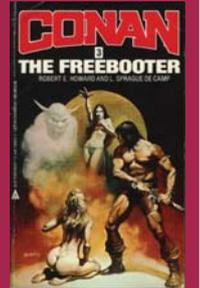
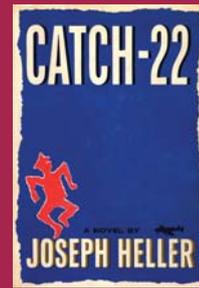
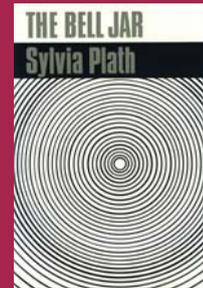
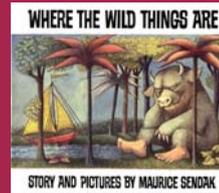




## Judging books by their covers

Arts celebrate the best book covers of all time. **Page 22**



## Chinese university may open UK campus

### Zhejiang University sign agreement with Imperial

**Tim Arbabzadah** Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College London has signed a memorandum of understanding with Zhejiang University (ZJU) that could see the creation of a UK campus for the Chinese university at White City, where Imperial's new Imperial West campus is to be built.

The memorandum was signed on the morning of 15 May 2013 during a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People in Zhejiang Province. Sir Keith O'Nions, President & Rector of Imperial College London, Hao Ping, Chinese Vice Minister of Education Jin Deshui, Council Chairman of ZJU, and the Governor and Vice Governor of the Zhejiang Province signed the memorandum. The seniority of the Chinese delegation is a sign that this proposal is being taken seriously by the Chinese Government. Xinhau, the national news agency in China, published the news and Chinese television news bulletins have run stories on it.

Zhang Xiuqin, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges at China's Education ministry, said: "China will support and help its universities to go out and internationalise". She said that the ZJU's London campus would be a "valuable step" towards this goal. If the second campus does go ahead, **>>4**



## SEX SURVEY I

**PAGES 8-13**

## Inside...>>

### POLITICS



UKIP: not as strong as portrayed? **>>20**

### FILM



Fast, furious, and ridiculous **>>28**

### SPORT



Water polo are always wet **>>32**

# EDITOR'S PICKS

## SEX SURVEY

>>08

### We bashed it out

Oh yes. It's back. This time, it's just as personal. We comprehensively pry into your lives between the sheets. Enjoy what we splashed on the pages.



## COMMENT

>>21

### Goodbye HOST

We have a letter from the former Imperial librarian Magda Czigány. She laments the decision to move the History of Science masters elsewhere.



## FILM

>>26

### Grossly rich

The film industry seems to be more lucrative than ever. Mostly down to the rise of 3D. This week, Film looks at the biggest grossing films of all time.



## CLASSIFIEDS

### Tutor wanted

Help with Homework for Year 2 and 3 girls - £10/hour I am looking for a female student who can help with homework after school around 3 days a week starting from 11th June until 18th July approximately. We live in Ifield Road by the Earls Court Tube. Female applicants only.

If interested, email Lucia: [lc261272@gmail.com](mailto:lc261272@gmail.com)

### Temps wanted

Temp Renewable Energy installers required for east london project 10th June. Must be fit & strong, practical, quick learning & a team player.

See [www.sogosolar.co.uk](http://www.sogosolar.co.uk) & call Ben on 07804 614833.

To place something in Classifieds, email [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)

### not-quite-a-LOLCAT OF TEH WEEK: A perk of the job



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Printed by Iliffe Print Cambridge, Winship Road, Cambridge.  
Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.  
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Special thanks this week to Philippa Skett for helping with the Sex Survey and the Drugs Survey. And thanks to all that helped, i.e. Matt Allinson, Iulia Gherman, Joe Letts, Chris Witham, Annina Sartor



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

# NEWS

## Student led teaching award winners announced

**Tim Arbabzadah** Editor-in-Chief

The winners of Imperial College Union's first Student Academic Choice Awards have been announced at a ceremony on Tuesday 21 May. Over 150 people attended the event.

The eight winners (see box at the end of the article) were picked from over 400 entries that the Union received. Best Teaching for Undergraduates received 244 submissions from students. The winner, Dr Alistair Donaldson from the Department of Computing, said "I've been constantly impressed by how bright, enthusiastic,

questioning and hard working the undergraduate students are". He said that the award "really means a lot" because it is coming from students and that he is "hugely honoured" to be praised for his lecturing ability.

Anna Hikel from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering echoed the sentiments from Dr Donaldson, saying, "I am pleased that the students recognise my dedication to them". She went on to say that she "was thrilled to receive the news that I had won the award".

At the event, Paul Beaumont, Union President, said: "The SACAs is our way of thanking all of the nominees



DPE Doug Hunt does his best Seth MacFarlane impression

and winners for their hard work and recognising the positive impact that they have on the student experience."

Each of the winners received a trophy, and all finalists were presented with a certificate.

### Full List of Winners

**Best Teaching for Undergraduates**  
Dr Alastair Donaldson, Computing

**Best Innovation**  
Dr Jane Saffell, Department of Medicine

**Best Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
Alan Zucconi, Computing

**Best Teaching for Postgraduates**  
Professor Andrew Purvis, Division of Ecology and Evolution

**Best Tutoring**  
Dr Sohag Saleh, Medicine

**Best Feedback**  
Dr Rebecca Bell, Earth Science & Engineering

**Best Support Staff**  
Anna Hikel, Civil & Environmental Engineering

**Best Supervision**  
Dr Rafael Palacios Nieto, Aeronautics

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## More student cuts

### Discount haircuts for Imperial students at Fresh Hairdressers near South Kensington

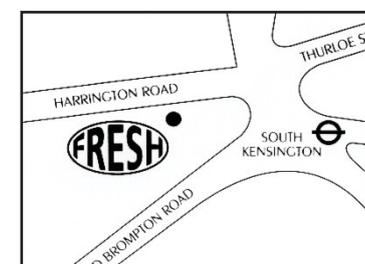
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  - 3) You don't have to be butchered at some cheap Barbers
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discount and bring your student ID we look forward to seeing you. We use only the best products, Wella, Moroccan Oil, L'Oreal, and KMS and offer free coffee and herbal teas. To book an appointment call **0207 823 8968**. Tuesday to Saturdays 9.30 to 5.30 We are only 70 metres from South Kensington tube station. [www.freshhairdressers.co.uk](http://www.freshhairdressers.co.uk)



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# NEWS

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

## Glastonearly – less expense, more rabbits

Summer is on its way and festival season is nearly upon us. Do you long to frolic in the sunshine with live music, alcohol and food... but don't want to spend a fortune? Have you heard of Silfest?

Silfest is a music festival held yearly on the grounds of the Silwood Park campus of Imperial College London. Silfest will entertain you with all day live music, lots of entertainments, food and DJs playing late into the night. Will your summer be complete without creating your own ice-cream with liquid nitrogen? Fancy yourself a circus performer? Do you dream of a wide selection of alcohol at student prices? Perhaps you just want to escape London to a land of greenery and rabbits? Silfest is the place to be.

Silwood Park is the ideal location for a music festival, boasting around 100 ha of land including fields to camp in, woodland, streams and a large Victorian manor house where the DJs will be playing. And of course only a mere 50 minute train journey from Waterloo station.

Come and enjoy the sun at Silfest 2013 on the 27th of July. Listen to live music, explore the woods, drink, eat, dance and drink some more, before crashing into your tent and camping under the stars with the rabbits and deer.

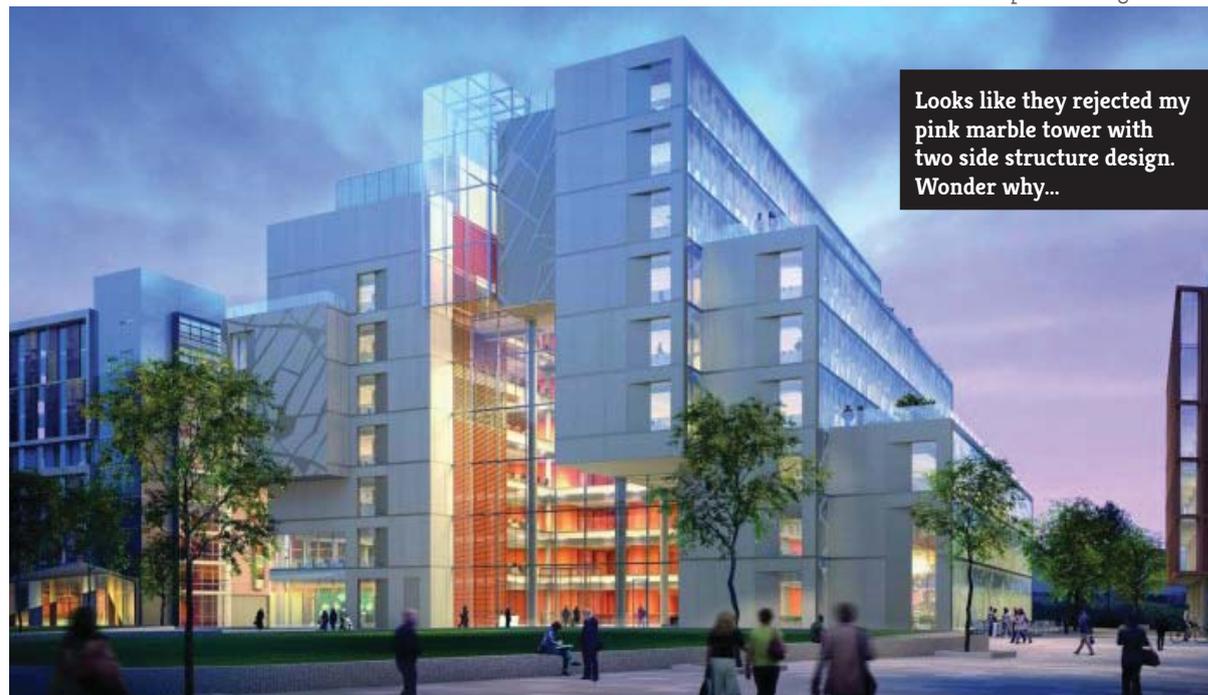
For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Silfest website at [www.union.ic.ac.uk/silfest](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/silfest) and for regular updates on bands and entertainments join the Facebook events page at [www.tiny.cc/SILFEST2013](http://www.tiny.cc/SILFEST2013) or follow SILFEST2013 on Twitter. Early-bird tickets are now on sale, limited numbers and for a limited time only!

Lara Meade



## Future partnership on the cards

Imperial College London



» continued from the front page

ZJU will be the first Chinese university to expand overseas.

Imperial have invited proposals from potential global partners in business, industry and academia to base themselves at the seven acre site and collaborate with Imperial. College say that the early response has been "strong". O'Nions said: "Our ambition for collaborating with other organisations at Imperial West – and certainly with ZJU – is to achieve a level of excellence together that would not be possible apart." He went on to say: "We look forward to working with ZJU colleagues to establish how the two institutions will benefit from the potential partnerships."

At this stage the agreement is to discuss the new campus and is non-binding. Both Imperial and ZJU will now

explore the feasibility of establishing joint academic facilities in the Imperial West campus. The two universities will also explore ways to collaborate in postgraduate education and joint research. O'Nions has hinted as to how this could be useful. He said that there are some problems that cannot be solved by one side and that this is good opportunity to work together in a two pronged approach. "For example, in the field of human health, the two universities can study the population in different regions and explore the treatment of diseases faced by human beings."

ZJU seem to be keen on the move. An article appeared on their website praising Imperial and highlighting the reputation for international excellence that Imperial enjoys. ZJU described the opportunity as "exciting". Jin De-shui said: "We are very pleased to be able to work together with Imperial

College." He went on to say that Imperial and ZJU will develop a mutually beneficial model, which will be sustainable and that they will carry out two-way, in-depth strategic cooperation that will help both institutions.

Imperial West is the new campus for Imperial College London. Exact details on what will be there have not yet been fully released. However, College say that the site, previously owned by the BBC, will be a £150 million research centre for up to 3000 scientists. The site faced opposition from local residents who claimed that their peace would be disturbed and their houses would be overshadowed.

ZJU currently contains around 39,000 students, and houses one of the largest library collections in China. The Times Higher Education supplement (THE) ranked it below 300 in the world, although its income from industry is very strong.

Imperial College  
London

# stay while you search

- ❖ Are you looking for private housing this summer?
- ❖ Why not stay in halls while you search?
- ❖ Short term lets are available in Evelyn Gardens or Xenia.
- ❖ The Student Hub will be open all summer too - so pop in for advice and get your contract checked.

[www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation) [www.imperial.ac.uk/studenthub](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/studenthub)



## Join our team! Register online for our recruitment event on Friday 4 June



We run one of the best student venues in the UK and we need a team to make the magic happen. If you fancy working in our bars and entertainments team then applications are now open online to our here. We are looking exciting and dynamic people to work in our teams, people who believe in providing brilliant customer service and aren't afraid of hard work.

We are looking for people to help out in our bars and with our entertainments, and also in the Union Shop and Newsagent. All the roles will require some late-night and weekend shifts.

The recruitment event is at Metric on June 4 at 18:00. To register for a place at the event then you will need to complete the form at [imperialcollegeunion.org/studentstaff](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/studentstaff) by midday Monday 3 June.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/studentstaff](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/studentstaff)

## Union Survey - tell us what you think

**FOR FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME YOU COULD WIN AN IPAD MINI & MORE GREAT PRIZES!**

The Union Survey is your chance to let us know what you think about the many services that we run and provide. The survey only takes a few minutes to complete and helps us understand how to make your Union better for you.

Take the survey online at [imperialcollegeunion.org/survey](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/survey) and you could win one of the following prizes:

- An iPad Mini (WiFi 16GB Black)
- 2 x £20 Union Shop vouchers
- 4 x £10 Union Shop vouchers
- 4 pairs of Summer Ball 2013 tickets!

This is the third Union Survey we have run and already we have made big changes as a result of your feedback. Our 'You said, We did' campaign highlights the changes we have made. Some of those changes include:

- Introducing great monthly drinks offers our bars
- Improved the speed of eActivities by moving it to a new, faster, server
- Launched new nights in Metric including our new indie night Indigo
- Started hosting sexual health clinics on campus with free STI testing
- Regular visits to other campuses including Hammersmith and Silwood

**DON'T FORGET, THE UNION SURVEY CLOSSES ON 12 JUNE 2013!**

This really does help us to improve everything we do, so help us keep improving for you. We will be selecting winners at random for the prize draw and announcing them online.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/survey](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/survey)



# Stress LESS

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/stressless](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/stressless)

**BOUNCY CASTLE**  
Tuesday 28 May  
11:00 - 15:00

**Free**  
**Queen's Lawn**

If you're not one for Yoga, Tai Chi, Zumba or Boxfit? You can always de-stress by having a bounce on our bouncy castle.



**Nominations close**  
**Wednesday 29 May**  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)

## THE UNION AWARDS

**Nominations close**  
**Friday 31 May**

Help someone get the recognition they deserve for their contribution to the Union.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/unionawards](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/unionawards)

# NEWS

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

## Events

### New Scientist Live Event

Paul Davies will be talking about a radical approach to cancer therapy.

Cancer research is a vast worldwide enterprise, yet there has been little improvement in patient outcomes over several decades. Clearly some bold new thinking is needed. Amid the frantic search for an elusive "cure", some basic questions are overlooked. Why is there cancer? What are its deep evolutionary roots? Why do almost all cells come pre-loaded with a cancer subroutine? Paul, who is the Director of the Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science at Arizona State University, will describe a new and testable theory of cancer as the re-activation of an ancient phenotype, suggesting a radically new approach to therapy.

Tickets cost £5

Wednesday 5th June from 6:30pm - 8pm (doors at 6pm)  
Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL

<http://cancertalk.eventbrite.co.uk/>

**Revising and bored in the Library?  
Write for Felix.  
Only a few weeks left to contribute!  
Email: [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)**

## Not For Profit Careers Fair

Imperial College  
London

Careers Advisory Service

### Not For Profit Careers Fair

Thursday 13 June 2013, 17:00—19:30



This fair is specifically aimed at students and graduates of Imperial College interested in careers within the not for profit sector. All students are encouraged to attend from first years to PhDs.



Senior Common Room, Level 2, Sherfield Building  
Booking not required, but a valid Imperial ID card must be shown  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/careers](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/careers)

Imperial College London is hosting a careers fair that is just for the Not For Profit sector on Thursday 13 June. It is a new event that has been added after feedback from Imperial students. Companies in attendance will range from the Civil Service Fast Stream to Teach First to Global Vision International.

Students from all years will be able

to take part in the event, which, like all other careers fairs, will involve students meeting employers at their stands. There has been one other Not For Profit event this academic year, which was a Not For Profit Forum last November. This was more of a conference than a traditional careers fair.

In the past there was criticism over the way that careers fairs were run.

## Imperial students win trip to Rotterdam

**Tim Arbabzadah** Editor-in-Chief

Two Imperial students, Aran Kankiwala and Shi Yunn Chua, have won a competition that gave them the prize of a three-day all expenses paid program of events in Rotterdam last week as Shell's special VIP guests.

They were two of the 20 winning students. The winners were from the UK, Germany and Norway, and they won a host of prizes. The first being the VIP pass to the Shell Eco-marathon Europe 2013. This is an event where students have to design, build and drive the most energy-efficient car. They also won the chance to go to the "Powering Progress Together conference". This is a discussion on the future challenges on energy, water and food with speakers including the Mayor of Rotterdam, CEO Energy Sector of Siemens and the CEO of Royal Dutch Shell. The Imperial students also won an interview and a dinner with senior members of Shell.

