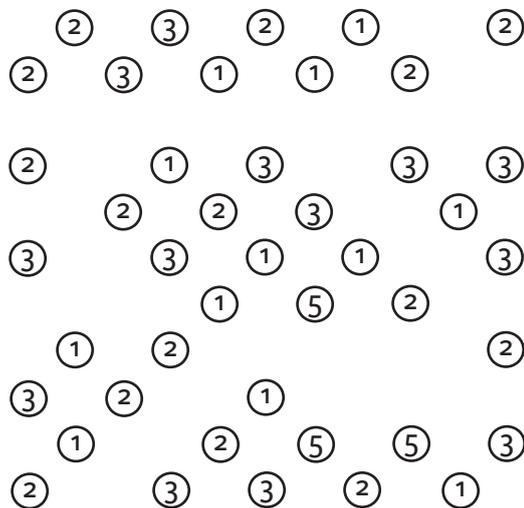
Send your answers to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Last week's Solutions

I	M	P	E	R	I	A	L	C	O	L	L	E	G	E
N	R	A	N	O	E	V	X							
S	P	E	A	R	H	E	A	D	T	W	E	R	P	
U	V	I	M	A	T	N	E							
R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N	M	E	L	T	E	D	
R	L	Y	S	E	T	T	L	E	M	E	N	T		
E	P	E	E	S	E	T	T	L	E	M	E	N	T	
C	N	W	T	T	E	R	S	O	H	O				
T	E	T	R	A	M	E	T	E	R	S	O	H	O	
I	R	N	V	N	U									
O	P	T	I	C	S	I	D	L	E	N	E	S		
N	A	H	G	A	R	R	N							
I	N	B	E	D	L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E	S
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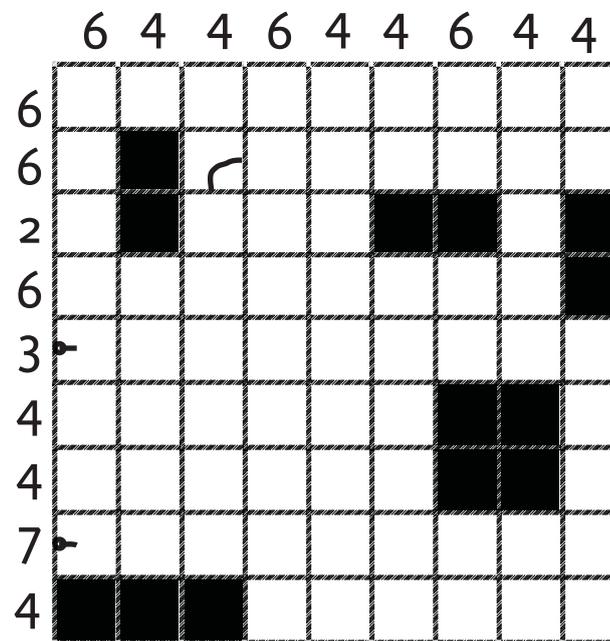
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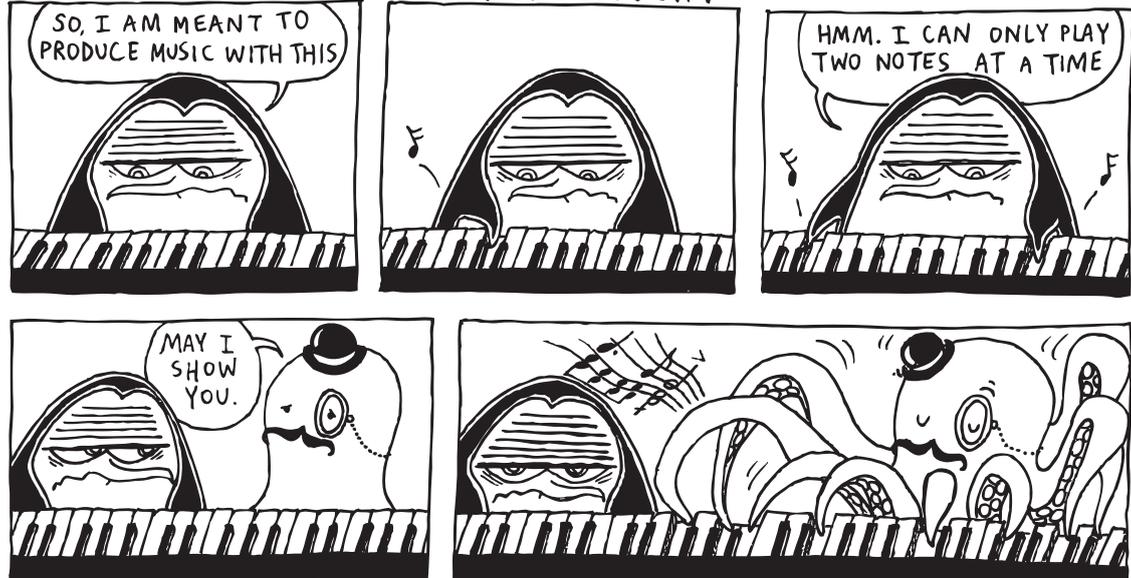
Connect all the islands with bridges so that you can get from any island to any other one. There are restrictions, though: the bridges have to be either vertical or horizontal and they must not intersect. You can have up to two bridges between any two islands and, last but not least, each island must have exactly as many bridges stemming from it as the number on it.

