

# FELIX

"Keep the  
Cat Free"

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The wait  
is over...

**THE FRESHERS' ISSUE**



# University Rankings

## and what you should (not) make of them

Shiladitya Ghosh  
Writer

**N**o matter who you are or where you come from, you are, to some extent, proud of this esteemed institution's very high rankings on various scales and from a variety of scorers around the world. It helps that the QS League Tables just got updated earlier this month to show Imperial rising to its greatest heights ever – hats off to Civ. Eng., how does it feel to be on top of the world? – just as we all start/resume our college adventure. (A selection of up-to-date rankings is shown in a table if you want to feel good about yourself ~~while you still can.~~)

All summer, during and after waiting around for your offers and crapping your pants on the eve of Results Day, you've probably done your fair share of putting down UCL and tried to publicly believe that Oxbridge don't know what they're missing with you headed here. Furthermore, with the updated rankings showing just where we purportedly stand in the world's grand scheme of things, you might have started to believe you're something special, headed for The Chosen College, destined for greatness and buzzing to meet other whiz-kids/some legendary old people.

You might expect to be herded into a factory of educational brilliance where you enter with A\*A\*A\*A\* and exit with a job at Google/JPMorgan like clockwork. You might expect to command awe and respect from your peers at other institutions just by telling them where you study. You might expect Imperial to have all the best facilities and most modern technologies implemented on campus and available for your learning benefit. You might expect that everyone around you knows just as much advanced mathematics and physics as you do.

Of course, rankings are a vague and general measure of how well a university is doing in a broad sense. But, the above is not what these rankings imply, or are even necessarily a measure of.

By the time you read this, you may already have figured that with such a diverse and international student body, not everyone has had a similar educational background. For instance, engineers may struggle with first-year Mathematics topics because they hadn't taken Further Maths like you had, or maybe their country's Maths syllabus wasn't as content-heavy. Don't ever

### Sample of Rankings:

#### • QS World Rankings: 2013-14

- Overall: 5<sup>th</sup>
- Engineering and technology- 6<sup>th</sup> (world), 2<sup>nd</sup> (UK)
- Life sciences and medicine- 14<sup>th</sup> (world), 3<sup>rd</sup> (UK)
- Natural science- 9<sup>th</sup> (world), 3<sup>rd</sup> (UK)
- Civil Engineering – 1<sup>st</sup> (world)

#### • Times Higher Education Rankings: 2012-13

- Overall: 8<sup>th</sup>
- Engineering and technology-10<sup>th</sup> (world)
- Life sciences – 10<sup>th</sup> (world)
- Physical sciences – 17<sup>th</sup> (world)
- Clinical Health/Medicine – 5<sup>th</sup> (world)

#### • Guardian University Guide: 2014

- Overall: 9<sup>th</sup>

#### • Complete University Guide: 2013

- Overall: 4<sup>th</sup>

mistake that for a lack of intelligence – they worked hard to get here, and are probably just as deserving as you.

You will notice that criteria such as 'Research Excellence' and 'Staff-Student Ratio', prominent features in several ranking methodologies will hardly have any bearing on how your first few undergraduate years go. The generous college endowment and budgets will never really seem to be trickling down to furnish your lecture theatre (LT) with swiveling seats and touchscreen desks. For naming ourselves the Imperial College of Science, Technology, and Medicine, you will see sluggishness in unexpected places on the technological front – just keep track of how many months it ends up taking for every department to have a couple of LTs to finally be configured for AV recordings of lectures.

You will come to realise that unfortunately, top jobs aren't being prepared to be handed to you on a plate once you pass your degree. There are only a handful of those jobs to begin with – chances are you won't be getting one if you sit around feeling entitled. That's why we need, and have, regular Careers Fairs on campus, for you to find out that employers do like Imperial, but hailing from here isn't enough to make the cut since they also like Oxbridge, LSE, the Ivies, etc. You have to do stuff. Partying twice every week will look doubly distasteful to employers if you don't show you can handle responsibility and make productive use of your free time by contributing to a few Clubs/Societies during your time here. (Incidentally while I was writing this, Bloomberg just published an article saying Imperial graduates now have the best job prospects in the UK (89% employed within 6 months of graduation, ahead of Cambridge (85%)).

your year group there are people who are both smarter and better than you, who will effortlessly breeze through exams and coursework in their sleep while maintaining a social life, and there are also people slower than you who will have to put in long shifts after lectures at the library, poring over the lecture notes to understand things you thought were easy enough. You may identify with the latter group, and may come to know brighter and more admirable individuals at other colleges like UCL or even King's, who will greatly trouble your self-esteem and make you wonder what you are doing here. But you have to remember, no one ever said you're better than other people just because you're in Imperial, and it's not necessarily true at all. The fact that you're here means that the College/Department admissions team thought you have great potential on top of your undoubted academic prowess. Don't forget to be humble and keep developing yourself all the time. Take chances to learn from anybody and everybody. That's why you're surrounded by people who don't necessarily seem all that amazing. It's because they're not amazing yet, but by the time they graduate, after they have interacted with similarly amazing people, they will be. And hopefully, so will you.

Somewhat in contradiction, you will have to realise that studying a top-rated course in a top-rated college won't automatically make you awesome, but people will expect you to be awesome and be doing awesome things all the time anyway. You will feel pressurised to make full use of everything available to you. Which is when you will start to doubt what you have around you: "hey come to think of it, I don't really feel like I'm in the world #1 place for my course. It's great but...#1? Really? I thought

These statistics, while very heartening and good to know, also perpetrate the myth propounded upon at the start of this paragraph. Just keep in mind that our seniors worked hard to get their jobs no matter how easy it sounds now, and you will have to do so to match up to their statistic.)

You will come to grudgingly admit (at least to yourself) that in

there would be more than this." Reality is always underwhelming, isn't it?

Unfortunately, the hard truth is that the only major way you influence these rankings are through your National Student Satisfaction (NSS) survey (when you graduate), and how quickly you find a job upon graduation. Most of the score is contributed to by Postgraduate students and researchers at the College who are frantically churning out theses and papers, and to whom factors like 'Student-Staff Ratio' are a whole lot more important in the hunt for a supervisor. At the end of the day, it's generally final-year Undergrads and more senior people who get to muck about with the 'world-class' facilities the College has, and it's what they do that's published to the world, and whose quality is judged to form the main basis of our world rankings.

But all this doesn't mean Imperial is a lousy place for an Undergrad to be at (though I did suggest to you earlier to feel good about yourself while you still could.) You're going to spend between 3-6 years here; most Postgrads are only here for either 1 or 4 years, plus

you outnumber them 3:1 – it would be foolish for the College to fail to cater to you and your abilities...and no one's saying it does. This article merely serves to explain to you what the currently-published ranking systems do and do not imply about your Undergrad experience at Imperial because they do not factor in much about Undergraduates. There simply isn't any real ranking system for universities from an Undergraduate perspective out there (or at least one that's not exclusive to US colleges) so we can't say for sure.

Could Imperial be argued to be the World #1 University for Undergraduates? Sure, it's possible (though unlikely). But no one's manage to agree on a set of standard criteria to quantify this. Maybe you can try.



Wiki Commons

Top spot MIT/real life Tetris

### Sponsored Editorial

## More student cuts

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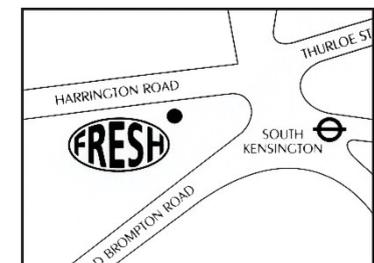
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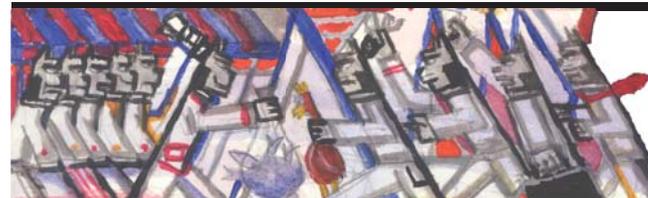
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# Student Finance

James Tsim drives a hard bargain with your moneyz

**H**opefully anyone who is eligible has already applied for Student Finance England. SFE offers student loans and grants which help cover university fees and living costs. Imperial College London also offers bursaries/scholarships which can be applied for.

## Why open a student account?

With the start of university, the most important preparation you should be doing is to 'Sort out your finances'. The first step to achieve this is to open a student account at the right bank. There are many banks out there, each and every one of them offering a variety of different services and freebies. The most important thing you should be considering is cost-free borrowing (interest free overdraft). This is the crucial difference between student accounts and standard accounts. Student accounts also offer the same functions such as internet/mobile banking, direct debit facilities, contactless etc. These accounts are designed for people who are attending higher education, so open your account now!

## Interest Free Overdraft:

This is the most important factor you should be considering, as you may be feeling financial constraints later on in the year. The larger the Interest Free Overdraft the better, as some banks could charge you more to increase your borrowing. Many students also use overdraft to add funds to an ISA, this is a savings account with a favourable tax status, thereby earning you interest on free borrowed money. Currently the banks which offer the best interest free overdrafts with up to £3000

are HSBC and Halifax. Beware that borrowing past the free overdraft limit will incur you heavy charges, along with interest rates of up to 24% AER.

## Branches situated near campus:

Having a bank branch near campus is very important for any problems with your account, or lost cards after a wild night out. There is a Santander branch on campus, with Barclays, RBS, HSBC, Lloyds TSB and Natwest within the South Kensington area.

## 16 – 25 Student Railcard

This offer entitles you to a student 16-25 railcard available for up to 4 years, which offers 1/3 off rail fares. These cards normally cost £30 per year, but some banks give this for free when you

open a student account. This is useful for example when taking weekend trips away to Brighton Pleasure Beach or when visiting friends in Manchester (£76.30 without railcard; £51 with railcard). These railcards can also be added to your oyster cards to give a 34% discount of tube fares (off-peak) and 34% off the daily cap. This card is an amazing deal and I would recommend you purchase one if the bank you choose does not offer it for free.

## Taste Card

No doubt after coming to London as a student you will be doing a lot of cooking as a first year student. However for those of you who are looking to try the various different chain restaurants and cuisines in London, some banks offer a free taste card for every year of study when

you set up an account with them. This card worth £80 is offered by Natwest and RBS, and offers 50% off or 2 for 1 deals at thousands of UK restaurants (e.g GBK, Pizza Express, Zizzi Restaurant). I personally have never had a taste card, but in case you want to try it out, they are currently offering a 30 day free trial card.

## Headline Interest Rate

This is the highest interest rate (gross/AER) paid on balances held in the accounts. Most of the student accounts offer 0% headline interest, however some banks do offer it, such as HSBC (2%), Halifax (0.1%), Santander (1%) and Bank of Ireland (0.5%). My recommendation is that if you do have spare cash in your account, transfer it to a high interest savings account.

## Other

HSBC has teamed up with Sony to offer up to 18 music albums to download for free.

Lloyds TSB offers free NUS Card and £75 off a holiday booked through STA travel.

Whichever bank account you choose, find one that suits YOU. Setting up a student account at a bank does not mean you must stick with it for life; you can change bank accounts every year.

Finally let's get down to business: we're looking for talented, sexy, funny writers. If you think you're like a muzzle for a duck and fit the bill, get in touch! Email business.felix@imperial.ac.uk to find out more now!



Bank	Max Overdraft	Headline Interest Rate	Unplanned overdraft fees	Other Benefits
Halifax	£3,000	0.10%	7.20%	1. Commission free foreign currency and travellers cheques. 2. Free personalised debit card
HSBC	£3,000	2%	3.50%	1. 18 free albums 2. Student credit card 3. Chance to win £10,000
Barclays	£2,000	0%	8.90%	1. Free personalised debit card 2. Barclays Pingit 3. 10% discount on student possessions insurance and student travel insurance
Santander	£1,500	1%	N/A	1. Free 16-25 Railcard
Lloyds TSB	£1,500	0%	8.21%	1. Up to £75 off holiday booked through STA travel 2. Free NUS Extra (Not available at Imperial)
Natwest	£1,000	0%	N/A	1. Taste card membership 2. Emergency cash when you lose your card
RBS	£1,000	0%	N/A	1. Taste card membership 2. Emergency cash when you lose your card



## Keir's Summer Science

**Keir Little**  
 Science Editor



### Corkscrew molecules emit circularly polarized light

Molecules that can emit and detect circularly-polarised light may be the next step forward in technologies such as computer displays, which currently waste over three quarters of light energy by passing it through filters for colour and polarisation.

Dr Matthew Fuchter from the Department of Chemistry and Dr Alisdair Campbell from the Department of Physics have recently published papers in *Nature Photonics* and *Advanced Materials*, which show how conventional light-emitting polymers can be doped with a helical chiral molecule, whose handedness determines the direction of the emitted light. Similar molecules can be used as transistors to detect circularly-polarised light.

Circular polarisation is the basis of 3D cinema and television, and this discovery could lead to the development of lightweight, efficient 3D displays, such as for mobile devices. The use of circularly-polarised light in fibre optic cables could double their capacity for carrying data and such light could be used for transferring data in next-generation quantum computers.

### Bird brains similar to mammal brains

Computational neuroscientist Professor Murray Shanahan has developed the first ever map of a bird's brain, and compared it to those of humans and other mammals.

Several bird species (surprisingly, including pigeons) show high intelligence and ability for reasoning, problem solving and use of tools. From anatomical studies of the pigeon brain, Professor Shanahan's team build a map of the key processing areas, and found that the bird hippocampus is very similar to the mammalian one and that the nidopallium caudolaterale plays a similar role to the hippocampus in decision-making, despite having evolved differently.

Professor Shanahan says, "Birds have been evolving separately from mammals for around 300 million years, so it is hardly surprising that under a microscope the brain of a bird looks quite different from a mammal. Yet, birds have been shown to be remarkably intelligent in a similar way to mammals such as humans and monkeys. Our study demonstrates that by looking at brains that are least like our own, yet still capable of generating intelligent behaviour, we can determine the basic principles governing the way brains work."



"Do you like writing about science? Or watching people write about it? Then send an email to our editors at [science@felix.imperial.ac.uk](mailto:science@felix.imperial.ac.uk) to get involved!"

# Tired or drunk? You might be feeling quite creative

**Fiona Hartley**  
 Science Editor

Imagine: it's 9am and you enter the lecture theatre that will be your home for the next year. Maybe you went out to Ministry or you had a few too many pints in Metric. Perhaps you just stayed up late getting to know new people in halls or from your course. Either way you're knackered. Maybe you're even still drunk!

If you're suffering from a vague feeling of guilt because this isn't the work ethic you should be starting with for your new degree at Imperial, then fear not. Being tired or drunk doesn't have to keep you from getting your work done. Here's why.

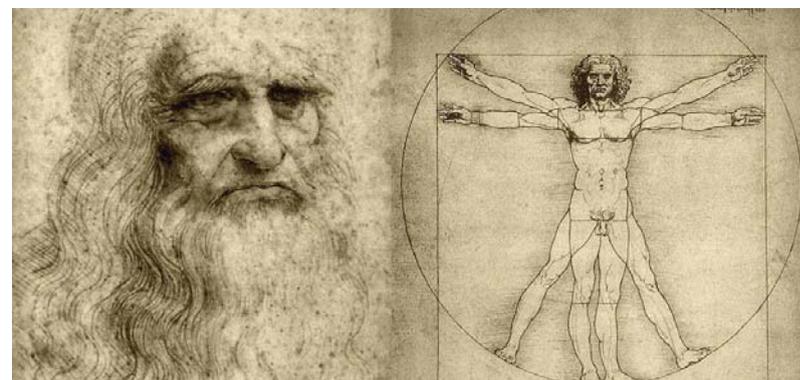
### Creativity

Conventionally, creativity is linked with great literature, art and music. Many historic artists and musicians were known to drink. We're all scientists here at Imperial, so when research suggests that being tired or drunk can improve creative thinking you might think, "So what?" But science depends on creative thinking for its advancement. Creativity is coming up with novel ideas, and that's how you solve problems.

Contrary to what your intuition might suggest, research published in *Thinking and Reasoning* in 2011 indicated that people are actually at their most creative during what the authors termed their 'non-optimal' time of day. In other words, if you're a night owl – which many of us are – then it is during the morning that you're best able to solve insight-based problems, due to your grogginess. Similarly those who consider themselves early birds answer such questions more effectively in the evening.

The research was carried out by asking 428 undergrads whether they thought of themselves as morning or evening people, and then asking them to solve six questions, three of which were insight puzzles and three of which were focused analytical problems. Furthermore, the students were tested at different times – one group between 8:30am and 9:30am, the other between 4pm and 5:30pm.

The students' performance on analytical tasks like long division was unaffected by time of day, but if they were an early bird or a night owl then they were more successful at solving the creative puzzles at their least optimum time. Furthermore, students with no preference for the morning or the evening didn't show any difference



in success at solving the insight problems between each time of day.

Why? Well, it's your inability to concentrate and your wandering thoughts that allow you to work out creative insight puzzles. Here's an example:

A man has married 20 women in a small town. All of the women are still alive and none of them are divorced. The man has broken no laws. Who is the man?

The answer is a priest. Did you get it? Sleepy students, whose brains aren't entirely focused on the problem, consider many more associations between ideas than alert students and are more likely to answer this puzzle correctly. Even being bored can have this effect.

This is actually very similar to what happens if you're mildly intoxicated and presented with an insight puzzle. In 2012 Andrew Jarosz and a team of researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago tested the link between alcohol intoxication and creativity. Their inebriated subjects per-

formed worse than sober subjects on working memory tests (like driving a car), but solved the insight puzzles presented to them both more often and in less time than their sober counterparts.

Now, this isn't encouragement for you to get absolutely wasted every single night or to always stay up really late. Getting those creative juices flowing via tiredness won't help you to copy down notes or grind through a problem sheet, although a caffeine boost probably will, as it deceives your brain into thinking you have more energy than you really do. But what tiredness and intoxication will help you produce is a good idea for the projects, presentations, designs or essays you'll have to do over the year.

So you might want to take into account whether you're an early bird or a night owl when you've got creative work to do. And you might as well try to make going out and having that drink work for you in more ways than one.



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SCIENCE

# Science behind Freshers' Week

Philippa Skett gets you ready to face your greatest fear: socialising

According to your personal statement, ever since you can remember you have always wanted to study RNA replication, so we here know you love a bit of science. Even if you actually meant it, and we know some of you probably didn't, science will no doubt be at the back of your mind this week. But so it should be! This week is all about making friends in halls, drinking in halls, planning to go to Ministry of Sound and then giving up after finding out the route home takes two buses.

However, if you can't bear to ask yet another person what A-Levels they did, or what halls they are in, you can always deploy some of these facts whilst waiting for a pint in FiveSix-Eight. Even if you don't feel like using science chat up lines (that helicase one is a winner, by the way) you may still learn some hints and tips to get you through this undoubtedly messy week.

## Alcohol – possibly the only friend you may make this week

Ethanol, that cheeky little two carbon compound, is what gives pints a punch- after being absorbed into the bloodstream it is transported to the liver, and then broken down by two sets of enzymes. It is first converted into acetaldehyde by one enzyme, alcohol dehydrogenase, and then into acetate by another, aldehyde dehydrogenase. When these are imbalanced, and aldehyde dehydrogenase is less efficient, acetaldehyde builds up and delivers the Asian Flush some of you might experience this week.

Ethanol is metabolised at a rate of

around one regular drink every ninety minutes, so if you succumb to the usual calls of "Down it Fresher!" too regularly, your blood alcohol level will rise, and it will eventually effect your brain. With ethanol being a depressant, meaning it enhances the effects of the inhibitory neurons whilst weakening the excitatory neurons in your brain, it will at first make you relaxed, then tired, then eventually will make you pass out.

Please refrain from writing on your friend's face if this happens, or at least do it once you have put them to bed. No doubt one day (possibly even Wednesday this week) it will be you in the same position!

## Hangovers – no pain, no gain, right?

Science is still uncertain about what a hangover actually is- the best guess is that it is a collection of symptoms which manifest due to the multiple physiological effects from drinking alcohol.

With alcohol being a diuretic it naturally increases urinary output leading to dehydration, causing thirst and dizziness in the morning. It is an irritant and can also stimulate a higher rate of production of gastric secretions, with both resulting in nausea and the possibility of vomiting. Finally it can cause vasodilatation of blood vessels in the brain, making the brain press against the skull and delivering that characteristic hangover headache.

If you are smart enough to take painkillers before the onset of the hangover, only take aspirin as paracetamol is metabolised by the liver too, which is under enough strain as it is.



WIRED

See this? This won't be you. See that guy with glasses sitting in the corner texting. Guess where this is going...

## Fresher's Flu – when the cough syrup replaces the Jägerbombs

This blanket term is generally used to cover the run-down feeling that comes from not sleeping enough, not eating properly or drinking more than you probably can handle, but can be caused by infections too.

Usually this "flu" is actually a manifestation of the common cold. With there being 200 different types of viruses that can cause a cold, and factoring in the many different nationalities you will probably bump into around campus, it is inevitable you will encounter a strain you are not al-

ready immune to.

Combined with exhaustion, poor nutrition and excessive drinking, your already weakened immune system doesn't stand a chance this week if that sniffing guy in your intro lecture sneezes in your direction. The beginning of the new academic year also coincides with the beginning of flu season too, so even if you manage to avoid human contact for the whole week (and I know full well some of you will) you still may find yourself sneezing by Sunday.

Freaking out about Fresher's flu? Arm yourself with hand sanitizer, a packet of tissues (infused with that nice Aloe Vera to keep your nose

from going all scaly) and a properly cooked meal every now and then. If you still don't manage to escape it, you will feel right as rain by November. Promise.

So, with your snakebite in one hand, your hand sanitiser in another and a brain full of fun fresher facts, I fail to see just how you could not have a fun time this Welcome Week. Relax, socialise, don't blow your whole student loan on a food shop in Harrods and generally enjoy your time as a brand new student.

Look out for us at Fresher's fair and write for Science too- we might just accidentally tell your tutor your personal statement was all lies otherwise.



## Imperial Mobile



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



# The summer in politics

Kartikeya  
Rana

Politics Editor



Well hello there all you freshers (and everybody else)! Here comes yet another year of Imperial. A small amount of us do tend to have an interest in politics surprisingly enough. So if you are one of those people who likes to learn about world affairs or likes to have a drunk rant, like I do, about how good or bad things are around the world, then read on. Now is the time to empower yourself with every bit of information needed to thwart those who don't agree with you. How? By reading up on the most important issues of course.

**Just an aside for all freshers: This year will pass way too quickly. No joke.**



## Main Story - Syria

When the Arab spring took place two years ago, Syria saw an opening to be free from the Assad regime. They saw how effective the protest had been in Egypt, Libya and elsewhere, and thought that they could be able to form their desired government in due course.

However, Assad has been brutal in the way he has been dealing with the protestors. There has been a civil war taking place in the region for far too long. There are 2 main groups taking part in this war: The Free Syrian Army and the supporters of Assad. The conflict has worsened due to the use of chemical weapons. Both sides are too busy blaming each other for the use of chemical weapons. The Huffington Post claims that 110,000 lives have been lost in this war but the exact numbers are unknown. It's unfortunate to see how the revolt that started during the Arab Spring has unfolded.

### The chemical weapons dilemma:

The international community has been ambivalent about being involved in Syria due to its past failures in the region.

US interference in Middle Eastern conflicts has often ended up having the opposite effect to what was expected when they went in. As a result, the western public is against military intervention in Syria. Americans do not want to see their country get involved in a war which does not improve the US standing in the region. Furthermore, after the Iraq war, they have become suspicious about their

government's international interest.

This has caused a number of problems for President Obama. He openly stated recently that it would be 'the last straw' if the Assad regime used chemical weapons against its own civilian population. However, now there seems to be 'substantial evidence' to show the use of these weapons. As a result, Obama has been trying to gather votes for an air strike in Syria. This seems to be an uphill battle for the president as there is overwhelming opposition to such a strike. The UK parliament has also voted against an air strike in Syria. This has made matters even worse for him.

Russia has also shown a fierce opposition to American intervention. The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has asked Syrian officials to submit their chemical weapons to international agencies. As a result, Obama has stated that he would put an air strike on hold if Syria submits its chemical weapons.

### My Take:

US should not take part in air strikes in Syria. Assad already has enough time to prepare for such an air strike. The only way the air strike would be effective would be if there are ground troops to support the air strike. Furthermore, there are worries within the Syrian public that the air strikes would result in further civilian casualties. Russian authorities, I believe, have provided an alternative which the international community should respect.

## The second important story - Egypt after the Arab Spring:

A very rosy picture was painted about the path towards which Egypt was headed after the Arab Spring. However, people are becoming more and more pessimistic about the future of the country.

Months after Hosni Mubarak was ousted from Egypt, democratic elections were held. The Freedom and Justice party, the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, came to power with Mohammad Morsi as their leader. A new constitution was drafted which the West has not been in support of, as it gave The Freedom and Justice party immense power.

Mohammad Morsi was also losing support at home for the same reason as well as his inability to deal with the economic issues. This resulted in a massive protest around Egypt and resultant military intervention.

### The Egyptian military and democracy:

The Egyptian military took over the parliament on July 3rd. The head of the armed forces, Gen. Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi, announced that the constitution has been revoked and an interim government headed by Chief Justice Abdul Mansour has since been put in place whilst a new constitution is drafted. This has led to widespread protests across Egypt with Islamist groups setting up camp in various suburbs of Cairo. The military crackdown on these tents has also led to a loss of a number of lives. The BBC states that according to eyewitness accounts, at least 40 people have died in

the protests.

### My Take:

I am quite worried about how this situation will play out. It is necessary that the Muslim Brotherhood is made part of the democratic process to prevent them from being dragged further underground. This could turn them more fundamental in nature and give them a concrete reason to act in such a way. However, the idea of having them in power is also dangerous to secularism in the region.

I'm not against the military intervention, although I am against the manner in which it is currently being conducted, but it is very important that the Muslim Brotherhood remains part of the democratic process to maintain stability in Egypt.

## The third story - Scotland independence debate:

A referendum is to be held to see whether Scotland should stay in the UK. The Scottish public will be asked: 'Should Scotland be an independent country?'. Throughout summer, there was an ongoing debate about where the Scottish vote was headed. According to the BBC, the Holyrood parliament supports the vote. There is a strong belief that the Scottish public will be voting overwhelmingly to stay in the UK.