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#### GAON

Created by the former owner of Ran (Soho), Gaon serves Korean favourites in a refined, upscale and modern style

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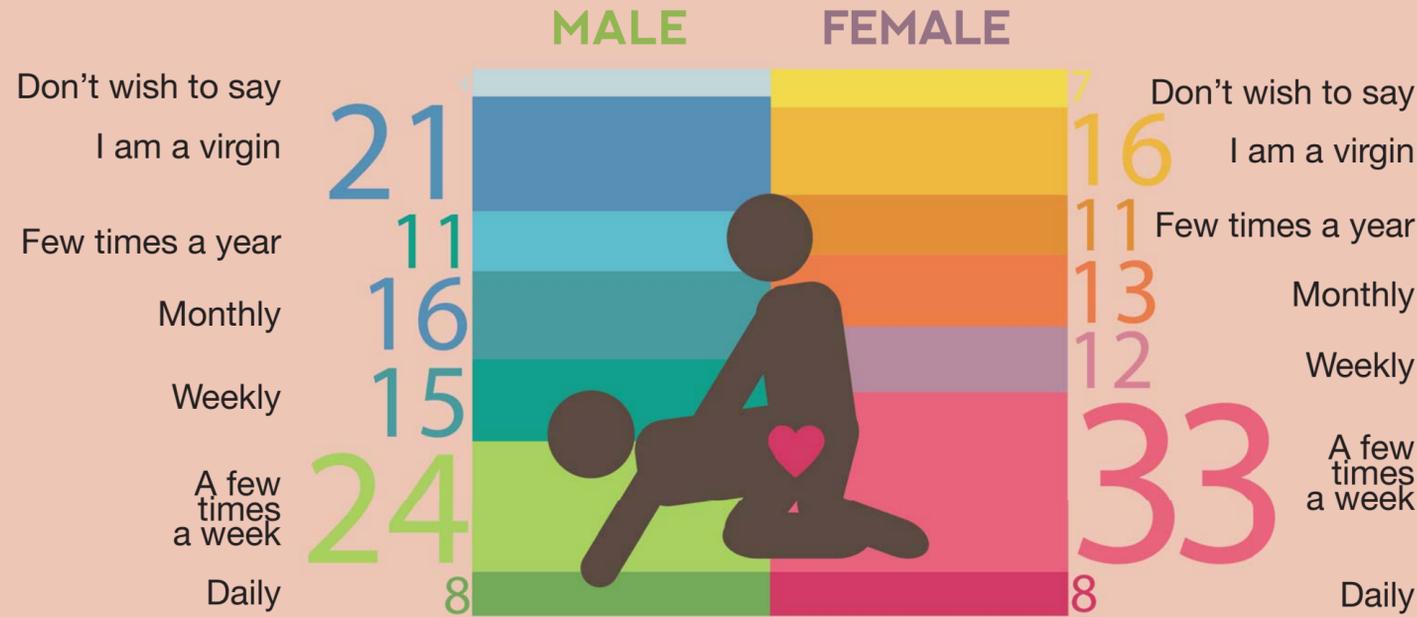
[imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball)

ACTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND SUBJECT TO LICENCE

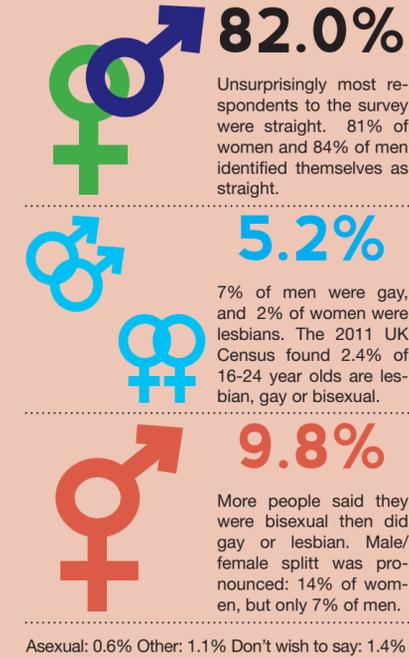
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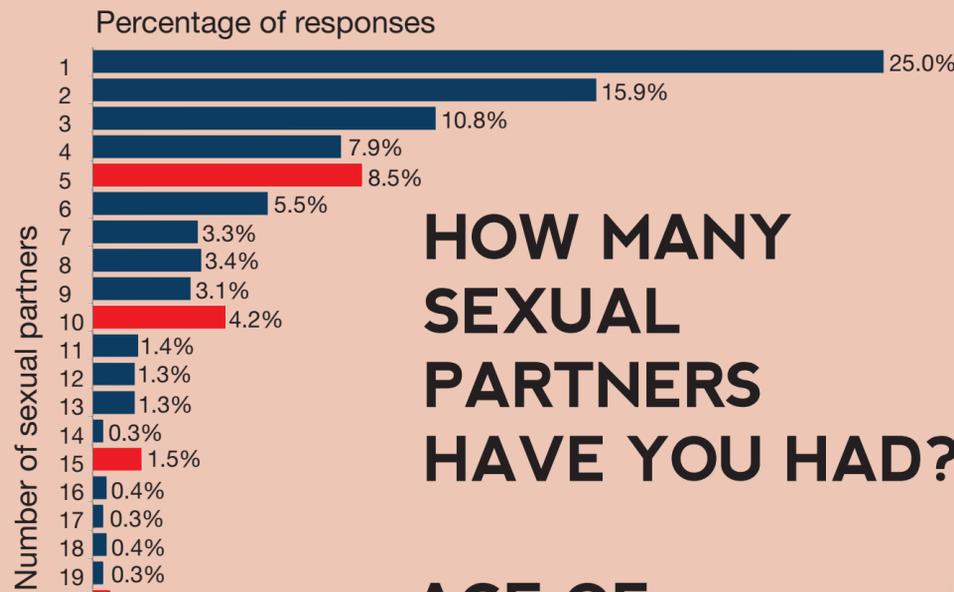
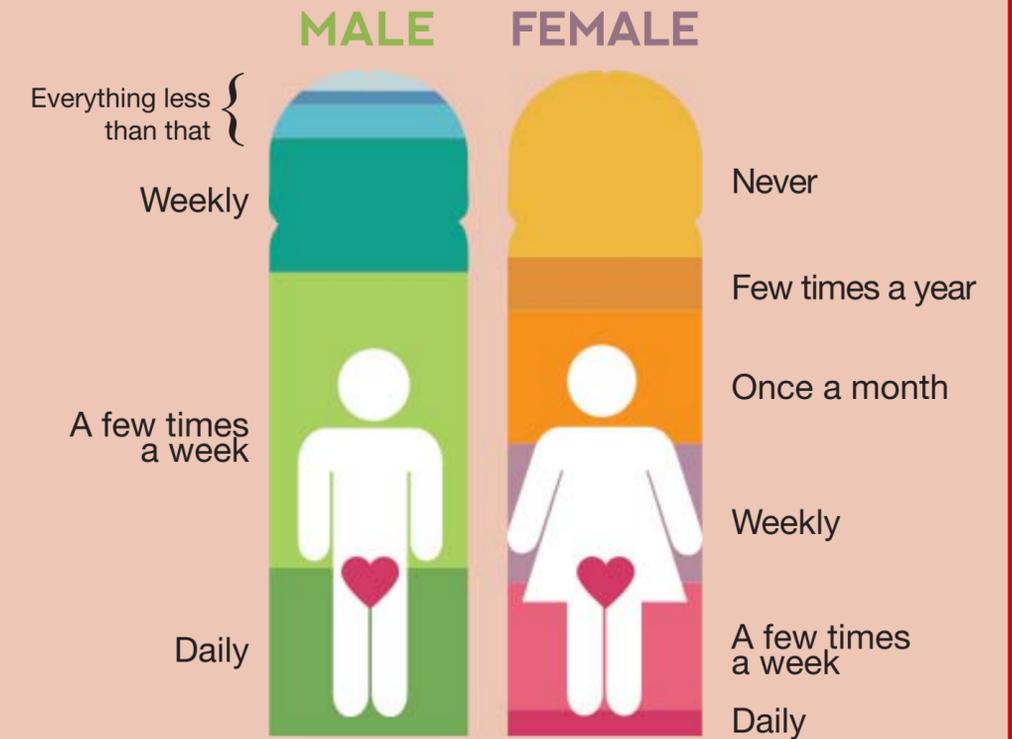
# HOW OFTEN ARE YOU HAVING SEX?



# THIS YEAR WE HAD 1113 REPLIES SEXUALITY

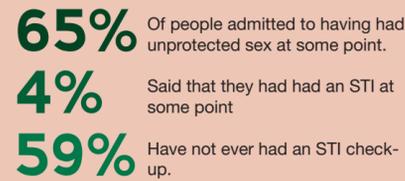


# HOW OFTEN ARE YOU MASTURBATING?



# HOW MANY SEXUAL PARTNERS HAVE YOU HAD?

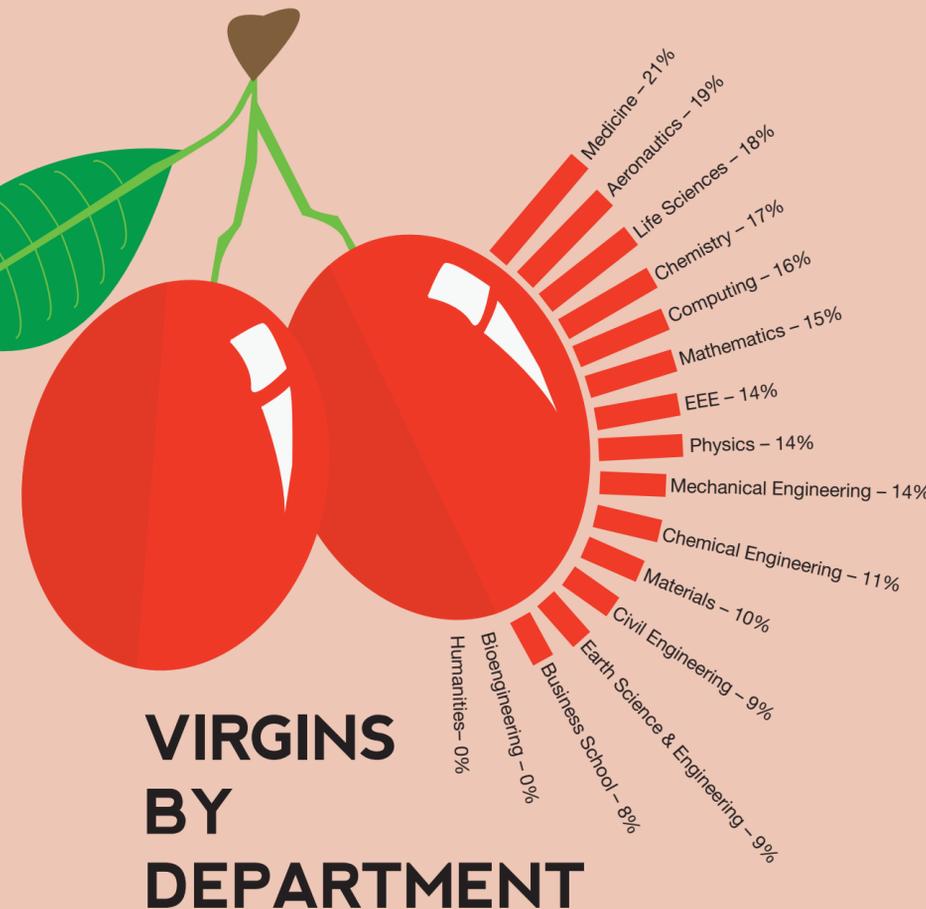
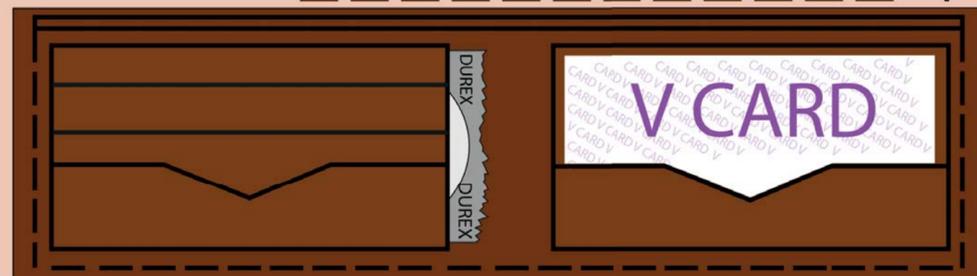
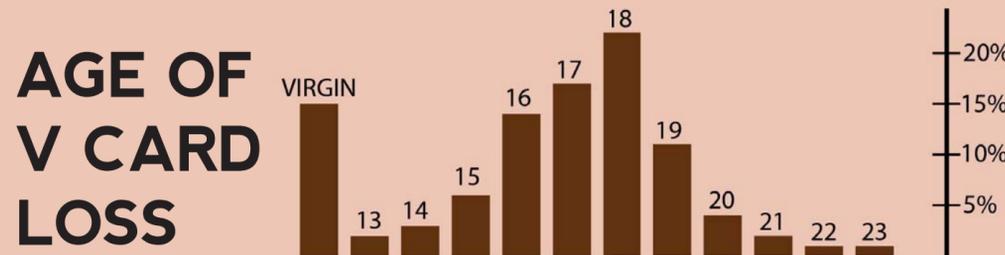
# SEXUAL HEALTH



# CONTRACEPTION

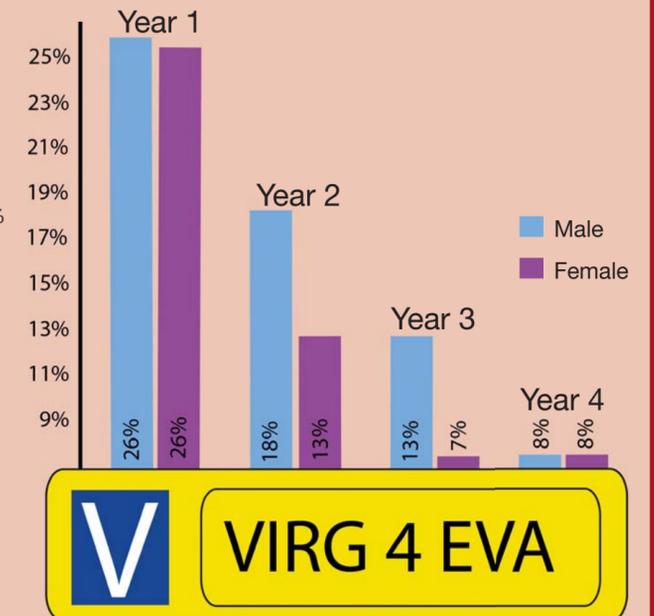


# AGE OF V CARD LOSS



# VIRGINS BY DEPARTMENT

# VIRGINS BY YEAR



**Credits:**  
**Sex Survey Editor:** Matt Allinson **Question Design:** Matt Allinson, Tim Arbabzadah **Web Design:** Philip Kent **Survey Coding:** Philip Kent **Head of Analysis:** Matt Allinson **Analysts:** Tim Arbabzadah, George Butcher, Joe Letts, Philippa Skett, Chris Witham, Annina Sartor **Words:** Tim Arbabzadah, George Butcher, Joe Letts, Philippa Skett, Chris Witham **Infographics:** Tim Arbabzadah, Veronika McQuade **Layout:** Tim Arbabzadah and Matt Allinson **Front page illustration:** Hamish Muir



# SEXUAL SATISFACTION

## Is Imperial really as limp as it seems?

So, with our infamous ratio often being quoted as a source of discontent, are we really as dissatisfied as other student surveys are leading us to believe?

When asking students about how happy they are with their sex life, the majority of students said they were satisfied with their sex life, with 61% either happy or very happy in their bedroom endeavours. Only 15% of students said they were dissatisfied with their lacklustre sex lives.

Splitting by gender though, 67% of all females out there are either happy or very happy. This is not the case for the boys, with only 55% of men feeling the same. One in four males simply described their attitude to their sex life as "meh."

So has Imperial had any influence on these findings? When asked, around 46% of students overall feel that being at Imperial negatively affects your sex life. However, when split by gender, it was found that, actually, to the contrary, 20% of women thought it enhanced their sex lives, compared to only 9% of men thinking the same. Not only that, a further 56% of males agreed that going to Imperial has left them rather high and forever dry by stating Imperial has done them no sexual favours.

Just to cover all of the bases, we then asked if their sex life at Imperial has had any impact on their overall student satisfaction. It was also found

that 59% of students thought that there wasn't really any link between the two. Splitting by gender again, it does seem that the boys are again more disgruntled than the girls, with 64% of females not considering their sex lives a hindrance to their blossoming student experience, whilst only 56% of the boys seem to think the same. Maybe what the library can do for some it just can't do for others.

With women on average having more sex per week than men, it does seem that men are indeed feeling a bit begrudged towards the ratio. However, generally, the majority of students shouldn't seem to have a hard time swallowing the fact that we are, generally, quite a sexually satisfied bunch. For departments, 26% of Maths students declare themselves "Unhappy with their sex life." They should head over to EEE where it drops to just 5%. Is EEE the hive of Imperial's sex life? 43% of them have sex "Monthly or Less" so perhaps it is.

What about those hard core fuckers out there who ticked the 'daily' box when asked how often they had? How happy are they? 76% of them declare themselves Very Happy. No surprises.

So next time someone publically berates the Imperial social scene and the lack of stimulation it may provide, it is probable that they are actually bumping uglies behind closed doors (or even in that toilet upstairs in the Union)... unless they are male.