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 (but no black 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.



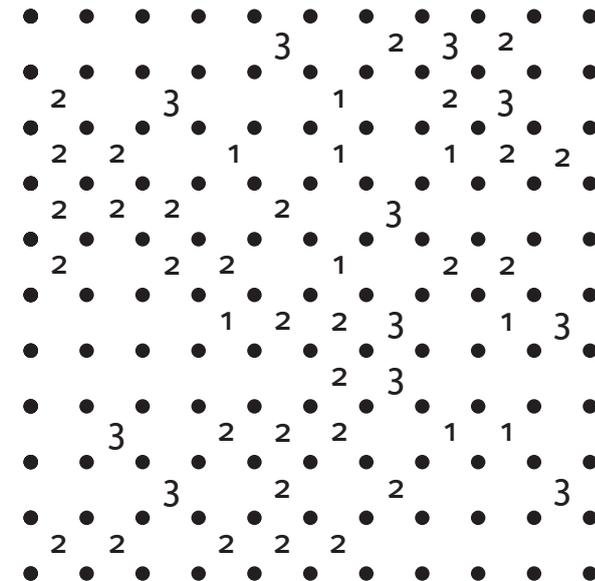
PASSI THE PARABOLASHAPED PENGUIN



2013 Outi

Slitherlink

You probably know this by now: 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.



