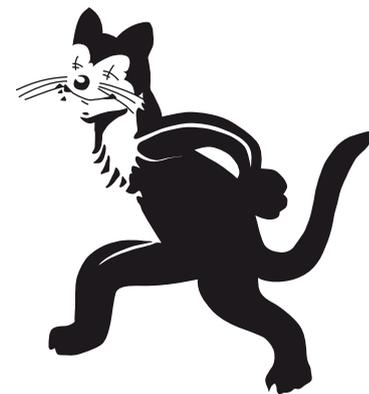


FELIX

"Keep the
Cat Free"

22/11/13
Issue 1561
felixonline.co.uk



CAMPUS SERVICES DEPT. CONTACTS STUDENTS ABOUT CLEANING ERROR

Joseph Letts
Editor-in-Chief

Last week Felix reported on College Campus Services' decisions to change the campus cleaning services during a re-tendering of the cleaning contract. It transpired that one of the department's decisions included reducing the frequency of cleaning in bedrooms and communal areas, at one stage justifying this by explaining this had enabled the potential more frequent cleaning of other areas such as Ethos and the Library Café.

However, many students in halls have been upset by the way in which the changes were handled, in particular the mistakes made with the accommodation licence. Even though the decisions may have been signed during Summer, because Campus Services neglected to update the contract, many students feel as though they have signed up for a more frequent cleaning service than they currently receive.

After our article on Friday, residents received a better explanation of the situation from Campus Services via email this Tuesday. The email is replicated (as is) below:

"Dear Hall Residents,

This summer the College-wide cleaning contract was re-tendered for the first time in over seven years. As a result, we now receive a more specific and flexible service for the same cost. In response to feedback from students, Campus Services used this opportunity to make changes to the cleaning services provided in halls of residence as well as across other College facilities that we operate for students and staff. These changes were not made to cut costs and we will always aim to provide a high standard of cleaning to our residents.

The changes:

Bedrooms are cleaned once a month and more thoroughly. Kitchens are



JOSEPH LETTS

now cleaned three days per week, including once on a Saturday. The bins still continue to be emptied daily and recycling bins are emptied according to local council collection rotas (usually 3-4 times per week).

Following these changes we have been consulting with Imperial College Union on how else to improve hall cleaning provisions. As a result we are in the process of making cleaning equipment readily available in every hall and we encourage students to make use of them as and when required. Information posters in every kitchen will inform students of their location and will include details on local arrangements for cleaning and bin collection.

All of the changes are being monitored and we will shortly be conducting a

review in co-operation with Imperial College Union and halls committees to ensure the current service is adequate. Our priority is providing an effective cleaning service and we will continue to modify the service where this is not the case.

There has been some concern over the College Accommodation Licence (2013-2014) which includes details of the previous cleaning arrangements in halls. Because of tight timescales, the clause referring to these arrangements was not amended, however this was a genuine error. We apologise for not contacting you earlier about these changes.

The Accommodation Licence is rarely changed? and before there are any changes in the future Campus Services will work closely with the Vice-

Provost (Education), the Director of Student Support and Imperial College Union to establish the best approach for consultation and to ensure any changes are effectively communicated to students..."

While the Campus Services department has admitted to making an error while handling the cleaning contract, for many students this last message leaves so many questions unanswered. There has still been no mention of the legality of continuing the current cleaning service, given that the Accommodation License that binds halls residents and College states that rooms will be cleaned weekly instead of monthly.

However, a positive note in this issue has been that during consultation **continued on page 3...**

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Screenshot of the
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REP WEEK



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Waffling On

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BOOKS

Short Story

Part One of Eoghan Totten's short story, "Raw Words"



FILM

The Oscars

Film Editor John Park makes predictions about the Oscars 2014 Best Leading Actors



COMMENT



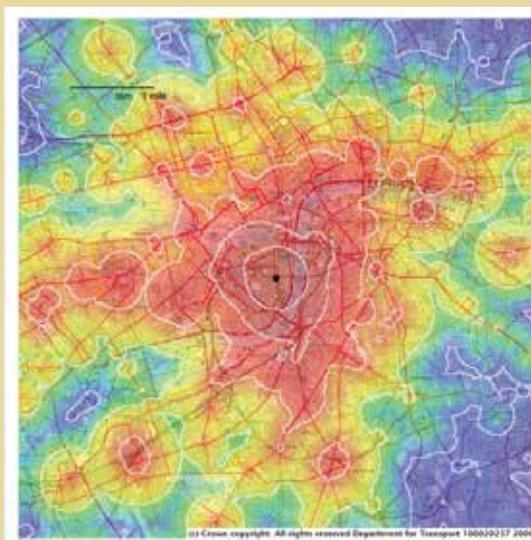
Confessions of a GTA: Part 6

Ever wondered why your exam papers sometimes look more tearstreaked than when you handed them in?