### My Take:

I am definitely in support of the referendum. It would give a reason for the aggravated pro-independence protestors to calm down, regardless of how the referendum goes. If the vote goes in their favour, then it would prove

their point as valid. However, if the vote goes against what they expected, then they would have no reason to complain. I don't understand the relevance of such a long winded debate about this issue. Let's just have the vote and see how it goes.

## The final story - Edward Snowden:

Edward Snowden used to be a National Security Agency contractor but fled to Hong Kong after revealing information about extensive phone and Internet surveillance by the CIA. The idea of having their privacy being breached without prior consent caused public outrage in the US and the rest of the world.

He also recently revealed information about the US and UK government 'cracking online encryption'. This has sparked further debate about internet security. People question as to whether the technology could be grasped by people outside the intelligence agencies and what implications that could have.

### My Take:

The case of Edward Snowden is one of civil disobedience. He believes that what he has done is something that will uphold the liberty and freedoms of the US citizens. However, it is different in the sense that he has fled the country rather than staying his ground for what he believes is right (as has been done by civil disobedience leaders of the past like Martin Luther King). What makes his departure more suspicious is the fact that he has fled to Russia. Now I don't know what his intentions are but I am rather suspicious of them.

Also, the fact that he is losing support at home shows that not everyone believes that what he is doing is right. It is one thing fighting for a country's right and another to leak information that can hamper the same country's security.

That doesn't mean that these democratic governments have come out as the good guys. It is quite scary to see how much power this gives the government. Any information could be taken out of context by the government to prosecute their fellow citizens. This would weaken the power of the democracy and it is essential that something be done about this.

That's all from me for now. If you have any comments, please contact *Felix*.



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# 'The Imperial Thing': Why Comment Matters

Eoghan J. Totten  
@eoghantotten  
Comment Editor



**T**here are people out there that are highly critical of the ethos of Imperial College and its approach to academic pursuits.

Some individuals from outside the institution find it 'lacking' in certain qualities. They often attempt to draw parallels between ourselves and the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge. Be it the lack of stunning architecture, the skewed gender balance or its unrealised 'brand' they choose to draw upon every negative fathomable and consider us gauche, unrefined and imbalanced. This provides the *Raison D'être* of *Felix Comment*; Imperial College needs to utilise every voice possible in order to ward off and rise above these criticisms. Every voice matters. **Your voice matters.**

In the coming academic year *Felix Comment* (managed by my colleague Tessa Davey and me) will publish a number of articles in line with the contemporary developments affecting the College and indeed the wider world on a weekly basis. It will be our task to convey balanced credit and criticism in relation to any academic, socio-political or cultural developments within Imperial College; we **cannot** do justice to this duty as an isolated



entity. The newspaper is merely a focus of the information relevant to over ten thousand students, staff and academics. *Felix Comment* acts as their conduit, a platform upon which their opinions and convictions can be revealed in the public arena. Past articles submitted have varied significantly. Some have been casual in tone, others have sparked controversy but all have been equally valid; it is discussion and debate that truly makes a university.

When analysing Imperial College as a whole it appears to be more than a school. It is a community. You might care to draw parallels with ancient Athenian democracy, which centred on the polis. It was a world founded on variety and continuous evolution, where politics and theatre were considered equals. Its fuel was debate and discussion, creating the cornerstones of sport,

art, philosophy and medicine, to name but a few. A series of solitudes were connected to create the recognisable whole. It was a system that ventured into new frontiers...and yet it was more than that. To quote Dr. Richard Miles, senior lecturer in Classics at the University of Sydney,

*'The polis was something you belonged to, the place that gave you an identity.'*

This is the chief strength of Imperial College; our thoughts, ideas and voices will prove to be our enduring legacy, our integral link between one another. You may be an engineer, a geologist or a medic but there are shared interests and ideals between us all. Any flaw in the university can be overcome by interaction, which can ultimately deliver progress. *Felix Comment* is just one of many

avenues that can facilitate this.

Each student inherits insane volumes of work (and if you're a fresher, believe me, you will) and are therefore subject to common stresses and trials. In many cases resentment spawns and it is often amassed on a College-wide, rather than Departmental, basis. A solution to a problem takes time, working its way up from the individual, through the Students' Union and into the upper echelons of Imperial College. This process of debate often needs a catalyst; *Felix Comment* has recurrently provided this over the years.

While students at the College have common interests they are balanced by a rich and dynamic multiculturalism unrivalled by any academic institution in the UK. This, for me, epitomises the need for commentary. The students and staff possess infinitely many links to global issues and thus the need to talk about them arises. Civil war, tyranny and poverty have often affected the families of students and staff who study away from their homeland. The duty has often fallen to *Felix Comment* (and *Felix* as a whole) to galvanise condolence, sympathy or support for these people in their hour of need.

The previous academic year of 2012-2013 was riddled with tragedy, with the rapidly evolving Syrian crisis a case in point. Such events served to highlight that each and every one of us has been attracted at Imperial College for a reason, underpinned by an aspiration for self-betterment through the medium of a technical education. The buildings,

the people and the community are the centrepiece of it all. Discussion in the direction of their improvement cannot fail be a good thing.

Fortunately *Felix Comment* also deals with light-hearted matters. Previous topics of debate have ranged from that of climate change to the introduction of the 'Grade Point Average' system. Such vast and extensive topics have provided sumptuous material for debate. The comment section has repeatedly demonstrated that the mechanisms of discussion, that vital threshing and contention, can provide more satisfaction than the outcome itself.

In order to end on a positive note I have contacted a number of individuals from different branches of life within Imperial College, asking them to give a brief synopsis of what has made their University opportunities truly great. They bear witness to the many advantages awarded by our College and demonstrate that we can be proud of it.

It is our very own polis. By enmeshing ourselves with its ebb and flow it might just become the place that forges our future identity.

One way of doing that is to keep in touch with *Felix*. If you feel a need to vocalise any issue, no matter how big or small, e-mail the team at [comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk) and we will endeavour to help within our means.

To close I shall quote the Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney.

*Between my finger and my thumb  
The Squat pen rests.  
I'll dig with it.*

Imperial has given me the opportunity to encounter people from a range of different and diverse backgrounds, all of whom are united by a desire to excel...The network I have built will remain with me long after graduation."

Abdul, MPhil Nuclear Engineering from the University of Cambridge and Imperial Alumnus

The UROP placement has given me an insight into the everyday life of an academic researcher, increased my knowledge about topics relevant to my degree...It will be a good thing to have as experience when applying for internships and jobs in the future.

Simon, Materials Engineer and beneficiary of the coveted UROP programme

The opportunity to study for a year abroad is definitely something I would recommend. Not only do you get to taste a different environment, for academia as well as fun times, but it does not even delay your graduation, which is both rare and valuable.

Pierre, Aeronautical Engineering on a year abroad in Toulouse.

Two years ago I did my Erasmus at Imperial and I was able to experience world-class research, meet fantastic people and live in one of the coolest cities in the world. And when you have the possibility to do your Ph.D. in this place, why wouldn't you?

Richard, Prospective PhD student



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# COMMENT

## Let the world hear your voice sing



**Tessa Davey**  
Comment Editor

better, or you're pretty confident that the Student Loans Company has made it their personal mission to make you miserable, we want to know. I personally, am outraged that all the paper towel dispensers in Blackett and Huxley have been replaced with hand dryers over the summer, and will quite happily wax lyrical about this for quite some time. I think big, you see. Students care what other students think, and so why not share your perspectives?

At Imperial, we're so accustomed to such diversity that it's easy to forget that everybody offers something unique. Although you might not run into the huge spectrum of people here everyday, the variety means that there are a lot of interesting things to be said, and *Comment* can be the place to say them. Whether you had a mind-altering experience in Thailand

on your gap yah, you've just moved to the UK from deepest darkest Peru, or you spent the summer sleeping until noon and watching Jeremy Kyle in your pyjamas; everyone sees things differently, and everyone has something interesting to say. Encountering other views, however controversial, helps to shape yours, whether they alter your opinion, or clarify existing ideas in your mind.

Some topics come up in *Comment* year after year: sexism, TFL, and the workload at Imperial, to name but a few. As long as these issues persevere, it's important to continue to feature and discuss them, to stir up debate, rather than become complacent and let important topics fade into obscurity. If you think something should change, *Comment* is your opportunity to tell people why you feel strongly about it, and maybe

convince them to feel strongly too. As Freshers, we sit through dozens of introductory talks that tell us that we're the pick of the educated litter. (Freshers, a game for you: send me an email at *Comment* and tell me how many times in your first week you were told you were the best. The smuggest department gets nothing at all, but I will tell you which it is!) If such intelligent people won't stand up and put forward their opinions, who will? We as Imperial students love to complain, but are generally reluctant to take action. Anyone who's ever been slightly dissatisfied with their course, yet whined when the SOLE survey came around is guilty of it (and that's pretty much everyone). So why not break the mould, and do something about these frustrations for a change?

It's not just the stories making international headlines that are important to Imperial students. As well as giving different viewpoints on current events, *Comment* showcases any other issues that are significant to your life. Whether you think that the food in the JCR is actually pretty good, or you feel strongly that lab demonstrators don't get the credit they deserve, there's always space for an opinion. Whether you think that the Union could be doing something

### Comment Online

Over the summer holidays Felix has been hard at work publishing new articles wvery week on our website, including:

**Democracy and the lack of representation**  
by Kartikeya Rana

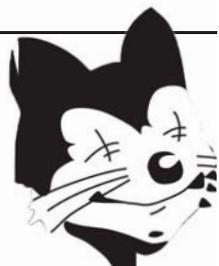
**Honour before pragmatism**  
by Eogan J. Totten

**How can academic institutions prevent future scientific farce and outrage?**  
by Eoghan J. Totten

To have a look at our paper on the internet, as well as some of our online only articles, head over to [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

## Welcome to a new year with Felix

**Joe Letts**  
Editor-in-Chief



Wow! That's all I can say! This is my first issue, and I'm continuing the Felix spirit by writing this editorial just before I send the paper off to the printers.

This first issue has been a huge learning curve and a fantastic way to stress and scream (well moan), something I haven't been able to do since last term.

So, welcome Freshers (and returning readers) to Imperial College 2013/14! The summer has certainly been eventful in terms of a new series of Big Brother (although personally I don't watch such tripe, anymore), a very rainy week or two in September (with

many more to come I'm sure) and exam results both for current students and our new cohort of younglings. Congratulations, you made it through your exams with minimal fatal injury and have made it to campus! It makes me feel like an old man, but I have to tell you Freshers, cherish your years at Imperial (especially your first year, things only get harder from here). Yes, you will be leaving behind old friends and loved ones, but look at the amazing opportunities you have here:

Life-changing friendships, a chance to make a real-life nemesis, a fresh leaf and a chance to really maximise your life's potential. You might think you've worked out your identity already and maybe you even walk around thinking you've already sorted out your life plan, but don't be so certain. You'll meet such a wide variety of people and be able to take part in so many different activities (we have over 300 clubs for goodness sake!) that you'll find yourself changing into a new person over the course of the year.

Now, as much as you're here to have fun, apparently you're also here to study as well, or so I've heard. Granted, Imperial College is a place of learning, and, as you'll see in the

pullout we're doing pretty well for ourselves in the worldwide rankings, however sometime we forget that learning doesn't just have to take place in the library. Not to say that you shouldn't study but I hope that over the course of the next few years while you work towards your Geoff Hurst or your Trevor Nunn (or your Desmond, ouch) you also take time out to do something fun, like write for *Felix*. That's not shameless plugging, honest.

That said you'll find your time here at Imperial very stressful, but don't be afraid to ask for help if you're struggling, your department has excellent support staff who are often very friendly, and the Union also has a support service and is available to give advice to students, as well as providing cheap cider and a place to hang out.

It's time for me to stop writing now, the printer's about to call and I don't like to keep him waiting. Especially since he might not print the issue, look at what you might have missed out on! Anyway, I hope you have a fantastic time at Imperial and on behalf of all the students who work at *Felix* (see below), welcome to Imperial College! We hope you'll enjoy reading *Felix* each week and maybe you'll get involved!



## THIS WEEK FELIX WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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# 5 POSTERS FOR YOUR BEDROOM WALL

Arianna Sorba  
Arts Editor



## 1. Chinese Girl

Now one of the most popular art prints of all time, the original Chinese Girl recently sold for almost £1 million in a London auction. It was painted in 1950 by Russian artist Vladimir Tretchikoff after he spotted the model for the painting in a laundrette.

The quirky contrast between the girl's blue skin, red lips and gold collar, combined with that fabulous hair, mean the painting has come to embody the 1950s kitsch aesthetic. In fact it's so iconic that if you look carefully you can find it in the background throughout popular culture, from Father Ted to Monty Python to a David Bowie music video.



## 2. Tennis Girl

Popular for perhaps a slightly different reason, Tennis Girl started life as a calendar published for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. But it soon went the 1970s equivalent of viral, and sold over 2 million copies across the world.

It's not just the impeccable timing of this photograph that makes it so successful. It's very intelligently composed, with the afternoon sun beautifully framing the girl in a halo of light, cutting her figure dramatically against the soft greenery of the background. There are, after all, plenty of posters going around that have a bum in them. Not all of them have stood the test of time quite like this one.



## 3. Lord Kitchener Wants You

Lord Kitchener, or to give him his full name, Field Marshal Horatio Herbert Kitchener the 1st Earl Kitchener, was the British Secretary of State for War during World War One. And he wanted you.

And with that moustache, who could dare say no? The image, originally gracing the cover of the influential London Opinion magazine, became one of the most iconic posters of all time when it was used extensively - and successfully - to recruit millions of volunteers to 'Kitchener's Army'. The boldness and simplicity of the image, with that terrifying pointing finger, have since spawned countless imitations.



## 4. Campbell's Soup Can

Andy Warhol produced his set of 32 Campbell's Soup Cans prints in 1962, at the very birth of the Pop Art movement. Displayed together, the 32 images are identical save for the flavour - but it is apparently widely known that his favourite was tomato.

The mechanised printing method used for production and the banal subject matter meant many contemporary critics said that it wasn't even art, let alone good art. But, 50 years later, people are still talking about the clean lines, striking imagery and cultural symbolism of Warhol's work. So he must have done something right. (Can you spot another version of Campbell's Soup Can on this page? If so, you win five points and an air of smugness. -Ed.)



## 5. Nighthawks

Painted in New York in 1942, Nighthawks is a real beauty of an Edward Hopper painting, and easily one of his most famous pieces of work.

The contrast between the murky gloom of the street and the harsh light inside makes the picture ooze a kind of mysterious, melancholy atmosphere. Eerie shadows are cast onto the pavement by the same unnatural light that also illuminates the lonely figures inside the diner. There's a sense of isolation in the picture, as all three guests seem to be lost in their own thoughts, but there's also a sense of quiet dignity in their stillness.

And the worst poster for your bedroom wall? KEEP CALM AND [insert something stupid here]. Just no.

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ARTS

# An Eye for An Identity?

Fred Fyles investigates the new Designers in Residence

**What:** Designers in Residence 2013 Exhibition  
**Where:** The Design Museum, London  
**When:** 4th Sept 2013 – 12th Jan 2014  
**Price:** £10.75 Adults, £6.50 students

**W**hat makes us who we are? The answers that immediately spring to mind are personal, intimate influences - our parents and siblings, friends and teachers; but there is one unlikely figure that has a profound and almost invisible impact on our lives - the Designer. From the clothes we wear to the cars we drive and the websites we visit, the designer has an enormous role in forging our individual identity.

It is this theme, one of 'identity', which has formed the basis of the Design Museum's *Designers in Residence* programme. Running since 2008, each year the programme selects four up-and-coming designers, exhibiting their work and exploring what design means to us.

Perhaps the most direct link between designers and identity is found in the realm of product design. How things are made, and how we interact with them, helps to form a sense of both individual and national identity. This idea of interaction has been explored in the work of Eunhee Jo who, after studying in her native Seoul, completed part of her Design Engineering Masters at Imperial College.

For the residency, Jo designed a speaker system and lighting array that examine what the future of product identity may be. Rather than use the glass and steel that seem to be the prescribed vision of the future, she has researched the use of fabrics as a form of technological interface. The lights and the front of the speaker, for example, are both covered with a soft fabric that responds to tactile influences - intuitive gestures such as swiping back or forth allow the user to change songs, lower the volume, or illuminate the lights. Jo has spoken about the idea of 'emotional design' in her work, and the fabric allows another level of interaction with the product, creating a bond between the object and the consumer. "I imagined the vision of the future to be very organic", says Jo of her work. "The fabric I use in this project is more like skin". With current developments in smart textiles, it seems that this vision of the future may not be far off.

While designers have a strong influence in our lives, the most



THE DESIGN MUSEUM

## Eunhee Jo

Designed a speaker system made with a fabric touch interface. Influenced by emotional design.



THE DESIGN MUSEUM

## Adam Nathaniel Furman

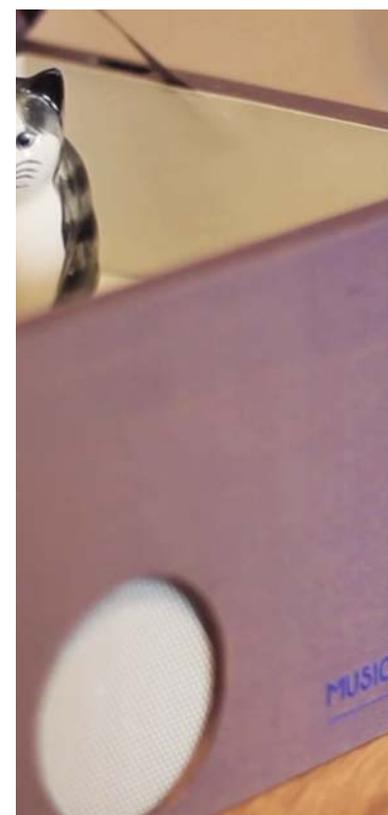
Produces ceramic vases using 3D printers. Examines the identity of young people in today's world.



THE DESIGN MUSEUM

## Thomas Thwaites

Created "Nabu" - An intelligent internet router that tracks and censors web traffic.



THE DESIGN MUSEUM

## Chloe Meineck

The Music Memory Box links objects to sounds. Aids the families of Alzheimer's sufferers.

powerful influence on our identity over the last ten years has undoubtedly been the role of the internet in our lives. With over 80% of households in the country having access to the internet, more people than ever before are using it as their own personal space, to express, confess, and emote. In our 'post-internet' world, personal identity is conflicted - we constantly experience a relentlessly intense barrage of information, making it difficult to know who we are.

Adam Nathaniel Furman, the second designer in residence, was born in 1982, placing him at the forefront of the millennial generation, and his multi-faceted work identifies what it is like to be a young person in today's world. Alongside a collage film that bombards the viewer with images, videos, and sounds, Furman has created a fictitious character who blogs about the anxiety of modern life. These themes lead to his main work - a series of colourful, complex ceramic vases, produced using 3D printers. Bulbous or angular, colourful or monochrome, these vases display the wide range of influences that can be found through the internet, and reflect the culture-mashing that has been brought on through globalisation.

Everything in Furman's work - the blog, the video, and the designs for the vases - exist in a digital format, reinforcing the role technology plays in forging our identity, and the shift away from handicraft in modern design.

While Furman's pieces focus on what it means to emote and connect across the world, there is a dark underbelly to the internet that is not mentioned; everything we do on the internet, every click and every 'like', can be converted into valuable market data. In this way our internet identity is mined by multinational corporations, who can then deliver targeted advertisements straight to our screen.

Thomas Thwaites' work explores this idea, but flips it on its head and adds a delicious lick of black humour. He has created a series of theoretical products that monitor our lives, and guide us towards better choices. Named Nabu - after the Babylonian god of wisdom and writing - the key piece in the collection is a wireless router that connects permanently into a household's devices, gathering data to form an idea of their identities. After a few weeks it begins to place restrictions on the internet and television, forcing people to avoid what Nabu decrees to be 'bad

decisions' - a bit like Richard Thaler's 'Nudge Theory', taken to the extreme. The instruction manual for Nabu emphasises the centrality the icon-like router should play in life, forming wicked parallels between the internet, religion, and government control. Two other pieces further this idea - a purse controlled by Nabu that prevents reckless spending, and a pair of boots that recommend 'pilgrimages', helping the wearer become a better person. While these devices may seem outlandish, Thwaites' work forces the viewer to question how we make decisions, and whether free will truly exists in the Internet Age.

While these three projects are resolutely looking towards to future, Chloe Meineck's work takes a different direction, instead going back in the past. For the residency she developed a 'Music Memory Box', which links personal objects to sounds, creating multi-faceted memories. Meineck is particularly interested in using the device with Alzheimer's patients - since many studies suggest that memories of music remain unimpaired in those with the disease, the box can become a form of therapy for the patient, their carers, and their family. The work uses Radio Frequency

Identification (RFID) technology linked to MP3 files to transform memories into something tangible.

Meineck hopes that the box could play an important role in helping the family to cope with the effects of the disease; "for their families there is a sense of capturing as much as possible", she says. "As the dementia gets worse the ownership changes, and the family members start owning the box". This work shows that, although most modern technology seems to be continuing its unstoppable march of progress towards the future, there will always be a role for reflecting on the past.

As the world becomes more and more connected, and we are assaulted with more and more information, it becomes harder to keep track of personal and national identities. The designer tries to make sense of this confusing world, condensing the unstable miasma of modern culture into something tangible, something permanent. The four designers displayed at the Design Museum are paragons of this idea of the 'new designer', and it is ideas such as theirs that help maintain our identity in this post-internet society.

# MUSIC

Editor: **Simon Hunter,**  
**Riaz Agahi, Stuart**  
**Masson, William**  
**Stocker**  
music.felix@gmail.com



# Four of

The Felix Music guide to London

## Gig Venues



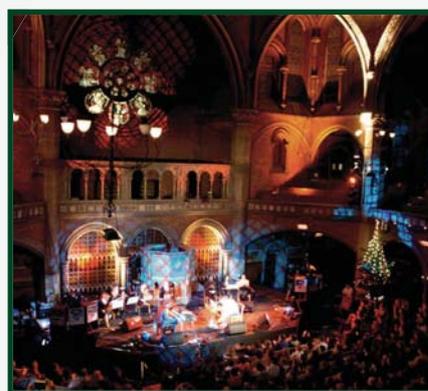
### Café Oto

Café Oto is the jewel in the crown of London's experimental scene. Time and again it has proved worth a 40 minute trip to Dalston. This is in no small part due to its civilized atmosphere, where good gig etiquette is the rule rather than the exception. More notable, though is its reputation for presenting the upper crust of unknown artists as well as momentous collaborations and residencies from some of the biggest names in free jazz and experimental music.



### Birthdays

Although a bar which I've heard has recently entered the burger serving scene, the basement makes for a rather ominous gig venue. I remember my first experience there; walking down into the dimly lit basement to be enveloped by a pulsating wall of sound. In a way the venue lends itself to this, representing how live music was meant to be: intimate, cramped, sweaty, intense and thoroughly enjoyable.



### Union Chapel

Union Chapel is a fully operational church in Islington. It is a gig going experience like no other. Instead of a can of lukewarm Red Stripe you can have a flapjack and choose from a selection of speciality teas. Instead of standing for hours waiting for the bands to start you sit in pews. In keeping with the environment they tend to have fairly folky or downbeat music and it's the perfect venue for such acts. So when your favourite folk singer comes to Union Chapel, don't think twice about grabbing a ticket!



### Old Blue Last

The Old Blue Last is the place to be seen. Located in Shoreditch, this pub / live venue hosts the best in up and coming bands along with some more esoteric favourites! They've played host to Arctic Monkeys, Foals and Hot Chip before they hit the big time. You'll be able to find the freshest new acts in everything from hardcore punk to indie pop. There's something new and exciting on almost every single night. Best of all, the majority of gigs are free!

## Clubs



### Plastic People

Situated below a Vietnamese restaurant, just off Old Street, Plastic People is a tiny club that is dark and claustrophobic. Speakers hidden in the walls fill the space with impeccable sound. The club has just undergone refurbishment so should be brand spanking, not that you'll notice though; it's too dark. Expect nights encompassing disco, house and twisted techno. Oh, and dress to sweat.



### Coronet

If you like your club nights huge then the Coronet is a good place to start. Situated in the heart of Elephant and Castle the Coronet is an ex-cinema that still has many of its 1920's Art-Deco features. Due to its size the Coronet attracts big names; both bands and DJs. Grab a bunch of mates, book a night and at 5am when the music stops you'll wonder where all the time went.



### XOYO

Located just off the big Old Street roundabout, XOYO in Shoreditch is definitely worth the trip east from South Ken for a big weekend night. Split over two floors, the main room is down in the basement with the more chilled out second room and (very cramped) smoking area on the entrance level. Nights vary from live indie bands to monthly raves hosted by Bugged Out! and EYOE. The only downside is the often long queues coupled with the over touchy bouncers, but once inside you're sure to have a good one.



### Corsica Studios

With the entrance through a small door under the railway arches just minutes' walk from Elephant and Castle Underground station, Corsica Studios is a small club with a huge personality. Inside there's the main bar, 2 nice size rooms with a great sound and a decent sized outdoor area all interconnected with a maze of white brick walls. The crowd is always friendly, drinks are reasonably priced and entrance rarely goes above £10, meaning if you want a big night with great music without breaking the bank this is the place to go.



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# MUSIC

# the Best



## 's best music venues and shops

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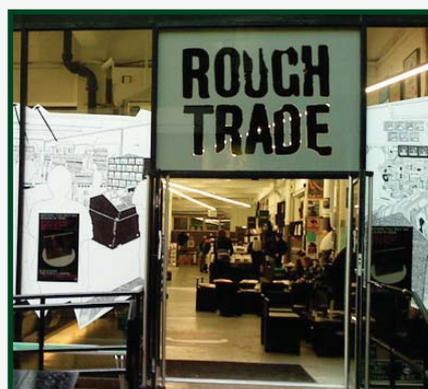
#### Phonica

Phonica is conveniently located in Soho's Poland Street. Just about the perfect place to go when it comes to recent releases in electronic music, providing great and often rare records. The selection manages to strike possibly the best balance of quality and quantity in London and probably best of all, is that the shop has turntables with headphones set up to allow previewing of the records, perfect for those vinyl only editions.