The Future of Healthcare Development



**South East Regional
Conference**

Wednesday 6th

of March 2013

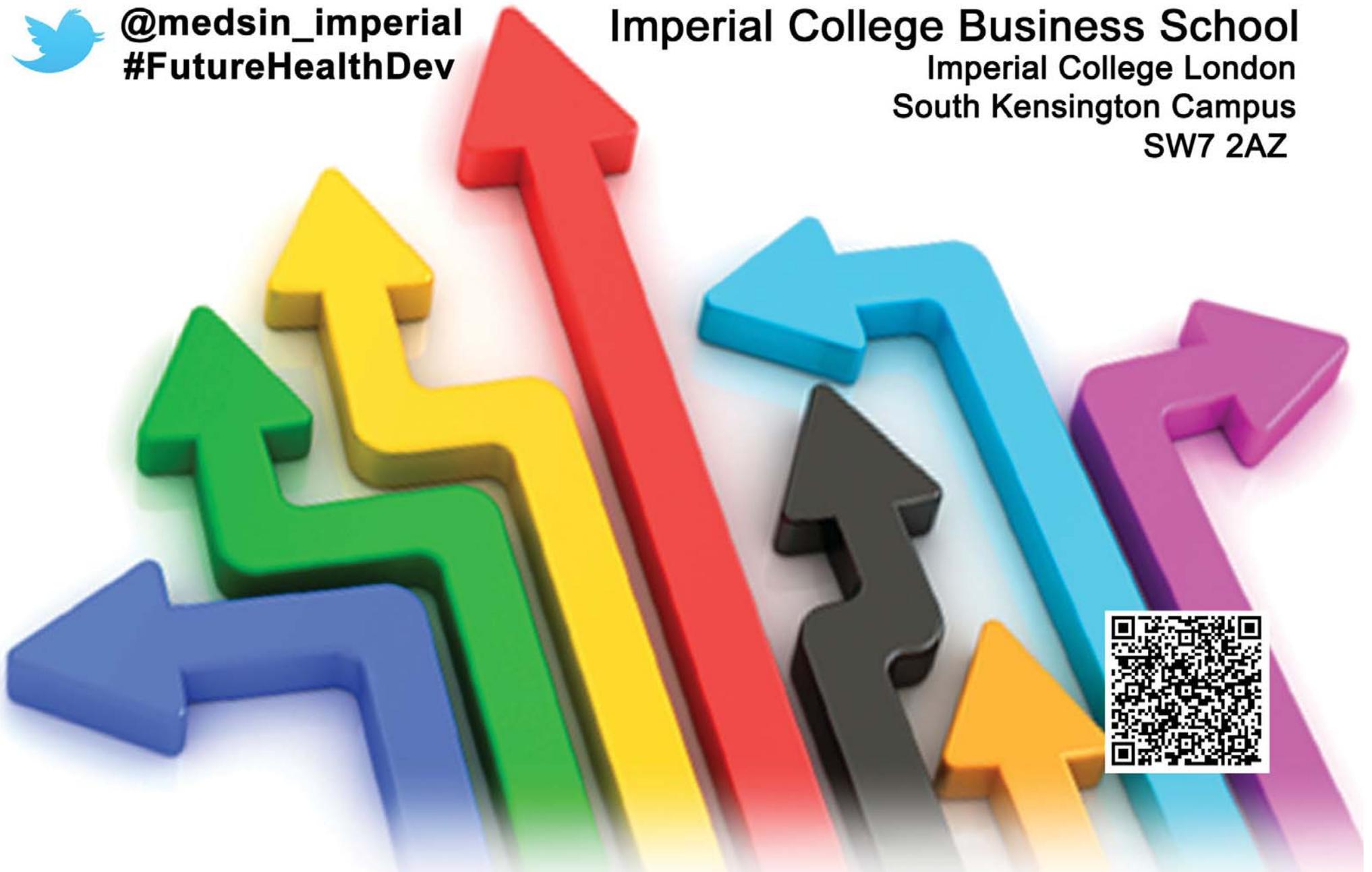
15:30 - 21:30

Tickets available on IC Union Website
<http://bit.ly/VvLQaH> or scan our QR code



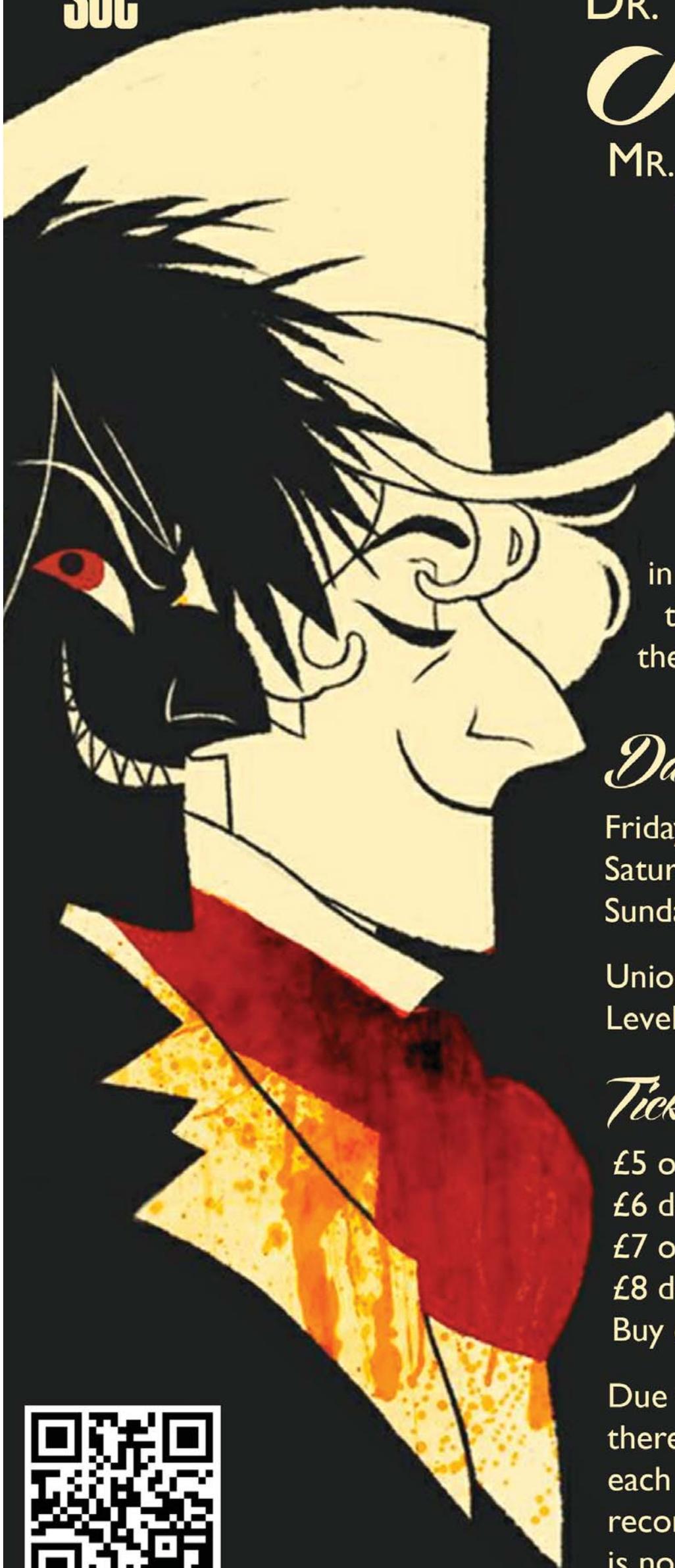
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PROMENADE

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Dates AND **TIMES**

Friday, 15th Feb: 19.30

Saturday, 16th Feb: 14.00; 19.30; 22.00

Sunday, 17th Feb: 18.30; 21.00

Union Concert Hall
Level 2, Union Building

Tickets AND **PRICING**

£5 online, students

£6 door, students

£7 online, non-students

£8 door, non-students

Buy online at www.dramsoc.org/tickets

Due to the nature of promenade theatre, there are a limited number of places at each showing, so early booking is recommended. Please also note that there is no interval and regrettably, disabled access is not available.



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

SPORT

BUCS points galore for ICBC in Boston

Ben Spencer-Jones Sports Writer

ICBC's high performance contingent made the ever dreary trip to Boston on Saturday 9th February and came out with some good results, hopefully putting them in the mixer for international selection this year. BUCS small boats head was also incorporated into the GB trials, so Imperial athletes were racing for Sport Imperial glory as well!

IC's London 2012 Olympian Mel Wilson picked up maximum BUCS points and finished 11th in the Women's trials, whilst Sport Imperial stalwart Zoë Lee finished 14th in the same race. Zoë has now been invited to row with the GB squad at Caversham. Helen Wood and Leonora Kennedy came in 17th and 19th respectively whilst Clio Aubugeau-Williams came 11th of the women's under 23s.

Wilf Kimberley is a dab hand at this trials business after years of representing GB, and he was the quickest under 23 lightweight of the day (and 11th lightweight overall). He also came 2nd in the BUCS rankings. After Ben Spencer-Jones' spectacular Sculler's Head performance, pressure was on to follow it up with

another strong row in the single. He finished 8th of the under 23 heavy-weight men and 4th in BUCS, just missing out on the 'perfect' set of bronze BUCS medals in every boat discipline. There is always next year Ben! Another sculler's head all-star Georgie Phillips had a good row, picking up the BUCS bronze medal. Lightweight Myles Holborough was the 9th placed under 23 and 6th in BUCS. Paul Jones and Tim Richards both struggled with illness and injury coming into the trials and finished 35th and 36th respectively in the lightweight category.