# ONLINE

## Are students logging on or jacking off?

With Imperial students having more compassionate relationships with their laptops than they do with their lab partners, only a surprisingly low 4% (39 people) admitted to using online dating websites. However, it does

seem that some of you out there could be convinced, with 29% admitting to considering it in the future if it does appear rather bleak. It may be no time before people are uploading and re-freshing over weeping and wanking.



# VIRGINITY

## Just how fresh are the freshers?

Despite the obvious decline in the number of virgins over the years as more of the naive first years get around to popping their cherry, just how many Freshers are virgins when they arrive?

The split between the age that females and males are losing their virginity at is evident. With 27% of females losing their virginity at the age of 18 compared to only 18% of males, it seems that they will be more experienced than their male counterparts.

There is also a significant drop between the ages of 18 and 19 as ages for virginity loss - with only 12% of girls holding out for that extra year and 11% of boys doing the same, this may be influenced by the transition to university, and also halls providing that amorous atmosphere we all know and love.

This year alone saw a flurry of activity within the fresher community: 28% of the females who started this year lost their virginity aged 18, with only 18% of those who are male doing the same. Even after allowing for corrections for those who may have started university at a later age and those that maybe lost their virginity before university, it still shows a significant discrepancy between the two genders - the men are seemingly more likely to be virgins than the women throughout this first year.

It seems that some virgins at Im-

perial traverse their maiden voyage within the confines of halls, and even, possibly, at the hands of the trusty hall senior. Those who lost their virginity at the ages of 18 and 19 also saw 7% and 5% of them respectively having sex with their hall senior too, although such a correlation drawn can be seen as rather tenuous. It does remain a possibility, however, that 1 in 20 of students were deflowered by that impressively experienced second year student on your corridor.

So if it is not the tender hands and words of a hall senior, what else influences students in losing their V plates? When asked whether beliefs have an influence on their sex life, 37% of people who stated that they are virgins also said religion has influenced their choices sexually. This suggests that perhaps many are choosing to remain virgins as opposed to wanting to lose their virginity but not being able to.

When it came to age, most lost it at 18. However, a larger number than you may think lost their virginity very young. 117 people said that they have lost their virginity at the age of 15 and below.

The always popular virginity by department saw Medicine at the top of the scale. Combining the virginity of a department against the percentage that are virgins (see graph above) you

have the people who are going to hell on the right of the line and those who are doing it for the hell of it on the left.

When the world of the internet came into play, it turns out that virgins are looking at naughty things less than their non-virgin friends. 33% of virgins said that they looked at porn less than once a year or never. 22% of virgins would consider online dating, which was actually low compared to non-virgins.

*"Both my boyfriend and I were surprised when we told each other that we were virgins. It was awesome"*

# RELATIONSHIPS

## How many scientists are sampling each other?

Just how shy are we all around those we have a soft spot for? With 56% of girls being in a relationship at the moment, compared to 49% of the males out there, woman are slightly taking the lead when it comes to romance. But how many people out there are getting down and dirty within the very social confines of Imperial? 51% of those in a relationship are dating someone else with Central library access, meaning that the other half are going elsewhere to get their teenage kicks right through the night.

So with one half getting their nerd-gasm on in between lectures and labs, are those dating fellow Imperial students faring any better? 93% of those consider themselves happy or even very happy, whereas a smaller 88% of those indulging off campus coitus can say the same. Making love in lab coats may therefore have its perks.

So if you want in on this Imperial infatuation, where should you start your search? 33% of those dating someone at Imperial found their squeeze in halls, with about 20% finding their significant other at a club or society or dating someone from their course. At either Union or non-Union parties trailed behind. Perhaps missing that night out to look over your notes and colour co-ordinate it by subject wasn't such a terrible shout after all then.

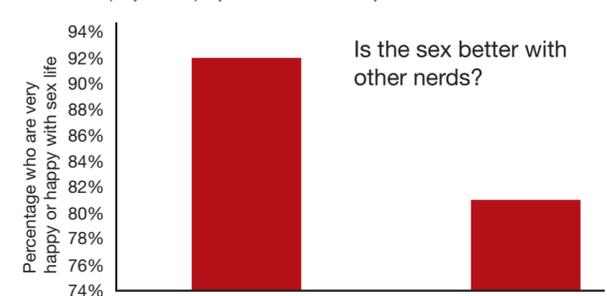
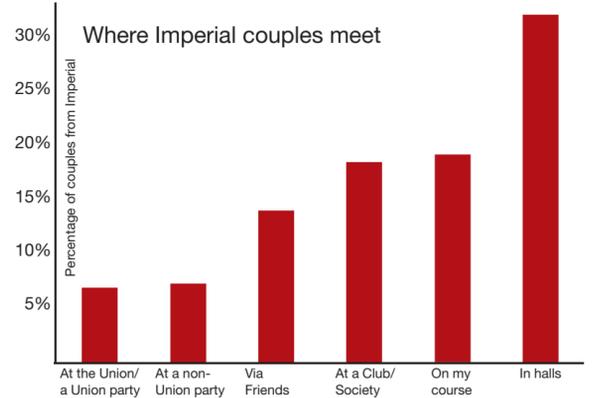
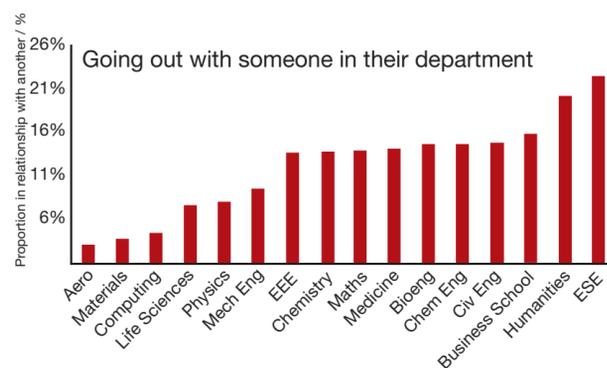
Are hall seniors therefore rising to the challenge, going above and beyond their role? 91 people have experienced

their hall senior trying it on, whereas 52 people succumbed to their authoritative advances and been given more than the average pastoral care. This gives hall seniors a hit rate of around 1 in 2: something for Wardens to worry about, and something for socially awkward first years to aspire towards.

What about Departments? Well, the most incestuous were the ESE (Earth Sciences and Engineering) people. 22% of them are in relationships with each other. That's a staggering 44% of the department. They stood head and shoulders above the others. Next up were humanities as the others just aren't alternative enough for them. Materials were very low though, so there's at least one building on campus that's bound to be awkward. Computing, well, maybe you should close your monitors and look at the people in your lecture theatre: below 5% are in a relationship with each other.

At the same time as them all being lovey dovey with each other 20% of ESE are not happy. Awkward.

So it seems at Imperial a lot of people aren't doing too badly when it comes to finding that special someone. However, don't feel that this may hinder your chances as a singleton, as with one comment stating, "over half the guys I've slept with have had girlfriends," faithfulness may not be at the top of some of the men's agendas. This is definitely something that needs to be addressed in the next Sex Survey...



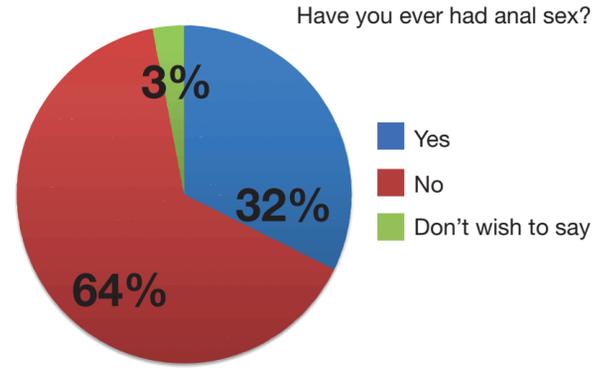
# ORAL AND ANAL

Who's getting on their knees? Well, probably most of you. 82% were happy to give oral, and 85% were happy to receive oral. When you go down to the gender split, 5% more men were happy to give head. The most stunning difference was in the answers for happy to receive oral. 77% of women and an amazing 91% of men were happy to get head. It seems the flavoured condom need a massive ad campaign, as nobody is using them. Perhaps it's the flavours? 87% of people who give/receive oral sex are using protection.

How about anal sex? Well, 32% said that they had had anal sex. 24% of people said that they had at one

point asked for anal sex. The gender split for this was pronounced. 11% of women and 32% of men said that they had asked. In total, 30% said that they had been asked for anal sex. Perhaps you're all asking each other? Who knows. Anyway, breaking that down by gender and you find that the result corresponds to the people asking pretty well. 24% of men and 38% of women said they had been approached about anal sex.

Of the people that had had anal sex, 63% of them had asked. Don't ask don't get applies then it seems. Although 69% had also been asked. 84% who hadn't had anal sex had not been asked for it.



*"I want a fucking boyfriend. Pun fully intended."*  
*"Meeting people while [being] a PhD student is hard."*  
*"Too much coursework, no time for sex or relationships!"*  
*"Imperial definitely isn't full of sexless geeks"*  
*"Hey you included asexual this year. I feel oddly validated."*  
*"I'm consistently shocked and disgusted with how many people I know who are sexually active, but have never been to a GUM clinic"*

# MASTURBATION

## Who's conducting experiments on themselves?

Wanking, frigging, adjusting the antenna, shining the diamond, scratching the patch, cleaning the rifle, and many other euphemisms describe this section. That's right Imperial, how often do you masturbate?

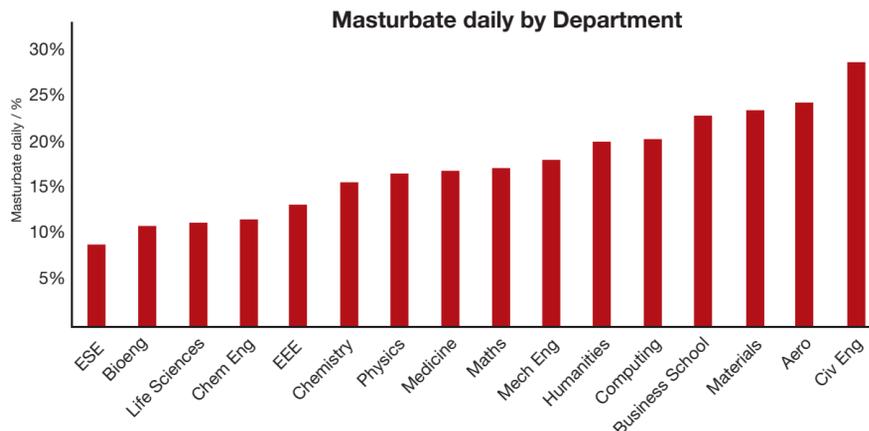
As society leads us to believe, men are complete wankers with 24% of male survey respondents admitting to a daily rub and a whopping 42% celebrating themselves a few times a week. In fact a total of 83% of male survey takers shake it out at least once a week. Maybe think before shaking hands with the next guy you meet!

What is interesting to notice is how few men live hands free, with only 2% of male respondents having some quality alone time only a few times a year and almost managing to mastur-

bate less than that (or possibly not at all).

But what of the girls, you ask? Well it seems that the ladies lead more fulfilling lives with less boredom, leading to only 3% of females saying they masturbate daily and 17.5% taking themselves to task a few times a week. Combining the results we see that 39.7% of women at Imperial masturbate at least once a week, in other words less than half of the male equivalent.

In contrast to their male counterparts 25% of female survey respondents take part in self-gratification less than a few times a year or not at all. A lack of availability to comment on this section means that we can only speculate whether this is because of differences in sexuality, lifestyles or just less



boredom!

People who choose not to identify as male or female formed a much smaller number of respondents, so the data is not as reliable. However of this group 33% did not wish to divulge their masturbation habits, while 20% claimed a daily self-devotion.

By department, well, it seems Civil Engineering are the biggest wankers. They nearly reached 30% masturbat-

ing daily. When you next go to shake hands with the person designing a building, perhaps think twice about it. ESE masturbated the least, possibly because they are all in relationships with each other (see analysis of relationships).

When it came to watching porn, it was a clear split. 68% of men watch porn weekly, whereas only 11% of women did. By department, Materials

are watching the most porn, but aren't masturbating the most... Interesting.

One interesting thing came up. If you masturbate a lot of are also likely to be unhappy with your sex life. If you masturbate a few times a week or less you are 15% more likely to be unhappy with your sex life than people masturbating weekly or more. So perhaps masturbating regularly is an indicator that you are unhappy with your sex life.

# SEX TOYS / DRESSUP

## Electronic stimulation for the Imperial nation?

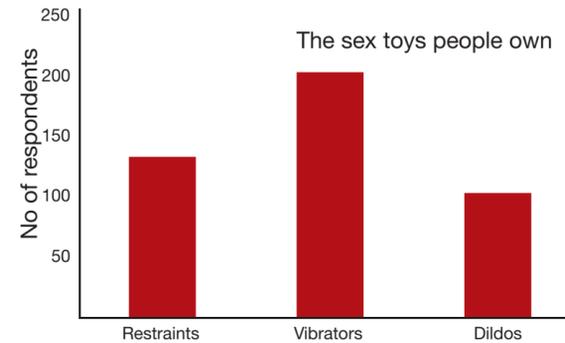
This year we wanted to find out all about your sex toys. How many of you have a cheeky little device hidden in the bottom of a drawer? Maybe you have it in pride of place on your mantelpiece. Probably not. Regardless of where you keep it, it was interesting to note their use.

We found that 25% of people used sex toys of some kind. 19% of men and 34% of women used them (not too shocking there). Interestingly 90% of virgins didn't use sex toys. If you're in a relationship you're twice as likely to be using a rampant rabbit or other such device. It seemed like straight people were much less likely to use

sex toys than their gay, lesbian, and bisexual counterparts.

It seems that those of you that indulge in sex toys are adventurous enough to use them with your partners as well, with the "On your partner" and "On both" options totalling around 2/3 of responses.

Whether sex toys make you happier or not is debatable. We're at Imperial, so we'll give you the figures. 32% of people who are happy or very happy with their sex lives use sex toys, whereas 14% of the unhappy or very unhappy were using sex toys. 44% of women who were very happy used sex toys. So, if you want to make your girl



give her sex life an A+ rating, buy a sex toy maybe?

The majority of you that have sex toys own vibrators, which perhaps means that Imperial students are so busy that when they want to spice up things in the bedroom (alone or with a partner) they want it done for them. 205 people said they had a vibrator, compared to the 105 who had a dildo.

Finally, we would like to advise one

respondent that "putting a hamster up [your] bum" does not count as a sex toy, and is certainly not safe.

Dressup is mainly reserved for DramSoc and Musical Theatre it seems. A sole one person said they dressed up "all of the time" and another one person said they dressed up "most of the time". Presumably, most of that was with the person walking around in a gimp suit 24/7.

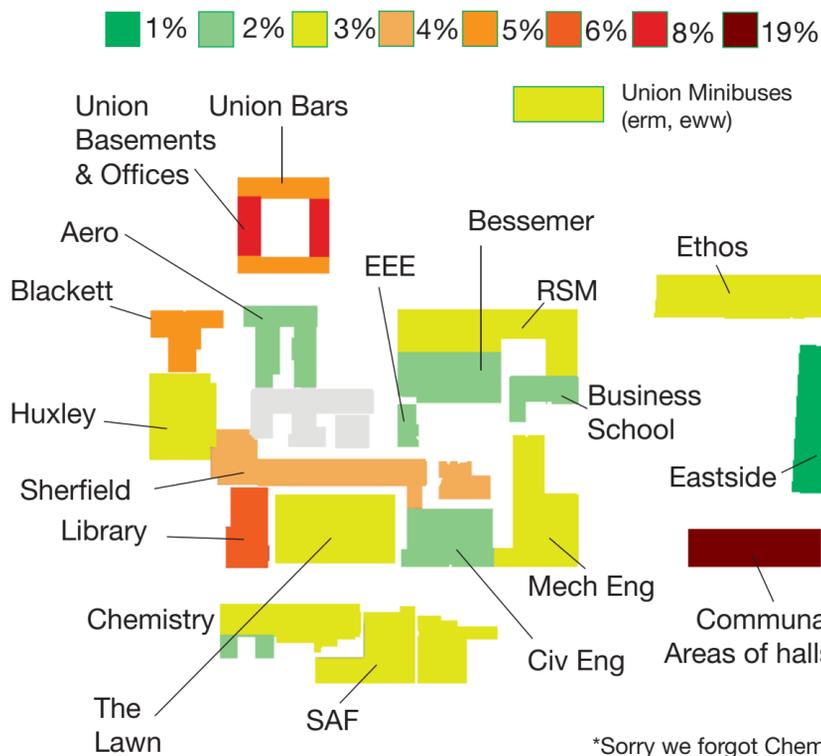
*"I thought this survey would encapsulate broader attitudes towards sex, and not assume one is taking part in sexual activity. There are many others in my position who are saving sex for a long-lasting and loving*

*relationship. A chance to share intimacy and something very special with one person. Within marriage... Cultural/religious reasons don't "affect" my sex life. I look forward to great sex from my wedding night and beyond.*

*No baggage!! "Had sex in St. James' park during the summer, after dark, while beach volley ball was going on in Horse Guards Parade." "Great Hall, on the stage, try it someday."*

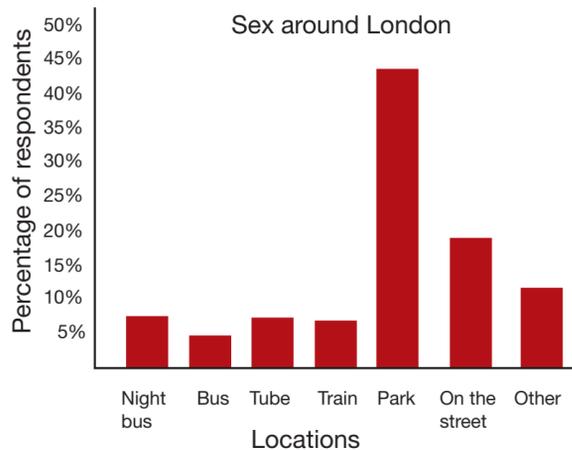
*"We had sex in the changing rooms in REISS on Oxford Street." "Did this [Felix Sex Survey] in the library. Turn to see a stranger standing behind me peeking. He gives me a wink and leaves. FML"*

# SEX AROUND THE CITY



18% are finding places on campus to get jiggy with it. Some of you seem far too keen to avoid beds. Felix isn't aware of any kind of housing crisis, so why 19% of you have had to have sex in Reynold's Bar is a mystery. It's the very public locations that confuse us. How have 18 of you had sex in Ethos' Pool? We don't want to know actually. Blackett is the most popular department building, 29 of you have been at it there. Frankly, we all want to stop thinking about

this, get a room people. Well, moving on to London locations. It seems that a lot of you are confusing your life for an episode of *Skins* by having sex in a park. An impressive number managed to do the deed on the street. The other locations that were given were certainly impressive to say the least. The Tube!? That's just confusing, some commuters and tourists must have been treated to a more eventful journey than they planned.