#### Honest Jon's

Honest Jon's is both a label, which has released the likes of London-based badman Actress, as well as one of London's best record stores. The shop, located on Portobello Road, is best known for its amazing selection of jazz, with quality recs from the knowledgeable staff, but has a solid electronic range in addition to some real gems of experimentalism and obscurity in the 'Oddities' box.



#### Rough Trade East

Rough Trade East is an independent record store just off Brick Lane. At 5,000 square feet it's pretty massive by independent standards, so it's possible to waste (or lose) hours browsing. There's a great selection of indie, post-punk and alt rock, with smaller specialist sections ranging to doom metal and post-hardcore. There's a great selection of vinyl and a fair trade café if you need a break from browsing! They also have lots of free release shows, with 65daysofstatic, Local Natives and Savages having played in recent months.



#### Music & Video Exchange

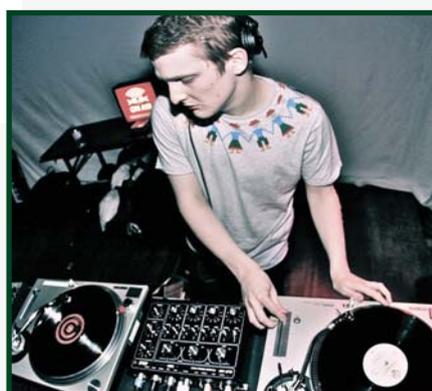
Music & Video Exchange is exactly that. You can sell unwanted CDs and records to them, but, perhaps more excitingly, you can pick up second hand goods at ludicrously cheap prices to restock your collection! There's a large quantity of shit, but if you've got the patience then you can uncover some absolute gems at good prices. With branches in Notting Hill, Soho and Greenwich, you're always close to the world's greatest bargain bin!

### Club Nights



#### Deviation

Last year Deviation, the club night headed by Radio 1 DJ Benji B, moved from its small weekday night slot to XOYO. The night runs on the first Friday of every month and in the past has showcased some of the best DJs and producers from London and around the world, including Jackmaster, Jamie XX, Mala and Actress. While the night usually focuses heavily on the bass-centred house and techno, upstairs there's also usually some grime being laid down to get stupid to.



#### Floating Points Residency

A neuroscience PhD student by day, Floating Points hosts a residency at Plastic People every last Saturday of the month. The man has exceptional taste and crate-digging skills, filling the club with rare Brazilian beats and undiscovered disco gems. Every now and again Floating Points enlists guest DJs to add a further twist to the night. Past guests include DJ Food and Marcellus Pittman.



#### OneMore

OneMore is a relatively new and exciting underground event held in the now disused Hearn street car park and more recently at the Scala. Combining the best underground DJs around with sell out crowds of 'old school ravers', OneMore is a monthly night with an atmosphere and lineup like no other. If you're looking for a night in an unconventional setting coupled with a high quality sound with a truly passionate following then look no further.



#### White Heat

White Heat is a weekly club night held on a Tuesday night at Madame JoJo's in Soho. There's usually a couple of great bands playing in the early evening and then the resident DJs take over. Playing a mixture of alternative electro, hip-hop and indie it's inately danceable and it's hard not to have fun. If you're struggling to enjoy yourself, then there's some impressive drinks deals (I'm talking £1 tequila shots) that will certainly help! There's also a sister night at the Lexington on a Friday called White Light.

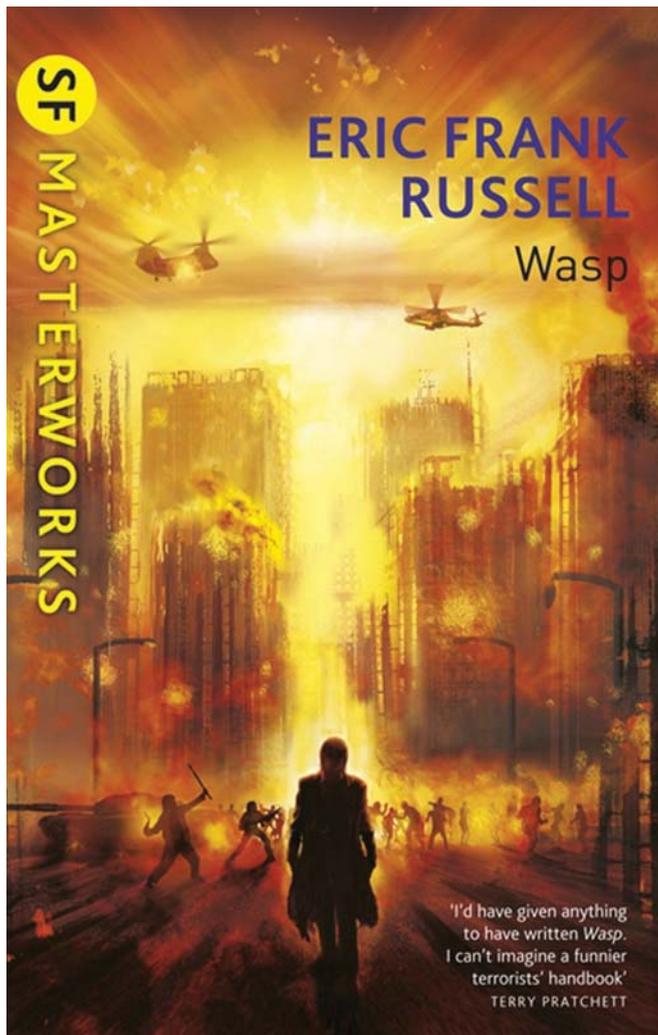
## BOOKS

Editor: Maciej  
Matuszewski, Eva  
Rosenthal  
books.felix@imperial.ac.uk



# Your Autumn Genre Literature P

The Science Fiction, Fantasy and Gothic Horror Society present their fo



A man chosen by his ability to walk bow-legged is dropped into an alien world. The strange inhabitants are ruled by a dictatorial government, which tightly controls all information. And they are at war with the human race. Mowry's mission is simple: be as annoying as possible.

Not so easy, when the fearsome secret police are after him, or at least the grassroots terrorist organization he's fabricated. But Mowry, like a wasp, can cause disproportionate trouble for his size. Mowry makes criminal contacts, steals documents, and etches extremist anti-government slogans on buildings. All the time maintaining his disguise of another species.

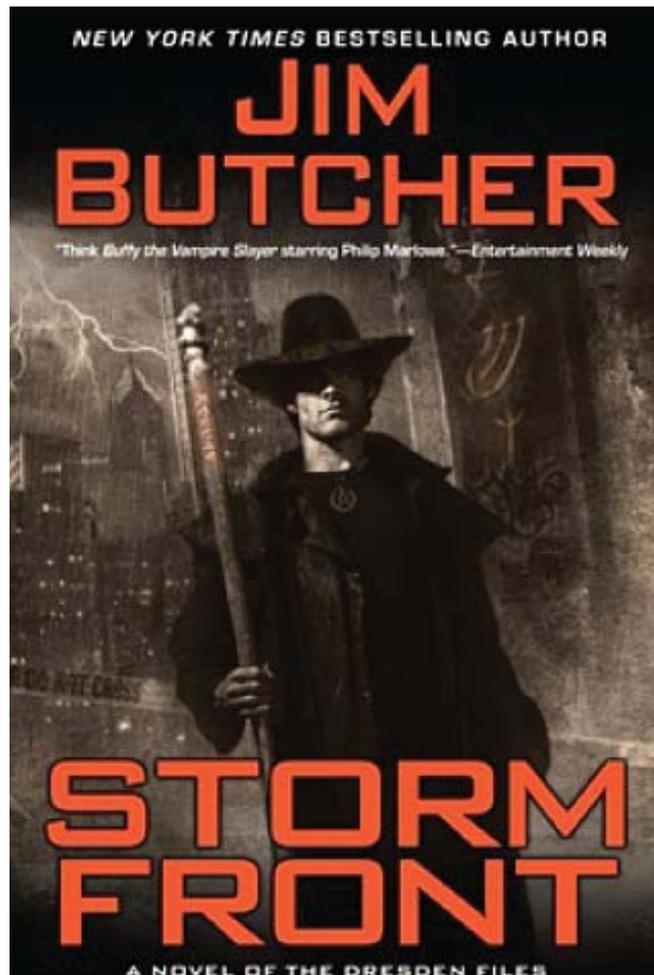
In *Wasp*, you step into Mowry's shoes and see everything through his eyes. You can't help but root for him. This is a narrower focus of interplanetary war than most sci-fi I've come across, but no less thrilling for it.

Though this book was published in 1957, and the Cold War themes of spies and torture cells are strong, this book seems very relevant to today. *Wasp* thumbs the nose at censors and security-conscious states. One man wreaking havoc across a country appears ridiculous and the contrast between Mowry and his shadowy opponents, whose administration is crumbling under its own paranoia, is hilarious.

This book is fast paced. When taking breaks I had to exhale and wait for my pulse to stop racing before trying anything that required focus.

Fans of hard sci-fi might be disappointed. There is little very modern technology and at some points it feels like Mowry could have been dropped into Nazi Germany or 50s Soviet Union. There are typewriters. However, the alien phrases and names throughout maintain the feel of the exotic. This is a book not to be missed.

Rosemary Ware

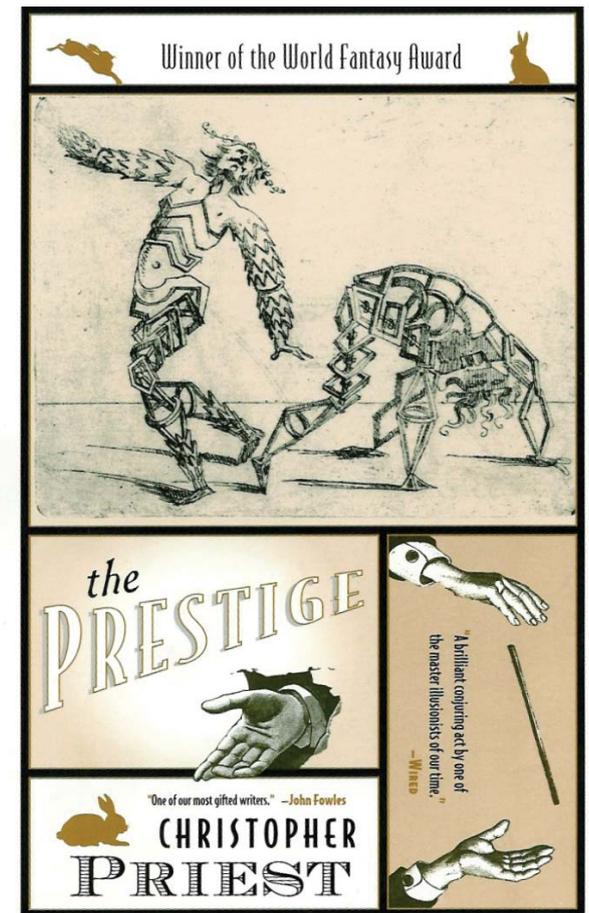


Harry Dresden is the only Wizard in the Phonebook. Probably more importantly, in Jim Butcher's Dresden File series, he is also one of many real Wizards (though the others tend not to advertise it). The series, now more than a dozen books long and starting with *Storm Front*, tracks his progress as a Private Investigator of the paranormal and a slowly maturing Wizard of some power, though little finesse. Without giving too much away they're great fun short reads for anyone that enjoys a little Urban Fantasy; the vampires are more interesting than Buffy's let alone Twilight's sparkly buggers, the faeries are just hilariously conniving and Harry's sarcastic, Star Wars quoting, humour manages not to get old despite never really growing up.

Don't go in expecting too many surprises at the structure though; Harry is going to get beaten up, repeatedly and increasingly severely until he's an angry walking zombie (not literally, though there are those too) of a man that just wants to get through the trouble, rescue the girl and sleep for a few weeks. Despite this slightly predictable nature, the books always grab me and I find myself sadistically wanting to watch Harry struggle through with ever more ridiculous injuries and enjoying the entertaining characters that surround him. Some of these are shamelessly stereotypical, for instance Harry, who it turns out is not highly regarded in Wizarding circles – in part due to his chequered past – himself freely admits to being a bit old-fashioned when it comes to women (but then if you're a wizard and anathema to all modern technology you're allowed to be a little unenlightened on some things right?). One of the main recurring characters Karrin Murphy is a diminutive Chicago cop with a black belt and an attitude. Oh, and Harry has a literal faery godmother... which as it turns out isn't generally a blessing.

Anyway, I'd highly recommend it as something fairly light but massively engaging.

Alex Savell



At first glance *The Prestige* doesn't seem like a science fiction story. Indeed, most of it isn't. But the story of two stage magicians battling to out do each other in a lifelong rivalry at the turn of the twentieth century, as turned in to a film by Christopher Nolan in 2006, is a wonderful tale of stage magic, illusions, unreliable narrators and Nikola Tesla. Tesla!

Unlike the film, the novel has a section set in contemporary England, with the descendants of the two magicians meeting and trying to piece together the events of a century ago. This serves as a framing device for the story of the magicians, and also provides a climax for the book as a whole. The magicians in question are Alfred Borden and Rupert Angier, and their stories are told through the notebook of the former, written many years after most of the events in it, and the diary of the latter, charting his life in a more direct, in-the-moment way. The two accounts of their lives are given one after the other, making you check back to see the first's account of an incident the second describes, and wonder which version is closer to the truth. Although, of course, the lesson the book tries to teach you is that neither narrator can be trusted fully.

The science fiction in the story is very muted, only appearing near the end. And although it's something very far away from the realm of possibility, it feels very grounded and real. Knowing the man Tesla was, really would it be too surprising to find out he'd invented a technology we don't even have today? That said, the final scene of the book in the modern day does go a bit far. The technology Tesla invented is used at the end in a way that makes little sense in the context of the world previously established. And whilst it does lead to a chilling final image, it is rather silly.

Overall though, a good read. The style is very believable – the author has put thought in to how a notebook and a diary of those sorts would read. Anyone who enjoyed the film will love the book, and at a light 350 (or so) pages, it's perfect for devouring in a couple of afternoons.

Tom Rivlin



 @feliximperial

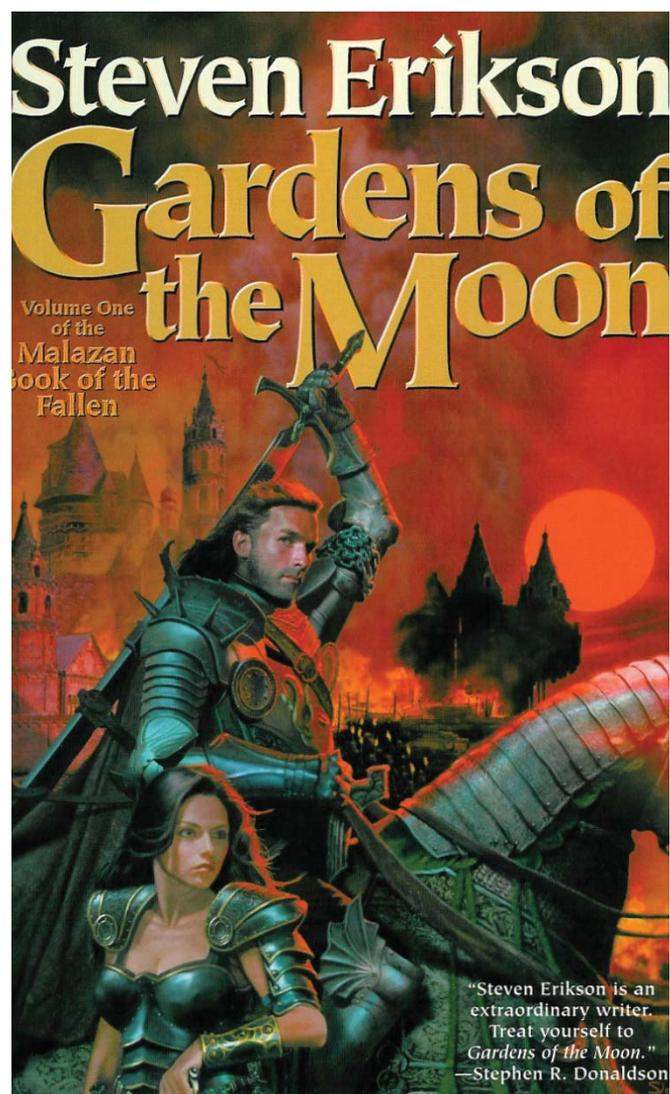
 facebook.com/FelixImperial

# BOOKS

# Picks

avourite books from their library

Find all of these, as well as 9000 other books, 2000 DVDs and 500 graphic novels, in the Science Fiction, Fantasy and Gothic Horror Society's very own library. Located in the West Basement of the Beit Building it is open every weekday during term time from noon to 2pm, and often in the evenings. Check out [icsf.org.uk](http://icsf.org.uk) for more information. We hope to see you there!



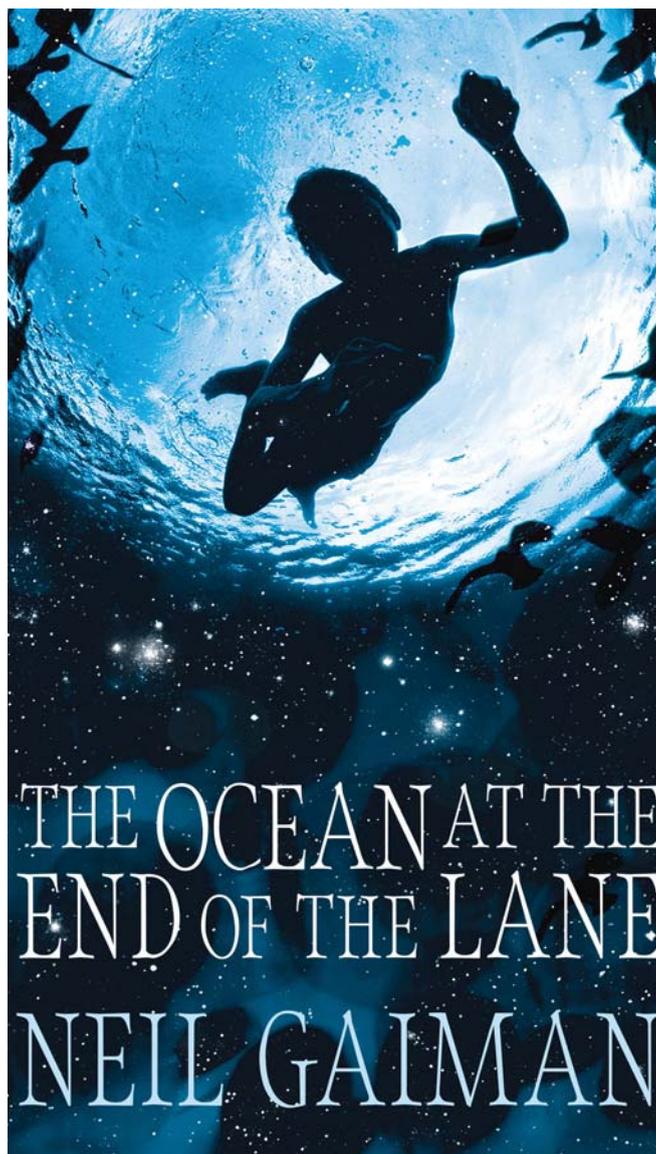
Are you a seasoned veteran of the fantasy genre? Do you want to feel really confused even though you're more than half-way through the book? Do you want more characters than there are equations in your heavily theoretical dissertation? Are you crazy? If the answer to any of these is "yes" then pick up the first book in Steven Erikson's Malazan Book of the Fallen series, *Gardens of the Moon*.

It takes some time to get into *Gardens of the Moon*, mainly due to Erikson's way of exposing the story (which is throwing you straight into the deep end and giving you very little help). It was only when I got to part two of the book that I really started to appreciate the characters. There's Kruppe the consummate idiot who's simultaneously the smartest guy in the book; there's Whiskeyjack who just wants a peaceful life away from the fighting; there are the immortal Ascendants with their power games.

Whilst the setting of the book is based far from reality as we know it, and despite the infinitude of sentient species, *Gardens of the Moon* and the books that follow are really quite human in nature. Strip away the magic and the complexity and what's left is a story of human suffering, the futility of war and quite a touching story of loyalty and friendship.

The great thing about the Malazan series is that it's already complete. Unfortunately, it's ten books long and each book makes *War and Peace* seem like an easy read. However, if, like me, you get a kick out of overcoming the challenge of reading a series that has more words in it than atoms in the universe, then you've picked the right book.

Meera Patel

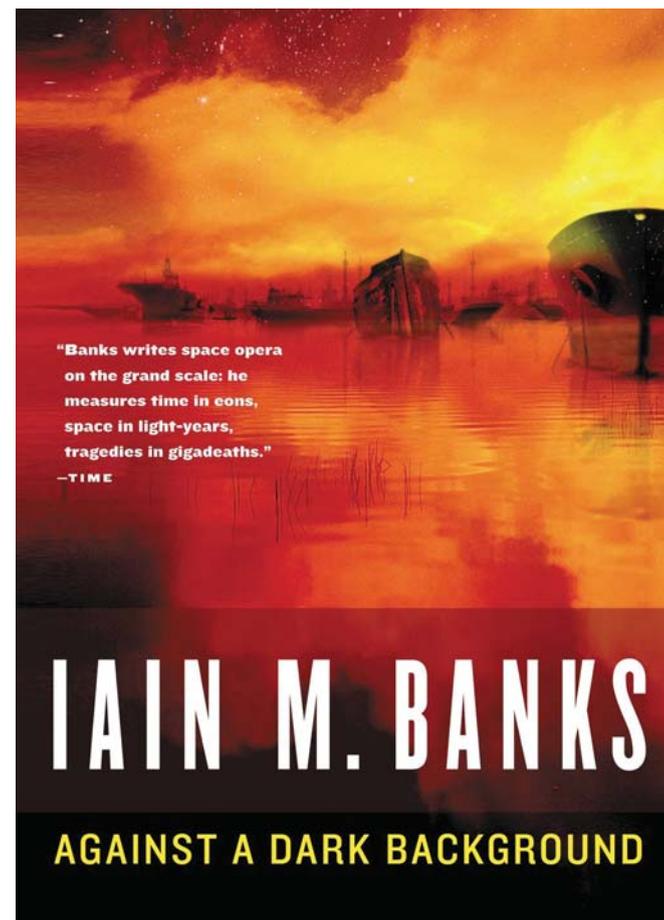


Neil Gaiman's latest novel for adults has already, quite rightly, received a great deal of praise. The book follows a young boy growing up in a large house in the country with his sister and their parents. However, when the suicide of their lodger awakens an ancient and dangerous spirit he must find help from the Hempstock family who live down the lane and are far more than what they appear to be.

While this may seem to be a rather standard and simple premise the novel, as might be expected from Gaiman's previous work, goes far deeper. Told in first person and drawing heavily from the author's own memories of growing up this is a highly personal work exploring how children perceive the world around them. Juxtaposed with the simple rural setting is Gaiman's well known fascination with myths and legends. These more fantastical elements are masterfully used to emphasise both the feelings of wonder and helplessness the protagonist, as all children, feels when faced with the world around him. The author is careful never to explain too much – leaving us with the same feeling of wonder and strangeness. As in most good books we are left with more questions than answers.

This is a very short novel but not a word is wasted. Gaiman is a master of both style and narrative. The prose instantly draws you into the story and envelopes you with an incredible feeling of magical and melancholy nostalgia. This is an amazing book – one that you'll almost certainly want to read in one sitting.

Maciej Matuszewski



One of Banks' stand-alone science fiction works, this is a novel of many facets. Set in the isolated but heavily colonised Thrial solar system the book follows Sharrow – an aristocrat and former commander of a military fighter squadron. Faced with a vendetta by a militant religious order known as the Hushz, she gathers up her former war buddies to find the only artefact that will appease the Hushz's anger – the deadly and mysterious Lazy Gun.

The first part of the book, as Sharrow and her friends scour the solar system for clues to the location of the Lazy Gun, has a wonderful feel of adventure to it – which has, in recent years, unfortunately become less and less common in science fiction works. The novel's premise gave Banks full reign to exercise both his imagination and writing skill. As the story progresses we encounter more and more strange and wonderful cultures and settings – such a city built solely on abandoned naval vessels, a planet almost entirely covered with a gigantic plant, or a millennia old castle inhabited by an order of monks forever chained to its walls. However, Banks' main skill was making all these settings feel believable and fit together into a consistent picture.

Indeed, soon the novel begins to paint a detailed and powerful picture of a complex yet decadent and near stagnant society. At the same, thanks to Banks' well known mastery of characterisation, we get to explore how this society impacts on our protagonists – and how they impact on it. This interplay between the two leads to the more serious consideration of themes such as loss, the corrupting influence of power and the helpless that even the powerful feel when faced with a massive and complex universe. One could describe this novel almost as a character study – but one in which the characters include not only our protagonists but the very setting itself.

This is a unique book – at times light and action filled, at times darker and more thoughtful – but always highly engaging. Even amongst Banks' many other highly acclaimed novels, this stands out as one of the best.

Maciej Matuszewski



# Long live The White Queen? Not quite



John Park Television Editor

## The White Queen



Laughed at and ridiculed for its astonishing amount of historical inaccuracies, BBC's expensive production of *The White Queen*, based on a series of historical fiction novels written by Philippa Gregory came to a close on Sunday 18th August, with a swift cancellation notice from its network, which isn't all that surprising since a) this cost an absolute fortune and a heck of a long time to put together; b) the ratings and reception were hardly something to boast about, and c) for the most part the main stories were concluded satisfyingly with no loose ends left behind.

What once looked and sounded so promising at the start became dishevelled and downright dull in the period of ten weeks. There is so much to cover it seems, in this 10-part mini-series that the show often finds itself warping through time, only keeping the audience in check with time-stamps at the bottom of the screen. It powers through the significant historical events, ticking away at the boxes

The Lancaster and York families are at war for the control of the English throne. When the mad King Henry VI of the Lancaster family falls and Edward IV (Max "son of Jeremy" Irons) of York takes over the throne, it's more challenging than ever to have absolute power over the country. There are hidden plots at every corner, and in the day and age where your own family member is willing to betray you for more money and authority, it's clear that you can trust no one. Thus putting matters into further turmoil is the fact that Edward

IV has not one, but two brothers: George (David Oakes) and Richard (Aneurin Barnard), both with goals and ambition of their own, which is never a good sign when trying to rule a peaceful kingdom.