Sam Scrimgeour has been spending much of the 2012-13 season training with the lightweight big deals away from ICBC, but in Imperial colours he finished 9th overall. Ex-IC rowers Adam Freeman-Pask and Jamie Kirkwood finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. I don't want to take too much credit but I taught Jamie almost everything he knows.

The evening commenced with Captain Spencer-Jones' 21st birthday bash; with embarrassing stories and a fully stocked bar, the night was always going to be messy. Those who made it to Fez club in Putney witnessed Matt Whaley's ice cold persona getting thrown out the win-



IC rowers in 2016?

dow when the Baywatch theme tune was dropped. The biggest light-up dance floor in Europe (allegedly) witnessed some killer moves, the

likes of which may never have been seen outside Caius College, Cambridge.

BUCS big boat head has been re-

arranged at Boston next weekend, so the poor residents will have to put up with Imperial stinky banter for another weekend.

Votwo gonna do? Triathlon triumphs

Hugh Mackenzie Sports Writer

The first event of a year is always a tough race, but this one was at Dorney Lake; a well-established, flat course with beautiful smooth roads. This short *Votwo* Gatorade 5k/20k/5k duathlon is always a good lung opener to start your season. To make the most of the potential for a PB, a number of Imperial College Triathletes drove there in the early hours of Saturday. The

team included Alex Milne, Aimee DiMarco, Paul Bryant, Tom Pearson and Hugh Mackenzie. The day dawned bright, cold and worryingly windy. The lake is extremely exposed and with a course consisting of out and back loops it meant running/cycling directly into a head wind and then returning with a tail wind pushing you along. Despite my reservations, I knew this was going to make for some exciting racing.

The start, as always at these short

events, was rapid with people quickly gaining 50m or so. This was no major worry, and as the first few kilometres progressed the race started to unfold. Alex, myself and a well-known duathlete Nick Shasha formed a front group of three and we steadily developed a lead pack entering T1 in 16.27. Following a rusty transition I came onto the bike in second, a fair distance behind Alex. However we were straight onto the smooth tarmac around Dorney Lake, and with a strong following wind I was soon hitting 53 kph. Just before the first 180° turn I had caught up with Alex, however, having not read the course map very well I veered off towards the ditch whilst he calmly undertook me again. Once I had managed to get round the turn I settled into a strong rhythm, and overtook Alex once again before setting about building a lead. Heading into T2 an Imperial alumnus Richard Winchester had taken third place off Nick Shasha so it was looking like an Imperial 123.

The run off the bike is always testing, but with the following wind it felt as if we were really flying. Then we went round the turning point into a

brick wall of head wind, my Garmin started telling the truth and cramp set in. However I was able to settle into a good pace and extended my lead. Alex also ran well consolidating his second place, however Richard was unfortunately piped in the final stretch by Nick for third place. Aimee DiMarco

had a strong race. having just recovered from injury she powered through to finish in 6th place. Tom Pearson also had a notable performance competing in his very first duathlon. A strong cycle leg pushed him up the pack to finish in 30st place out of 173 people.

Pos	Name	Club	Total Time
1	Hugh Mackenzie	Imperial College Triathlon	01:03:38
2	Alex Milne	Imperial College Triathlon	01:06:20
3	Nick Shasha	Ravenscourt Park Runners	01:07:23
30	Thomas Pearson	Imperial College Triathlon	01:17:22
68	Paul Bryant	Imperial College Triathlon	01:24:37
Pos	Name	Club	Total Time
6	Aimee Dimarco	Imperial College Triathlon	01:23:48

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Imperial College
London Triathlon Club

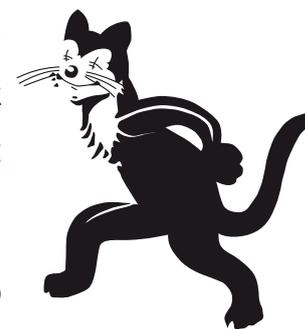
TriIC
Imperial College
Triathlon Club

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LAND-ROVER

imperial college union



BUCS Cup Semi-Finals for ICSM Netball!