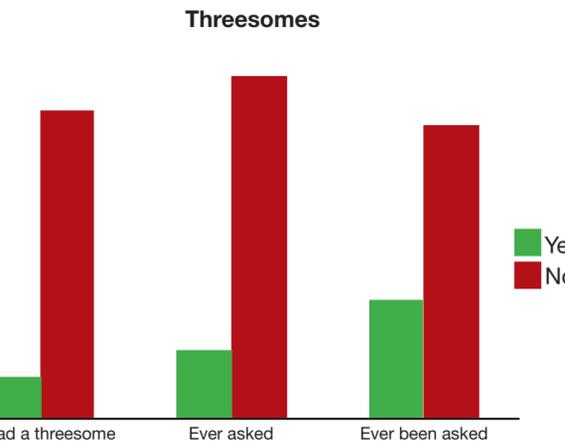
# THREESOMES

It seems that threesomes are a lot less common than you might have heard. Just 9% of all survey respondents claim to have taken part in a threesome, with the number of these students from Biomedical Engineering and Chemical Engineering not being high enough to have their own internal departmental threesomes. Surprisingly Materials comes out on top as the most adventurous (no pun intended), with a whopping 24% of Materials respondents claiming to have taken part in a threesome. While this might seem wild, we have to, as always, consider the possible skew these results contain due to the people most likely to take part. Then again who knows, it might be worth popping your head in at the Royal School of Mines. Second place is reserved for EEE who scored 16% while Mech Eng came third with 13%.

What does it take to have a threesome? Probably guts, alcohol and an inquisitive nature. This of course doesn't mean you are any more or less of a person for taking part in a bedroom

situation with multiple partners. After all some people have different opinions on threesomes and they don't always end happily. As well as the possibility of being an exciting, sweaty experience that leaves you smiling, a threesome can also be emotionally damaging especially if there is a friendship or relationship involved.

Adding numbers to the mix almost 12% of Imperial males have been involved with a three-



some in comparison to just under 7% of females which might shine a light on how a significant number of Imperial threesomes are split by gender. However apparently 23.5% of men

and 35.5% of women have been asked for a threesome, while 20.5% of males and 10% of females have been the ones asking. So it seems that guys at Imperial are much more keen on the idea of

*"I once gave head in the phone box on Prince Consort Road dressed as an ooma loompa"*  
*"Threesomes should be more widely available."*  
*"Imperial definitely isn't full of sexless geeks - I think it's one of the healthier universities of London from what I've heard - both from Imperial and outside-Imperial friends."*  
*"Daily' is the highest availability for porn/masturbation?"*  
*"I have had sex in trafalgar square."*

# FEATURES

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



# Horizing to the challenge

**Tim Arbabzadah** Editor-in-Chief

It's drawing to the end of another year at Imperial. Everyone has some kind of big deadline looming, except for the lucky few that finish early. It's around this time that extra curricular activities suffer. If you go to level 4 of the Library and suggest to someone that they do work for something that will give them precisely zero marks, then you're risking a punch in the face.

That's what Imperial Horizons has been doing this year, and it's been surprisingly effective. Reasons for this could be everything from students wanting to learn a new skill to the more cynical CV padding. Although, the idea that an employer would be shaking with excitement at seeing that you did an extra course at university is a bit strange. Either way, people have been doing these courses. Next year some Departments will let students

do these courses for credit. Mainly it seems that students are enjoying the courses and doing them as a way to break out of the science and engineering world, or perhaps just take on a new challenge. Plus, it's a good way to meet some new people.

The first thing to address is the name. The pun department weren't exactly on overdrive when they fished it out. We get it. Expanding our horizons. Har har. Anyway, more importantly, what did people think of the courses?

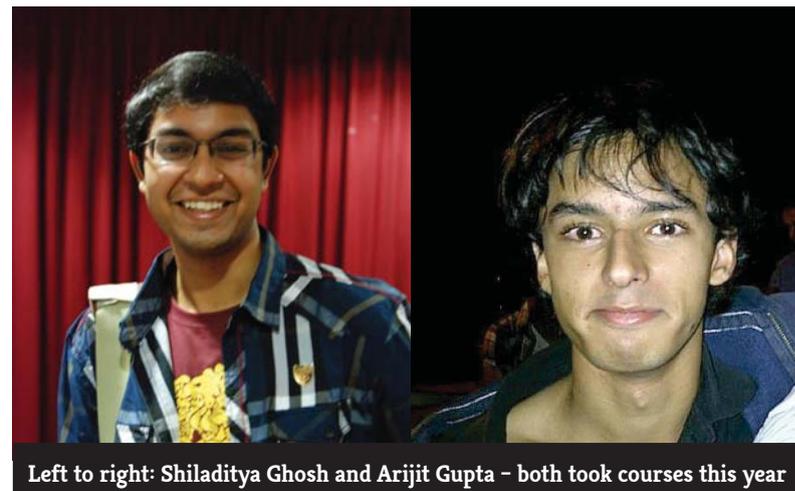
SOLE feedback shows that 80% of people think that the structure and delivery of the teaching was either good or very good. This is a fact that the Horizons team say they are particularly proud of. In fact, nobody said that the teaching was very poor and only 2% considered it to be poor. The majority actually rated it as very good. At Imperial, where almost everyone is a scathing critic of teaching, this is

certainly impressive.

The content is a similar story. Again, very good and good dominated the bar chart: 72% said the content of the course was desirable.

Lloyd Fung, who took the Energy and Climate Change course, said that he took the option as he was "very interested in related technology". He said that it did not get in the way of his other studies and that he would like to do a follow up course, if possible. His favourite part of the course was that different perspectives were given on an issue. He said it gave him a "wider perspective" as opposed to "looking [at] it as a scientist or engineer".

Shiladitya Ghosh did his Engineers Without Borders Global Challenges course as he "was really keen to learn about the holistic implementation of engineering design in the real world out there". He enjoyed the course but would want a new challenge and to try something different next year, possibly



Left to right: Shiladitya Ghosh and Arijit Gupta - both took courses this year

Mandarin or German. Shiladitya admitted that the work got in the way of some other submissions at the end of spring, but said: "I have lived to tell the tale... at the end day, it's due to such stress that I felt I really got something out of the course as well."

Arijit Gupta's favourite part of his Introduction to Mandarin course was learning his first Chinese symbols. It didn't get in the way of his other studies, and he said it was "a nice change from maths". He is already planning to take the next Mandarin course.

## IMPERIAL HORIZONS 2013/14



On-line enrolment for current 1st year undergraduates entering their 2nd year in October 2013 is now open.

**Make sure you enrol by 2.00pm Thursday 6th June 2013**

Find out more:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons)



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MOJITO

GRAND ESPRIT

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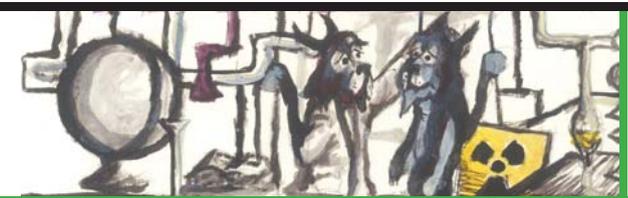
A JUG

£11

A JUG

# Geology Third Years get ready to map all of their contours





# Underground networking

**Sarah Byrne** explores a potentially useful facet in plant-fungi relationships

commons.wikimedia.org

**Y**ou probably think humans invented communication networks. However according to recent research, plants might have got there first, communicating with each other through extensive underground fungal networks.

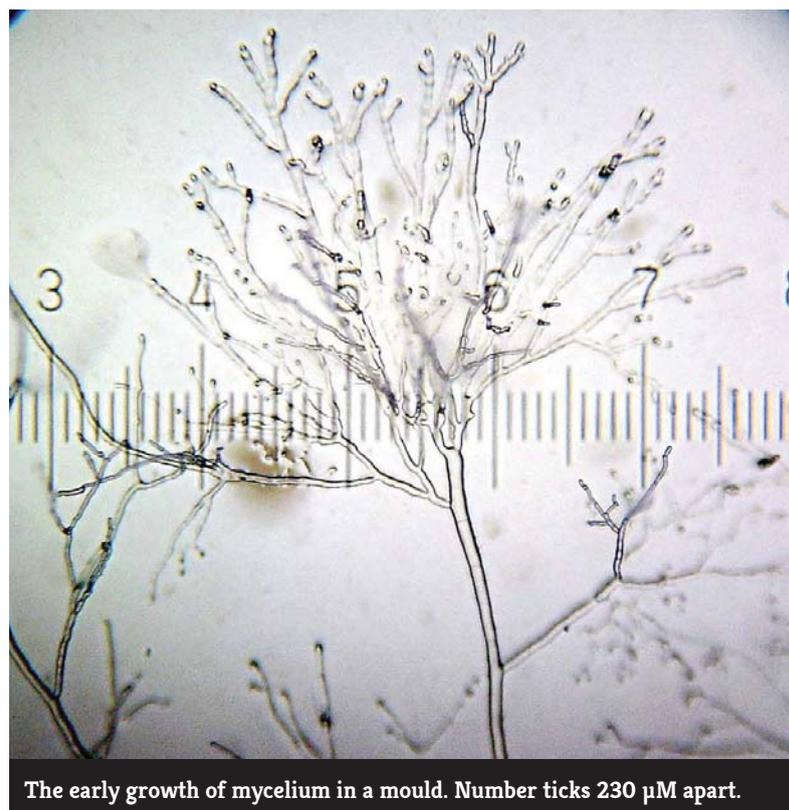
Most soil-based fungi grow as hyphae: long, branching fibres that form spreading network-like structures known as mycelium. In some cases the fungus goes a step further, interacting with the roots of a plant beneath the ground, in a symbiotic or mutualistic relationship. The mycelium is highly efficient at absorbing water and minerals from the soil, and the colonised plant gets the benefit of this, allowing plants to thrive even in drought conditions or mineral-poor soils. In return, the fungus feeds off the energy-rich sugars made and stored by the plant. The mutualistic relationship may also increase the plant's resistance to disease and toxic metals.

It has been suspected in recent

years that fungal connections between plants might play some role in communicating. The recent study, however, provides the first experimental evidence of this mechanism in action.

A new way to protect agricultural crops against pests and disease?

The bean plants used in the study can develop resistance to infestation by aphids when exposed to a sample of the insects. However when two plants were connected by the fungal



The early growth of mycelium in a mould. Number ticks 230 µm apart.

network, the aphid-exposed 'donor' plant was able to transfer signalling molecules through the mycelial network to a 'receiver'. This gave the receiver plant the information it needed to develop aphid resistance, despite never having encountered the aphids itself. A fine mesh barrier was used to prevent actual root-to-root interactions, and controls using non-connected plants demonstrated that the communication was not simply diffusion through the soil, providing strong evidence that the plants really are chatting to one another over the network.

The researchers suggest that we may be able to manipulate mycelial networks to develop new ways to protect agricultural crops against pests and disease. Either way it is clear that these generally overlooked networks are a huge part of plant ecosystems, maybe as much so as the internet and social networks are a part of our society.

DOI: 10.1111/ele.12115

## Malaria mozzies can't resist smelly feet

**Nick Kennedy** Science Writer

Compared to uninfected mosquitoes malaria parasite-containing mosquitoes are approximately three times more attracted to the smell of humans, a study shows.

The researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine infected malaria mosquitoes with the deadly parasite that causes malaria, *Plasmodium falciparum*.

They put the mosquitoes in a container with socks that had been worn for 20 hours before the experiment.

The scientists recorded the number of times the mosquitoes attacked the socks.

They repeated the experiment with uninfected mosquitoes.

The infected mosquitoes attacked the socks more often and fed for longer than uninfected mosquitoes.

The findings, published in PLOS ONE, suggest that the malaria parasite manipulates the behaviour of mosquitoes and makes them more blood thirsty.

It cannot resist the smell of human blood and bites more often and for longer. This gives the parasite a higher chance of getting passed on to humans, so its lifecycle and the deadly disease can continue.



Malaria parasite entices *Anopheles* mosquitoes to human odour.

Dr Logan from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said, "We have shown for the first time that the sense of smell could hold the key to understanding how the parasite successfully manipulates the mosquito to ensure its spread. Exploring this further opens up the possibility that we could use this knowledge against the parasite by developing tools with crucial chemicals found in human

odour."

These findings will enable researchers to develop better mosquito traps that specifically lure malaria-infected mosquitoes by human scent. This should help eradicate the parasite, which infects more than 200 million people every year, over three times the population of the UK.

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0063602

## Zap your way to a better brain

**Victoria Druce** Science Writer

If you're still in the midst of revision, holed up in the library, cramming equations and formulae into your swollen brain, scientists might have a solution. A team of researchers have studied harmless brain stimulation and found it can be used to improve cognitive ability for up to six months.

The team trained a group of 25 test subjects in mental arithmetic whilst stimulating their brains using a technique called transcranial random noise stimulation (TRNS). In typical sci-fi style, TRNS involves applying DC current to the scalp with electrodes in saline-soaked sponges. The researchers trained the volunteers in arithmetic drills and calculation, involving shallow and deep level brainwork respectively. By stimulating the area of the brain used for tricky arithmetic functions, the researchers found the subjects processed unlearned material better and that 6 months after the TRNS brain-training they retained improvement in the deeper brain cognition.

The scientists hope the research could be used to help people who suffer with neurodegenerative illness, strokes or learning difficulties not only in maths but also in other brain

functions. Lead researcher Roi Cohen Kadosh said, "Maths is a highly complex cognitive faculty that is based on a myriad of different abilities. If we can enhance mathematics, therefore, there is a good chance that we will be able to enhance simpler cognitive functions."

Improvement in long-term cognitive ability

TRNS could lead to a new type of learning and education, which Kadosh says might help humankind reach their full potential. For now it is still in its testing stages but in the future maybe we'll prime ourselves for revision with a bout of electrode stimulation to ease the revising of all those equations. Perhaps we'll even reduce the number of hours we spend for-tressed on the Library's fifth floor...

DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2013.04.045

# CHURCH

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**SUNDAYS**  
ACTIVITY SPACE 1  
**STUDENT UNION**

Free café – 5:30  
**LIVE BAND**





# Big Headlines & Little Englanders

**Padraic Calpin** gives you an update on recent happenings in British politics.

Though everyone seems to be resigned to the Coalition trundling along to 2015, there's still a bite to British (though perhaps more specifically English) politics. It's been a tumultuous month, with waves of Tory rebellion unsettling David Cameron and the guffawing face of Farage barely off the front pages.

## From Eastleigh to the Third of May

The focus of all the noise is a newly buoyant UKIP, having jumped 6-8 points in opinion polls in the last couple of weeks after some years bubbling around 10% support. The sudden surge came just as English voters prepared to go to the polls and elect their district and county councillors, and appeared to be more than borne out; UKIP secured some 23% of the vote, gaining 139 councillors and splitting majorities in traditional Conservative heartlands such as Kent and Lincolnshire.

The trouble began in March, in

the by-election held following Chris Huhne's sentencing over swapping speeding points. Eastleigh, nestled in the county of Hampshire, has been a Lib-Dem seat since '94, with the bulk of the vote split between the two Coalition partners. But, a bullish UKIP turned the tables, cutting swathes out of the Lib-Dem and Tory vote to soar into second place, some 24 points higher than their result in 2010.

Despite Eastleigh being fought overwhelmingly on local concerns, it prompted a bout of back-bench grumbling within the Conservatives that has kept UKIP on the front pages for weeks. As the murmurs of dissent seep further up the party, every article speculates on attempts to woo voters; the Tories and the British press seem to be doing UKIP's work for them.

At the heart of the unrest is Europe, something Cameron hoped to have laid to rest in January with a promised referendum. And yet, while Eastleigh's UKIP supporters spoke of fears about immigration and unemployment, the EU question seemed curiously absent. Polling from IPSOS Mori reveals it's in fact only the 5th most important issue to a UKIP voter, well behind other factors. But, while Cameron did offer words on being tough on crime in the run up to the local elections, it was all but drowned out amidst the EU squabbles.

## 4 Party Politics?

As the results rolled in, the media commentariat were quick to pronounce the arrival of '4 Party Politics' to the UK; once again, it seemed people were vying to make UKIP's PR team redundant. Because, away from the press and the Conservative rebels fanning the flames, the actual hard data from the local elections doesn't support such a statement.

For one, these were English elections. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 4 party politics has long been a reality. What's more, in Scotland and Northern Ireland, UKIP's poll performance is poor to nonexistent. Just last week Farage found himself surrounded by an antagonistic crowd in Edinburgh, who were quick to dismiss his accusations of being "Anti-English", insisting they were protesting his "Bigoted, English Nationalism".