Commonwealth: Beginning of the End?

What's happening with Sri Lanka and the Commonwealth?

College Travel Survey



Travel Heat Map for journeys in London, courtesy of TFL

College is running a Student Travel Survey. They plan to use the data to evaluate current College transport policy and shape sustainable travel plans for the future.

If you you'd like to help, go to <http://bit.ly/I30QHR>.

Most importantly, there's a chance to win an £100 voucher for Amazon!

Closing soon, don't miss out!



Want to know what Felix thinks about the cleaning changes, why Michael Chessum got 'imself arrested, or what the Paladin will say next to the Druid? Make your way to **p14**.

Erratum

Erm... Last week, the centrefold was off-centre and there were a few teeny-weeny other mistakes. Oh, well, it's almost Christmas, term's almost done and the snow is approaching. Things could be worse. Oh wait... revision.

LOLCAT OF THE WEEK: More from teh Lolcat editor



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Nida Mahmud,
Philippa Skett
news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

continued from page 1...

with the Union, Campus Services has decided to make cleaning equipment more accessible to all students (as of the above email) and plan to give students a greater amount of information about the equipment and the cleaning services amount halls.

This is a step in the right direction, however Campus Services does not seem to have acknowledged the inconvenience that has been caused to students so far, including the state some residents' rooms have reached while not able to access cleaning equipment available for student use.

Last week Felix posed several questions to Campus Services that have yet to be answered, including asking for more information about the student feedback that was consulted when making the decision to reduce bedroom cleaning frequency (especially in relation to how many students took part in the feedback and how many strongly wished to have their rooms cleaned less often). Felix also asked about how students had been actively consulted during the decision making (as significant stakeholders) and whether the department had considered the effects less frequently cleaned rooms might have in attracting pests.

Felix still awaits a response from Campus Services on these issues, as well as further clarification on the legal aspect on the decision.

If you have been affected by the changes to cleaning in halls, or hold any strong views on the subject, send a letter to the Editor at felix@ic.ac.uk.

London Underground plans radical changes to tube system by 2015

Joseph Letts
Editor-in-Chief

London Underground and the Mayor of London announced new changes that will have a large impact on London's tube system. Under the proposed changes by 2015 most manned ticket offices at tube stations will be closed, leading to a loss of 750 jobs. These changes have been set in motion as part of a plan to reduce TfL's budget by approximately £50 million every year.

Londoners received a significant improvement in services as part of the proposed plans, with several tube lines (including the Piccadilly, Victoria and Jubilee lines) set to run 24-hours a day on Fridays and Saturdays.

These plans, while increasing nighttime mobility for several groups of people (esp. students.) also modernise the tube, bringing it closer to the standard of other systems, such as New York's 24/7/365 Subway system.

Union or BUCS? Crackdown on initiations in clubs

Joseph Letts
Editor-In-Chief

Jonathan Peek
Reporter

On Tuesday afternoon the Union sent an email to all officers of Union clubs to which they attached the "Alcohol Code of Conduct for Clubs, Societies & Projects". This email said that while the Union recognises that "social activities are an enjoyable aspect of membership of many of our Clubs, Societies & Projects... any encouragement of the consumption of excessive amounts of alcohol must not occur."

While the Union, as the licence holder of the Beit Quadrangle and as the organisation to which all clubs belong, is justified in stating the rules and expected standards that Union clubs are expected to adhere to when consuming alcohol, after reading the contents of the recent email Felix wonders if this most recent missive has been written as a response to specific incidents, specifically, whether any sports clubs have been caught carrying out initiations – especially in light of the fact that the Code of Conduct had already been sent to all officers earlier in the term (original email dated Oct 2, 2013).

The email focuses on initiation ceremonies and related issues, particularly emphasising that: "Any initiation ceremony or other compulsory or effectively compulsory degrading ritual, regardless of the name or advertising of the event, which affects the physical or mental well-being of any individual, is not permitted."