Lindsay Hennah Sports Writer

After winning the BUCS South-Eastern conference cup 2 years ago and losing out last year to the dubious ways of Royal Holloway, this year's semi-final against Brighton 2s (away) had a lot riding on it. The journey to the idyllic retirement village of Eastbourne where Brighton students reside was challenge enough, but the long journey just added to our determination for coming away with a victory. We had a 'nothing can stop us' attitude and were ready for any challenge that might await us.

On arrival, we were confronted by a team larger – mainly in height – than any we have come across in London. The average height of the team was at least 6ft, but we have shown through our successes that height isn't everything. We knew that we were going to have to use our skill and speed though the court to transfer the ball effectively through the court.

Brighton came out stronger than we expected and we were only able to hold down a 2 goal lead at the end of the first quarter. We took our time



to settle into the game and allowed Brighton to get the better of us, pushing us off the ball and being more physical than expected. Stepping up to the Brighton's physicality we managed to really pull away in the following 2 quarters, with the shooters capitalising on every opportunity, despite persistent foul play from the desperate Brighton defence. Our WD, Emma Williamson, with her speed and agility had some great turnovers in the centre court interrupting their attacking play, allowing us to gain a 39-27 lead heading into the final quarter

of the game. The challenge was then to maintain the intensity of play and close out for a well deserved victory against 7 angry giants for the remaining 15 minutes.

Congratulations to the team for pulling together – a combination of great movement and perfect shooting in attack, pin point accurate feeding into the circle and the defence standing strong, holding space resulted in a final score of 50-37. With this fantastic win we are now through to the semis! Now to get our revenge on Royal Holloway...



ICHC Ladies 1s battle UCL rivals

Jessica Purcell Sports Writer

Ready for a re-match with long-time rivals UCL, we got to Harlington early, and had a good strategy session with Coach Oli, only slightly distracted by the un-named players who wouldn't keep their shirts on. Ears ringing with assertions that we should play defensively and win with superior numbers behind the ball, we had a good warm up and prepared to play running into strong wind.

With one or two early forays into



UCL's defensive half, we quickly discovered that actually following advice and playing the way that Oli had wanted us to all season paid some dividends as we were able to capitalise on UCL's mistakes. The other side of this was that play was 90% in our own half of the pitch, with defence under constant pressure to keep UCL out. Keeping up with some of the more boisterous UCL forwards was tricky, and the defending mids and forwards looked a bit lost, but our defensive line was rock-solid, keeping out repeated long and short-corners, even a couple of passable attempts at drag-flicks (she managed to get it in the air and towards the goal).

Suffering bruised feet and barely-working lungs at the back, it was with much relief that mids and forwards got used to defending and organisation fell into place, leaving UCL continuously frustrated in their attacking efforts.

The score at 0-0, we emerged from a freezing half-time talk determined to keep up the good work and discipline.

With UCL now playing into the wind and rain, we got more aggressive, and more balls made it out to forwards Hayley and Sorcha. Despite best efforts, they were unable to run through oppo defence on their own and our strategy showed it's weaknesses with UCL continuing to dominate pressure, though not possession, in our half. One particularly interesting attack saw a slow lob heading for the net over keeper Purcy's head, but was denied with a "graceful" vertical jump that saw the ball knocked off the back line from near the crossbar.

Showing that we were still in this game, IC did manage to get the ball up the pitch and Hazman capitalised on UCL's bored and frozen defence to achieve a deflection off of their stick, and into the goal over their keepers head. Our elation was short-lived. With a crack in our disciplined play, UCL made it back into our half and got off a cracking shot from top D into the far corner of the net before defence or keeper could react. Both sides struggled for goal attempts in the re-



maining minutes, but the whistle went before our attacking short could be blown, and the game finished 1-1.

Though disappointed that we had not kept them out entirely, we impressed ourselves with one of the best games we've played this season, and certainly the most disciplined. This

was reflected in MoM nominations for nearly every player, though ultimately awarded to left-back Emma. With a win, loss and now a draw behind us, we hope to beat UCL convincingly if we meet them again in the LUSL cup final. This rivalry needs to be sorted once and for all!