Then there's the results themselves. Whereas their overall performance, gaining around a quarter of the vote, is certainly significant, the council by council breakdown reveals a much

more fractured picture.

Rural English counties are a long standing Tory heartland; even in the north of England, councils are historically split with 'No Overall Control' by a single party. In these contested Northern counties, UKIP registered some 2 new councillors out of 433 up for election. In the west Midlands, too, gains were modest; 2 seats here, 6 there.

It was in the east Midlands and South that UKIP made a significant showing, edging into Conservative majorities and, in places such as Norfolk and Lincolnshire, pulling enough councillors to nudge the county into 'No Overall Control'.

So, the overall picture given by the data is UKIP edging into councils across England, often where they previously had no councillors whatsoever, and in a few regions becoming a significant opposition. And yet, when considering the significance of all this we have to remember that these elections are only in rural England, in Tory heartlands.

The seats UKIP won were leached away from the Conservatives; in more Labour leaning counties, UKIP made no appearance whatsoever. In many regions, Labour also increased its share of councillors. And in the South Shield's by-election, triggered by David Miliband's resignation and held

on the same day, the UKIP surge was driven by huge cuts into the Coalition parties, with Labour's vote share barely dented.

## Bursting the Bubble

The South Shields result in particular gives a picture of the reality of the UKIP position. Their appearance in the local elections is significant, but it does not translate into a party on the verge of entering Westminster. Pulling predominantly from dissatisfied Tory voters, UKIP hasn't so much surged as poked its nose in, doubtless benefiting from the free publicity afforded by the Conservative rebellion.

The rise of Nigel Farage cannot be ignored; unlike, for example, the Green party, UKIP has demonstrated a surprisingly broad reach. However, a more sober analysis is called for. UKIP's gains are tied to a wider debate long overdue in British politics, considering the rise of the 'Political Class' and its estrangement from the majority of British society. This question cannot be ignored, but also cannot be addressed by a London-centric media keeping Farage's face in the public eye.

## News from around the world

Huffington Post

### Obama, the new Nixon?

Obama has found himself in some trouble over the past few weeks. After being accused of sexism for calling the new attorney general the "best-looking", Obama faced embarrassment as his gun background check bill was defeated in the Senate, a strong victory for gun lobbies.

More recently, the Justice Department has been accused of spying on Associated Press (AP) journalists by obtaining months worth of phone records. This has highlighted the growing worry regarding the relations of the White House, the press and respecting its freedom and the First Amendment.

Obama has since been described as a 21st Century Richard Nixon, tainting an already troublesome beginning to his second term.

### Marriage for All

The Commons passed the same sex

marriage bill for England and Wales and French President Francois Hollande signed the law allowing gay marriage and adoption. Gay marriage in France has seen a strong response for both pro- and anti- groups. The passing of the law has led to uproar from far-right groups. A renowned French historian has committed suicide in protest. A rally is planned for Sunday to protest against the law.

### Tories Torn over EU

David Cameron found himself once again in the spotlight after Michael Gove and Philip Hammond declared they would vote to leave the EU. The spin game begins and the Prime Minister is attempting to present a united Party and Coalition front on the European question. It's like watching an episode of *The Thick Of It* all over again.

### Iranian Elections in June

600 people have registered to stand



for the role of President, with only eight allowed to run. President

Ahmadinejad will be stepping down. Little political change is expected as

the candidates are mostly hardline conservatives.



Comment Editors: George Barnett,  
Navid Nabijou, James Simpson  
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# COMMENT

# Tea: A taste of harmony

Wikipedia



**Anum Farooq**

“I can drink tea until the cows come home and I love the atmosphere.” – Z. Budd  
“Tea is instant wisdom – just add water” – A. Alauda

My most recent experiment involved a very ancient tradition. One that is the same in Chinese as in Persian, Urdu or Dari. The word is ‘chai’

Now, such research is not because puny efforts at lifting floating weights in aqua aerobics has not done much for the strength of the mind, and neither have countless tests. This investigation is because of a solid attempt to actually investigate the link between tea, meditation and life.

Tea is a way of life. No joke. In some cultures, drinking tea is the most wonderful way to relax. You have your pot of hot water, tea leaves, honey and cup, and for a few moments drinking flavoured hot water and ‘being’ is a special moment.

So how does this link to meditation? The way of the tea is the link. The art of making it and mastering the mintiness, honey and tea (for example not ever adding cold water). When you focus on the cup and tea, emptying your mind. Feeling numb. You’ll pretty much be reaching Nirvana. Soon.

To say it was a bit of a surprise to discover that there was Echinacea tea, lemongrass to even lavender tea, would be an understatement. My narrow world had been shown some light. After mixing many teas, and actually feeling unwell prior to this, I stumbled upon the right mix of mint leaves, cardamoms, lemongrass and ginger tea.



Surprisingly, it was curing. Nowadays I have an obsession with teas, I think, which would totally contradict that with trees. This is because of incorrect meditative practice. The point of meditation isn’t to focus on a object (or a flickering candle), but actually feel at peace.

Tea makes you strong and healthy, without any of the artificialities or fickle synthesis. Just the way mother nature intended. From leaf to clay. In harmony.

It is a part of our daily lives, what if we actually questioned and thought about the ‘why’. Why the tradition of tea. In a world where modern utopia

is on the surface overtaking zeitgeist, the core remains entrenched in tradition. Chai matters.

For tea, over which many humorous observations and reflections were made. I hope the link between tea, meditation and life is unclear. Because in life, you’ve got to master your own mind in meditation over tea, instead of listening to a lost cause ramble on.



Tea is a way of life. No joke. In some cultures, drinking tea is the most wonderful way to relax

# Farewell to HOST

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*I still cherish the memory of the first meeting of the IC Heads of Departments I attended – it was both educational and amusing. Having received the invitation, my predecessor immediately tried to dissuade me from accepting it; nobody expected the Librarian to discuss College business, shamefully I would be the odd one out among the Heads.*

*Naturally, I immediately decided to go, taking the risk to be the odd one out, not on account of being the Librarian but being the only woman on the list of participants. The Rector, Eric Ash, was the first person to realize this, valiantly rising to the challenge: after rapping his gavel and emitting a stentorian cry: “Gentlemen”, he looked at*

*me and added “and Magda”. The discussion included, as almost always, the financial prospects of the College; how much income the departments were expected to earn, and how the departments which did not bring in sufficient money would be supported. The Library was always a special case because of the disproportionately high cost of scientific journals, but everyone around the table agreed that journals were the life-blood of research and that their subscription must continue.*

*We also debated the position of HOST (History of Science and Technology), the relatively modest cost of maintaining three to four members of staff teaching and undertaking research which was acknowledged as*



*outstanding and seamlessly fitting into the high academic standard of the College. To my amazement and delight, the Heads of the major, internationally respected departments stood up, one after the other and declared their support for HOST. They firmly stated that current achievements in science had been built on the foundation laid by our predecessors. That there is a continuity of scientific discoveries, and that the past belongs to us, it is therefore our duty to keep its memory alive. What better way to do that than to maintain HOST? I felt that I was witnessing something unique: the declaration of solidarity of scientists both past and present.*

*It was, therefore, with great sadness*

*that I have learned of the transfer of HOST to King’s College London. I am sure that there must have been a serious debate in College regarding the decision and it is not my intension to question why this had to happen. The memory of that Heads of Departments meeting, however, will stay with me forever, the image of a magnanimous College firmly believing in “one culture” – science and arts combined – which few institutions were ever able to demonstrate. What remains now is to say farewell to HOST, wishing it a happy and prosperous future – alas, in another institution.*

**Magda Czigány**  
**Librarian 1986-2000**  
**Fellow of the College 2002**

# 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](mailto:arts.felix@ic.ac.uk). This doodle was found in the Bioengineering study area and is believed to be a critique on the Union anti-stress drive.

## TIRED OF LIFE?

### Our pick of what's on in London

*La Donna Del Lago* @ A cinema near you – As part of the Royal Opera House's on-going program to bring affordable, live performances out of Coven Gardens and into cinemas this rarely shown masterpiece by Gioachino Rossini is on the bill. The performance features three leading contemporary singers Juan Diego Flórez, Joyce DiDonato, and Colin Lee. 27 May

*Apestraction* @ Freud Museum – This solo exhibition by Mexican artist Damian Ortega is a result of collaboration between the museum and UCL's Gashaka Primate Project. The artist visited Nigeria to experience Chimpanzees in their natural context. His response is conceptually dense and intriguing spanning genres of science, sculpture, photography and installation. June 6 – 1 September

*Julie Mehretu* @ White Cube Bermondsey – The first major solo exhibition by this established abstract artist features recent reflections on the Arab Spring as well as a collection of her older work. Her dense mark-making spans digital and traditional art to produce huge, immaculately constructed, layered images which fill the beautifully designed gallery space. 1 May - 7 July

*In Dreams* @ Cob Gallery – In collaboration with Guts for Garters the gallery presents a workshop on dreams and dreaming. The space will be transformed into an immersive installation, a labyrinth within which the viewer will be guided through different sleep states. There is also an opportunity to take part in experiments. June 7 - July 27



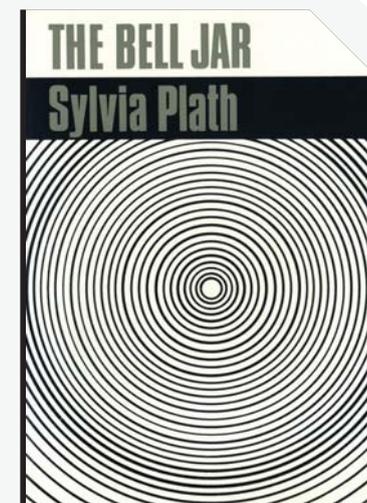
# 1

## Shirley Tucker

*The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath featured a cover designed in 1966 by Shirley Tucker. Sylvia Plath's only novel, published in the UK a month before her suicide, details the protagonist Esther Greenwood's descent into clinical depression.

The bleak outlook is perfectly encapsulated in the strikingly contemporary cover design by graphic artist Tucker. The bold, modernist text set above a graphic image of concentric circles, creates a strong visual effect. Like all great covers, it doesn't explicitly describe the plot, but rather hints at the story contained within.

She was originally never credited with the design, a happily defunct convention. Her name now features in all modern editions.

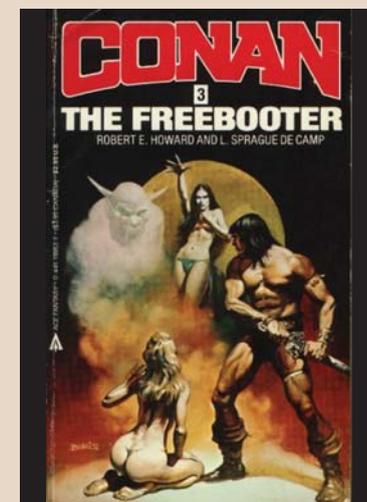


# 2

## Boris Vallejo

Boris Vallejo is the undisputed king of hyper-representational fantasy and sci-fi art. His gleefully effusive works have graced the covers of numerous pulp fiction paperbacks, none of which you are likely to have read. Often working with his wife as muse and collaborator the pair's execution is immaculate.

Boris' familiarity with human form so complete he seems to effortlessly inject near fatal quantities of erotic potency into his oil paintings. His sylphine, alabaster warrior princesses and axe-wielding beef-cake barbarians may seem dated, but for pure red-blooded thrills they have never been surpassed.

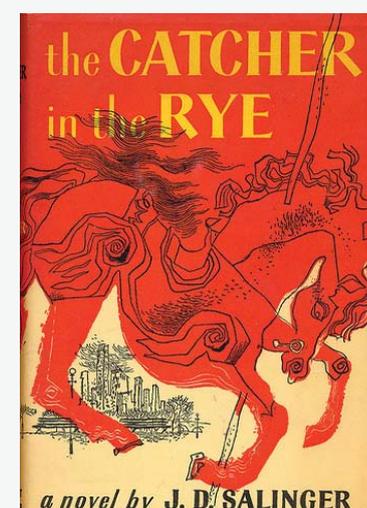


# 3

## Michael Mitchell

Almost as mysterious as Sainger himself E. Mishael Mitchell is hard to get a handle on. Yet the reclusive illustrator is responsible for the cover on of the most revered pieces of modern American literature, *The Catcher in the Rye*.

The bold design is representative of the rest of his body of work which features bold avant guard pen and ink drawings. Mitchell spent much of his career as an instructor at California Institute of the Arts. Where he built a formidable reputation with his students. Mitchell passed away in 2009 at 89, never again ascending so high in the popular imagination.



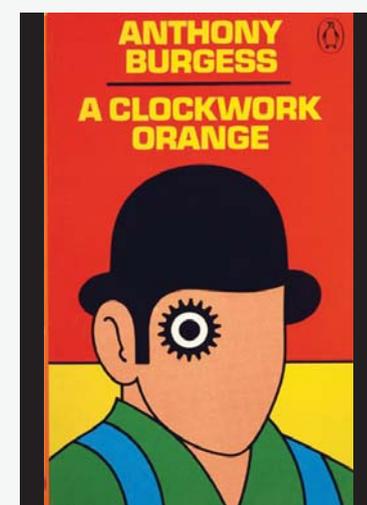
# 4

## David Pelham

As leader of Penguin's design team from the early 70's David Pelham was responsible for most of Penguin book's fiction. He did a number of brilliantly eye catching designs for J G Ballards paperbacks amongst many others.

Most famously Pelham designed the iconic cover for Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*. The Cog-eyed Droog design instantly became a design classic and informed much of the subsequent imagery that surrounded the book and film.

The minimal design and sinister featureless face evokes a disturbing otherworldly sense that compliments the content of the book.



Arts Editors: **Eva Rosenthal,**  
**Meredith Thomas**  
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# ARTS

# TOP 10

(arbitrarily selected)

## book covers

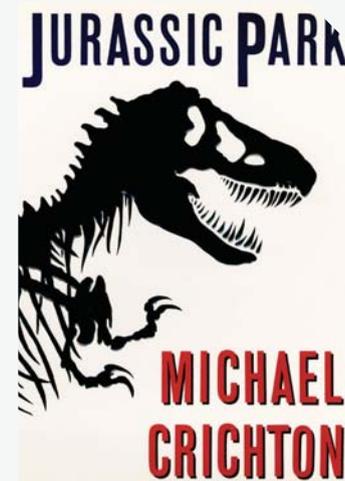
7

### Chip Kidd

Many of the illustrators on this list have sunk into relative anonymity. Chip Kidd is certainly not one of these. His flamboyant confidence and marketing acuity have seen him rise to the top of Random House's design team. An early work that cemented his reputation was his design for Michael Crichton's fated publication *Jurassic Park*.

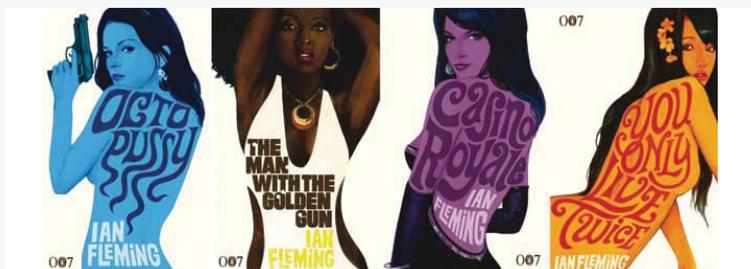
The design was so popular it came to represent the entire franchise that followed, including the three Hollywood films, making Kidd, we suspect, a very wealthy designer.

Like many of Kidd's covers the image is simple, striking and creepy. Kidd himself has said that "I'm very much against the idea that the cover will sell the book".



5

### Michael Gillette



Sometimes a young or unrecognisable designer just happens to hit upon an absolute classic. Michael Gillette's series of covers for Ian Fleming's Bond novels was one of those times. The covers were commissioned to celebrate the centenary of Ian Fleming's birth in 2008.

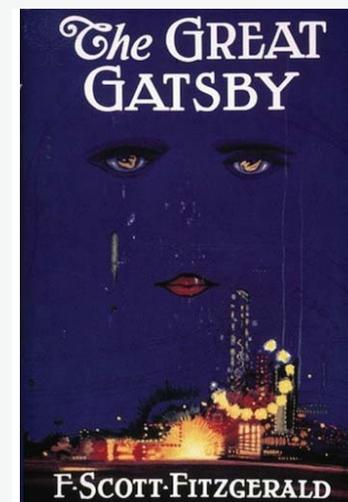
Everything is perfect from the bold lines and bright colours to the typography. The images proved extremely popular and were made available as prints and translated into a variety of languages. They feature delicate, smouldering sexy retro-stastic representations of the girls in each book. "None of them are based on any one person or image, they are archetypes. I wanted a look of seductive murder about them," he says.

8

### Francis Cugat

The painting for the first printing of F Scott Fitzgerald's seminal work *The Great Gatsby* may be one of the few examples in history of book covers actually influencing the writing of the book. The highly symbolic illustration features a pair of female eyes beaming mournfully through a night sky. The eyes hide reclining nude figures and hover above a bright metropolitan carnival. Fitzgerald maintains that the image was written into the final draft of the book possibly in the image of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg billboard eyes.

Cugat went on to work on art for over 68 Hollywood films but it is for this work, the most widely disseminated cover art of the 20th Century.