King Edward IV's impulsive marriage to Elizabeth Woodville (Rebecca Ferguson, quite the rising star), later dubbed The White Queen (their courtship starts with attempted rape and later ends up as true love), is not a popular one. They're from opposing families, plus there's a rumour going around that Elizabeth and her mother Jacquetta (Janet McTeer) frequently practice witchcraft.

The sudden rise in ranks of Elizabeth Woodville is not taken lightly by Richard Neville the Earl of Warwick (James Frain), known as the Kingmaker, for his instrumental role in helping Edward IV secure the crown. Betrayals soon follow, and also tossed into this deadly ring of scheming and treachery are his two young daughters, Isabel (Eleanor Tomlinson) and Anne Neville (Faye Marsay) who are bound to be pawns in their father's vicious games.

But wait, that's not all (still with me so far?). Praying and praying for her son's rightful claim to the throne is Margaret Beaufort (Amanda Hale), mother of Henry Tudor, a God-fearing, devout Catholic lady who is single-handedly trying to orchestrate her son's victory. Further messing with your head is the addition of another Margaret, this time Margaret of Anjou (Veerle Baetens), the wife of mad King Henry VI (remember him?), now exiled to France, quietly plotting a comeback with her young son.

Even all that, doesn't begin to cover all the characters who eventually enter the picture for the many, many conflicts that ensue. Whereas *Game of Thrones* had a way of making everyone stick to our mind, *The White Queen*, despite some good performances in the ensemble doesn't quite succeed. Everything moves at such an awkward pace, sometimes

ploddingly, sometimes alarmingly quickly, that it's difficult to have a firm grasp on who's who until at least quite a few episodes into the series.

It's no doubt intriguing, once you can take the time to wrap your head around the setting and find yourself deeply rooting for whichever character for whatever reason. It might be wise to brush up on your knowledge on the War of the Roses to prevent getting completely lost in this dense, multiple story-arc costume drama.

Staying faithful to Gregory's books, a lot of the action takes place off the screen, so don't go into this expecting some grand battles or big sieges, because where the action lies is in conversations and plotting that happens behind closed doors, inside chambers, dark alleys and forests.

And with every episode richly packed with facts and events, it is clearly a historical drama wanting to be taken seriously: a task compromised due to its many startling and quite frankly, embarrassing errors and goofs. Zippers on clothes and plastic clips may be easy to overlook, but concrete steps and shiny metallic poles are not. Looking squeaky clean at every turn, the series' general atmosphere fails to really capture the look and ambiance of the era, and the sugar-coated, tidied up production doesn't resonate.

But despite the errors, this bloodless, sexless (a lot of the violent, racy scenes were edited out for English audiences since, you know, we're all prudes) show marches on, aware of the fact that it has plenty of stories left to tell. And the actors all do a decent job, although the best ones (McTeer and Frain especially) are sadly short-lived and don't last throughout the series.

The series finds itself a neat point to finish off on, and although there are plenty more events that the show could have focused on had there been a renewal, BBC made the wise decision to put this costly, confused show out of its misery.

*The White Queen is out on DVD*

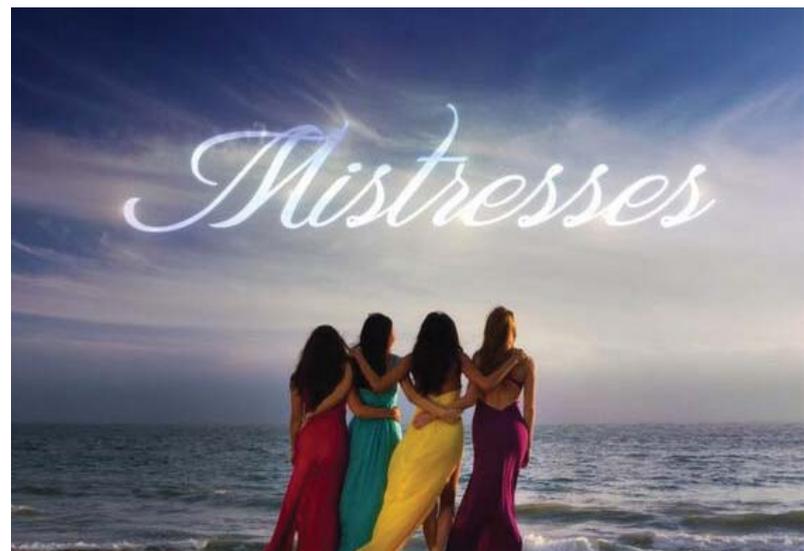




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# TELEVISION

## There are new Desperate Housewives in town



**John Park** Television Editor

### Devious Maids



Already renewed for a second season in the States, *Devious Maids*, a new Lifetime drama/comedy, that serves as a spin-off of ABC's hit show *Desperate Housewives* has struck gold for the creator, Marc Cherry.

In keeping with the Marc Cherry tradition of opening an episode, the pilot starts with a death. Not a suicide this time like Mary Alice Young, but a murder of a maid, Flora (Paula Garcés), who was working for Adrian (Tom Irwin, effectively creepy and slimey) and Evelyn Powell (the excellent, irreplaceable Rebecca Wisocky who acts as comedy gold in every episode she's in).

Her friends Carmen (Roselyn Sanchez), Rosie (Dania Ramirez),

Zoila (Judy Reyes) and Valentina (Edy Ganem) are devastated but hardly surprised, given what Flora was really up to.

But life goes on. Carmen, working for the famous Latin recording artist Alejandro Rubio (Matt Cedeno), dreams of one day becoming a pop sensation herself. Although working under Odessa (Melinda Page Hamilton), a mean Russian who rules over household with an iron fist is no easy task.

Rosie is under tremendous pressure working in the household of Peri Westmore (Mariana Klaveno), a self-absorbed actress and her has-been soap opera actor Spence (Grant Show) who she has an inappropriate crush on.

Zoila also has her plates full, dealing with her hilariously ditzy boss Genevieve (Susan Lucci). Further adding to her list of things to worry about is her daughter Valentina's crush on Genevieve's son, Remi (Drew Van Acker).

The arrival of Marisol (Ana Ortiz), a new maid at Michael (Brett Culen) and Taylor Stappord's (Brianna Brown) house, and her link to Flora's

murder is the season's long-running mystery. Why is Marisol asking questions about her? Who killed Flora? What exactly was Flora doing that put her in so much danger?

Behind the expensive doors of the Beverly Hills mansions that are quite simply out of this world, these Latina maids work tirelessly, picking up on all the gossip and dirty laundry of their rich and famous bosses. Looking at the world through their eyes, from the view of "the help" is certainly an interesting concept, but one that is perhaps not utilised fully, as there are so many plotlines to juggle at once.

When it deviates away from the main murder mystery, the other subplots have a varying degree of success, mostly relying on the talents of its many stars to pull it off (all five Latina actresses are spot-on), and they usually do, no matter how stale some of the weekly scenarios turn out to be.

The big mystery of whodunnit is yet to be solved, but given the way everything is building up, it promises to deliver a season finale of shocking reveals. So stay tuned.

**John Park** Television Editor

### Mistresses



Four successful professional career women, all of them in complicated personal crises of their own - that is how you describe *Mistresses*, the US remake of the hit UK show.

Savi (Alyssa Milano) is a lawyer, Karen (Yunjin Kim) is a psychiatrist, April (Rochelle Aytes) is a furniture store owner, and Joss (Jes Macallan) is a real-estate agent.

Savi and her hunky Australian chef husband Harry (Brett Tucker) are struggling to conceive and she cheats on him with Dominic (Jason George), a colleague of hers.

Karen had an affair with a terminally ill patient before prescribing him enough medication to kill himself. Now his son is distraught and seeks her help, not knowing the shady

history between the two. April's husband passed away a couple of years ago and is struggling to be a single mother; also not helping is her belief that her husband may still be alive.

Joss is the most liberated one of them all, decides to strike up a lesbian relationship, something which she's never done before, with a client's girlfriend, even though her attractive foreign boss with an accent starts pursuing her.

How these women have time for relaxing coffee meetings and fancy lunches is anyone's guess, given the magnitude of the problems going on in their lives, but the soapy, dramatic twists are deliciously absurd at times, but that is kind of the appeal of the show. The characters have a knack for not taking anything too seriously it seems, and as an easy-going drama this sometimes works as a plus.

Everyone makes bad life choices, and these women are experts when it comes to creating conflict and getting stuck in impossible situations. Which is great news for the audience, who only have to sit back and watch.





# FELIX CENTREFOLDS



the El Salvador Project

# Freshers' Fair 2013

Tuesday 1 October, 11am - 4pm



Yas Edwards

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)  
dpcs@imperial.ac.uk

Freshers' Fair is the biggest activities event of the year that transforms our South Kensington Campus into a showcase of every Club, Society and Project at Imperial College Union. If you're not already planning on coming, I definitely recommend doing so to see the huge variety of what's on offer, get some freebies and soak up the fantastic atmosphere.

Each year, thousands of students attend the fair, visiting many of the 300+ stalls that each Club, Society & Project get to promote their group, hold demonstrations, give out freebies and chat to students. Stalls are clustered by type so if you're a fan of the outdoors or a keen musician, you should be able to find the groups associated with those pursuits all in one area. However, I strongly advise you to make an effort to visit each area. We're incredibly proud of the diversity and dedication of our groups, allowing students to pursue almost any interest they can imagine, so make sure you take full advantage of this. University is the best time to try new things and meet new people so just go for it, you might be interested in something completely new!

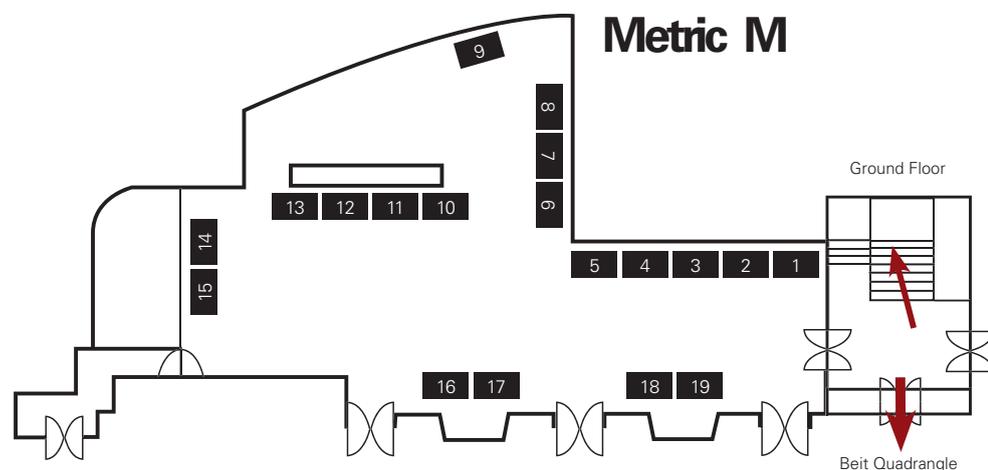
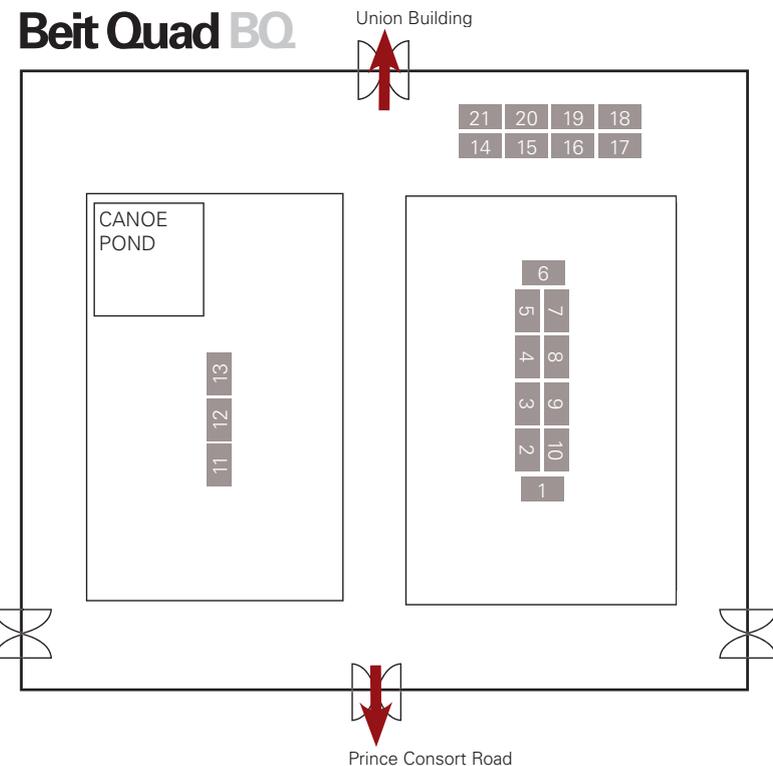
At Freshers' Fair we operate a strict no trading policy, so you won't part with any money on the day. Instead the groups will encourage you to sign up to their mailing lists so that you can be kept informed of when they are meeting and what they're up to. Don't worry about signing up to too many as it's easy to unsubscribe once you've decided which groups you'd like to remain involved with – initially the best idea is to keep your options open.

Give It A Go (GIAG) is a taste of what many of the Clubs, Societies & Projects offer with free or cheap taster sessions, events and activities following Freshers' Fair. This is a great opportunity to try things out and meet students involved before you commit to buying membership. Keep an eye out for the calendar of fun events and activities on our website!

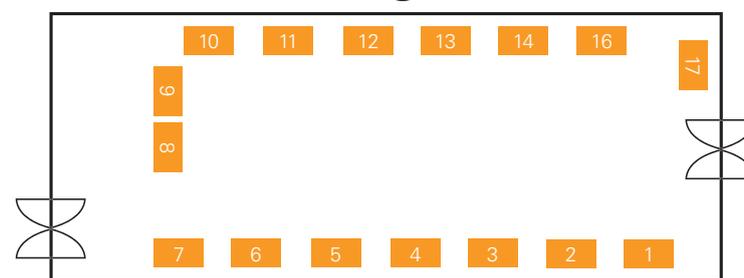
If you do miss any early meetings or events, don't worry as you can get in touch with groups via the contact details, join a group or sign up to a mailing list at any time of the year! And once you have decided which Clubs, Societies or Projects you want to join, many require you to pay a membership fee to join but doing so is easy. This can all be done on our website [imperialcollegeunion.org](http://imperialcollegeunion.org).

Enjoy the Fair and I look forward to meeting many of you on the day!

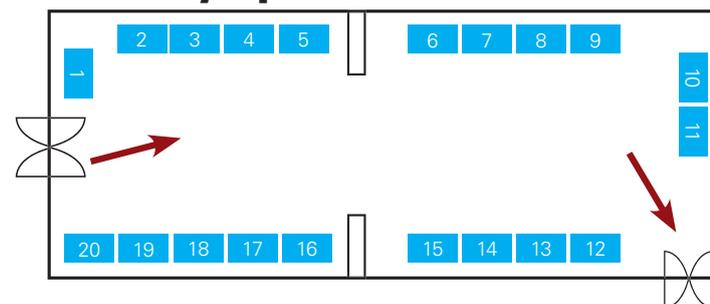
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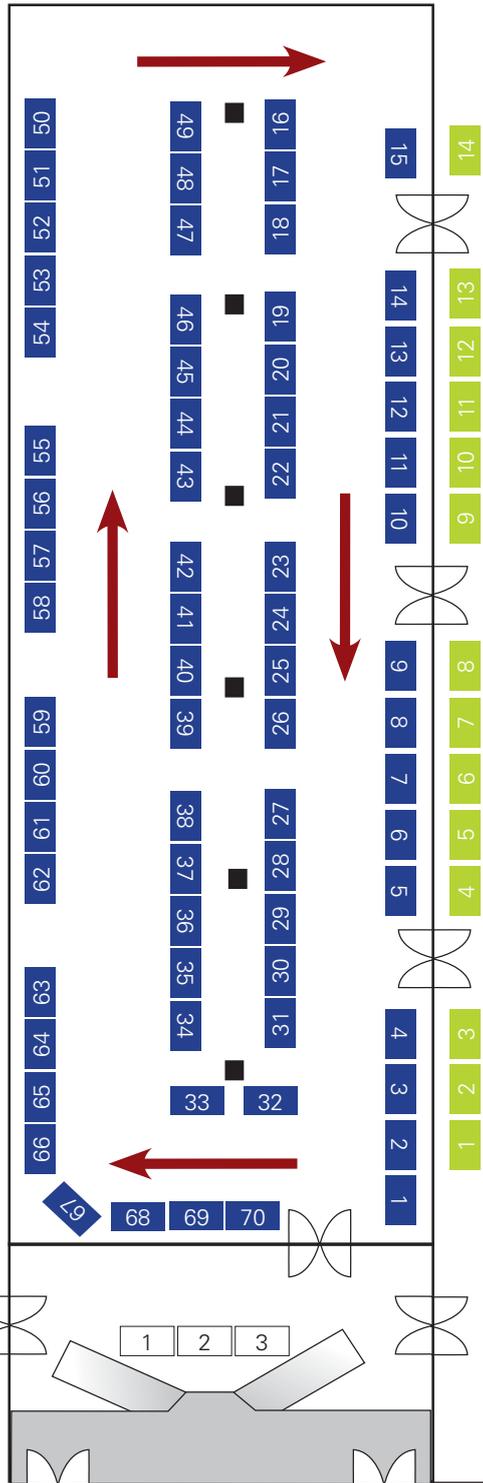
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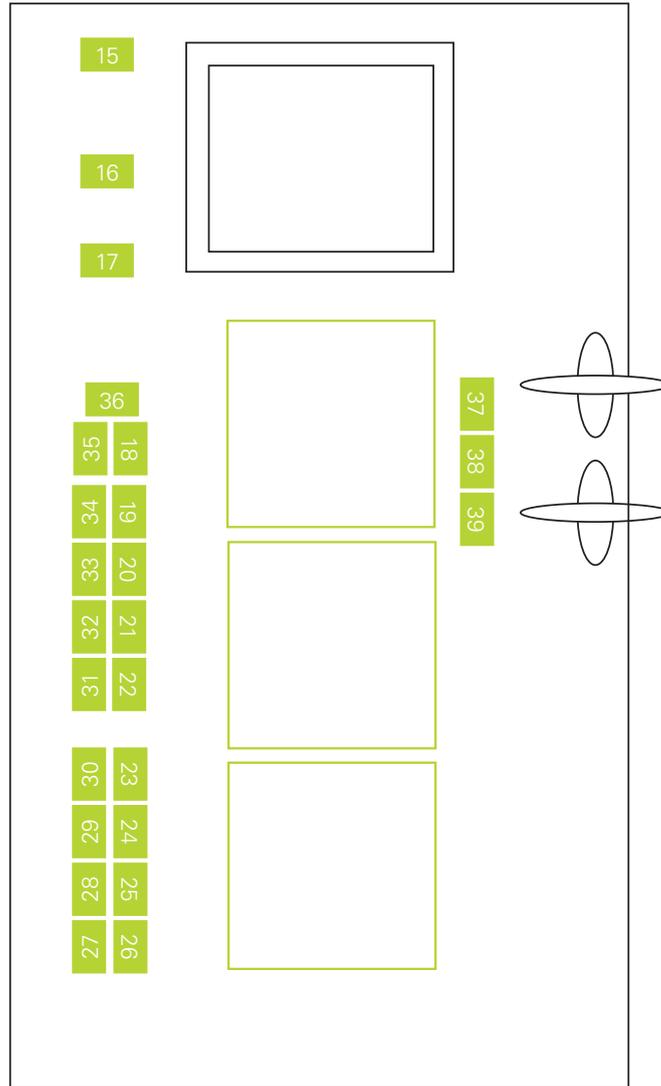
## Activity Spaces AS



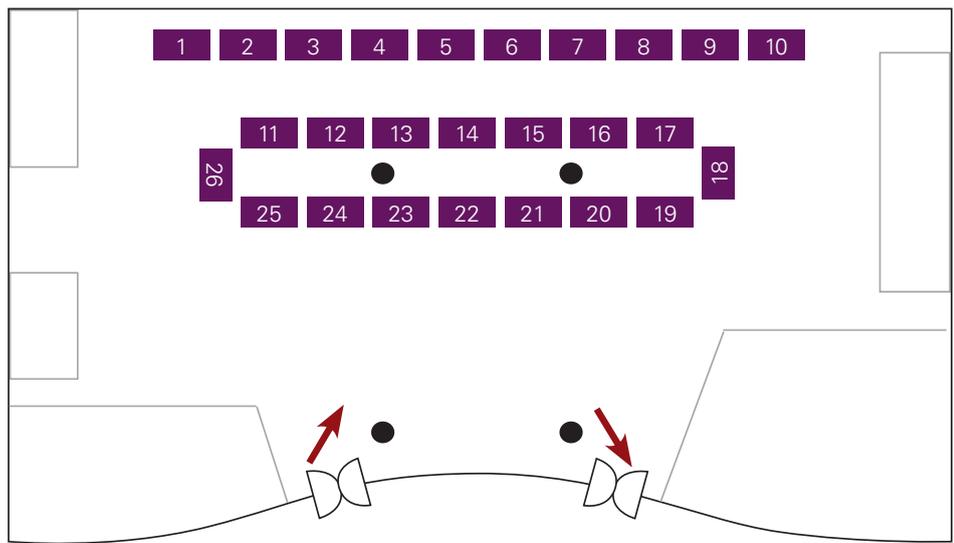
Queen's Tower Rooms QTR



Queen's Lawn QL

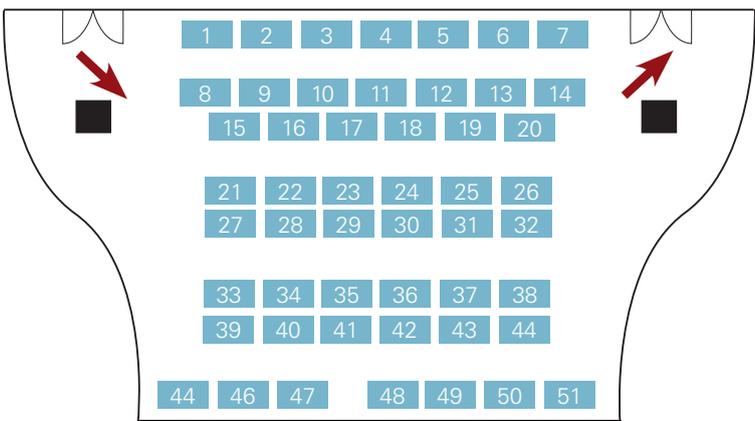


Junior Common Room JCR



Sherfield SF

Great Hall GH



# FELIX FRESHERS' PULLOUT

what to do  
what you need  
where to go



# FRESHERS' PULLOUT

 felixonline.co.uk

 bit.ly/18MPeyr

## Emergency conversation starter kit

Scared to talk to people? Well don't worry about it at all. Freshers' Week can be intimidating. It's fine. Just cut this out and iron it onto your t-shirt.\*

\*If you actually try to iron this on your t-shirt then why are you allowed out of the house?

**Hi, my name is ..... and I'm studying**

.....

**At A Level, the grades I obtained were (delete as appropriate) A\*A\*A\*/A\*A\*A/AAA/UUU** – I'm here from UCL/I took the International Baccalaureate, you wouldn't understand.

**I'm looking for (delete as (in)appropriate – success rate not 100%)** friendship/the bar/person with GSOH/fun, maybe more ;)/the library/my room/the toilets – they're hard to find.

**I swear on my life that I haven't** Facebook stalked you... that much. No, really, I honestly haven't. I accidentally clicked on your profile once, and then, just by accident, flicked through all of your photos. Let's change topic, please.

**My enthusiasm for science (delete truthfully)** is very high/ is lowering by the second as I see all the maths involved/is... what, I'm doing science? How did that happen/is solely down to Brian Cox/I'm an engineer/medic you arsehole

**You probably recognise me from the** Oxford/Cambridge/ UCL/St. Andrews/UCL/Bath/Durham interviews/Facebook group for our course/a meme/YouTube/the toilets/spaceship

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# FRESHERS' PULLOUT

## Uncle Rory's Freshers Week Tips

Rory Fenton

@roryfenton  
Columnist



GREG JAMES/RADIO 1 (YOUTUBE)

Uncle Rory and the rest of his floor in Freshers' Week. Sorry Rory! (Ed.)

You'll be hearing this a lot this week but things were quite different back in my day. My day was 2008- Metric was a box called DB's, Southside and Eastside were building sites, Facebook was a new thing and Justin Bieber was still an embryo. It was amazing. But as you prepare for the modern freshers' week with your smartphones and status updates and hip-hop music and all that, there is one thing you will face that all freshers have faced since the first freshers guzzled WKD from a hollowed out wooly mammoth tooth; social interaction.

Social interaction is a terrible thing and the less of it, the better. I think we all agree on this. In fact, much of human existence is spent minimising

the horrors of interacting with other Homo Sapiens, as demonstrated by the inventions of walls, monasteries, earphones and science degrees. But for the next 7 days you will be forced, cajoled and conned into interacting with The Other. Having now looked on in horror at not one but four Freshers' Weeks, here's my guide to *How Not To Make A Complete Idiot Of Yourself*.

### Don't Buy A Kettle

For some reason everyone is told to bring a kettle with them to university so you can give out tea and make your neighbours love you. Don't. Just don't. I don't like tea and my Northern Irish accent makes me pronounce "kettle" in a way that makes English people laugh at me. Obviously this only applies to me and not necessarily to your new neighbours but my physics degree didn't teach me to empathise

so just leave that kettle at home.

### Don't Leave Your Door Open

Again, everyone seems to be told to leave their door open so new neighbours can just pop in to say hello and share stories and eat cupcakes. No. People cannot be trusted and will likely steal your stuff. Also they will laugh at that Final Fantasy poster I have. I mean you have.