We wonder whether this email is reactionary and, if so, why is there no clear example of an/the offending Club, Society or Project being disciplined – something the email takes great care to detail.

We are also surprised that despite saying "the Union has developed [the code of conduct]" (bit.ly/17NQwPr), we can find no record on the Union's website of the Union actually accepting the code at any formally convened committee meeting (Trustee Board, Union Council, Union Executive, etc).

However, an alternative explanation might be derived from the fact that BUCS' (British Universities & Colleges Sport) recently published Policy on Initiations and Anti-Social Behaviour (Oct. 2013), in which BUCS states "From October 2013 all institutions must provide BUCS with a link to their code of conduct in relation to initiations, and alcohol abuse in sport. Members which do not comply will not be permitted to remain members of BUCS."

Have you seen or taken part in any initiation-style events? If so, contact us.

College Joins NTU Renaissance Engineering Programme

Nida Mahmud
Writer

The Nanyang Technological University's (NTU) Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP) picks the top 50 engineering students that are trained to be the "Engineering Leaders of Tomorrow". Last week, Imperial signed a contract with NTU agreeing to partake in this scheme.

The REP students study: engineering, science, technology, business, economics, and entrepreneurship for four and a half years. They graduate with a Bachelors in Engineering and a Masters in Technology Management. Pupils then spend a year in an international university. Imperial will be hosting 20 REP students in 2014 in a variety of engineering departments.

Professor Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education), commented that: "Imperial and NTU are natural partners. NTU already hosts Imperial's most important international collaboration, LKCMedicine, and the potential for further connections in engineering education is really exciting. Imperial is honoured to join such a prestigious scheme. NTU's Renaissance Engineering programme will only strengthen Imperial's already world-class student body in engineering."

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Jeff Magee stated: "Engineering has a vital role to play in addressing many of today's most important challenges, and we must inspire and harness global talent to develop the next generation of engineering leaders. NTU's Renaissance Engineering Programme aims to do just that and we at Imperial are very pleased to be able to contribute to the education of the students."

Freddy Boey, the NTU Provost Professor, said:

"We believe in training our brightest minds to be leaders and engineers of the highest calibre, with not just in-depth knowledge in a specific field, but also a huge breath of knowledge that will enable them to lead interdisciplinary teams to solve complex problems faced by the world today. One of the ways can we do that is to by sending our top students overseas, to be exposed to and inspired by other brilliant young minds from different cultures, nationalities and disciplines. We are also very pleased to continue strengthening NTU's strong relationship with Imperial College London through this tie-up, which will bring a new dimension to learning and exposure for our students with their excellent curriculum and their vast and illustrious network of alumni worldwide."

Imperial Born BBOXX Gets Silicon Valley Funding

Nida Mahmud
Writer

BBOXX, a spinout company from Imperial, brings solar energy products to developing countries has been given investment backing from a Silicon Valley venture capital company. BBOXX have received \$1.5m backing from Vinod Khosla, who runs a billion dollar venture capitalist firm. Additionally, the company has also received \$400,000 from Synergy Growth, a British venture capital fund.

With 1.4 billion people living without electricity leading to a poor quality of life, it is not an unreasonable aim for BBOXX to try to provide electricity to 20 million by 2020.

BBOXX was founded by a group Imperial students who graduated in 2010: Mansoor Hamayun, Laurent Van Houke and Chris Baker-Brian. Together they have created an all-in-one product for home use that can be installed easily and cheaply. The system consists of a solar panel, a

control panel and a battery.

The BBOXX team initially created a charity called e.quinox at Imperial, where students produced and installed solar power in villages in countries like Tanzania and Rwanda. The CEO of BBOXX and the founding chairman of e.quinox, Mansoor Hamayun said that: "when we set up e.quinox all those years ago we had no intention of doing it on a commercial level. The aim when we established e.quinox was to deliver solar power for free. However, to provide power to millions of people around the world, we knew we needed more funds and turning our idea into an ethical, clean technology business enabled us to raise capital and export our ideas around the world. With BBOXX Ltd we wanted to create the products that did not currently exist that we knew customers really wanted", says Mansoor.

"We realised from early on that we were providing not only a service – helping people to generate their own solar power – but we were also developing long-term relationships with customers via sales of products. This business model is the foundation for our growing success."