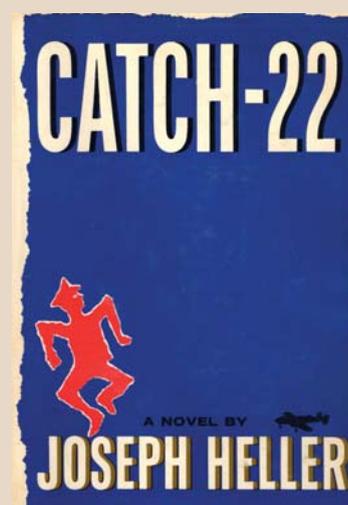


9

### Paul Bacon

Paul Bacon designed over 6500 book covers in his career. With a portfolio of that size one could argue that a big hit was inevitable. Bacon also illustrated for Jack Kerouac and John Cleaver but it was his work for Joseph Heller's *Catch 22* this is considered by many to be the most memorable.

Bacon was known for pioneering the "Big Book Look," characterised by the title and author's name in large, bold print, accompanied by a small conceptual illustration. He would work for around three weeks on each book, saying his skill lay in "finding something that would be a synthesis graphically of what the story was about". His jazz record cover designs are also worth a look.



6

### Josh Kirby



Terry Pratchett was the best selling author of the nineties. The man who put a cover on every one of his books until his death in 2001 was the otherwise relatively obscure artist Josh Kirby. His highly distinctive paintings perfectly caught the quirky, caricatured madness of Pratchett's early *Discworld* novels.

Working in oils, his busy, slightly grotesque depictions of the characters in the books perfectly caught the surreal atmosphere of the strange comic-fantasies. Perhaps this is why Kirby was also chosen to design the poster art for *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.

10

### Maurice Sendak

*Where the Wild Things Are* has sold 19 million copies worldwide since its publication in 1956. This extraordinary success marks it as one of the most popular children's book of all time.

Uniquely for this list, the illustration and writing are all the work of one man Maurice Sendak. Sendak includes Disney and Mozart amongst his influences yet his books were so visually striking these are difficult to justify. The story describes the escape of a small boy into a land populated with strange beasts, actually caricatures of his family.

Sendak famously refused to write a sequel, announcing just before his death in 2012 that this would be "the most boring idea imaginable".





# Monday, Tuesday, Happy Daze

**Mo Mirza** gets within touching distance of Kurt Vile in Camden

**T**he gig was hosted at Barfly which provided an intimate setting, for what was a show for competition winners. Kurt Vile had not brought a backing band along on this occasion and he made everyone wait. The crowds were a bunch of happy campers though – true to the stoner spirit. They did not mind one bit as Vile spent some time tuning his guitar on stage and repeatedly asked his sound engineer for “more reverb, yea!”

Hailing from Philadelphia, Vile was initially a part of **The War on Drugs** which was followed by constant touring with his backing band **The Violators**. His writings come across as incoherent, yet purposefully poetic and although he lands his words in a leisurely way, boy, do

they pack a punch. Vile’s songs are unhurried and spacious and have uncanny knack for conveying his deep meanderings.

I found his previous album *Smoke Ring for My Halo* absolutely superb and the appearance of a few choice songs, such as the blissful ‘Jesus Fever’ and loving ‘Baby’s Arms’, made my night. One admirable thing to note about Kurt Vile is that even though he comes across as overt about religion, it never really becomes annoying. He somehow manages to sing his praises, and not detract from the musical experience – that is pretty rare.

Once tuned to perfection, Vile’s guitar squeaked awake as he shared his stoner wisdom with ‘Wakin’ on a Pretty Day’, a song from his fifth latest studio album *Wakin on a Pretty*

*Daze*. “Phone ringing off the shelf...” he sang, epitomizing his laid-back nature.

He continued on to play some more people pleasers which lulled the crowd into a pretty daze. A kind of seduction by soothing is how one could describe it. ‘Peeping Tomboy’, also from *Smoke Ring for My Halo*, came across as a crowd favourite with quite a few happy campers chiming in to Vile’s dulcet tones.

With no backing band most of what Kurt plays has a more subtle and easy going feel to it than what you hear in the album versions. Perhaps this is what he intended. In Vile’s head, there is all the time in the world and no need for rushin’ and the crowd acknowledged that.

Like most geniuses Kurt’s mutterings are very erratic, some of them



incredible and some not so. His live performances are, however, undoubtedly exceptional and I am to-

tally looking forward to seeing him rock out once more at the Field Day festival tomorrow. Yea!

## AMS album of the week

**Ensemble Pearl** – Ensemble Pearl

**Ensemble Pearl** is a thoroughly dark album featuring some big names in modern avant-garde metal. Steve O’Malley of **Sunn O)))** is the best known, but two members of **Boris**, the Japanese noise rock band, are also present (drummer Atsuo and live guitarist Michio Kurihara). Former bassist of **Jesse Sykes & the Sweet Hereafter**, Bill Herzog, is the only musician that might seem out of place.



The four of them set out to make a careful masterpiece of ominous music like nothing they’ve written before. This is saying a lot, as O’Malley and Boris’ music has touched upon everything heavy and unholy. Ensemble Pearl is instead a collection of slow, doomy instrumentals, fleshed out with gloomy textures. Drums keep a steady dirge pace yet feel loose and improvisational. Melodies and riffs take minutes to play out and run their course through moods both dark and ambiguous. The mix never becomes muddled by an overdose of pedals or laptop effects. Dissonance is not constant, such that the listener is not exhausted by offensive sounds, but this does not stop Kurihara occasionally lashing out with incredibly loud, fuzzed guitar solos that the rest of the band are unshaken by.

Tracks average 8-10 minutes with the final chapter, “Sexy Angle”, playing for a monumental 20 minutes, climaxing in a solo at its 13<sup>th</sup> minute that could be mistaken for a small child, screaming. In the song’s quieter moments, an assortment of drones rise up from the background, and individual snares and toms are delayed separately from the rest of the drum kit, making the band feel like much more than four players.

Some of the album’s best parts are those where the atmosphere surfaces from its darkest moments. The best example of this is “Wray”, a beatless track focused on string drones and heavily sampled koto plucks, evoking a different, lighter mood, becoming almost ambient. A casual listener might fault the album on being too consistent, or simply be disappointed that the result isn’t “heavy” enough, given the talent present. It’s simply heavy in a different manner – a slow, suffocating manner, rather than the blistering noise that Boris and Sunn O))) have been treating our ears with for years. Ensemble Pearl highlights a progression from doom metal to something more mature and agonising.

Robin Thomas

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# MUSIC

## Melvins: Live Review

Riaz Agahi Music Editor

The Melvins have long since become an institution, one of the most influential bands in modern rock. In recent years however, they have not simply been resting on the laurels of their classic albums, but exploring new territory and breaking new ground. Their album as Melvins with Ipecac favourite Trevor Dunn on double bass is one example, another is their record breaking 51 states in 51 days tour last year. It must be said, however, that a bit of retrogression from a band as great as them is always appreciated, so it was much to the delight of many when two shows consisting of *Lysol/Houdini* and *Stoner Witch/Bullhead* played in succession were announced.

Trust me, it was a tough decision, *Stoner Witch* is probably the most varied of the four, and the opening track on *Bullhead* is so good Boris named themselves after it. After much deliberation, however, I went to the *Lysol/Houdini* night.

As anyone familiar with the Melvins knows, I was greeted by the sight of four rather eccentric looking guys. If I seem abnormally focussed on their appearances, it's merely because I want the uninitiated to know how hilarious the Melvins can be. Buzzo wore a robe and his sideshow Bob-like mane flopped to punctuate the dropping of every riff, and I'm pretty sure one of the drummers, Dale Crover, was wearing some kind of tunic.

One major difference is that since 2006 Coady Willis (formerly of **Big Business**) has been in the band as a second drummer and there is no doubt that having two drummers contributed to the enormity of their sound as much as it did to the visual presentation, with Willis being left handed creating a sort of mirror image between the 2 halves of the stage, where the four piece played standing in a row, rather than most rock bands, who simply hide the drummer in the back somewhere.

The set opened with *Lysol* and possibly the highlight of the night. 'Hung Bunny', the opener of the album and an absolute monolith was hugely enhanced by massive drums and a punchy bass rumble that practically had me shaking. Indeed, the sound over the



whole night was excellent; incredibly loud, with guitar tones forming carefully controlled, resonant feedback at many points.

Their rendition of *Lysol* continued very much in this vein. In other words, it was truly crushing, with a tangible feeling of euphoria in the audience any time they dropped a great track, which was pretty much all of them. 'The Ballad Of Dwight Fry' provided a rare moment of relaxation amongst this barrage of powerful, sludgy riffs. This response continued throughout the night, throughout their rendition of *Houdini*. This is considered their landmark album and generally the first album anyone hears, so I'm sure it invited some nostalgia for more or less everyone there. For those not aware, this album is more rocky and less sludgy than its predecessor. The bassy excellence of 'Night Goat' or the particularly catchy 'Lizzy' stood out for me.

The set ended on a powerful note with 'Spread Eagle Beagle', as Buzz left the stage, leaving the two drummers and bassist Jared Warren, (also formerly of Big Business) who was clad in american football padding made out of a cardboard box. then proceeded to enter the crowd screaming vocals which heavily distorted themselves, decaying into feedback (possibly with

some kind of delay pedal), before it was left with just the drummers, as in the album itself, trading fills and gradually fading out. A truly outstanding performance from one of rock's best loved institutions. Equal parts humour, rock n' roll showmanship, and familiar, punishing riffs.

*The Melvins have recently released a cover album Everybody Love Sausages on Ipecac.*



icradio

## LISTINGS

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### Friday 24 May 2013

10:00 – 11:00 – Morning Musings

20:00 – 21:00 – Mad Craic  
Award-winning Mad Craic features tunes and banter from the wonderfully English Craig Woods and the astonishingly Irish Aislinn Hayes

### Saturday 25 May 2013

17:00 – 19:00 – ONFM (Orgasmic Noises For the Masses)

### Monday 27 May 2013

20:00 – 21:00 The Eclectic Ectoplasm  
An eclectic mix of anything and everything. The best music on ICRadio every Monday evening.

### Tuesday 28 May 2013

23:00 – 00:00 – Beneath the Paving Stones, the Beach  
Presenting highlights of the last fortnights releases. Occasional guest mixes too.

### Wednesday 29 May 2013

13:00 – 14:00 – Mission Impossible

### Thursday 30 May 2013

15:00 – 16:00 – Buttery Biscuit

icradio

## Chvrches @ Village Underground

Thomas Leeman Writer

Fresh from playing the Alexandra Palace with **Everything Everything** and **Two Door Cinema Club** the trio **Chvrches** came to the Village Underground with the weight of expectation lying squarely on their shoulders. They recently won best new non-US band at SXSW and made it into the top 5 of the BBC's sound of 2013. Little surprise then that the gig sold out in minutes and the queues to get in started an hour before doors opened.

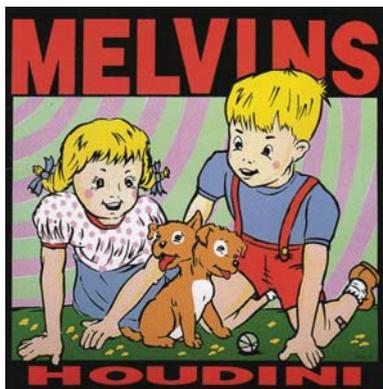
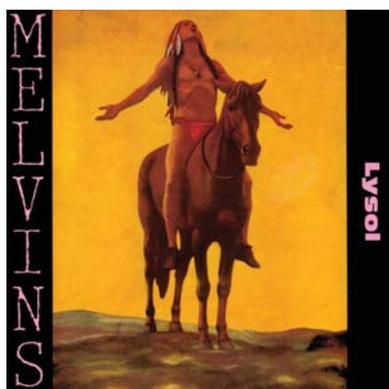
Through the delicate vocals of Lauren Mayberry and pulsing synths of Martin Doherty and Iain Cook, Chvrches have found a winning formula. Critics have drawn comparisons between them and the Canadian duo Purity Ring, but live the ominous bass sounds more like an epic blend with their fellow Glaswegians Mogwai.

They opened with their debut release 'Lies', a hypnotic electropop tune which set the mood for the rest of the gig. With trippy laser beams and lots of flashy lights they slowly built up

to the climax of the evening, performances of their most commercially successful tracks 'Mother we Share' and 'Recover'. On the way though Chvrches showed they aren't just a one trick pony, with Doherty taking the mic to perform the intimate 'Now is not the Time'. There can be no doubt the true star of the evening, the elfine Lauren Mayberry. Her immaculate delivery and presence really captured the hearts of the audience, as did her playful banter on themes as diverse as *Game of Thrones* (their cover of the theme went viral on YouTube), kittens

with laser pointers and boy bands in the audience. Add to that her ability as an intriguing lyricist and Chvrches have found a new indie heart-throb.

To round off the evening Mayberry performed (as promised) a karaoke version of **Little Kim's** 'Lady Marmalade' rap followed by a stunning cover of **Prince's** 'I would die 4 U', a song which could have been written for this band. So did Chvrches live up to the hype? Although they aren't quite the finished article yet a fantastic gig showcased their massive potential and left the audience hungry for more.



# FILM

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



# The Billion Do

## John Park

Film Editor

Congratulations are in order for *Iron Man 3* and its associated Marvel Universe, as within 3 weeks of its international release date, the third Tony Stark picture has already generated more than one billion dollars at the worldwide box office. Robert Downey Jr.'s latest effort joins a surprisingly long list of films that have already done so, although to his credit, a lot of the films on the list reached the milestone near the end of their box office runs. Given *Iron Man 3* still has a long way to go before it is pulled from the theatres, we can expect the film to keep moving up in its total gross. And although Downey Jr.'s return for a possible fourth adaptation remains in doubt, Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige expects the *Iron Man* franchise to remain "as evergreen as *James Bond*."

But to celebrate the biggest money-making films so far, Felix Film takes a look at just what made each and every one of them so special that audiences worldwide flocked to the theatres to watch them on the big screen.



### 16. The Dark Knight

Worldwide gross: \$1,004,558,444

**Why?** Anticipation was through the roof for Christopher Nolan's follow-up to his highly praised *Batman Begins* and the press coverage on the sudden death of its star Heath Ledger certainly put the film on a lot of the front headlines. His outstanding performance as the Joker (he won an Oscar for playing a Batman villain – this never happens) was every film critic's talking point, and the overall reviews could not have been more ecstatic. Its opening weekend was the highest on record at that point, and it held steadily on, slipping very little throughout subsequent weeks, although in a cheeky move, the studio did re-release the film in the States to push its total money intake past that billion line.



### 15. The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Worldwide gross: \$1,017,003,568

**Why?** With Peter Jackson returning behind the cameras to take us back to Middle Earth, no LOTR fan would have said no to this. There were concerns over Jackson splitting a rather thin book into three films but this gamble seems to have paid off since the first in a trilogy has already made a billion. No matter how long or seemingly dull, Jackson's visual mastery is always worth catching on the big screen. This also enjoyed the big Christmas and end-of-year push, typically the hot-spots for studios to release their big epic films. And let's not forget about the brilliant Andy Serkis, without whom Gollum wouldn't exist.



### 14. Alice in Wonderland

Worldwide gross: \$1,024,299,904

**Why?** Summer came early in 2010 as audiences rushed to the screens to keep their important date with Tim Burton and Johnny Depp. The Burton-Depp pairing is one that is hugely appealing given the right accessible source material (so no, films like *Ed Wood* don't cross the billion mark). This was smartly marketed by Disney as a colourful, all-round fun experience for the whole family, whilst also cashing in on the then-newly booming business of adding an extra dimension and therefore throwing in some glasses and a couple of quid to the ticket prices. Outstanding international ticket sales came from Japan, where it grossed \$130 million + (its 11th best non-Japanese film).



### 13. Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace

Worldwide gross: \$1,027,044,677

**Why?** Everyone loves to hate the new *Star Wars* films, and it all started here, with a billion-dollar grossing prequel. George Lucas, in his high and mighty standing in Hollywood, was paid an unbelievable sum of \$400,000,000 in total for his efforts on the film – that's more than a lot of films even dream of making in their run. Because of the phenomenal hype surrounding the film, few major studios dared releasing anything in the same week as Lucas' big space comeback. An estimated number of 2.2 million full-time employees missed work days to attend the film – it was that much of an exciting film event. The 2012 3D re-release helped surpass one billion.



### 7. Skyfall

Worldwide gross: \$1,108,561,013

**Why?** 007 was in dire need of a fresh new start even since *Quantum of Solace* came out and ruined whatever good that was set up from *Casino Royale*. With Sam Mendes stepping into the director role, Daniel Craig returning, a meaty sub-plot for the fiercely talented national treasure Judi Dench, plus that **Adele** song, many agree that *Skyfall* is the best 007 film yet. As UK's highest grossing film of all time, 007's home country added a whopping \$160 million + to its international total, and the rest of Europe (France and Germany in particular) followed, with China also not far behind. With Christopher Nolan now in talks to direct the next one, can this record be broken in a few years' time?



### 6. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

Worldwide gross: \$1,119,929,521

**Why?** Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy came to a fantastic close with *Return of the King*, where epic battles and emotions swept across the screen over a 3-hour running time – the build-up from *The Fellowship of the Ring* and *The Two Towers* paid off here, and sweeping the Academy Awards in 2004 gave the film an ever-so slight bump in the box office. The Christmas/end-of-year season was also in play here, as well as the promise of a grand scale and extraordinary spectacle. One of the earliest to cross the billion mark, when 3D wasn't in use, this is no doubt Jackson's biggest accomplishment.