### Don't Become A Lad

Congratulations, you've just left your expensive private school and have now met the first state educated person of your life. This does not entitle you to put on an inexplicable East London accent, call people "mate" and refer to your awful conversation as "banter" or worse, "ban'ah".

### Don't Give A Damn And Just Have Fun

Imperial is really bloody hard work. Nothing you've done so far

will prepare you for this. I went from averaging 98% across my A Levels to scraping 60% here. Imagine being repeatedly and viciously beaten around the head by a thick metal bar. That bar represents knowledge and the sick bastard wielding it is this university. This is what your next 3-4 years will entail. Imperial will now spend two weeks wiping the blood and tears of last year's students from that metal bar. Take advantage of the lull. Talk to strangers. Take shots from a cereal bowl. Join every club and society. Don't sleep. Steal a traffic cone. Buy a top hat. Take one step inside an embassy and revel in the thrill of having one leg in Britain and the other in Yemen. Return the traffic cone out of social responsibility.

The world is your oyster. For two weeks. And then that oyster will be cracked open and swallowed whole, sliding slowly but inexorably down the gullet of this prestigious institution. Enjoy it while you can.

# #helloicu crew

Welcome to Imperial from Imperial College Union!

Keep a look out for our team of student helpers around campus all Welcome Week in their purple shirts.

They are here to answer any of your questions and help you have the best possible welcome to the College and your new Students' Union!

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

# FRESHERS' PULLOUT

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# FRESHERS' PULLOUT



## Key

### FOOD & DRINK

- 1 568 - Imperial College Union
- 2 Eastside Bar & Restaurant
- 3 Dana Centre
- 4 V&A Museum Café
- 5 The Queens Arms (Pub)
- 6 Gloucester Arms (Pub)
- 7 Fait Maison (Café)
- 8 Starbucks
- 9 The Sandwich Shop\*\*
- 10 Thai Square (Thai cuisine)
- 11 McDonald's
- 12 Bunch of Grapes (Pub)
- 13 The Kensington Creperie
- 14 Oriental Canteen\*
- 15 Chopstix\*
- 16 Subway (Sandwich shop)
- 17 Hoop & Toy (Pub)
- 18 Caluccio's (Italian cuisine)
- 19 Pret A Manger
- 20 Hummingbird Bakery (Cupcakes)
- 21 Zetland Arms (Pub)
- 22 Perfect Pizza
- 23 Café Nero
- 24 Byron (Hamburgers)
- 25 Goumet Burger Kitchen (GBK)
- 26 The Hereford Arms (Pub)
- 27 Nandos (Portuguese cuisine)
- 28 Burger King (Fast food)
- 29 KFC (Fast Food)
- 30 Byron
- 31 Giraffe (25% discount with college card)
- 32 Wagamama (Japanese cuisine)
- 33 Prezzo (Italian cuisine)
- 34 Pizza Hut (Refurbishing/Closed)
- 35 My Old Dutch (Pancake House)
- 36 McDonald's (Open 24/7)

### SUPERMARKETS

- 1 Essentials (Imperial)
- 2 Tesco Express (Closes at 12am on wd.)
- 3 Waitrose (Closes at 10pm on weekdays)
- 4 Tesco Express (Open 24/7)
- 5 Sainsburys (Closes at 12am on weekdays)
- 6 Whole Foods (Organic foods)
- 7 Tesco Metro (Closes 12am on weekdays)

Earls Court Exhibition Centre

Saatchi Gallery

Royal Brompton Hospital

Royal Marsden Hospital

# FRESHERS' PULLOUT

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# CAMPUS FOOD

**T**here are lots of places to stuff your face like a greedy pig (with glasses on) around campus. Some are even super new so it's an adventure. Okay, not a good adventure like accidentally walking into an all super model nudist colony, but an adventure nonetheless.

## Union (1)

They serve lunch and dinner food. The food is cheap and almost cheerful. Well. It's more cheerful than a man with vertigo standing on the top of the Shard. That's something. Nachos is a good call and the bar staff are all nice.

## Eastside (2)

Just below Eastside Halls, it's a posh pub, although looks more like an American bar. Serves pretty good food at lunch and dinner that is veggie friendly and meat lover friendly too. The prices are low enough that they probably won't leave you offering £2 massages on High Street Ken just to get by. So that's a plus.

## JCR

This is, realistically, where you'll end up eating most days. It has all



IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

you could want and more. A bunch of sandwiches, a deli bar (which is actually surprisingly good) and even a pie and mash/salad bar shop. Back in the day you could do the mash yourself, now they check, just incase you scam them out of 5p's worth of potato. You've been warned. There's also a fast food counter, if you're into that sort of thing. By that, I mean rejected KFC food. There's a pancake

place too, but they aren't proper crepes really: it's essentially rubber with some Nutella on top. Yum yum.

## QTR

If you want hot food then this is your place to go. It always has a noodle based option, and a meal deal. You get a drink, dessert and a main for pretty cheap. Word of warning though: if you get a hot dessert eat it first so it

doesn't end up going cold – made that mistake too many times. If you want to be a true pro, and piss off the chef a bit, ask for an omelette.

## Library Cafe

Why would I need to go here? I won't be in the Library long enough to need sustenance. I'll be out raving with Tinie Tempah and the other freshers. From semester to semester. Where do you think you are? UCL? Nah, you'll actually be doing work and stuff. So, sorry to say, but, this will become a main eatery. It has all the energy drinks you could want (and many you don't want). Plus it has wraps that probably won't kill you. There's also the infamous jacket potatoes. I heard tell of a couple breaking up after sharing one in the Library Cafe. Possibly they broke up because he wanted beans and she wanted cheese and the two together just didn't work. That became a metaphor for their failing relationship and it had to end. Or one of them cheated on the other. Either way, at least they were full at the end of it. The legends working there pile on the cheese and beans to heroic amounts. So take advantage.

## Department Cafes

Loads of departments have their own cafes. Essentially small counters with tea, coffee, sandwiches and drinks. The SAF Cafe is pretty good. The Business School one too. The others are great for a cheeky chocolate bar to eat in lectures while you try to understand if it is maths or a foreign language being written on the board.

## SCR

This is only for postgrads and lecturers, unfortunately. However, the breakfast is for all. How liberal of them. If you can drag yourself in early enough, give it a go. It's amazingly cheap and they have everything you could want. The hash browns are gorgeous. You're missing out if you don't go. Honestly, try this: pile your plate with everything you could imagine eating. Go to the checkout. Be amazed at how it is still under £5.

## Other

College will be changing some areas by the time you get here so look forward to the new "College Cafe" near the main entrance and a new outlet in the JCR!

## NEAR CAMPUS FOOD

**B**ored of eating the same rotation of three sandwiches and a Twix for lunch and dinner every day? Well you should be. But never fear, there are tales of places not near the Library where one can eat.

## The Sandwich Shop (9)

This is like a mature student who sucks up to a lecturer: an old favourite. More accurately, though, it's like a shop that has a bewildering amount of sandwich choices. There's also Greenfield's near South Ken station for an artisan sandwich. The goat's cheese one is a solid bet.

## Caffe Forum

This place has possibly the best pizzas in London. They are thin and yummy. Plus, between 4-7pm they are all £5, no matter what size you

get. Amazing right? Also have a large selection of pastas, quiches, and some sandwiches. If you want a morning perk, go for a coffee and get a free croissant. Near Gloucester Road is also The Diner, and a Neros (23) with the comfiest sofas ever. Great for doing work in a chilled environment.

## High Street Ken

There's anything you could want here. Wagamamas (32) is a good shout – free green tea is a plus. Giraffe (31) are incredibly friendly and have a special Imperial deal (they did last year, don't kill me if it is no longer there). Just show your College card for a discount. Of course there's also all the big chains around too.

## South Ken

Oriental Canteen (14) and Chopstix (15) are great for a quick (erm, oily) snack.



# FRESHERS' PULLOUT

# LOCAL TRAVEL



**W**alking around is a great way to get to know the local area as well as nearby parts of London. You often find the best places to go while wondering around or walking to another engagement. Great places to walk to near South Kensington include Hyde Park (obviously), Fulham Road & Kings Road, Knightsbridge (and Harrods), Bayswater and Osford Street. If you do wander down to Kings Road you'll find yourself minutes away from the Thames and across the river from Battersea and the beautiful Battersea Park.

On the other hand walking is much slower than taking other methods of transport (unless you're on a bus during rush hour but it's healthy and refreshing!



**B**uses! Hmm, a tricky one! Buses can be great to get around in, providing the speed of a motor vehicle while still giving you a chance to absorb your surroundings. Even if you're a native Londoner, you'll still have a lot of new things to discover, after all it's a big city! Buses do however have downsides, they can be caught in heavy traffic during peak periods and the seats can be hellish to sit in if you're above average height. Let's not get onto the subject of how cavalier some bus drivers are when navigating the roads.

The South Kensington campus has fantastic links to the rest of London via buses, you can even get to Heathrow on a night bus! Buses 9 and 10 go west to Hammersmith and east to Trafalgar Square and Oxford street while other buses can take you to places far and wide.



**T**he Tube is London's underground transport service, a bit like having trains underground that come every 2-4 minutes (amazing I know!), can often be packed full of people during peak times (I hope you don't mind standing in awkward positions) and have a fewer number of chairs (bummer). However the Tube is an awesome way to get to places in a short amount of time; travelling from South Kensington you can get to Charing Cross (Embankment) within 15 minutes, Hammersmith in 10 minutes, Heathrow in 30ish minutes and Kings Cross Station similarly in 30 minutes. The Tube does stop running soon after midnight (or 1 AM on some nights) so it's not as helpful to get back from a night out, so if you're planning a late night excursion you'll probably want to check how to get back by bus.



**L**ondon is very well serviced by trains. As well as getting trains to other parts of London there are also several stations that host trains travelling across the country, such as London Euston, London Charing Cross, London Marylebone and London Liverpool Street. You can even get a train to Scotland if you're willing to spend 5 hours on a train. There's not much more to say about train travel, we've all been on trains and know how to use them so here's a picture of a cat.



**C**ycling in London can be a fun or dangerous and deadly. Many people cycle to college from where they live and make the journey in one piece. However if you're not used to big city traffic maybe take it easy at first, motorists can be rude, ignorant and just plain stupid at times. If a taxi doesn't want to stop to let you cross Prince Consort Road to get to the Union, do you really think they'll be any better when you're on a bicycle?

On the positive side, cycling at night is really cool, the roads are mostly empty and you can cycle in fantastic locations. Hyde Park is an amazing place to cycle when it's not during rush hour if you're planning a leisure trip but you can also cycle across it to make quick trips to Paddington or Oxford Street. And there's always "Boris Bikes".

## Travel Savings

### #1 Oyster Card

This is a key item, buy one as soon as you can! It's not really a saving because it's the default travel tool for the majority of Londoners but if you don't have an oyster card then bus and train prices are much more expensive.

Oyster cards have a pay-as-you-go feature that allows you to buy travel credit as well as longer duration travel passes (or "travelcards") which are valid for a week, a month or longer. If you plan to buy week or month long travelcards, applying for a £10 18+ Oyster card will allow you to get savings of 30% on your week's travel. Oyster cards are valid on buses, trains, tubes, the DLR and even the River service, but can only be used in London.

### #2 16-25 Railcard

You should already read about this in the *Business* section, if you haven't then tut, tut! The 16-25 railcard is the ultimate in discount rail travel, saving you 1/3 from any train fare as long as you travel after 10:30 (you might want to check that). For £30 a year you can take advantage of these reduced fares by travelling around England and visiting new places. The card also works in London so if you're staying with your parents make sure you pick one up sharpish!

Another awesome feature you might want to know about, you can link your railcard to the oyster card we mentioned earlier in order to have one card to save them all! This applies the saving to all Tube and train journeys across London.

## Barclays Bikes



You can buy a key or hire a bike with your credit/debit card from the stand.

If you want to cycle as a commuter to College or plan to cycle on the roads, it's probably best to get a "real" bicycle, and don't worry *Felix* will let you know when this term's campus bicycle auction takes place (oh, and if you ever abandon your bike around College, you might find it here a few months later).

However if you're more of a casual cyclist then maybe give the Barclays Cycle Hire Scheme a go. Affectionally known as "Boris Bikes" in tribute to the Mayor of London the cycle hire scheme lets you hire a bike for a short period of time. **There are lots of docks in Central London and the local area and if you didn't already know they're represented by the red circles on our map!** The scheme seems daunting but it can be really fun. My best experience of the scheme has been cycling past Buckingham Palace at 1AM!

# FRESHERS' PULLOUT

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## STUDY HABITS: A Definitive Guide

Shiladitya Ghosh talks about the techniques and myths of studying

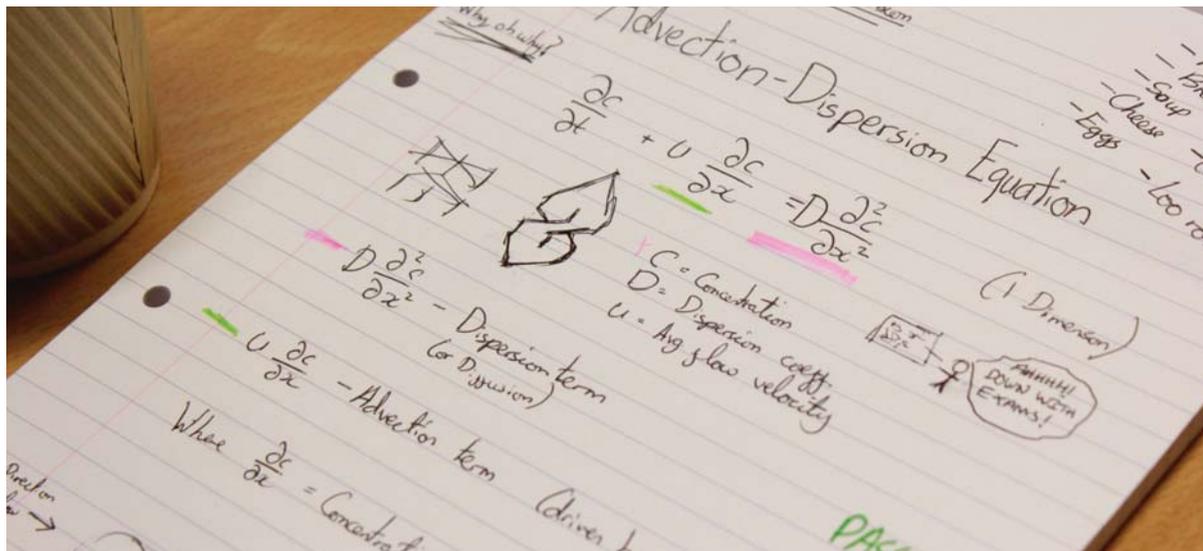
**Y**ou're freshmen now. No more school for you – all grown up! (Yeah, right. Still a teenager, aren't you?)

Ever since you got your school-leaving grades and (congratulations!) your Unconditionals, all everyone's been talking to you about is how to prepare for the "big jump" from school to University: what laptop/tablet/Macbook you should buy, which self-help book (wait, no one reads books anymore – more likely to be a BuzzFeed article) contains the best tips you need for strategically managing your time, how to most effectively customise your Spotify 'studying' playlist, which energy drinks you should get used to, what are the best "alternative" sleeping cycles that might work for you, and so on.

However, all this clamouring about details doesn't necessarily lead to a successful studying strategy – indeed, it can even backfire. People can work themselves up and feel so daunted by the seemingly-immense prospect of college studies that they unthinkingly go with the flow and throw money around in an attempt to embrace tips, tricks, and gimmicks – anything that they're told will give them an edge. However, during your time here, you will see that people religiously sticking with these techniques, even when they aren't working so well, will be killed off by George R. R. Martin, start falling by the wayside and struggle in the crunch period building up to Summer Finals. So, Felix shall attempt to disillusion you and clear up any misconceptions you might have about the art of studying at Imperial before it's too late.

### #1: Studying Venue

While studying in the College Library with your peers is known to have undoubted positive effects, it isn't for everyone. Furthermore, sitting with a latte in Starbucks with your iPod and lecture notes before you is inevitably going to result in you fruitlessly doodling on the fruits of your free printing credit and Instaspamming people about how



JOE LETTS

Trying to revise for Fluid Mechanics, but hey it'll be fine to doodle for a while right? I'm staying mentally active!

you're getting no work done. Which they knew 2 hours ago when you frolicked off.

So, the other option besides not studying at all, is to try to study in your room.

How to make it work:

- Be blessed [citation needed] with a single room in Halls
- Have self-control regarding internet usage – including Snapchatting
- Set a good personal deadline to finish your assignment i.e. if you expect to do the 3 assigned questions in an hour, aim to do it in 45 minutes instead
- Keep communicating with other studious people working on the same assignment, to pace yourself/have some troubleshooters handy

How to watch it all go up in smoke:

- Have a roommate (they may be well-meaning but they are a fount of opportunities for distraction)
- Have leftover chores causing mental anxiety – like cooking dinner, or doing your laundry, oh wait you still haven't cooked dinner yet, but now it's time to iron your clothes!! Maybe you'll just copy the tutorial answers tomorrow morning.
- Have a TV/gaming rig in your room (...just one more match on FIFA, I promise...)

### #2: Studying Time

The average student boasts about how many all-nighters s/he's pulled. The better student boasts about how few all-nighters s/he's pulled. While Imperial is notorious for working you harder than most other places, and practice makes perfect, what you're studying isn't rocket science (okay, tough luck, Aero Eng. crew), but it can't be reliably mastered at 0430hrs after you've chugged 3 cans of Red Bull just to finish the introductory question of your project report.

Eventually you will find your timetable to be scattered throughout the day, with lectures and tutorials at any random time between 9am-5pm, and then clubs/societies meetings/trainings anytime thereafter – in which case, you may not even get opportunities to have powernaps after staying up late. And any peer I've seen who's taken the gamble of powernapping at 11pm (to wake up at 2am and continue working) has failed hilariously.

Some of you might fancy yourselves to be night owls, which is great for you, but unfortunately you do tend to have lectures, tutorials, and exams in the morning more often than not -> having sleep deprivation wouldn't be a good start to the day.

Furthermore, deliverables (that's what projects and submissions that are 'counted' tend to be called) are generally due in the evenings, so you may well find yourself struggling to be productive on a sleepy Friday afternoon, rushing to complete and turn in an assignment after all your inefficient late nights... unless you're adept at being productive while the sun is out. Get some work done during the day, folks.

### #3: Studying Gadgetry

Firstly, regarding laptops: it really doesn't matter if you use Windows or Mac. Whatever you're personally more comfortable using, is the best bet. Period.

Secondly, all you'll really need is a decent computer with a decent internet connection (Long Live Imperial-WPA/LAN!) to access your lecture recordings (may/may not exist yet, depending on your department), Blackboard material, and lecture notes/web resources.

Fancy-schmancy tablets, iPad Minis, Galaxy Tabs, all have the odd circumstantial perk but they aren't necessary in any way. Many financially less-well-off students do well without them all around the world, and even if they had the money, affluence wouldn't necessarily help.

Good ol' pen(cil) and paper, coupled with aforementioned computer (equipped with internet access) and a handy printer (available in the College Library and your Department), are unbeatable.

### #4: Studying Music

You may have long-practised absorbing academic information in your headphone-generated enclave, but according to recent scientific studies, listening to music is little different from keeping your ears open to white noise in your surroundings – in fact, the regular changes in pitch, tempo, timbre, voices etc. makes your brain work harder to keep up with it all (albeit subconsciously) in addition to internalising the wisdom from the textbook before you, thus draining you of energy. You're at Imperial; you'd do well to trust science. (Disclaimer: one of the studies referenced was done by the University of Phoenix, so do take a pinch of salt with this.)

From personal experience though, it can help to be plugged in to an aural landscape while doing project work in the library for instance, as you aren't distracted by friends constantly walking by or chatting (because you can't hear them), and when you're doing project work, it's not so much mental acrobatics you need to do at this point (that should have been done when you were working out how to even do the project) as much as strategizing, formatting, summarising, and writing what you already know.

As you may have realized, all the above is true to a certain extent and applies more to some and less to others. However, it is worth being well-informed about how things can go wrong before you have to learn the hard way (by messing up your first year grades – it ain't pretty to have to see your batchmate have to leave the college so early.)

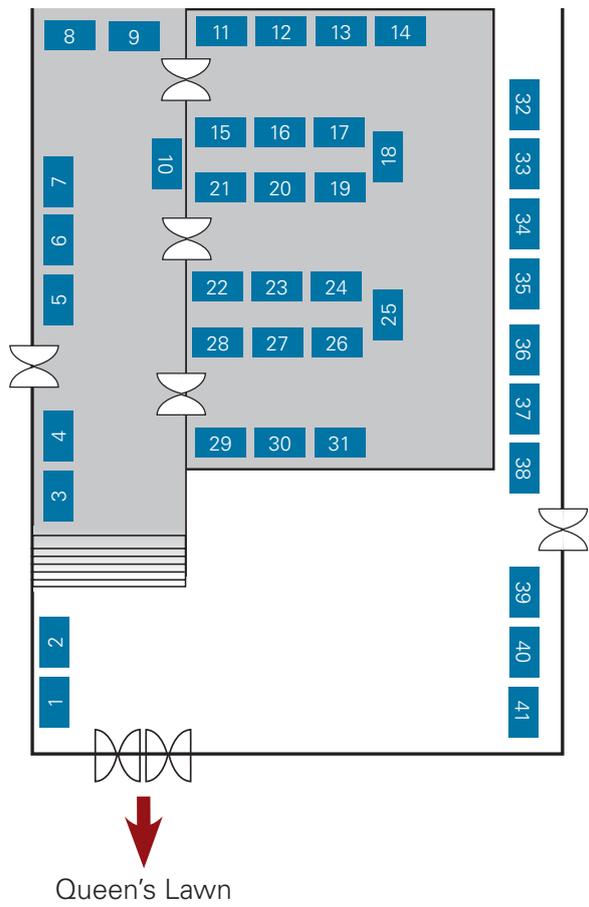
Lastly, one of the only good ways you can take a break from studying, is by writing for *Felix*. Look at this snazzy paper & pullout; wouldn't you want your name on it too?



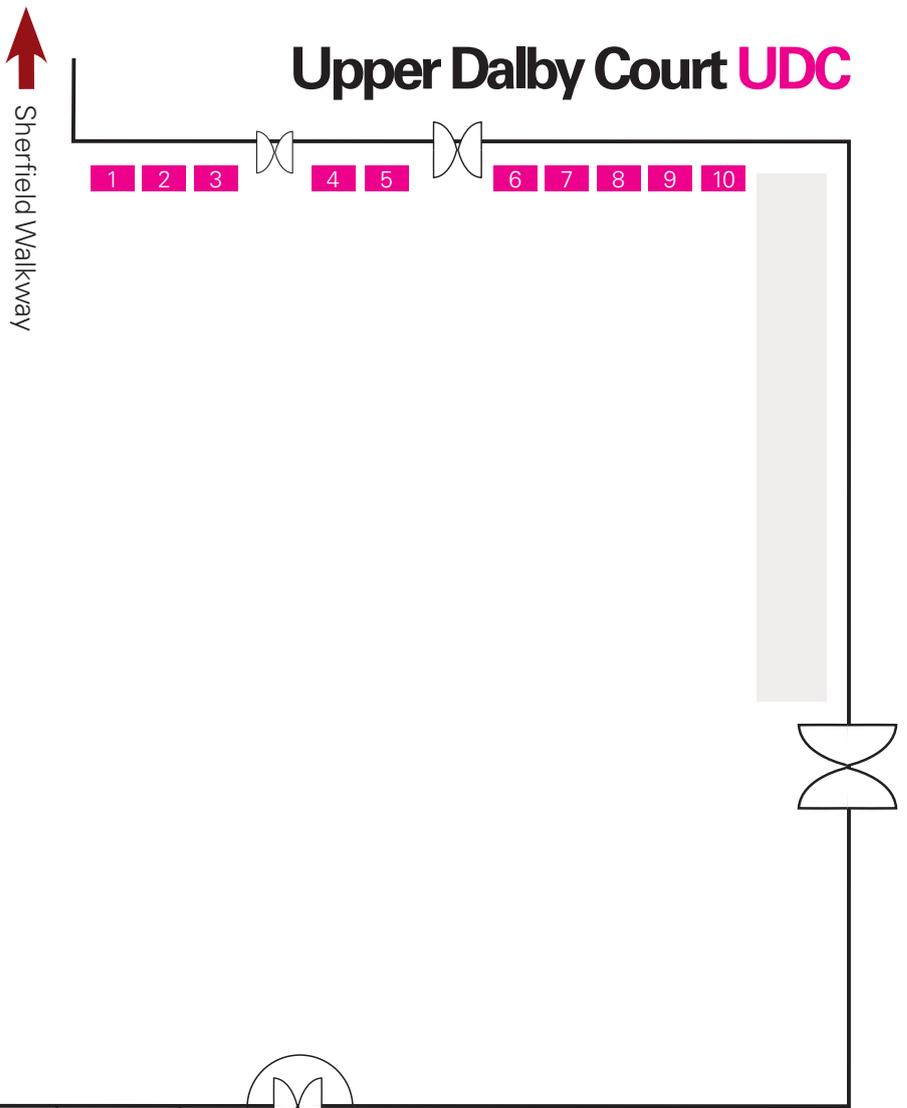
## Felix needs you!

Want to join FELIX? Great! We need regular writers, section editors, photographers, illustrators, copy editors and more! email me at [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) to get involved.

# Sir Alexander Fleming Building SAF



# Upper Dalby Court UDC



# Mechanical Engineering MEF



# Imperial College Main Entrance ICME







# The El Salvador Project

It's all about safe specs...



# The body count keeps going up and up

John Park reviews a few more summer television hits

## Under the Dome



In a plot that combines elements of *Lost* and *The Simpson Movie*, the residents of Chester's Mill find themselves enclosed in a mysterious dome that appears out of the blue. Cut off from the rest of the world by this mysterious, indestructible structure that encloses their town, it's not long before civilisation starts to show its cracks and disintegrate into chaos.