Sponsored Editorial

Student Discounts At Fresh Hairdressers 70m from South Kensington tube



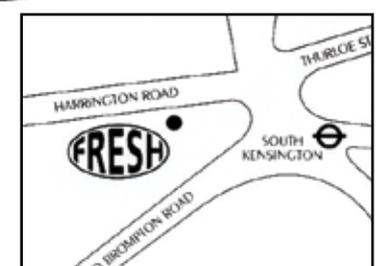
Men's cuts £22 (normally £35)
All over clipper cuts from £10
Women's cut and rough dry £28
Women's cut and salon finish blow-dry £38 (normally £55)
Highlights from only £40

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Check out our website: www.freshhairdressers.co.uk

REP WEEK

Rep Week next week!

#loveyourrep

#LoveYourRep

Nat Kempston
Deputy President (Education)



Rep Week is starting on Monday and provides a platform to celebrate the great changes that have taken place with the help of your Academic Representation Network. Just last month a record number of students voted in our Your Rep Elections and there are now over 430 Academic Reps working, for you, in every department of College. Their aim is to improve your education.

There have already been some great successes in your department and we will be showcasing some of these throughout the week, using our 'You said, we did' campaign. Keep checking the Union website and follow our hashtag #loveyourrep on Twitter.

Your reps will be wearing bright red 'love your rep' t-shirts all week (25-29 November) so keep an eye out for them. They will be gathering your suggestions for improvements to teaching, learning and facilities in your department. Feel free to give them any tips on how your time at Imperial can be improved. You can do this by emailing, Facebook messaging or talking to them in person.

The 700+ tips collected from last year's Rep Weeks were typed up and sent to your academic reps, who were encouraged to bring them up at their next Staff-Student Committee. So don't think we just collect your suggestions and leave them – we read each and every one of them! We will be rewarding the three best suggestions with £10 Union vouchers and you can even tweet your suggestions by giving your course and using #loveyourrep on Twitter.

If you want to talk to your reps in person then come to the Junior Common Room between **12:00 -14:00 Monday-Friday**. We also have Postgraduate reps in h (h-bar) and Silwood Park campus on **Wednesday 12:00- 14:00**.

Don't know who your rep is? Log into imperialcollegeunion.org and your reps will appear in the side bar, or take a look at our Rep A to Z: <http://bit.ly/IgI7aW>

Also taking place during Rep Week is the Student ICT forum, where reps meet up with members of ICT and eLearning staff. If you have any ICT-related problems (yes, including Panopto!) then email your rep to let them know BEFORE Thursday and then they can bring your problems and suggestions to the forum. This is a really useful way of bringing together the ICT team with students and previous meetings have been really successful at sorting out your ICT problems. I will write a blog on everything that was discussed and circulate it to you via your reps so you'll know all the outcomes that resulted from your comments and suggestions. Your voice will be heard.

Reps work hard to get the best educational experience for you all, so if you see a rep make sure you show them some love!

DPE love, Nat x



Academic Representation Network (ARN) facts:

There are 450 positions in the ARN – although this number fluctuates slightly from year to year with changes to courses and PhD groups.

This year's rep elections reached 27% turnout, which is the highest ever turnout for these elections. This turnout would have placed us 11th nationally in the SABB/Big elections – so this is an amazing total!

Over 90% of rep positions have been filled – but there are still some vacancies! (3rd year JMC anyone??)

You can find your rep by looking at our A to Z: <http://bit.ly/IgI7aW>

27 candidates stood for the position of Year 1 Medicine Rep.

Over 300 reps have been trained in person so far this year.

There are over 150 Staff Student Committees that take place across the whole College

770 suggestions were made by you at last year's Rep weeks

Rep Week: Where To Find Us

Monday

12-1400: Stall in JCR

Tuesday

12-1400: Stall in JCR

Wednesday

12-1400: Stall in JCR
12-1400: Stall at Silwood Campus
12-1400: Stall in h (h-bar)

Thursday

12-1400: Stall in JCR
12-1330: Student ICT Forum (Meeting Room 3, Union Building)
18-1900: Education and Representation Board (Meeting Rooms 1&2, Union Building)

Friday

12-1400: Stall in JCR



The Student Academic Choice Awards are back!