### 5. Transformers: Dark of the Moon

Worldwide gross: \$1,123,745,996

**Why?** Critics hate Michael Bay, but that's of no trouble or any consequence to the director, as he will always have his loyal followers of action-junkies who only ask for some dumb fun, which is exactly what is delivered here. "I make movies for teenage boys. Oh, dear, what a crime" he says, and it appears this is his motto for making any of his films. But kudos to him – many of his films are consistently regarded as box office success stories and ideal for summer audiences, where students are out of school. The Asian market (China, South Korea) gave some significant input too, where the robot franchise is hugely popular.



### 4. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2

Worldwide gross: \$1,341,511,219

**Why?** The final film of one of the most successful film franchises in history, this finale conjured up \$32 million worth of advance tickets, setting a new record, whereas the \$169 million North American opening weekend made history, until it was beaten a year later by a group of superheroes. More impressive (as if the film doesn't have enough to boast about), its worldwide opening of \$483 million in one weekend is still the one to beat. Better luck next time *Avengers*. Audiences loved seeing Hogwarts get torn apart by evil wizards/witches, and the ensuing battle was suitably thrilling with the large ensemble cast giving it their all.

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

# FILM

# Dollar Babies



## 12. Iron Man 3

Worldwide gross: \$1,035,973,000

**Why?** It hasn't even been a full month since its release, and yet here sits Tony Stark's third outing, proudly at number 13 in the highest worldwide grossing films of all time. You can expect the film to climb up several spots at the end of this summer. Stark (played by the irreplaceable Robert Downey Jr.) is without a doubt the most popular character of the Marvel Universe, and given the great big success of *Avengers Assemble*, immediately following that record-breaker no doubt helped boost the overall numbers. It's raking in money from China (\$64 million + opening weekend – highest ever), after a special-cut featuring local actors and scenes appear to be going down well with audiences there.



## 11. Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides

Worldwide gross: \$1,043,871,802

**Why?** After the dud that was *At World's End* where very little made sense, Disney commissioned another outing for Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp – always the reliable blockbuster box office draw), retaining very few of its original characters (Geoffrey Rush stayed on – hurrah). Business in the States was disappointing to say the least, falling massively short of its predecessors, but it's the international market that contributed to \$800 million of its total gross. Italy poured in an impressive \$108 million into the final count, with the next highest coming from China with \$70 million.



## 10. Toy Story 3

Worldwide gross: \$1,063,171,911

**Why?** Dubbed as a film that would make even grown men cry, this was one of the best reviewed films of 2010 (Rottentomatoes places a 99% fresh rating), as well as the highest grossing film of 2010 (both in the States and internationally). The kids loved it, and frankly, so did the adults, with many young adults reminiscing the days they watched their first two *Toy Story* films as children back in the 90s. Everyone loves and trusts Pixar to come up with something witty and heart-warming time and time again. Also benefitting from the 3D push, it had very little competition (if at all) in its first two weeks (*Jonah Hex*, *Grown Ups*, *Knight & Day*), in which the film generated \$250 million in the States alone.



## 9. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

Worldwide gross: \$1,066,179,725

**Why?** *The Curse of the Black Pearl* was such a huge hit that greenlighting sequels couldn't have been a difficult decision – and with the full cast on board, only success was in store for this immediate sequel. Its 2006 opening numbers, \$135 million, was a record-setter, smashing *Spider-man's* 4-year reign at that point. It ruled the top for three straight weeks, and was the fastest film to earn \$100 million, \$200 million and \$300 million back in 2006 (all these records have since been smashed but for a non-3D, non-superhero themed picture, this was quite an achievement seven years ago).



## 8. The Dark Knight Rises

Worldwide gross: \$1,084,439,099

**Why?** The Aurora shooting might have put a bit of a dent in the North American box office numbers (this one falls \$90 million short from its predecessor in the States) but any film with words "Christopher Nolan" and "epic conclusion" was bound to make a boat-load of cash and it did, with its top foreign market coming from the United Kingdom with a final tally of \$90 million + (2nd best of 2012). Its rather long running time (165 minutes) as well as its dark, depressing undertone were not at all off-putting it seems, and very loyal online fanboys (there are lots) were ferociously attacking anyone who had a bad word to say about the film.



## 3. Avengers Assemble

Worldwide gross: \$1,511,757,910

**Why?** Raking in \$207 million, this holds the record for the best North American opening. Ever since the first couple of *Iron Man* films convinced Marvel to pursue something bigger and bolder, every film before *Avengers Assemble* (*Thor*, *Captain America*, *The Incredible Hulk*) has been hinting at a possible massive group project. Finally hitting the screens in 2012, Joss Whedon of *Buffy/Angel/Firefly* fame certainly did not disappoint. Undoubtedly the biggest movie event of 2012, a long list of records were smashed, although it didn't fly as high as some were anticipating (i.e. didn't reach number 1 internationally). But being number 3 is still incredible, and with a sequel on the way, perhaps that can aim higher.



## 2. Titanic

Worldwide gross: \$2,185,372,302

**Why?** From this point on, we're only dealing with films that have crossed the TWO billion dollar line. Only two films have done so, both directed by the same man, James Cameron that show-off. Well, where to start with this one – there was the Leo-fever, where women worldwide couldn't get enough of its leading star, Leonardo DiCaprio, there was that song 'My Heart Will Go On', the tragic love story, plus the final spectacular hour of where the ship sinks, killing a whole load of people along with it. This holds the record for spending the most number of consecutive weeks (15) at the number one spot in the North American box office, and even in its 3D re-release, people loved it – 15 years on.



## 1. Avatar

Worldwide gross: \$2,782,275,172

**Why?** It's the same pattern with James Cameron – there is a lot of talk surrounding his new project, because it's so ambitious. A trailer is released, everyone hates it and guarantees that his latest big-budget epic will tank severely and won't make any money. And yet once released, he's the king of the world. (Unadjusted for inflation), no film in the history of Hollywood has crossed \$700 million in America, and neither has foreign gross crossed \$2 billion, until Cameron came along with his blue Na'vi and took over the 2009 Christmas season with his new film. Despite stiff competition from *Sherlock Holmes* and *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, audiences just could not be kept away from what would become the biggest film of all time.

Read online at: [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

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# FILM

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

# Fast & Furious & Fierce & Fearless

## Fast & Furious 6

**Director:** Justin Lin  
**Screenwriters:** Chris Morgan, Gary Scott Thompson  
**Starring:** Paul Walker, Vin Diesel, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez, Gina Carano, Luke Evans, Tyrese Gibson, Ludacris, Sung Kang, Jordana Brewster



### John Park

Film Editor

Letty (Rodriguez) died. She died right in front of our eyes when she was shot after a car-flip. We know it, the characters know it, but running out of fresh new ideas to carry on with the popular vehicular franchise, they have decided to bring her back from the dead. But rest assured that this isn't the most absurd thing you'll see in the film. See, *The Fast & the*

*Furious* series isn't exactly known for its credibility: the more it embraces its stupidity and its tight, succinct structure, the better.

And to be fair, having Rodriguez rock up out of the blue isn't all that bad, since she was an invaluable original cast member – plus as a strong grounded female, she gets to go up against ex-MMA fighter Carano in one memorable, merciless fist-fight taking place in the London Underground of all places. She's also a great excuse for Dom (Diesel) and his gang to come back into the racing game, even though they promised to leave this life behind after the birth of Brian's (Walker) baby boy.

Turns out Letty is caught up in some illegal activities with notorious international criminal Owen Shaw (Luke Evans) who is waging "vehicular warfare" against the good guys. He drives a fancy, modified racing car with a neatly equipped trick of flipping over any car that races towards him. And it's Dom's job to bring her

back, since she's "family". That f-word gets tossed around so much here that by the end of it all, you'll get pretty sick of hearing it, especially since it fills up so many chunks that needlessly slows everything down as a whole.

With so many good guys turning up to form a united front, it's the main antagonist who has hardly any room for himself. Evans, although an effectively smooth-talking baddie, never has the chance to flourish. As a former-SAS you'd think he has more to offer than some driving moves – and aside from a brief showdown between him and Diesel, all Evans has to do is to deliver some smug dialogue, something he has no problem with handling.

Each good guy has something to bring to the film: Tyrese Gibson and Ludacris are mostly there for comic relief (some hits, some misses), Sung Kang and have a love story going on, Dwayne Johnson and Diesel flex their muscles, Walker is the eye-candy for

the ladies who doesn't have much to do in the end, whereas Rodriguez and Carano show that girl-fights can be as brutal, if not more, than boy-fights.

It's over-crowded and overlong, and the Rock's grossly enlarged arms deserve their own end-credit mention (would NOT like to look at those under IMAX conditions), but any film that pairs up Diesel and Dwayne Johnson for a smack-down is bound to be enjoyable – which is exactly what this is all about. Forget about logic, forget about how two race cars can slide and glide around the busy, busy central London (Piccadilly Circus to be precise), the point is, "they've got a tank" – and that's really all you need to know.

And for die-hard fans of the franchise, rest assured that the sixth outing will not be this crew's last, as the big cliffhanger in a post-credits scene shows us, there is one more vengeful antagonist for Dom to deal with, played by a charismatic actor who is very good at what he does



# Big cast, big names, big mess, big failure



### John Park

Film Editor

## The Big Wedding

**Director:** Justin Zackham  
**Screenwriter:** Justin Zackham  
**Starring:** Robert De Niro, Diane Keaton, Susan Sarandon, Katherine Heigl, Amanda Seyfried, Robin Williams, Ben Barnes, Topher Grace



What's this? Katherine Heigl in yet another underwhelming romantic comedy? Amanda Seyfried as yet another googly-eyed bride-to-be? Robert de Niro in yet another brainless role? Diane Keaton as yet another neurotic old woman who is unlucky in love? Ben Barnes playing yet another charming but empty shell of a role? And is Robin Williams so out of work that he needs to resort to play-

ing a priest for the second time? (Remember *License to Wed*? It's best to forget about that one) Such is the dire concept of this horrible mess of an ensemble comedy, a film that boasts having all these hugely talented stars, but one that doesn't give any of the actors something interesting to work with.

It must have sounded great on paper (which could explain just how on earth this attracted so many stars). A remake of a French screwball comedy, dysfunctional family, a wedding that just will not go according to plan, siblings with issues with their parents, and two divorced adults having to act as though they love each other for the sake of avoiding embarrassment.

Don (De Niro) and Ellie (Keaton) must act as though they're still married when their adopted Mexican son



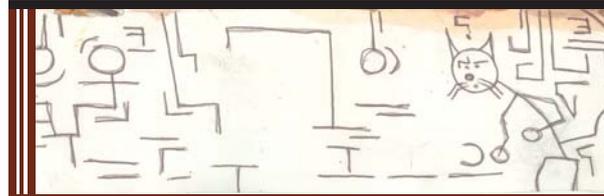
Alejandro (Barnes) is about to be wed to his love Missy (Seyfried); because Alejandro's birth mother is a devout Catholic who doesn't believe in divorces. Don's lover Bebe (Sarandon) is not happy with this arrangement and is ready to cook up a little revenge for her man. Also invited to the wedding is the uptight sister of the groom Lyla (Heigl), and the 28-year-old virgin brother of the groom Jared (Grace).

It's worrying how very few jokes

actually stick, and there is absolutely nothing remotely touching about the various big long speeches that are made that are supposed to hint at nostalgia and a mature look at love.

Attempts to throw in moments of raunchiness by unwisely peppering the script with obscenities also fall flat, and it's difficult to see just which demographic this film is aimed at.

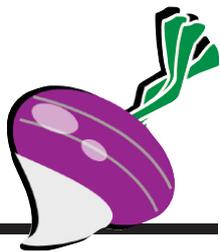
"I'd rather gouge my eyes out with hot spoon" says De Niro at one point. Oh the irony...



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# HANGMAN

## the turnip



Hangman's Finest College News Source

## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

### Imperial full of nerfs

Hot on the heels of the internationally acclaimed bouncy castle and petting zoo on the Queen's Lawn, Imperial College Union has announced, in junction with Imperial College a college-wide Nerf war.

Scheduled to start on Monday 3rd June, with the assassination of the Rector, there is only one rule – the last department standing wins. All students that participate in the conflict, and survive, will receive an automatic 70% in all exams taken this term. Treachery will be rewarded by a Nerf firing squad, followed by their name being added to the roster for the end of term fruit-pelting.

The warzone is spread over the whole campus, with College security monitoring the war, to identify casu-

alties, and record death tolls. There are no safe areas on campus, and the College will be open 24/7 during this period of conflict.

Weapons and darts will be supplied at the start of the week, through weapon caches hidden throughout the campus – each department will contain one crate of projectile weapons, and one of melee weapons. Weapon drops may be called in to Queen's Lawn. For those of you who wish to fight for the glory of your department, yet have no training, the Union will be hosting a firing range and weapon safety school, during lunchtimes of next week.

The College and Union will accept no liability for failed exams or nemeses created during this time.



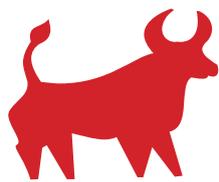
### DOG ARRESTED AFTER EXPERIMENTING WITH LSD

## HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week the brightness of Jupiter means that your cum will turn blue on the eve of the 25th. It will permanently stain anything it touches, including your favourite wank sock. Wait, is that blue on your lips? Now everyone knows you like to taste your own ejaculate (or can suck yourself off in which case, fair enough).



TAURUS

This week you can't understand why your housemates love Fifa so much. You conclude they have been brainwashed by a pixelated Lionel Messi, and smash up their screen to free them from their trance. They feel angry rather than liberated, but at least they might have time clean more now the TV's broken. Every cloud...



GEMINI

This week Uranus is in its 6th house. This is its favourite house; the one in the country with the shooting range and lake. This rare astrological event means that you will fail all your exams and spiral into a black hole of despair while everyone in your project group bitches about how you aren't pulling your weight.



CANCER

This week you grow an extreme female equivalent of a revision beard. When you finish exams, your lady garden has grown so thick and matted that you are unable to trim it, and there is no way through the curly forest for any potential explorers. You are doomed to a life of keratin-induced celibacy.



LEO

This week Pluto's view of the sun is eclipsed by Earth. Cold and excluded, Pluto vows revenge by exiting orbit and colliding with the Arctic ice mass. All the ice melts, and sea levels rise so much that anyone not climbing Mount Everest is submerged in a sea of screaming bodies. How long can you tread water?



VIRGO

This week your favourite exam pen stabs you in the eye, blinding you. You are heartbroken that your relationship could end in such a bitter way after all the clammy 3 hour embraces you have shared. Joke's on it though, as you'll have no need for it now you have to write in Braille.



LIBRA

This week, you wish that your horoscope would predict fame and fortune for once. But the stars don't lie: you are doomed to fail at life and love. You realise that if you were less intelligent, you might lack the neural connections necessary to recognise failure. So you cut out your brain and subsist in eternal vegetative ignorance.



SCORPIO

This week, you seek peace and quiet for revision in the network of tunnels under Imperial. But vicious glowing rats, fluorescent as a result of an unhappy love tryst between genetically engineered mice and a horny sewer rodent, seek you out and nibble you to shreds before your flesh becomes sour with asbestos contamination.



SAGITTARIUS

This week Saturn's moons are aligned, a sure sign that your toe hairs will get crabs. They nestle in the skin folds where your toe joint is, reveling in the cheesy moistness. You try to burn them off with acid but your whole toe dissolves while they crawl up your leg in search of a hairier resting place.



CAPRICORN

This week you get food poisoning the morning of your last exam. Your insides erupt all over your answer booklet about 2 hours in, destroying any marks you may have managed to get. What's worse, you now have to cancel your summer trip around Thailand so you can do re-takes. Pint?



AQUARIUS

This week the library printer is so fed up of printing badly-written coursework that it swallows you whole and holds you hostage in paper tray 2. It starts flashing error messages in Morse code to communicate the ransom for your release, but no one understands so it drowns you in ink and spits you out while flashing 'paper jam'.



PISCES

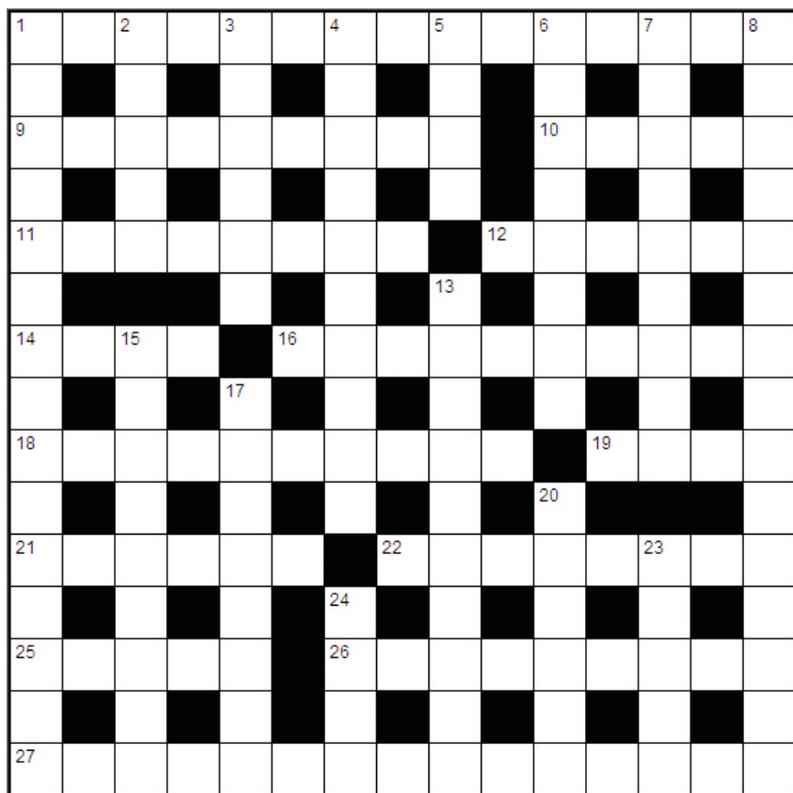
This week you must choose between two pets: a squirrel that constantly pelts you with acorns, or a meerkat that constantly humps your leg. On the one hand, the acorns could seriously deplete your brain cells, while on the other, a jizzing meerkat would cost a fortune in cleaning bills. What's it going to be?