At the centre of it all is Dale "Barbie" Barbara (Mike Vogel), a newcomer to the town who is seen burying a body when we first meet him. Journalist Julia Shumway (Rachelle Lefevre) wants to know everything that's going on (kind of a must for someone in her line of business), radio station workers Dodee (Jolene Purdy) and Phil (Nicholas Strong) are trying their best to make contact with the outside world, Sheriff Linda Esquivel (Natalie Martinez) is naïve, Mayor Big Jim Rennie (Dean Norris) steps up to the position of power, his son Junior (Alexander Koch) has an unhealthy obsession with Angie (Britt Robertson) who's clearly not that interested, whilst Angie's brother Joe (Colin Ford) and his friend Norrie (Mackenzie Lintz) start having sudden onset seizures. Weird.

Each character seems to have a story to tell, and with an explosive pilot episode the series seems to be off to a flying start. But as the show progresses there is a notable quality drop, failing to keep up with the momentum its early episodes set, which establishes a threatening, uneasy mood, leaving the audience hungry for more of what the dome and the crumbling society will have to offer.

But by in large the dramatic ideas still keep the suspense going, although it's now time for answers.

## Bates Motel



A modern reimagination of a much beloved classic film (*Psycho*) is never a good idea; but the creators have at least done an admirable job of not completely demolishing the original material with their new tv series, *Bates Motel*.

It takes a while for everything to kick off and reach the more interesting part of the season's story arc.



Norma (Vera Farmiga - deservedly nominated for an Emmy for her fantastically brave performance) and her son Norman (Freddie Highmore - just as good) relocate to Oregon. Having bought a motel, Norma wishes to renovate the place, and start a new chapter with her son, leaving their horrific past behind them. Enter Dylan, Norman's half-brother, and hello trouble.

The most intriguing narrative strand here is the two distinctly different mother-son relationships between the three characters: with Norman+Norma there are subtle hints the audience is shown that the attachment these two share might not be entirely appropriate. With Dylan (Max Thieriot) on the other hand, Norma is someone else, which further highlights the strikingly strange bond Farmiga and Highmore so skillfully portray.

But it's a shame the show decides to leave this theme unattended for a lot of the season's episodes. More interested in the close-knit surrounding townspeople and what they get up to, the season seems to be going somewhere when they introduce all these shady characters, but in the end no big climax ever quite materialises. It's slow, but certainly worth it.

## The Bridge



The light goes off and a body's dumped on the Bridge of Americas that serves as a crossing between El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Chihuahua in Mexico. Immediately taking charge of the situation is Sonya Cross (Diane Kruger), an El Paso detective. But as she discovers more details surrounding the case, the more complicated everything gets, for which she needs the help of Marco Ruiz (Demián Bichir), a Mexican detective.

You'll never guess just how much of a can of worms a single body can open up. Buried evidence, unsolved cases from the past, government conspiracy, red herrings, a mighty resourceful killer etc...the show reaches far and for the most parts it absolutely succeeds in selling the story with credibility, a lot of it thanks to



its grounded leads.

Kruger's Cross is a detective with Asperger Syndrome, making normal social interactions difficult for her. She's a stickler for rules, and has a clear sense of what's right and wrong, what's legal and illegal. And the awkwardness she feels even with close colleagues of hers is oddly touching, and her frequent bursts of blunt, frank truths give room for laughter.

Mismatched but partnered up with her anyway is Bichir's Cruz, a more easy-going, rule-bending man from across the border - and it's this buddy-cop angle that works so well.

No character is squeaky clean, they all have human imperfections, and whilst the long-winded investigation as well as the large cast take up a lot of episodes to fully gel as a whole, this is a fresh take on a buddy-cop drama.

## Hannibal



Before Hannibal (a cool and suave Mads Mikkelsen) met Clarice, there was Will Graham (a brilliantly unstable Hugh Dancy), a story previously covered in *The Red Dragon*, but NBC's new drama takes all the blood, gore, and guts to a whole new level of graphic sadism in their remake.

Graham has the special gift/curse of being able to very accurately recreate a murder scene in the point of view of the killer. It's his skill to empathise with, and truly understand the nature of the vicious, dangerous people out there committing heinous crimes. Having an agent like Will as a consultant is great news for Jack Crawford (Laurence Fishburne) of the FBI when hunting down the most wanted men and women, but every case takes a toll on Will's own sanity.

Concerned for his mental welfare is his colleague Dr Alana Bloom (Caroline Dhavernas) and this is where Hannibal Lecter comes in, a brilliant psychiatrist asked to treat Will. Little do they know that what Lecter serves up at his picture-perfect dinner parties is 100% pure human meat carved up, seasoned, and cooked to culinary excellence.

The brilliantly suspenseful cat-and-mouse game the two lead characters



play take some individual stand-alone episodes to truly get going. But with outstanding twists, turns and downright horrific images, *Hannibal* stands out from the rest, as a must-see police drama, even if you have a low tolerance level for unpleasant images. Plus as a massive bonus there's Gillian Anderson making wonderful special guest appearances.

## Ray Donovan



"How does it feel c\*\*\*s\*\*\*\*\*?" says Mickey Donovan (Jon Voight, in his mightiest presence with peculiar eccentricities), as he sticks a gun into a priest's mouth, firing it shortly afterwards. We just saw him released from prison a minute ago, and yet it seems he's back to his old habits.

Soon after there's another body. This time a female. The man lying next to her, a sports star now in a flurry of panic, dials Ray Donovan (an excellent, excellent Liev Schreiber). And boy did he call the right person; for Ray is a professional fixer for the rich and famous of sunshine L.A. He's the taller, bigger, more brutal, white, male, cable version of Olivia Pope in "Scandal". By "cable" it means there's more violence, more sex, more drugs, more swearing.

*Ray Donovan* is a fascinatingly cruel, cynical family drama that packs in all the familiar dark and twisted events of late and creates convincing characters to play out such scenarios. It's certainly a show that will make you feel better about your own family. What Donovan and his family have to face on a daily basis ring shockingly true to some of the top headlines today.

What complicates Ray's life further is the unexpected early release of his father Mickey, who he despises for reasons unknown to the audience. His wife Abby (remarkably fierce Paula Malcomson) warms to Mickey's presence, not quite knowing the full picture, since Ray's the secretive kind of guy who keeps everything locked up.

Every narrative advancement is perfectly judged and paced, with rich, layered characters played by the faultless cast - simply unmissable.





# The Mingle 2013

THE UNION BAR FiveSixEight. metric

Saturday 28 & 29 September

18:00 - 01:00

**Matt Edmondson**  
**Clara Amfo**  
**Yasmin Evans**  
**James and the Rabbit Hole**  
**Young Kato** Saturday only  
**Blitz Kids** Sunday only

The Mingle is Imperial College Union's official Welcome Party for all new Freshers. The Mingle is the first big social event of Welcome Week and a great way to get to know your new friends from your hall of residence and meet new ones. Matt Edmondson (BBC Radio 1) headlines both nights alongside Clara Amfo and Yasmin Evans.



## FESTIVAL OF THE SPOKEN NERD

**Monday 30 September**  
19:00 - 22:00 Metric FREE

A volatile cocktail of comedy and science, hosted by award-winning geek songstress and one third of Festival of the Spoken Nerd Helen Arney. Join some of the UK's best (and nerdiest) performers for statistically significant laughter, scientifically accurate songs and unashamed geekiness.

## Freshers Fair Afterparty 2013

**Tuesday 1 October**  
17:00 - 23:00 Metric FREE

A showcase of all the best of our performance Clubs, Societies and Projects at Imperial. The perfect way to round off the Freshers' Fair 2013.

## Super QUIZ

**Tuesday 1 October**  
20:00 - 10:00 FREE

Test your minds and enter the Super Quiz you and your team could win great prizes.

## CSP WEDNESDAY

**Wednesday 2 October**  
20:00 - 01:00 Metric Entry £2.00

Come to our first CSP Wednesday! This new weekly night at the Union is open to all, whether you're part of a Club, Society or Project or not. For our first CSP Wednesday, there'll be live sport showing in FiveSixEight, and some of the DJs at Metric.



## IC BIG Band

**Thursday 3 October**  
19:00 - 23:00 Metric FREE

Metric plays hosts to a number of live bands for your listening pleasure! The line up includes IC Big Band playing swing and jazz classics as well as mixing up modern classics.



## FRESHERS' BALL

**Friday 4 October**  
20:00 - 03:00 £10 in advance  
£13 on the door

**B. Traits & Juma MC**  
**Gemma Cairney**  
**Nick Thorne**  
**Sid Batham**  
**Bo Keeney**

Get your tickets now at  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/welcome](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/welcome)



## The Postgrad Mingle 2013

**Saturday 5 October**  
19:00 - 02:00 £10 in advance  
Buy one ticket get one free

The Postgraduate Mingle is Imperial College Union's official welcome party for all new Postgraduate students. It's a great way to meet and mingle with other postgraduates. DJ Semtex (BBC 1Xtra, Dizzie Rascal) is our headliner this year, alongside a host of DJs and live music throughout the night.

Get your tickets now at  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/welcome](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/welcome)

## IMPERIAL CINEMA

Every Tuesday & Thursday from 18:30  
Union Concert Hall

Imperial Cinema presents an action packed double-bill with two of this summer's biggest releases, Iron Man 3 & Monsters University. Come and see one film for only £3 for members or come and see them both for only £5 for members. All Welcome Week tickets include a free ice-cream.

Tickets single £3 for members £4 for non-members. Double-bill £5 for members £7 for non-members.



**Iron Man 3**  
Tuesday 18:30 / Thursday 20:45

**Monsters University**  
Tuesday 21:00 / Thursday 18:30



# 57th BFI London



**D**ear freshers, welcome to London. And to those returning, welcome back. And what a way to kick off the misery that is October with British Film Institute's (BFI) stunning 57th London Film Festival. With films that are sure to be contenders when it comes to the big awards, the London Film Festival has that rare appeal of having a huge public presence. It's easy to score some tickets (although the big gala screenings might be fully sold out by now), so keep an eye out for those screenings that will be shown all across central London cinemas.

This year, London will be graced with the presence of the legendary Tom Hanks who is both opening and closing the festival with his new films. Other key talents expected to attend include Emma Thompson, Judi Dench, Sandra Bullock, Joel & Ethan Coen, Carey Mulligan, Ralph Fiennes, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, amongst many, many more. So roll out the red carpets and watch this space as **Felix Film** attends various press screenings to bring you the most up-to-date reviews of films from the Festival.

The Festival is also known for helpfully classifying each participating film into different themes: this year consisting of Love, Debate, Dare, Laugh, Thrill, Cult, Journey, Sonic and Family. So plenty for everyone to choose from!

For more information regarding tickets and venues, visit the festival website [bfi.org.uk/lff](http://bfi.org.uk/lff) or call 020 7928 3232. Good luck, have fun, and make sure you send us your thoughts on whatever film you manage to watch - [film.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@imperial.ac.uk)



Opening Night Gala: Captain Phillips



Directed by Paul Greengrass, a man who knows how to make expert thrillers with budgets both big (*The Bourne Supremacy*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*) and small (*United 93*), Tom Hanks plays the real-life American Captain Phillips whose cargo ship was seized by Somali pirates. What ensues is tense stand-off, gut-wrenching survival drama, and a heart-thumping rescue mission that may or may not go as planned. Watch as Hanks heroically stands off against the villains and looks out for safety of his ship's crew.



Closing Night Gala: Saving Mr Banks



Ever wondered how 'Mary Poppins' the novel became *Mary Poppins* the hit musical film starring Julie Andrews, which won her the Best Actress Oscar? Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) must negotiate and compromise wisely with the author of the novel, P. L. Travers (Emma Thompson) to bring her words to screen, by no means an easy task as creative control over the published work proves difficult. Word is, the film is full of wonderful performances, heartwarming insight, and an entertaining behind-the-scenes story.



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FILM

# London Film Festival



## Accenture Gala: 12 Years a Slave

Director Steve McQueen has had tremendous successes in the past with *Hunger* and *Shame* and for his third feature he seems to have struck gold with his unflinching, brutal, and powerful telling of the true story of Solomon Northup's harrowing life as a slave. Already a smash-hit at Toronto, Chiwetel Ejiofor's powerful leading performance has been praised, as well as McQueen's frequent collaborator Michael Fassbender's chilling portrayal of a ruthless plantation owner. Get your hopes up for this one.



## Centrepiece Gala: Inside Llewyn Davis

Having already received quite the critical acclaim at this year's Cannes Film Festival, the Coen brothers' new hit will be screened in London. A melancholic, soulful look at the American folk music scene in the early 1960s, Llewyn (Oscar Isaac) is a struggling musician trying to make it big as a solo artist, although the troubles and obstacles that keep heading his way are preventing him from achieving his goals. Unwanted impregnation of a married woman, losing of a pet, are examples of what he needs to worry about.



## American Airlines Gala: Gravity

James Cameron was reportedly floored by the technical marvel of Alfonso Cuarón's new space drama, so it must be good. In his rave statement he compliments the film's space photography as well as the human dimension in which the film creates "an absolutely seamless portrayal of a woman fighting for her life in zero gravity". Matt Kowalsky (George Clooney) and Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) are on a mission in space when a freak accident leaves them stranded on limited oxygen. Will they survive?



## May Fair Hotel Gala: Labor Day

Jason Reitman (*Juno*, *Up in the Air*, *Young Adult*) moves away from his usual comfort zone of directing off-beat dramedies for a much darker feature film starring Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin. When a depressed single mother (Winslet) kindly takes in an injured, intimidating man (Brolin, who else?) to their home, this little chance encounter will change everyone's lives forever, including that of her young son Henry's (Gattlin Griffith). It's thrilling, melodramatic, with a hint of romance, all weaved together skillfully.



## American Express Gala: Philomena

Dame Judi Dench once again shows off her never-ending acting prowess in Stephen Frears' new witty, touching drama about the titular character (Dench) looking for her long lost son she had to give up for adoption decades ago. Steve Coogan provides support as a journalist helping her on her journey, and the two strike up an unlikely friendship along the way. A film that "breaks your heart and then repairs it", it's no wonder the Weinstein brothers snatched this up to release in time for the competitive Oscar race.



## Festival Gala: The Invisible Woman

Ralph Fiennes' sophomore directorial effort deals with the final few years in Charles Dickens' (Fiennes) life, when he reportedly shackled up with a mistress (Felicity Jones) young enough to be his daughter. Scandalous back during the time of traditional values, their relationship had to be a secret which is why very little is known of the actual relationship. But Fiennes bravely tackles the theme with strong performances and a potent period mood to mesmerise and captivate the audience.

Film Forever

# FILM

Editor: **John Park**  
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## LOVE

The big Palme d'Or winner of this year's Cannes Film Festival, *Blue is the Warmest Colour*, famous for its almost 3-hour length, plus the many extended, incredibly graphic lesbian sex scenes, headlines the Love section of the Festival. It's a film so powerful and worthy that the Cannes' Jury awarded the top prize not only to the director (Abdellatif Kechiche), but also to its two incredible stars (Adèle Exarchopoulos, Léa Seydoux). You don't need a bigger stamp of approval than this. What's it about? We follow the life of Adèle (newcomer Exarchopoulos), as she explores her sexuality and has her life turn upside down when Emma (Seydoux) enters her life.



Other notable titles in **LOVE**: *Adore, Gloria, On My Way, The Past, Grand Central, The Spectacular Now*

## LAUGH

Joseph Gordon-Levitt is just so talented that he directed, wrote and even starred in the leading role of his first directorial feature film, *Don Jon*. All *Don* (Gordon-Levitt) cares about is his body, his pad, his ride, his family, his church, his boys, his girls, and his porn – which is fine for him, until he gets caught in a compromising position by a girl who could be “the one”. The girl being played by the sassy and confident Scarlett Johansson, Gordon-Levitt has assembled himself quite the cast, including Julianne Moore and Tony Danza, putting together a hilarious, emotional and confident debut.



Other notable titles in **LAUGH**: *Enough Said* (featuring James Gandolfini's last on-screen performance), *Drinking Buddies*



## DARE

He knew he was trouble when he walked by...but Franck (Pierre Deladonchamps), a handsome romantic enjoying his time at his usual spot on a popular gay cruising beach in southern France, immediately falls for the dangerously seductive Michel (Christophe Paou), a mysterious stranger towards whom he feels irresistible sexual attraction. Throw in a murder, and that's how we get *Stranger By the Lake*, an eerie, provocative erotic French thriller that embodies everything you're searching for when looking at something filed under “Dare”. Like its characters the film is full of risks and is all the more shocking because of its direct, confronting style.

## THRILL

With an all-star Australian cast including Aaron Pedersen, Jack Thompson, Hugo Weaving and Ryan Kwanten, director Ivan Sen's new thriller *Mystery Road* deals with racial tension and wealth gap, always a firm starting place for basing your grizzly, grounded cop thriller on. Jay Swan (Pedersen), an Aboriginal cop, having returned to his hometown after years of absence, is to investigate a brutal murder of a teenage girl – this leads to nowhere pleasant, as corruption and conspiracy cloud the mystery even more. It's a compelling, unflinching cop drama, which explains its place leading the Thrill films of the Festival.



Other notable titles in **THRILL**: *All is Lost, Pioneer, Kon Tiki*

## CULT

Vampires seem to be everywhere these days but don't go in expecting the norm when watching *Only Lovers Left Alive*. Eve (Tilda Swinton) and Adam (Tom Hiddleston) are vampires reunited after some period apart. All seems well, until Eve's sister Ava (Mia Wasikowska) turns up to spoil the fun between the two. Basically, the sister's acting as the third wheel, and no one likes that. There's a strong theme of dark sensual gothic romance running through this off-beat drama, and the remarkably well-cast Swinton and Hiddleston put on impressive performances.



Other notable titles in **CULT**: *Grand Piano, The Zero Theorem*

## DEBATE

*Meek's Cutoff*, although no-one saw it, was a critical hit back in 2010, and director Kelly Reichardt follow-up feature is *Night Moves*, leading the films in the Debate section. Eco-terrorists Josh (Jesse Eisenberg) and Dena (Dakota Fanning) and Harmon (Peter Sarsgaard) execute what they believe to be an excellently planned act. This is until the media storm that sparks from their actions has unpredictable, unintended results. It's a slow-burning (much like Reichardt's other films), yet taut political thriller that makes you think and question each character's motive and the blurred lines between right and wrong.



## JOURNEY

Bruce Dern won the Best Actor prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival, in Alexander Payne's (*Sideways, The Descendants*) moving black-and-white father-son road-trip drama. When the forgetful, boozy Woody Grant (Dern) becomes convinced that he won a million dollars and that he also needs to travel to *Nebraska* (the film's title) from Missouri, his son David (Will Forte) reluctantly agrees. Payne has a knack for working his magic in turning a touching narrative into relatable drama minus the corny cheese, rather than resorting to over-the-top, sentimental melodrama.



Can you handle the truth? Will you have what she's having? Want to make us an offer we can't refuse? You're the king of the world? You've always relied on kindness of strangers? Not in Kansas anymore? Tell us all about it: [film.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@imperial.ac.uk)



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FILM

# Official Competition



**Parkland**  
 Would you like to see Zac Efron as your surgeon if you've just been shot? Yeah...me neither...but in *Parkland*, President John F. Kennedy's shocking assassination leaves the entire country in turmoil. The hospital staff (including Efron - the surgeon on-call it seems, and Marcia Gay Harden as a nurse), the authorities (led by Billy Bob Thornton) are working as quickly as they can to track down the shooter/shooters, and Paul Giamatti plays Abraham Zapruder, the man who inadvertently filmed the assassination. It no doubt has an incredible ensemble; further adding to the long list of names above is Jacki Weaver, James Badge Dale, Jackie Earle Haley, Tom Welling, Colin Hanks and Ron Livingston. However early reception from the festival circuit has been mixed - with far too many characters taking up room, not allowing each individual "vantage point" to breathe and have a sustainable plot-line of its own. So the chances of this winning anything is miniscule.



**The Double**  
 A comedy in which a man is driven to insanity as his doppelganger starts taking over his own life, Simon (Jesse Eisenberg) always seems to be living in the shadow of James, his "double". Whilst tongue-tied, embarrassed and awkward around his crush Hannah (Mia Wasikowska), James successfully climbs the corporate ladder, which catches Hannah's eyes, much to Simon's dismay. It's quirky, edgy, with a typically strong performance from Eisenberg who absolutely excels in the odd but likable roles.



**Tracks**  
 In 1977, Robyn Davidson travelled from Alice Springs to the Indian Ocean, crossing approximately 1,700 miles of Australian deserts - this she did with her dog and four camels. *Tracks* tells this amazing true story of this one woman's courage to achieve the impossible and her never-ending ambition. Wasikowska gives one of the strongest performances of her career, showing both the independent, spirited energy of the lone traveller, as well as the often emotionally vulnerable and fragile nature.



**Under the Skin**  
 Scarlett Johansson is an alien creature who has been sent to Earth by a large corporation - her task? To prey on unsuspecting hitchhikers. As the huntress she goes on the prowl, luring these poor souls into the dark so she can have her wicked ways with them. Some have dismissed the film calling it laughably bad, but others have praised the lead performance as well as the chilling, creepy atmosphere that creates a unique surreal feel to the overall narrative. Quite the audience-divider, this one.

# An Iron Monster at ICU Cinema



## ICU Cinema

ANNOUNCEMENT FRESHERS: FREE ICE CREAM and cinema screenings too! Imperial cinema-your student cinema- is putting on a double bill during freshers' week of two summer blockbusters during freshers' week. Wanna learn how to use your Imperial science skillz to become like Tony Stark or to use your abundant Imperial social skillz to make lifelong bffs like Mike and Sully? If so then come along to see Iron Man 3 and Monsters University!

Iron Man 3 picks up where The Avengers left off, Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr) has PTSD after a traumatic near death experience but he has no time to recover before a new eyeliner-clad super villain arrives on the scene; surrounded by his badman posse he posts sketchy videos outlining his plans for domination of the West before acting accordingly. Will Robbo Jr save 'murica from the evil racially stereotypical baddie? Come to Imperial Cinema to find out!  
 In 10 years time, remember how excited and optimistic you were as a fresher before crippling self-doubt and depression took over? Monsters



University charts the origins of Mike and Sully as they navigate through the uncharted waters of frat houses, letterman jackets and beer pong (all of which will totally happen during your freshers' week). Jokes aside, Monsters University might teach you some valuable life lessons about the first year of unayy!  
**Tuesday 1st October**  
 18:30-Iron Man 3  
 21:00-Monsters University

**Thursday 3rd October**  
 18:30-Monsters University  
 21:00-Iron Man 3  
 Tickets for individual screenings are £3 for members and £4 for non-members, buy on the door.  
 Tickets for a double bill are £5 for members and £7 for non-members.  
 £5 Membership includes one free film and cheaper ticket prices all year! Buy it here: tickets.imperialcinema.co.uk

**Autumn Line up:**  
 1st/3rd October: Iron Man 3 & Monsters University  
 8th/10th October: World War Z & Man of Steel  
 15th/17th October: Despicable Me 2  
 22nd/24th October: Pacific Rim  
 29th/31st October: The World's End  
 5th/7th November: Elysium & The Wolverine  
 11th November: Kick-Ass 2

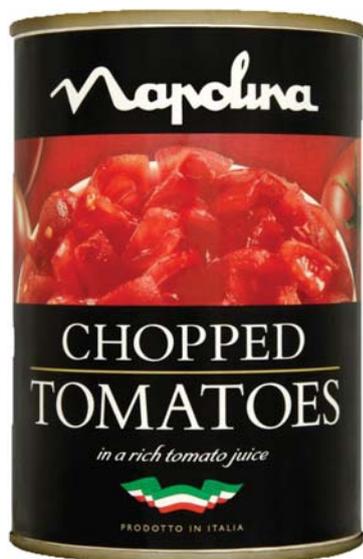


# Emergency hangover cures

Been out last night and not exactly feeling the best for your Maths test this morning? Fear not! **Felix Food** is here to help you feel better!

## Need something quick?

Beans on toast with a twist



The classic beans on toast is an awesome hangover cure. Not only do the beans contain high protein, it also releases energy slowly, so you feel better for the day! If you want to increase your appetite at the same time, why not add a can of tinned tomatoes? Tomatoes are high in Vitamin C so you have a higher chance of avoiding the good old Freshers' Flu, while making the whole thing taste better.

### Recipe: (if it is not obvious enough)

- 1 can of Baked Beans
- 1 can of chopped tomatoes
- Bread
- Toast the bread
- Heat up the tin of beans and mix in the tomatoes
- Serve when hot!

## No morning lectures?

Try some fusion



Got a bit of bacon in the fridge but nothing else for your full fry up? Why not start your morning with a bit of Asian flavour? Noodles are one of the most popular foods in the world and it is so easy to cook, even if it is not the ones in the plastic pot. You can use fresh or dried noodles for this, both are available in both conventional and Chinese supermarkets, although the dried noodles will be able to sit in your cupboard for longer and possibly cheaper. If you do go round China Town, I would definitely recommend you stock up on some Chinese branded dried noodles – not only is it quick to make, so is a great alternative to the baked beans on toast, but also flavouring sachets often comes in the packet, so you even save on the soup stock!

### Recipe

- 1 piece of smoked back bacon, chopped and trimmed
- 2 spring onions, white and green separated and finely sliced
- Some frozen peas
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 2 teaspoon cornflour
- 200mL vegetable stock/ soup from sachet flavouring
- 150g (or how much you can eat) of noodles
- Splash of Worcestershire sauce
- Boil and drain the noodles if it is dried.
- In a small pan, fry the bacon for a few minutes, add the white parts of the spring onions, peas and paprika, then cook for 1 minute more. To get a bit of smooth texture, first mix the cornflour with a little stock to make a paste, then stir this into the pan with the rest of the stock.
- Add the noodles and a great splash of Worcestershire sauce to give it more flavour
- Leave it to simmer for a couple of minutes until thick and saucy, the scatter the green parts of spring onion on top to give it the looks!