After the huge success of last year's awards the Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) are back, and this year they are bigger than ever! In case you haven't heard of them, the SACAs are awards for academics and support staff, nominated and chosen entirely by students. The awards are designed to celebrate and reward good teaching and emphasise teaching as a skill of equal worth and value as research. We also want to build a community in which students, academics and staff all feel ownership of the development and delivery of their course. These awards are a chance for students to say thank you to those members of staff that have had a positive impact on their time at Imperial.

There are eight awards in total that will cover all faculties, departments and campuses. There will also be specific prizes available for those who supervise doctoral students, teach masters students, and work in professional roles within College. The awards aren't designed to be a

popularity contest but a recognition of innovation, skill, engagement and energy that students have received from academics.

We want the best members of staff to win these awards, so we need your nominations! Nominations open on Monday 25 November, and all you have to do is go online to union.ic.ac.uk/SACAs and fill in the simple online nomination form.

The shortlists will be drawn up and winners selected by student panels – making these truly your awards. The shortlisted candidates will be announced online and in Felix before the winners will be announced at the swanky black-tie awards ceremony in May. If your nominee is shortlisted you have the chance to get a ticket to the main event, and trust me, you don't want to miss out on one of the most glamorous nights of the year.

Last year over 550 nominations were made for over 250 members of staff, which were sifted down to 42 shortlisted candidates by panels of students. This year our target is 1000 nominations, so get nominating from Monday 25 at union.ic.ac.uk/SACAs



Award Categories

The awards available in the SACAs reflect the priorities of current and past Imperial students, and all have the common theme of 'excellence'. The awards aim to reward members of staff who display the elements of excellent academic practice that our members believe are most important, such as high-quality feedback or the use of innovative teaching techniques. Through national and local surveys, staff-student committees, and the individual opinions of our Academic Representatives, we developed the following categories and their shortlisting criteria.



Best Teaching for Undergraduates – Excellence in teaching is characterised by enthusiasm, the use of original and accessible teaching methods as well as the clarity of learning objectives.

Best Teaching for Postgraduates – Excellence in teaching is characterised by enthusiasm, the use of original and accessible teaching methods as well as the clarity of learning objectives.

Best Innovation – Excellence in innovation is characterised by the imaginative use of technology, the early adoption of new methods, and the use of online and mobile technologies in learning & teaching.

Best Graduate Teaching Assistant – Excellence as a Graduate Teaching Assistant is characterised by clear and effective demonstrating, offering detailed and personalised feedback, and giving one-to-one support to students when needed.

Best Tutoring- Excellence in tutoring is characterised by the offering of quality pastoral care and support, and the responsiveness, availability and openness of the tutor.

Best Feedback- Excellence in feedback is characterised by constructive commentary, the accessibility of staff members to explain or expand upon feedback, and the timely return of assessed coursework.

Best Support Staff- Excellence in support staffing is characterised by using experience and knowledge to help students, enhancing the staff-student community within the department, and supporting co- and extra-curricular activities.

Best Supervision- Excellence in doctoral research supervision is characterised by the availability and openness of the supervisor,

WELLBEING

Depression – Taboo or Not Taboo?



OpenMinds Campaign Team
Imperial College Union

Imperial, welcome to the OpenMinds campaign! Our aim is to increase understanding of mental health conditions and remove some of the stigma with which they are associated.

1 in 4 people suffer from a mental health condition, yet there is a severe lack of awareness and the subject is, too often, taboo. Those with a mental health condition can feel isolated and unsure of whom to turn to when, in reality, there are plenty of mental health services available. One of our objectives is to tell you about the services that Imperial provides as well as the external support on offer, that you might not have known existed.

Mental health conditions include schizophrenia, anxiety, OCD, and eating disorders but depression is the most common in the UK and is the focus of our campaign. There is no single cause of depression, but triggering factors can include: money worries, personal relationships, loneliness, drug and alcohol abuse. It can also be hereditary. There are many different types of depression, all of which are very real medical conditions that require support.

Uni life can be stressful for anyone. Add this to depression, and every day can be a struggle. Those who can't cope might be told to "suck it up" or labelled as "weak". This will only exacerbate the problem and cause people to hide their problems out of embarrassment and shame. However, it isn't always easy on the other side of things. The lack of understanding of depression is astounding, considering how common it is. This is why we are campaigning to give you the facts on depression, and debunk some of the myths, such as "depression is not a real medical illness".