# PUZZLES

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



## Crossword



### Quick clues

#### Across

- 1. Uni campus (5, 10)
- 9. Existence following death (9)
- 10. Italian city (5)
- 11. Undifferentiated unit in a living organism (4, 4)
- 12. European capital city (6)
- 14. Lack (4)
- 16. Astronomy, informally (10)
- 18. Very large star (10)
- 19. Police officer's rounds (4)
- 21. Hardly ever (6)
- 22. Gifted (8)
- 25. Outdoor seating area (5)
- 26. Gradually weaken (9)
- 27. Procedure preceding provision of hardware and software (7, 8)

#### Down

- 1. Flag (5, 3, 7)
- 2. Release a knot (5)
- 3. Roman poet (6)
- 4. Flap in the throat (10)
- 5. Moulting (4)
- 6. Drink before bed (8)
- 7. Type of fruit (9)
- 8. Myopia (15)
- 13. Heavy metal band (4, 6)
- 15. Asian river (9)
- 17. Classical author (8)
- 20. Type of fuel (6)
- 23. One side of a coin (5)
- 24. They go on bolts (4)

### Cryptic clues

#### Across

- 1. Ex-mayor enters, stupidly shuns Tooting for somewhere else in London (5, 10)
- 9. Fear I felt about heaven, maybe (9)
- 10. Seen in Alto Adige? No, another place in Italy (5)
- 11. Club host surrounded by metal

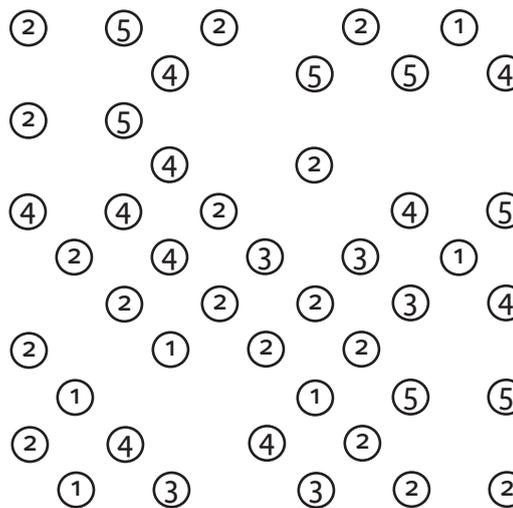
- lovers initially might turn to Wings or Elbow (4, 4)
- 12. Best results in exams covering the capital of Norway? No (6)
- 14. Born and died longing (4)
- 16. Little Gary consumed by looking, looking to the skies (10)
- 18. Wind gets up, rain, very little sun? Quite the opposite (10)
- 19. Attend buffet (4)
- 21. Seldom hear a writer write novel happy endings (6)
- 22. Thanks a couple of boys having great skill (8)
- 25. Dad and Spanish uncle annexed paved area (5)
- 26. Just about to loosen fur to wear away (9)
- 27. Sassy miss neatly unravels branch of computing (7, 8)

#### Down

- 1. Sailor on beach on voyage east boards steamship "American Standard" (5, 3, 7)
- 2. Unfasten a French garment (5)
- 3. Tidying up: a chore for boy (6)
- 4. What's making spittle go right when I swallowed? (10)
- 5. Outhouse that woman had (4)
- 6. Patching up old-fashioned head-gear (8)
- 7. Outside Spice Girl almost got some colour (orange) (9)
- 8. Problem seeing: sense organs in darkness sensed poorly (15)
- 13. An instrument of torture, I'm trapping a boy and then another (4, 6)
- 15. Acidity level in Europe taxes river (9)
- 17. Novelist reminding you of Donna Tartt, perhaps? (8)
- 20. Fuel's selection of crumpet, roll, etc (6)
- 23. What goes with top hat follows (5)
- 24. Fruit (bananas) (4)

## Hashi

Connect all the islands with vertical and horizontal non-intersecting bridges so that you can get from any island to any other one. There can be up to two bridges between any two islands. Each island indicates the number of bridges starting from it.



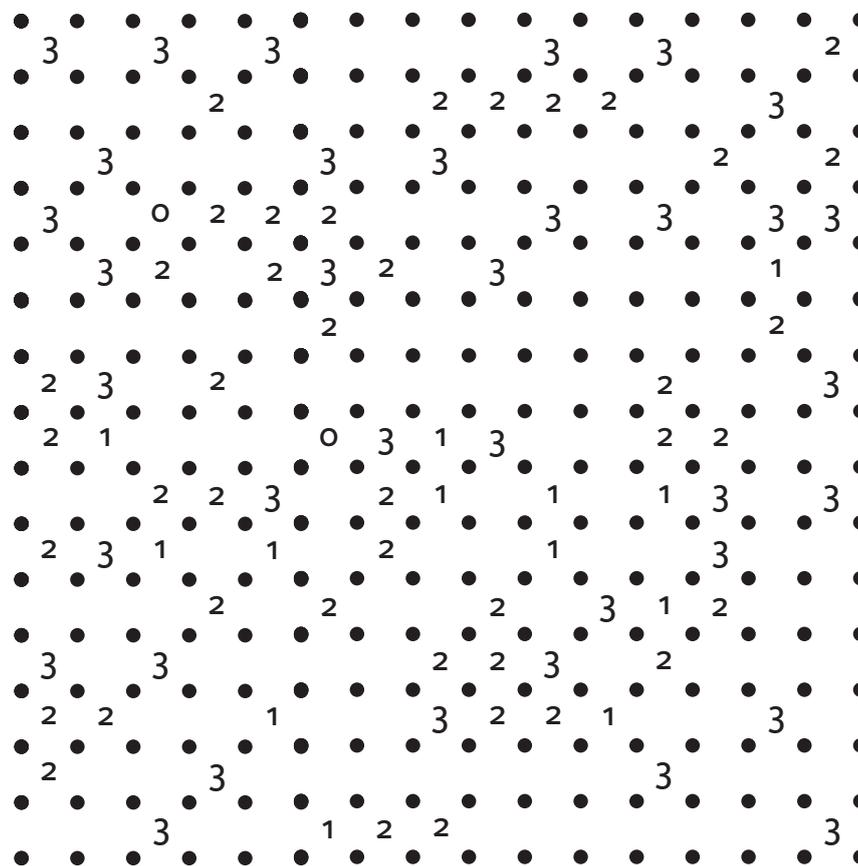
## FUCWIT League Table

### INDIVIDUALS

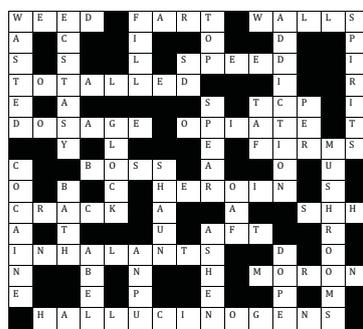
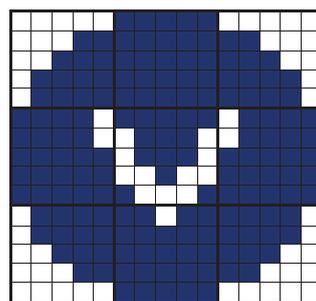
Yufan Zhao	15
Wael Aljeshi	12
Gabriel Quek	3

Keep sending answers to [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk), because what's the difference between a 1 and a 2.2 anyway?

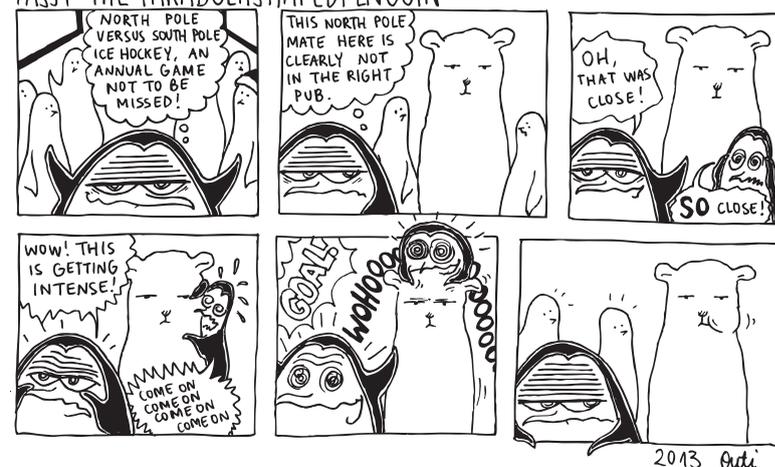
Rules are as always: draw a single closed loop by vertically and horizontally joining the dots so that the numbered squares are surrounded by the corresponding number of lines.



## Last week's solutions



### PASSI THE PARABOLASHAPED PENGUIN



## Teaser solution

You escape by sawing the table in half, and putting the two halves together to make a whole/hole.

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

**SPORT**

# St Mary's put to the sword

## ICUCC continue on their successful season

**Arvind Rajagopalan** Sports Writer

In a near-repeat performance of his previous match as captain, stand-in skipper Vignesh Venkateshwaran led a squad with a depleted batting line up to a 58-run victory over a much-vaunted St. Mary's side who had recorded some big wins of their own leading up to this match. Imperial was put in to bat first on a slowish track with some variable bounce. Juhin Patel anchored the innings with a solid 75 off 134 balls, nearly carrying his bat. After a stern pep-talk with Juhin about not getting caught playing an on-drive, the skipper, coming in 1-down, promptly managed to get dismissed in that exact fashion for a duck. Every dark cloud has a silver lining however, and in this case the wicket heralded the arrival of club president Siddharth Kohli to the crease.

Looking absolutely "village" sporting a sun-hat and basketball sneakers along with a standard revision-paunch, he proceeded to systematically dismantle the opposition's bowling attack, taking a particular liking to a certain legspin-

ner who hence finished with 1 for 61 off his 10 overs. Ironically, that one wicket was that of Siddharth himself, who had made his way to 49 off 42 balls without realising how close he was to a half-century. He hence attempted to heave a flighted delivery, only to pop it up straight in the air for a straightforward catch, breaking the hearts of his teammates and inducing a rare smile from the opposition. Some ordinary batting followed before Juhin finally fell after his long vigil.

Shezad Ahmed played a handy knock down the order with most of the tail for company. He batted with the classic elegance of a left-hander, firm in defence against good balls but very severe on those in the hitting zone, with most of such deliveries being promptly dispatched over cow corner. A few heart-in-mouth moments occurred, particularly with Shezad and Darshan "Zombie" Patel being dropped off successive deliveries. Finally, with the perfect forward defence of Simon Mitchell holding up one end, Shezad struck a few lusty blows to finish not out on 39. Imperial posted a daunting 207 for 9, which we felt was more than

enough to defend with our bowling attack.

The second innings was anchored by one of the opposition's opening batsmen, who finished with a hard-fought 57. After his whirlwind knock down the order, Shezad took the first wicket following a good accurate spell of bowling, and he was ably supported by Simon from the other end, who toiled hard on an unhelpful track. The balance was shifting ever so slightly towards our opposition, but the introduction of spin changed that completely. Makhan Gill helped himself to a wicket, before Siddharth capped off a Man-of-the-match performance with 4 for 29 off 8 overs. The captain Vignesh took the responsibility of bowling to the two set batsmen from the other end and dismissed both the set opener for 57 as well as a middle-order stalwart for 32, finishing with figures of 4 for 23 off 8.5 overs. Barring a couple of misfields and some tough chances put down by Siddharth, the fielding display was generally imperious, and ultimately it was a long spell of quick, quiet overs which delivered the victory for ICUCC as St.Mary's crumbled to 149 all out.



# Impeccable Imperial 2's

**Yash Verma** Sports Writer

On a fine English summer's day – with temperatures soaring to 10 degrees, 11 of the bravest and fiercest Imperial cricketers stepped onto the sacred Harlington turf we call home to battle UCL, led by the one and only Will Baker. With heavy cloud cover and strong winds, UCL were put into bat.

We were looking to improve on our start against them last year – 7 runs 0 balls bowled. It didn't prove to be too difficult. The tone of the game was set in the third over when Vicky Venkateshwaran castled their only batsman with a loopy full toss. From then on Umar Minhas kept pegging away at the tail – picking up the only decent wickets – while the spinners kept beating the batsmen with their flight – difficult to judge after the second bounce – the special wicket taking ball in Vicky Venkataraman's arsenal. Ganesh Kumar was steaming in the whole way through – with some good overs and then showing

us all how a catch should really be taken!

17 overs and 6 wickets later – with UCL tottering at 80/6 – in walked Mr. Cricket. The only man with proper whites and would you believe it, he had his own bat! Taking guard he looked like the complete batsman. Had they reversed their batting order? 20 dot balls and 10 play and misses later our question was answered: no they hadn't!

Soon after the departure of Mr. Cricket – UCL tumbled and were packed away for 110 in 29 overs with Darwin Davis skittling the tail.

Lomas Persad and Yash Verma strolled out stuffed on the low budget and extremely sugary teas. Chasing 111 in 50 overs – the pressure was on us from the very first ball. With the help of some average bowling Lomas and Yash raced to 50 in 6 overs. Along came their trump card – our supposed kryptonite – but even he was no match for Lomas who took 20 off his over, dispatching him to all ends of the field.

Some classy batting followed and

we chased down the total within 14 overs with Lomas ending up with a well deserved 59\*(37) and Yash with 41\* (40), thus completing a perfect day of cricket and an impeccable start to the season for Imperial 2's.





# BUCS bronze for Water Polo

## IC Waterpolo make a splash at national championships

**Alex Simpson** Sports Writer

Going into the Championship semi-finals IC Water Polo had the toughest draw possible against Bristol, Manchester and Edinburgh, all of whom have recently won the competition – something that IC have previously never come close to. Thankfully though to help us out we were joined by our not so secret weapon Adam Scholefield, fresh from playing in the Olympics for Team GB. The other teams began to worry as they witnessed our class and tenacity playing against our first opponents Manchester, which ended 10-6 in IC's favour. Saturday night saw the team have a relaxing meal out, whilst resisting the temptation for a night out in Bristol, preserving our energy for a tough Sunday of matches. This however did not stop the supporting girls who had a great time with ladies' man Torres.

Sunday was an early start against Edinburgh who at first proved resilient but tired quickly, ending in an 8-5 win to Imperial. Our last game of the round robin semi-finals were hosts Bristol, who were also tournament favourites as last year's winners of the competition. A strong first half from Bristol led to them having a comfortable lead, until we then had them figured out, where we began to then make a comeback and reduce their lead. However, the comeback was neither strong enough nor quick enough and the final score was 8-3 to Bristol.

Bristol's performance throughout the semi-finals proved themselves as the team to beat for the finals, with the other two qualifiers from the other semi-final leg, Bath and Durham, not looking that imposing.

The Finals were due to be played on the 23/24th of March at Leeds University, which happened to be right in the middle of England's freak cold spell. Communication came through on Friday morning from the BUCS head office that the Water Polo Finals were to be cancelled, due to heavy snow and treacherous driving conditions. Health and safety rules declared that it would be unsafe for any competitors to risk travelling into the area, and as such the Finals were postponed until the 11/12th of May. As many Imperial students can empathise, this is right in the middle of exam season, putting us at an immediate disadvantage with the loss of many key players.

News was then later received that Durham has pulled out completely, due to them being unable to field a team as exams had got the better of them. Great commitment was shown from Andrea, Nick and Jen Wei, who all had exams in the coming few days, but they were able to spare some time for the most important matches ever of their Water Polo careers.

We left early on Friday evening, arriving in late in Leeds but thankfully with comfy beds and a nice hotel to sleep in. As Durham had dropped out it left us with only Bath and Bristol to beat and also a guaranteed podium



finish. Our first match of the finals were against Bath, which in the end proved to be one of the closest games we have played this season, akin to that of the one against Oxford back in the preliminary rounds. The final score ended 11-12 to Bath, with their winner being scored in the very last minute of the game, an unfortunate result and one which made the Bristol match even more crucial for Imperial.

After substantial hydration and sugar consumption we were ready to play our final and most important game of the season. Bristol started strongly putting 4 past us in quick succession, leaving the team looking shocked and confused as to what just happened. Ultimately this set the tone for the final match, with Bristol being the much stronger team – which is to be expected of a team who train 5 times a week and also compete in the national club league. Their performance was well drilled and almost robotic in a sense, giving them a strong advantage over us who had had a long Easter break without training and the absence of a few more key players.

After the match we headed to Leeds Union, where Marco was able to pull some strings and bag us all BBQ tokens meant to be exclusively for Leeds Mech Eng students. Once

we had ravaged their meat stocks we hastily returned to the pool for the final quarter of the final match and the winning ceremony. Bristol produced a similar result against Bath, securing their position as championship champions. Our bronze medals were emphatically presented to us and we then headed back to London. An enjoyable minibus journey home was unfortunately marred for one anonymous individual who was the subject of a certain piss in an apple juice bottle prank. He neglected to check the colour and smell of the juice before consumption and subsequently drank the piss.

Despite this we all had a great trip to Leeds, and thoroughly enjoyed playing. A special thanks should go to Tom BF and el presidente Alex for travelling all the way up with us to support us, and also to coach Adam for the continual hard work he has put in over the season. This remains Imperial's best performance ever in BUCS Water Polo, surpassing that of 4 years ago when we won the 2nd Division Shield competition. We look forward to next year where we will again be playing in the top division, and hope to surpass this year's performance.