## Shall we spice it up a bit?

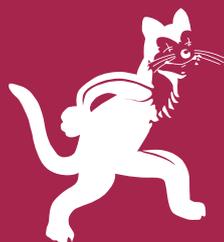
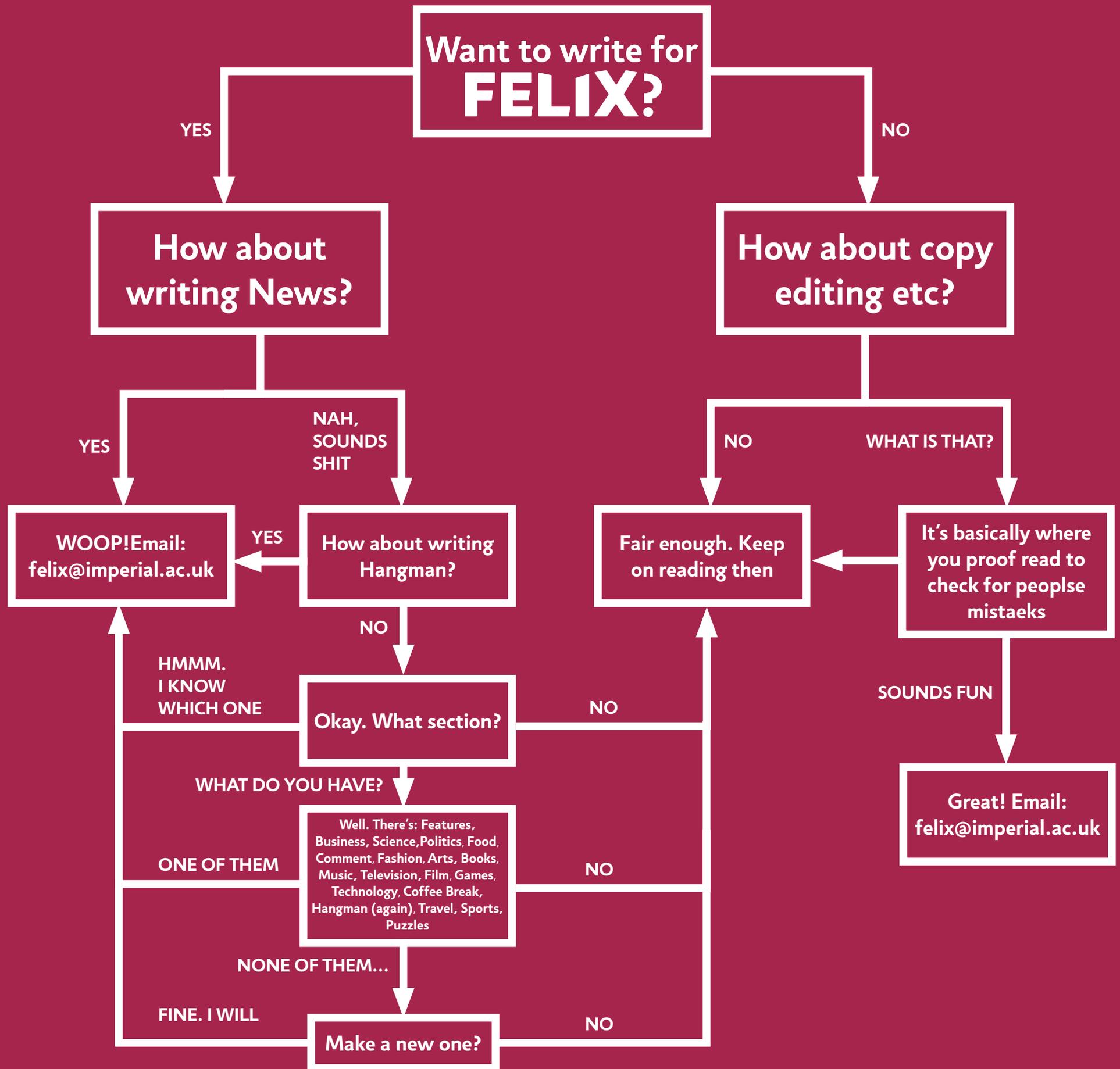


Not feeling good from Freshers' Flu and you still want to be keen and attend your 9am lecture? The spices in this omelette will clear the airways and put you back into active mode! You might not know that apart from making non-alcoholic beer, ginger is also a well known nausea remedy that has been used for hundreds of years – and the protein in the eggs will help you get rid of alcohol in your bloodstream.

### Recipe

- 2 eggs
- Half a red pepper, chopped into small cubes
- A small piece of ginger, peeled and finely chopped
- Dried chilli, depends on your spice-ability.
- A clove of garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- Whisk the eggs until smooth
- Pour the remaining ingredients into the egg mixture and mix well.
- Coat the pan with oil and heat up on the hob. Only when the oil is very hot, pour in the mixture and swirl it so that the whole pan is coated.
- Fry the mixture until it becomes a semi-solid omelette. You should be able to move the pan and the omelette stays one piece.
- Time to cook the other side. If you are feeling adventurous and awake, flip it on the pan! If not, then the best way to do it is to place a plate over the pan and turn them both over. Then you can slide the uncooked side back on the pan.
- Should take about another minute, then time to eat!

Michael Chung



# FELIX

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# Broke and Bored?

Gunning for a game? Have a look at these Crafty reviews which will



## Maximilian Egg

Games Editor

Ahead of you, dear reader, be you fresher or a returning student, is a substantial (or perhaps not so substantial) amount of work. To provide some relief from the never ending coursework and lab reports, this article will try to introduce you to some games that will serve you well this year, without breaking the bank. These games, while not the newest you will ever see, have a lot of replay value and are easily worth their money. In fact, comparing them to some of the new stuff out there, I would take these any day. I try to split these beauties into their different genres, so that you get a quick overview of the games on hand.

game, it is easy to play and you can play anyway you want. If you want to be a rugged explorer, a creative artist or an ingenious redstone (electricity equivalent) engineer this game allows you to do exactly that. This freedom and lack of pressure is liberating, and is a great way to wind down after an exam (or even before if you feel foolhardy). A great thing about this game is the fact that you get free updates pretty much from the point you bought it, which means every so often something new will come in that will change your game experience. Furthermore the modding society is very active as well, meaning if you do ever get bored there are tons of things to look for! This game is for all those casual gamers looking for a game that won't break the bank and that is relatively easy in terms of learning curve, yet very engrossing. Even for all you

hardcore battlefield and COD players - try it, you may actually like it!

## Game: CounterStrike Source/Global Offensive

Price: £13.99/£11.99 on steam  
Platform: PC and Mac

It is hard to believe that this game started out as a mod of half life. It was so successful as a mod, that it made it into its own game. This is pretty much the big daddy of all modern FPSs and really should not

be missed out if you are a fan of that genre. With Valve's Source engine, these two versions are really top notch games that can perform at comfortable levels for most PCs. There is no story or anything of the sort. The only thing you do is sign on to various servers (community or official) that have different types of game modes. It varies from the casual gun game, to the very competitive official hostage/defuse missions. Then you play rounds based on those modes. This way of playing is very effective and entertaining, as you don't really need to invest a lot of time for a lot of fun. At the start you may have to learn the ways of the game, but after that its all very well balanced. The fact that you can drop in and out of servers, as well as the fact that each round on average lasts about 5 minutes max, means that this game

can be used perfectly for that short study break that you afford yourself. One of the reasons that this game will rack up the hours is the input of the community, which is very vibrant in both GO (Global Offensive) and Source, and has led to multiple modifications of the standard Counter-terrorist versus terrorist default modes. You can go from the most casual sniper deathmatches, to very intense zombie maps very easily. Getting one of these games is the easy choice, the hard part is deciding which one. Source has a bigger community, as well as having bigger variations on the defaults modes, and seems less buggy. Global Offensive (cheaper one) is newer, has better graphics, and handy official servers as well as the community ones. Also the learning curve is a bit gentler for the initiate. However in the end it doesn't really matter which one you get, you will pour a ton of time into it.

## Game: Minecraft

Price: 20€ on the website (for PC/ Mac version)  
Platform: PC, Mac, Xbox 360, iOS and Android

If you haven't heard of Minecraft, then you should get out from under that rock you have been living under. It has been the sensation of the indie gaming world, propelling its creator Magnus (Notch) Persson to game-creator stardom. In fact it has been so successful that several characters and features of the game have entered popular culture. The idea behind this game, is that you are a blockheaded character, who is stranded in a cube world and must survive in any way. Simple, right? And that is the greatest feature of this



Look at my horse, my horse is amazing!

## Game: Mount and Blade: Warband

Price: £14.99 on steam  
Platform: PC

Of all the games I have talked about, this one here is my favourite and possibly the one that most people won't know, which is quite a shame. Made by the turkish studio TaleWorlds, this indie game perfectly captures that adventure feeling. Basically you are an adventurer dumped in the medieval lands of Calradia, and you can do what you like. Want to go and marry one of the local beauties? Go ahead. Want



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**GAMES**

# Felix has the answer

## be the portal to your fantasy world!

to become a slaver? Do that! Want to become a king and rule the entire continent? You can! This flexibility means that you can pour hours upon hours within this game. Furthermore the modding community is extremely vibrant in this game, allowing for just general updates to the gameplay, to complete Star Wars rewrites, and the best thing about all these mods are for free. Therefore for the price of one game, you can get all the wonders the internet has done to this game. The gameplay itself is great, managing to make the hack and slash/bow and arrow mechanics of the medieval times intuitive and easy to use, so moving down countless enemies is extremely satisfying. The graphics, while not the best, are nonetheless very detailed and beautiful. The creators of this game have created a very well fleshed out game which is immersive and fun to play. Every option is pretty much left up to you and makes each game that you play different. If you are looking for a mix between

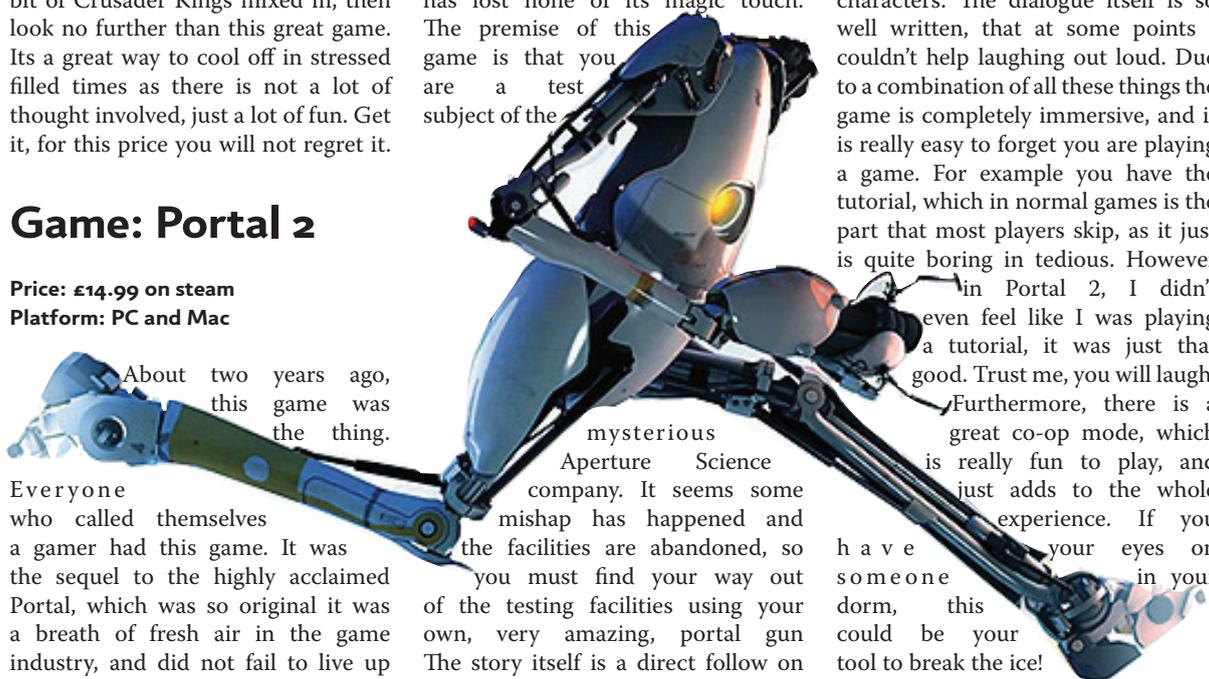
Total War and Skyrim with a little bit of Crusader Kings mixed in, then look no further than this great game. Its a great way to cool off in stressed filled times as there is not a lot of thought involved, just a lot of fun. Get it, for this price you will not regret it.

### Game: Portal 2

**Price: £14.99 on steam**  
**Platform: PC and Mac**

About two years ago, this game was the thing. Everyone who called themselves a gamer had this game. It was the sequel to the highly acclaimed Portal, which was so original it was a breath of fresh air in the game industry, and did not fail to live up to its predecessors hype, becoming immensely successful. Even though

now this game is slightly older, it has lost none of its magic touch. The premise of this game is that you are a test subject of the



and combines well with the colourful characters. The dialogue itself is so well written, that at some points I couldn't help laughing out loud. Due to a combination of all these things the game is completely immersive, and it is really easy to forget you are playing a game. For example you have the tutorial, which in normal games is the part that most players skip, as it just is quite boring in tedious. However in Portal 2, I didn't even feel like I was playing a tutorial, it was just that good. Trust me, you will laugh. Furthermore, there is a great co-op mode, which is really fun to play, and just adds to the whole experience. If you have your eyes on someone in your dorm, this could be your tool to break the ice! The graphics while not at today's standards are still very good,

the scenery of the puzzles and attention to detail in each level is outstanding. Furthermore since this game is a bit older, you should be able to run it beautifully on your machine at the highest settings. All in all this game is a real must have. If you haven't gotten it already, then get it because for the price you will rarely get something that good. And if you are feeling the pressure, listening to weird robots and shooting portals with your own portal gun will always relieve the stress.

### In Conclusion:

There are tons more games that I didn't mention, and probably some that you wish I had mentioned. Torchlight 2, Medieval 2 Total War, Super Meat Boy etc. The games you did read about had a average rating of 86.5 on IGN, so somehow they must have been ok. Considering what is coming your way, please for your own sanity, get these games (any games), as they will really help you relax in times of stress!

# As Hitler once said: Execute PLAN Z!

**Game:**  
**Sniper Elite: Nazi Zombie Army**  
**Price: £9.99 on Steam**  
**Platform: PC**

As CollegeHumour once said: "The two things you could always kill in videogames were nazis and zombies, there was no moral ambiguity there.

So to combine them is just brilliant!" Now combine this with the award winning game Sniper Elite, and it seems like you have a high chance of a really fun game. The game Sniper Elite on its own is a tactical sniper simulation, set in world war two. With heavy focus on gameplay and realism, it was quite a fun game

to play. Furthermore Sniper elite included an absolutely visually brilliant X-Ray kill cam, which played on every other successful long distance head shot. Now considering the way that many games have gone (Call of Duty, Red Dead Redemption etc.) releasing a zombie version is not that farfetched. When I got this game it was £3 on steam which is pretty much a steal, however normally it is £10 which is quite a bit less than any other game you would get, so not that bad either and considering that this game came out about 6 months ago means that the price is actually pretty good. The premise of this game is that you are a bunch of soldiers from WW2 (both sides) who must figure out how to stop Hitler's ill-planned plan Z, which has caused all of Germany to be overrun by the undead nazis. However if you really consider it, the plot is actually non-existent and you couldn't care less about the characters (except the reporter guy with the fedora, he was pretty epic!). Nevertheless if you consider what you are playing (a shooter where you eliminate nazi zombies) you can understand why twists and character development may be lacking.

Its the game play where this game should shine and in fact does so quite satisfactorily. It has been compared to the Left 4 Dead experience with the stages, objectives and safe rooms and this is the kind of game you should expect. While some of the typical things that you would expect are not present in this game (e.g. rolling, jumping etc.) it does not really detract from the playing. Furthermore the mechanics of the shooting are doing excellently well, especially the sniper (the "focus" of the game). They are not quite as realistic as the normal Sniper Elite but considering how realistic your opponents are, the more arcade style is completely fine. However the thing that makes the nazi zombie Sniper Elite really a special combination is the X-Ray cam. Blowing a zombie's brains out over 80 meters away is very satisfying in itself. Combine it with slow motion bullet flight and consequent gory X-Ray vision of the bullet entering and leaving the zombie will just have you jumping up and down in glee. Every kill was made so much more of a success with this. The graphics themselves are not top notch, but still very watchable. However the eerie setting and attention to detail makes up for this

in every way. In fact you don't really look at the graphics that much when you are focusing on. Considering all these things above makes the single player experience very enjoyable, yet since this is not really a complete game in its own right, I can imagine that this mode can get very repetitive. Once you have gone through all the modes there is not much else, although saying this I currently have 10 hours on the single player, and am still going strong. Its the Co-op where this game really delivers. With up to four players in one session it can get really hectic and fun. I played this with a friend and it was on par with some of the best sessions I've had for a long time. Since you are playing with others the game experience will always be different, and adding to that the setting and gameplay, trust me, will be great. If you are looking for a great game to kill time, as well as have a great experience with your friends without breaking the bank, I would advise you to seriously consider this. It is so intense and yet relaxing, I haven't found better! I mean for £10 how many epic zombie kills in slow-mo are you going to get?



Tankfully that didn't ruin my shirt!

Maximilian Eggl



# Back to School, Technically

Yong Wen Chua reveals a bunch of tech secrets for y'all!

## LATEX



It's the time of the year again. After a very beautiful summer, it's time to get ready to face the cold, harsh winter and get ready for a new academic year. Winter is coming, and so are we in helping you make the best out of the new academic year, technically of course.

## Productivity Software

If you are looking to buy yourself a copy of Microsoft Office, head to Software4Students ([www.software4students.co.uk](http://www.software4students.co.uk)) and grab yourself a copy of "Microsoft Office 365 University" for a mere £54. (For those who do not know, this entitles you to a four year subscription for Microsoft Office. The new Microsoft Office is now subscription based. The non-subscription based "Microsoft Office Home & Student 2013" is a whopping £95!) The website also sells other useful software at a discounted price. If you are looking for a free alternative, look no further than LibreOffice and Mozilla Thunderbird for all your needs. Another interesting option would be open office, a like for like program of the official office which includes a spreadsheet, word and powerpoint component. (<http://www.openoffice.org/>)

However if you do use this open source project, make sure that you save in the right format!

In addition, why not check out something new? How about learning LaTeX? LaTeX is a typesetting language that allows you to produce very good looking documents. LaTeX is not the easiest to learn, and if you are just starting out, try LyX. We will cover LaTeX in a future issue, so keep a lookout!

Also if you are in any of the engineering, maths, physics related courses I would have a look at matlab and maple. The prior can be acquired through the university ICT service, and the latter is free through

imperial software shop (unless you are medicine student, then its £25)

## Gadgets

If you do not own a laptop or do not fancy bringing your 10 pound desktop replacement around, a tablet might be for you. You can use a tablet to take notes during lectures, browse the web when you are bored (also during lectures), and even play some candy crush if that's your kind of thing.

For a tight budget, look no further than the new Nexus 7 running on Android 4.3, which is yet another version of Jelly Bean. Prices start from £199. It is an awesome device with a beautiful screen. Felix will be reviewing the tablet in a future issue. If Android is not your thing, try the iPad mini, from £269. For a simple e-book reader, try out the new Kindle Paperwhite for just £109. We've heard that it's really good although we don't own one.

Oh, if you want to save some money on your monthly mobile phone bill, you might want to check out Giffgaff. For a mere £10 a month, you get 250 minutes of talktime, unlimited text and 1 GB of internet. Add £2 for unlimited internet! If you recommend someone to Giffgaff, both of you will get £5 free credit each!

## Apps

Apps are the heart of every smartphone and, and a good set will make your life much easier. Some usability and productivity apps I use on a regular basis are the Barclays mobile banking account (which has equivalents for the other banks, is very useful in checking my balance and doubles as a PINsentry), Buschecker (or any other highly rated bus time app, which is very useful for getting around after a night out) and iFormulas (iOS) (which helps me remember those pesky formulas that haven't been ingrained in my head). Lastly, while not intrinsically useful, the imperial mobile app should be on every imperial students phone,

## Entertainment (Skiving)

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, and we certainly don't want YOU, our dear reader to be dull. Here are some tips for you to keep yourself entertained.

## Music

Getting music legally is now so much easier than before. Spotify offers a music streaming service that allows you to stream everything in their large library for free during the first six months, after which some limitation applies. If you pay up £10 a month, you get unlimited plays and you can even use it on your phone. Google Music, on the other hand, offers a free cloud storage service for your music that allows you to store up to 20000 songs on their servers to stream everywhere from your phone to your PC. If you pay up £10 a month, you get the ability to stream any song from their massive library, similar to Spotify. Both services offer some sort of "radio" service that plays songs based on your listening habits. In this editor's opinion, Google's algorithms seem to offer up better recommendations.

If streaming isn't your kind of thing and you prefer to "own" the music you buy, Amazon and the iTunes store allow you to buy digital music from their stores. Amazon MP3 even has a "cloud player" that allows access to your songs from anywhere. You might also want to know that Amazon now offers a free MP3 version of the CDs you buy from them through the new "Autorip" service. This offer even extends to CDs you bought from them in the past.

## Film and TV

You can watch your heart's content worth of TV and films using online services such as Netflix and Lovefilm

which have reasonable prices for their subscription. You could also subscribe to various cable services such as Sky TV and Virgin Media some of which offer student rates. (You would also have to pay for a TV License, which offers a student discount.) Otherwise, you could always stream TV shows for free from BBC iPlayer, iTV Player, or Channel 4 on Demand so long as they are not "live".

If you are luck enough to have parents who suscribe to sky make sure that you install sky go on your devices, use it on your PC. As long as you haven't reached your device limit, you should be able to get free sports!



## Cloud Services

There are several services out there that will greatly simplify your life at Imperial, especially when you need to work with others. Google Drive is a very good tool to allow collaborative editing of documents, spreadsheets, and even presentations. If you are looking to "wow" people with your presentation, try out "Prezi".

Fancy not chugging around a portable hard disk with all your files? If so, you really need to try out the various cloud storage services. Google Drive, Dropbox, iCloud and Skydrive are just some of the most popular ones on the internet right now. Use them -- you won't have to panic if you forgot to bring your USB drive to college.

## Apps

Apps can be very useful in terms of productivity, however they can also add that extra element of entertainment that your gadget may be lacking. The FML app, is a good port of call for a quick laugh, and cut the rope is a very good game to have even if it is not free. Furthermore have a look at Plants vs. Zombies 2 which actually is free, and is quite a time killer!

"Do you like technology? Email technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk and send in a review!"





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TECHNOLOGY

# Are we seeing Apple crumble?

Max Eggl is dismayed after the Apple's offering at the latest keynote

Yet another Apple keynote has come and gone, and once again there is a sense of frustration in the air. At least that bitter taste on the tongue is one I have gotten used to after Steve Jobs died, along with all his intuition, drive and creativity. For all the fancy technical terms that Apple likes to throw around, they once again managed to frustrate. Everything they revealed, was known two months in advance. Every cut and finish, every new touted feature, even the name of the new products were leaked frigg'n 2 months ago. No wow, no oohs or ahs, no wonderful innovation that bowled us over. I remember in the past, the keynotes where something unexpected would come up, and I would sit there thinking to myself "How epic is that?!" Now it's just like, "Yeah saw that already a while ago, and even then it was pretty boring." Apple used to innovate, now they are just following the market and this keynote proves it.

Let us start with the two products they released, the iPhone 5S and 5C. Firstly is the fact that they revealed two phones simultaneously a good sign or a bad one? One on hand it shows that they are ready to bow to consumer demand in a strange fashion, on the other hand it means that they are willing to follow their competitors. Time will tell if this was a good strategy.

So the 5C. When I first heard of the 5C I thought that the C would stand for cheap, meaning that Apple would finally release a budget phone. Basically it's a rehashed iPhone 5, with very similar specs, and the big difference being the plastic colour palette that the iPhone 5C utilises. The colours add something new and

interesting to the iPhone and the very fragile glass construction that were used in previous constructions. However the "purpose" of this phone is what has me so annoyed. Basically this is Apple's attempt at a phone that everyone could afford. However contradictory to hopeful reports that this may really be something truly affordable, Apple decides to slap another hundred dollars on the price. £469 for the 16GB and £549 for the 32GB. You are really telling me this is your cheap phone? C'mon people, think realistically here. You can get a great phone in the Nexus 4 for half that. Apple has decided that since they have the fruity logo that they stick on the back of the polycarbonate body, that they can overcharge everyone. I mean why even do a cheap phone if all you are going to do is really make it unaccessible for those who really looking forward to it. Either do it right, or don't do it at all. The sad thing is, probably a ton of people are going to buy it anyway.

Now about the iPhone 5S. It actually looks like a really good phone. The specs are up there with the top phones. The 64 bit processor seems like a really good new addition, and I really would like to see how graphics intensive software runs, especially with the next generation of games. The fingerprint sensor also looks like a handy feature, and one of the only things I got excited about. However these two things really are the only standout features of this phone. Everything else is just catching up with the competition. When looking at this phone, all that was going through my mind was: "Yeah, well this is nice, but it would have been really innovative and amazing if this would

have been the iPhone 5. And you know what the really sad thing is? It would have even been possible." At least it isn't as much of a disappointment as the 5C, and I can see it being quite successful. However, what's up with the "Champagne" colour? It just looks cheap bling. What happened with the understated beauty that Apple used to perfect?

Generally looking at the keynote itself you can also see how precarious their position

There used to be a time, where Apple stood impervious, invincible to doubts or pressure from investors/competitors. The only time other companies or products were mentioned was in graphs or tables, illustrating Apple's dominance. However now snide comments and jokes are needed for the Cupertino company to feel like the top dog. Sounds like a schoolyard bully doesn't it?

Furthermore, to gauge the hype and excitement surrounding this keynote, all you had to do was look at the crowd, and compare it to the reactions of previous keynote crowds to tell that something has changed for the computing giant. Laughing was rare, and cheering was even rarer and that was because to be honest, there was nothing to cheer about!

All in all it's another disappointment for me. I have been a loyal Apple user. I have bought several iPhones, own a MacBook, the whole shebang. I used these, because the products you used actually were the bees knees, there were things on these devices that other companies either didn't have or ripped off from Apple. Now I watch in dismay as Apple falls further and further behind in anything remotely

original. iOS 7 was a step in a good direction, but that's only a part of the experience. I am so tired of looking at my iPhone and thinking how many things would make this thing better. The thing I have learnt from this, something I guess I should have

understood a while ago is; empires never last forever, even ones that seem so inexplicable great like Apple. Soon something else will come to push this faltering giant of his throne, be it sooner or later.



This should brighten everyone's day.

I wish it had, but among many things, brightening my day was not among them

## The News Bubble

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

### Samsung watching the time?

The Korean heavyweight has released a new accessory to complement its existing devices. Featuring a 1.6" LED screen which can play apps, messages etc., this smartwatch sees Samsung jump ahead of Apple the wearable tech world. However its low battery life and inability to pair with non Galaxy devices, make this device a bit of a hassle to use.

### NokiaSoft - MS buys part of Nokia

Probably the tightest partnership in the smartphone market today, Nokia and Microsoft have gone even further by the latter buying the smartphone part of the former. The Redmond based company hopes that this acquisition will help the windows 8 phone compete against iOS and Android with a tighter integration of software and hardware.

*Ex-Felix Technology* editor, Jason Parmar, who now works at Microsoft (who predicted a similar outcome with his article on NokiaSoft in 2011) declined to comment on the tech giant's latest buy.



Maximilian Eggl  
Yong Wen Chua  
Technology Editors



George Butcher  
IC Radio



You have a student radio station. It's in Beit's West basement, just next to the Felix office and to be frank, it's pretty awesome. We have about 10,000 CDs and vinyls down there, we host live bands from our recording studio (yep, got one of them too) and you can have listen at [www.ICRadio.com](http://www.ICRadio.com).

The best thing about us, is that any of you can come and join in, whether you want to host your very own show, make our website even more awesome, commentate at the upcoming Medics v College rugby match or go to gigs backstage and review them for us (for free of course), we need your help!

This is the best time you could possible chose to get involved with us. Freshers' Week will be our biggest yet, we are hosting live bands at both Freshers' Mingles and the Freshers' Ball (we hope you enjoy them!) and this term we want to fill out our schedule with all of your brilliant talent. At the end of this year, we will say a sad farewell to the studio as it all gets refurbished into a brand new, state of the art studio in time for October 2014.

If you want to get involved in Imperial's most fun, wide ranging and funky society, get yourself to our Freshers' Fair stand. Failing that, we are hosting our annual 'Beer and Biscuits' welcome event on the 7th October in the Physics common room at 7 o'clock. Grab a couple of friends and come and drink some of our (free) drinks, eat our food and listen to good music. See you there!



# KOP's visit to Kenya

## Kenyan Orphan Project KOP

This July Imperial College's branch of the Kenyan Orphan Project set out for their annual trip to Kenya to see the work that their efforts had made possible. Throughout the year, the group had been finding new and novel ways of raising money for their cause, be it through nights out, tube collections, or a Valentine courier service.

It was with high expectations that the students disembarked at Nairobi airport in the early morning of July 5th. They were not disappointed by any means, and extent to which they enjoyed the experience can be easily seen from the following accounts.

The students spent two weeks in west Kenya in a town called Kisumu. They had the chance to spend one week in Ombeyi feeding centre and the next week at Oasis of hope secondary school.

### Ombeyi Feeding centre

The Ombeyi feeding centre provides meals regularly for orphaned or vulnerable children. It also provides a fresh water borehole and a water management system on the site for the whole community. This centre was built by KOP funding and built by KOP students in 2007. Here the students helped with gardening, cooking and serving meals to children and then later were able to spend time with them. They also had the chance to visit some of the children's family and houses. This came as a big shock to many of the students who realised the harsh realities that many of these young children face every day.

One of the students from the programme tells us about his experiences:

"I was lucky enough to visit Ombeyi feeding centre in Kenya.

This centre feeds around 80 children who are have lost one or two of their parents or have parents who are unable to look after them. There are around 3 cooks who work very hard so that the children can have two meals a day regularly.

We got stuck in straight away and helped with cooking, gardening, and cleaning and helped with serving food to the children.

What I enjoyed most was spending time with the kids and singing and dancing to the games they showed us. I also realized how hard everyone works in the centre to help these children and it was truly an inspiration..

The home visits made us realise how lucky and privileged we are. Seeing the poverty and difficulties the children face made me even more determined to fundraise and stop children having to face such situations."



### Oasis of Hope school

Oasis of Hope school offers secondary education at a low cost to very bright and motivated children from the neighbouring slums who would otherwise not have been able to afford secondary education. New dormitories were built funded by KOP which the students from the summer team painted and decorated. They took part in lessons, taught health education and discussed gender issues with the children. Many of the KOP students were very impressed by how intelligent the children were and how keen they were to learn.

Alex Lai a member from 2013 summer team had this to say:

"Oasis of Hope is a huge inspiration, having 200 very talented students, the majority of whom have had a tough upbringing. We were immersed into their daily routine from attending their lessons to doing scouts as their extra curricular activity. At the end of the week we were treated to many performances from the students, such as poetry, drama, singing and dancing. These performances showed how talented these students are and how inspirational they could be to other students around the world.

The trip has had many thoughts and emotions from excitement and joy to the realization of the harsh reality many face here, we only saw a small part of Kenya, but big changes can be made to small parts. It is a trip I would encourage everyone to undertake, as not only is it highly enjoyable but it opens your eyes more to the world."

### HOVIC

The students were also lucky to spend some time in HOVIC. HOpe for Victoria's Children (HOVIC) is a weekend feeding programme for over 100 street children. Street children in Kenya face many hardships from lack of shelter to physical and sexual abuse. HOVIC helps these children by not only providing meals but also helps with their education development and medical care. They try and teach valuable vocational training to the chil-

dren which can help them get jobs and become self sufficient so that they do not have to go back to streets. KOP also funds a number of street children through primary education and additional support for those within HOVIC in secondary education.

To ensure the children's safety KOP also helped with the purchase of a property in Kisumu for 'night shelter' where up to a 100 children can sleep at night safely.

A student tells us of his experience visiting HOVIC:

"The HOVIC centre for street children really opened our eyes to a different side to the lives of children we had met so far. The children here had been through some unimaginably traumatic lives and the centre was a way to allow them to be children again. We were also lucky enough to be able to play a game of football against them, which was actually quite a challenge."

After coming back from the projects everyday students were able to wind down and socialise at the rooftop bar. They also had a chance to visit many cultural locations such as Kit Makai, a religious place for the locals.

A student from the trip said this about the social aspect of KOP summer programme:

"Although in the daytime is extremely rewarding and enjoyable, the events in the evenings and weekends are really fun and great way to get to know everyone in the group. These include karaoke and bar nights and visiting the equator and the Masai market."

This annual trip opens the eyes of many of the students to the ugly face of poverty in developing countries such as Kenya and how the most vulnerable people of society suffer from it. The money raised is incredibly valuable. The money raised by the students transforms the lives of so many orphans and gives them a fighting chance in life and to help them fulfil their dreams.

### Background

The Kenyan Orphan Project (KOP) is a charity and society that supports

vulnerable children and orphans in Kenya through health, education and social welfare projects. KOP is supported by a number of UK universities including Imperial College (since 2010) who each make a huge and valuable difference to the lives of hundreds of children.

Each summer, a group of Imperial Students form the summer team who travel to Kisumu, West Kenya, for two weeks to directly work on the projects that we support. You could find yourself teaching children about health-care, helping to build schools, playing games with the children or helping with the feeding programmes created for street children, whilst also being able to explore Kenya. We place a big emphasis on welcoming all members and holding regular socials.

Whether you're looking to personally make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children (whilst also seeing Kenya's amazing wildlife, scenery and culture), an outlet for your creativity, being involved with KOP's wider activities (such as the Big Chill Music Festival) or being part of a growing society that supports extremely worthwhile projects, KOP has a place for everyone.

All members are encouraged to join in, whether they choose to be a part of the summer team or not, and we will help to support all possible fundraising ideas and challenges!

To find out more about us and how you can get involved, visit our stall at Freshers' Fair or send us an email at [cag-kop@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:cag-kop@imperial.ac.uk)

You can also visit the KOP website or follow us on Facebook by joining the 'Imperial KOP' facebook page. The links for these respectively are given below:

#### Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/KOP-Imperial/404156182982496?fref=ts>

#### Facebook group

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/114706818558259/>



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# CLUBS & SOCS

# The El Salvador Project

Robert Wright reports back from their latest construction project

**T**his summer, the annual El Salvador Project saw a team of 10 Imperial College students once again embark on a journey to Central America. Their mission this time was to upgrade a set of houses constructed in 2008 that, following a structural analysis by the engineering consultancy ARUP, were deemed to be dangerously unstable under certain seismic conditions. El Salvador being a seismically active part of the world meant that a retrofit was in order.

The retrofit was initially trialled in 2011 in a small village in El Salvador known as Costa Rica (confusing, we know). Here, a total of 28 of these houses were retrofitted. As part of this year's project, the team visited Costa Rica in order to check whether there had been any earthquakes and more importantly the condition of the retrofitted houses. Thankfully all 28 houses were standing despite some reported seismic activity, which, together with some minor modifications, gave us the green light to continue with this year's retrofitting project in the much larger town of San Jose Villanueva.

San Jose Villanueva is home to approximately 20,000 people so it naturally takes on a different feel to the

previous village, which was mainly jungle terrain with a very large lake. The team stayed in the centre of town in a rented house that was equipped with two rooms (an open plan kitchen and bedroom for ten), an outside flushing toilet (the team were thrilled after a week of the latrine in Costa Rica), plumbing that only worked intermittently due to water shortages, and finally a local shop worker Jordie (the other tenant and man-with-the-plan should anything in the house break). And oh did it break. Blocked toilets, burst pipes, leaking roofs, this was definitely not living the life of Riley.

When we weren't battling it out with the day to day difficulties of living in a third world country, we were of course retrofitting houses. When we first arrived in town we had a meeting with the community in order to find out who wanted the work done and when would be a convenient time for us to visit their home and carry out the work.

The actual retrofit involved bracing the existing structure with timber beams as shown in the picture. This is done by bolting the internal beams through the wall to external steel plates positioned at each column.

In addition, existing wall cracks are filled with a local substance known as 'Cemento Plastico', and the house is painted with waterproof paint to help protect against the monsoon season. The project is hands on, with the entire team practising their DIY skills through the use of power tools and a good old fashioned hammer. We try to get the locals involved in the work too if they are willing, and this helps to promote information exchange and skills development. The official language in El Salvador is Spanish and naturally we had translators with us to help do all this.

Whilst the weekdays were devoted to work, at weekends we went into tourist mode. The pacific side of El Salvador is a famous surf spot and the team spent some time here 'surfing' and chilling on the beach. Other weekend ventures included clubbing in the capital city San Salvador, tombstoning off 10m tall waterfalls (there are taller ones though if you dare), and a trip to ancient sites containing Mayan ruins.

This year's project has been a great experience and we hope the work has been beneficial. The project this year has undergone a slight transformation what with a committee now in place to



El Salvador Project

Their mums are going to be so angry at how messy their rooms are

oversee the running of the project and new long term objectives that focus on engineering, evaluation and education. As in previous years, we continue to work with the UK registered charity Engage for Development (founded by Imperial College alumni) and the local NGO in El Salvador, REDES, who advise and help out.

Recruitment for summer 2014 will soon be underway. Students in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (where the project

is based) will automatically receive a recruitment email, but applications from students in other departments are also welcomed. If you'd like to join us, just follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/ElSalvadorProject](https://facebook.com/ElSalvadorProject)) or Twitter (@IC\_ESP) and look out for the recruitment email. We're particularly interested in hearing from Spanish speakers. For information and enquiries, email us on [elsalvad@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:elsalvad@imperial.ac.uk) or check out our website at [www.elsalvadorproject.org.uk](http://www.elsalvadorproject.org.uk).

# My Speech, My Little story

Yi Liu reminisces about his first Toastmasters speech

**L**adies and Gentlemen, Imagine yourself standing on the stage with a thousand pairs of eyes staring blankly at you, anticipating the glorious moment when your mouth opens to push out the words that you have prepared for so long. Somewhere in your heart, you reassure yourself again and again that it is all going to be okay, but then what comes out is nothing more than a struggling, noiseless 'pop'. Does this sound familiar?

Public speaking is a little misleading devil that haunts us in our daily lives. When we look our student presidential candidates running from lecture theater to lecture theater to speak in front of us before the lecture starts, it seems to be an easy, smooth, perhaps even enjoyable experience to them. However, when these inevitable moments eventually come to you, it seems that even two to three audi-

ence members are enough to form a formidable wall in your heart. This is the moment that you start to wonder, "What's wrong with me?"

Let me share a little story. As a first year Imperial undergraduate, I had the fortune of discovering a young club hidden in the Mechanical Engineering department called Imperial College Speakers. Amazingly, it is part of a global organization that dedicates itself to nurturing great speakers and leaders, Toastmasters International (a tip for the job-seeking students: HR departments know this organization well). I remember the first meeting quite vividly: the joyous, relaxed atmosphere that illuminated the air, sandwiched with the slight nervousness from each member as they stood up on the stage and started speaking. Yes, this is a club that asks you to make a speech.

I had my share of embarrassment.

I stood in front of 20 people, legs slightly trembling and definitely feeling very anxious about my speech. So as I tried to make a desperate attempt to calm myself down, I began to shout in fragments: "GO-OD EV-E-NING LA-DI-ES..." I sounded like a spoilt microphone that only makes a sound when you bang it on its corners. However, the amazing thing about Toastmaster is that immediately after the speech, the audience gave me an approving glance that even I found it to be unbelievable. Hey, all the members are just here to learn, so this is a challenge with no failure, it is just another experience.

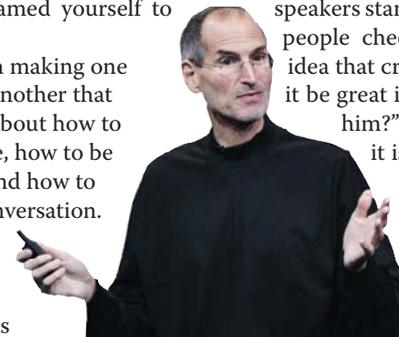
As I went down the journey towards being a speaker, I learn a few lessons and cleared a few misconceptions. First of all, speaking can be improved by experience. If you ever have the chance of audience a speech by Ex-president Michelle, you will find her

to be the most graceful lady on stage (off-Stage too). You can't really believe (I still can't) that a human can be so composed on stage, even though the evidence is blatantly just in front of you. However, behind this grace, behind the composure, behind all this unbelievable confidence, is nothing more than two years of public speaking experience. Trust me, if you are willing to go that extra mile, eventually you will be a better speaker than you ever dreamed yourself to be.

It is through making one speech after another that I learnt a lot about how to inspire people, how to be humorous and how to carry on a conversation. But it is not only about the skills that I acquired, it is

the feeling of accomplishment, the satisfaction that was imprinted on my heart when people just cheered me on after a successful speech. It is cliché but the truth is that every time members come to me and thank me for inspiring them, I am proud of my speech because it is changing people's life one at a time.

Now, it is time for me to end off with a little scenario for you to consider. When we look at the professional speakers standing in the limelight with people cheering so loudly, there is idea that crosses our mind "wouldn't it be great if one day I can speak like him?" (Admit it!) Well, maybe it is time for you to give this thought a little nudge. Who knows, maybe twenty years down the road, you will be thankful that little decision you make here.





# Blog standard quality

The Hangman reviews the first blog from YOUR dear leader

Today, *The Hangman* critically evaluates the Sabbatical Blog written by our incumbent union president David 'Shorts' Goldsmith.

There's only one possible thing that could be worse to read, and since they don't do death warrants in this country anymore, this blog post moves swiftly to the top of my list.

Your sphincter should already be twitching by the time you've read the three exclamation points in the title, but your anus goes from 'puckered' to 'Niagara' by the time you read the body of the text.

"You're soon to be immersed in the madness of freshers' week". David and I have wildly different definitions of the word 'madness'. For me, a mad night out is not an awkward queue for expensive drinks while a 30-something DJ spits out the playlist he wrote for his niece's Bar Mitzvah party.

"Even the shyest students are receptive to social interaction!". I don't know about you, but I was always taught to stay very far away from men

who use the word 'receptive' when they're trying to get you to come to a night out.

Our glorious and eternal leader would like to encourage all of the freshers not to "take it too seriously at the beginning", but some of us don't do medicine, and actually have to do work in the first few weeks. Some of us even have tests to take and lectures to sleep through. But it's sage advice, after all, David didn't get where he is today by 'working'.

The third point just abandons any semblance of style with a three-line title and no subtitle. The classic joke is that doctors have bad handwriting, but will we one day see an article in the *Lancet* by David 'Barbie sold separately' Goldsmith that consists solely of a 4 page Abstract?

When I picture him writing this, I picture a nightmarish creature crouching upon an office chair in the dead of night, while its hideous, bloated tongue lolls across the keyboard to create words that our mere human bodies are able to pronounce. Perhaps its this language difference from



Cyclopean to English that makes the article so terrible, perhaps he rushed the article as he hurried to don his human skin before his next meeting to decide how best to convert human souls into tuition fees. Who knows?

What I do know is that whatever dark recess of the world he pulled this post from, the creatures that dwell must be the ones responsible for the most recent blight upon humanity: YOLO.a

The acronym that came to be synonymous with a devil-may-care attitude held by those that desperately fill their social media with a thick black ichor known as swag. All joking aside, this is just plain embarrassing. The man has one job this week, and that is to try to make the Union look good.

It's a shame you only live once, because he's really mucked that up.



Ken



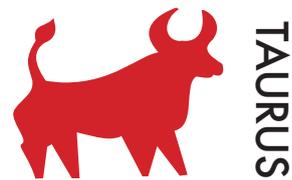
David

WHICH IS THE REAL PERSON?  
See page 52 for the answer



ARIES

This week you looking up and down your corridor in halls... So many possible friends, where to start? You go to your computer and code an algorithm that devises the most efficient route to take. The results shocks you. **DIE NERD DIE!!!!**



TAURUS

You're going to have a relatively good week. You'll only throw up once, sleep in one lecture and get a C on your introductory maths test. Well done you! As you sit back and enjoy this week of peace you realise you can smell smoke. You wake up to see your roommate burning your textbooks with black candles.



GEMINI

You arrive at university with a big smile and lots of hope. Once you get into your new room while your parents unpack your things you decide to read the newspaper laid carefully on your bed. You turn to Hangman and laugh at the brilliantly written horoscopes until you lose consciousness.



CANCER

You hold your breath for a dare. When you recover from your lack of oxygen Freshers' week is over, nobody wants to be your friend and the rats in Fisher Hall have eaten the sandwich your mother left you. Welcome to Imperial!



LEO

You see the Freshers' arriving with their "14" hoodies and bright smiles. This only serves to remind you how old you are and how much dignity and self-esteem you've lost while trying to get your PhD. You sigh and reach into your desk drawer where your hand slides over your Felicies before firmly gripping your trusty bottle of vodka.



VIRGO

As you reach college you realise you've forgotten your books, calculator and glasses. You've also forgotten to brush your teeth and comb your hair but you assume nobody will notice. As you enter the lecture theatre and walk towards the front everybody turns to look at you and silence falls. You jump onto the stage, head to the lectern and begin the lecture.



LIBRA

THIS WEEK YOU SHARE YOUR HOROSCOPE. The Hangman just doesn't care enough about his job. You've just arrived at Imperial from an all-girls school and are amazed at the sheer number of boys there are on campus. You expect to have a fun Freshers' week where you plan to make lots of friends and forge new experiences. Instead you have a week where boys only mumble in your presence and can't look you in the eyes while the other girls have disappeared off to the UCL halls to find some people with real social skills. You resign yourself to four years of misery and loneliness and quietly plot to take over.



SCORPIO



SAGITTARIUS

WOW WOW WOW WOW! A real life Bow and Arrow set! You get to ride through the streets of London on your trusty steed "Arriva", shooting arrows at apples on people's heads as you pass by. Except that this is not a dream, you are arrested by the police and removed from Arriva in shame. Jail, do not pass GO!



CAPRICORN

This week you arrive at university and finally see your new room. You see a curious newspaper resting on your bed as you walk in to the room. While you read the paper, your parents pack away your things, and- oh, wait. Damn, can I start the question again? What do you mean the exam's almost over? This will affect my future!



AQUARIUS

This week you decide it would be funny to tip a bin full of beans over unsuspecting passers by through the window in your room. You pick up the bin, it's heavier than expected. You struggle to carry it over to the window and with a huge heave chuck the bin out. But wait, the window restricters! Damn, it's gonna be a smelly winter.



PISCES

This week you decide that you'll follow whatever your horoscope has planned for you. Well, it's a Wednesday evening and you're bored. You decide to head over to the Beit Quad and visit the Felix Office in the West Basement with a crate of beer. You wake up 3 years chained to an iMac in the office wearing glasses. Damn it!



Puzzles Commander:  
**VACANT**  
puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# PUZZLES

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

## Freshers' Wordsearch

**Words to find:**

Bernoulli	Tereshkova
Curie	Timoshenko
Terzagh	Hypatia
Anning	Fleming
Gauss	Goodall
Meitner	Einstein
Huxley	Hawking
McClintock	Newton
Tesla	Feynman
	Noether

Plus there are six super secret words in there. First two people to find all of the 25 words gets a Netflix voucher that gives you free Netflix for 6 months!

## WANTED

## PUZZLES COMMANDER

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# Tour de Football: Poland Edition

## Spencer Bennett goes on a lads holiday (they even got matching shirts)

**T**our began on the final Friday of the summer term. Amongst the celebrations, that are usual at this time of year, there was a sense of trepidation amongst some of the younger members of the touring party. What lay ahead was the football club's summer tour to Poland by the end of which this feeling of trepidation had been truly justified.

After a feast of Librarian's Michelin starred Bizzquick© the 22 of us began the journey to Krakow. K.Arthur arrived just in time with another story to add to his growing anthology. The hostel staff in Krakow were treated to our unique culture of box (which the Union's patrons enjoy week in week out) with the traditional tour addition of bong. Our first night in Krakow was the scene for one of the great discoveries in human history. To the list of Columbus and the Americas, Newton and gravity, Fleming and penicillin, the discovery of Shakers by ICUAFC can be added. Georgia, who just hours earlier had been reduced to tears by a mop, was now delighted whilst S.Campbell and Marius formed a persistent wading team.

Sunday saw our first footballing encounter of the week against Poland. Spirits were high before kick-off and after an extensive warm up we locked horns with Poland. After a bright start by ICUAFC the experience and technical ability that is common at international level allowed Poland to gain the upper hand. Despite Gayson's best efforts ICUAFC found themselves 2-0 down at half-time. With some Spanish flair coming off the bench and Librarian taking 5 minutes to calm down the second half performance showed some signs of improvement with chances spurned by Reply all, Spaniard 2 and (most impressively) Dr. Love. Dr. Love's maraud from centre back went unnoticed by the Poles and his gamble at the back stick so nearly resulted in a headed goal. The effect of chasing the ball began to show in the last 15 minutes and a disappointing performance ended in a comfortable win for Poland. That night the Spaniards' misery was compounded by their national team's appalling performance. Napoleon's DJing was well received but Shakers beckoned. Later, Emmanuel Frimpong watched on in disgust as Sausage and Crab committed animal rights atrocities on Krakow's pigeons although Sausage's commitment to



MACIEJ WITKOWSKI

this cause must be commended. The line "can you blow up my shark" was surprisingly successful until Spaniard 1 decided this was dishonourable and confiscated the prop.

Jewsuf definitely not completing the shooting challenge was followed by an afternoon of pint-seeing in the most beautiful city in the world. K.Arthur abused a free-hug initiative and Sergei quoted his doctor more times than is decent.

The next day saw ICUAFC's second match of tour this time facing up against some local street youths. A rousing rendition of the national anthems was followed by a cagey opening 30 seconds after which Sausage had had enough and decided to give the youths a head-start by throwing the ball into his own net. Marius' selection policy was being called into question when Sausage produced another goalkeeping clanger to see ICUAFC 2-0 down early on. The massed crowds watched aghast as Gruby Lys produced a spectacular overhead kick

and Spaniard 3 took an unprovoked dive. In the second half goals from Librarian and Marius, the first a deft chip over the keeper and the second a casual pile-driver from range, were not enough to earn victory against the tenacious youths. Live music helped us forget the day's defeat and our final night in the most beautiful city in the world saw Librarian bring dishonour on his family as No stood watch from his outpost in shakers and Georgia's selfies reached new heights.

The coach journey to Wroclaw began with some shock revelations which Blue Steel found difficult to accept. Napoleon was crowned the second most hated man in the club (Myles Jarvis just pipping him) and "6/10, house party" was repeated several times. A combination of S.Campbell's awful musical taste, a four hour wait in traffic and the necessity for Spanish penises never to piss alone meant that morale was low upon arrival in Wroclaw. This was not helped by Spaniard 1's determination

to shower his homeland in honour regardless of the accuracy of his tales. However, the beauty of Wroclaw combined with Shambolic's love of hotties led to a pleasant evening. The next day's dinner was rudely interrupted by some unwelcome visitors who were suitably punished for the presence. Crab made a swift exit to propose to local children leaving a furious Blue Steel with the bill. By this point bowel control was becoming an issue with K.Arthur and No retiring early.

Our final encounter saw ICUAFC take on Wroclaw Institute of Technology. As both teams felt each other out in the opening stages it was the home side that were nearly gifted an early goal by a hilarious misjudgement by Phone Shop in goal. Charging out of his area our stand-in keeper could only watch as the ball bounced high over his head. Fortunately, finishing ability appeared not to be an entry requirement for our opponent's team. With Gayson pulling the strings up top and Spaniard 1 having the game

of his life ICUAFC gained the upper hand without ever threatening the goal. On the stroke of half time the home side grabbed a goal that proved to be decisive. Despite a late maraud from Phone Shop and goal line heroics from Georgia and Dr. Love a 1-0 defeat was the only reward for a solid performance which was always going to have an end of tour feeling to it. Having been mesmerized by Librarian for the previous 90 minutes the bumper crowd of 17 showed their appreciation, as did the rest of the team, and he was inevitably awarded player of tour. Honourable mentions to Dr. Love, Emma's fit, Georgia and Sausage (Sausage!) who also gave inspirational performances over the week.

There was time for just one more piwo before the squad headed home to bask in the memories and pain that the previous week had created. A wise aeronautics PhD student once said that by the end of tour you will want to go home. He was yet again proven correct.

## Game to edit? Be Sports Editor, email [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)