We will have frequent articles here in the Felix, such as articles by health professionals, "myth-busters" and some of your first hand experiences (send them in to the email below!), and we hope that as many of you as possible will participate in the survey we are releasing in the near future. The survey will include questions about your understanding of mental health and the services available, in order to get an idea of current attitudes towards mental health here at Imperial. In spring term we will be hosting an event with guest speakers from various mental health organisations and medical professionals. Look out for our posters around campus! Our Facebook page is the place to keep up to date with the campaign and to get involved!

We want you to get involved because mental health really does affect everybody. You may suffer from a mental health condition yourself, know someone who does, or experience depression in the future. Increasing understanding and de-stigmatising depression could help you through a rough patch, or enable you to be that awesome supportive friend in someone's time of need.

If you want to get involved with the OpenMinds campaign, email Moeko at disoff@imperial.ac.uk or find our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ICOpenMinds.

Depression – My Story

I was diagnosed with clinical depression when I was 17. For me, the diagnosis helped. It helped to give a name to the bizarre way that I had been feeling for over a year. I was always tired and always sad. The worst feeling was that of isolation, and feeling disjointed from the world, and I felt like I was the only person in the world to feel this way. I didn't tell anybody because I thought it might go away. I was scared of how I was feeling; I knew something was wrong, but I didn't know what to do about it and I didn't want to make a fuss. When I finally got my diagnosis, I was given a legitimate reason to feel the way I did.

Depression has affected every aspect of my life, and its symptoms can be quite overwhelming. Some days I wake up and feel empty. I don't want to do anything. I don't want to work, I don't want to watch TV, and I certainly don't want to talk to anyone. For me, one of the worst parts of depression was a sense of losing myself. I lost interest in things that I previously loved, like dancing and singing. I was in the choir but stopped going because I was too depressed. I lost my passion for biology, a subject I had previously loved, and my pride in my college work disappeared. Depression also brought with it a huge lack of self-confidence. I have always been a high achiever and a perfectionist, so I am constantly putting myself down when it comes to work. I'm also quite shy in social situations because I think that I have nothing to add to the conversation and that nobody wants me there. This can make hanging out with friends mentally exhausting. If someone was bullying you, constantly telling you weren't good enough, that everybody hates you and there's no point to anything, you would walk away. You can't walk away when that bully is inside your own head.

Trying to explain depression to friends and family has been difficult. The most common reaction I've faced is confusion, with my friends saying that I don't look or act depressed. What some people don't understand about depression is its strength,

and how it can completely consume somebody's life, without anybody knowing. It is surprisingly easy to hide. I got so good at putting up a front that I don't even realise I'm doing it anymore. I have also had friends offering advice on how to raise my mood, or who to turn to for help. Although I understand that they are just trying to help, when I want to talk, is it to get things off my chest, and all I want is someone to listen to me. Offering advice can be a little patronising, despite the good intentions. The most upsetting reaction I've had is being called a drama queen. My depression is not something I have "made up", and I cannot control my symptoms. Because of this negative reaction, I have become very reluctant to talk about my problems, and instead deal with everything myself. Rather than talking to someone, I have often turned to self harm to alleviate the stress, which can manifest itself in many different ways. For me, it is cutting, purging (making myself sick) and overdosing. I have also tried to take my own life several times. I feel like this is a common situation faced by those with depression. Telling someone to "pull themselves together" will only increase their sense of loneliness, and make them less likely to seek help.

Everybody needs a support network to fall back on. That may be family, a close friend, or a counsellor/psychiatrist. It's different for each individual. There are many different treatment options for depression: counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), medication, talking therapies, group therapies and self-help, or a combination of these. Each individual will find that a different type of treatment works best for them. It may take some time to find the right one. If I were to give advice to others seeking help, I would say be patient with the service, and with yourself. You may not feel better straight away, and often "it has to get worse before it gets better" applies. Talking about your feelings can be very difficult, especially if you're quite introverted like me. It can help,

but if that really isn't working, you could try writing in a diary; anything to get how you feel out, so that it's not building up inside of you. Even just hearing your thoughts out loud can be helpful, and something you were scared of suddenly doesn't seem so scary anymore. I found CBT and counselling extremely hard as I did not want to open up. I also found medication ineffectual. What worked for me was distracting myself when I got low, by hanging out with a close friend, watching something good on TV, baking, singing or even cleaning. Self-help is more effective for me personally, because I hate talking to other people about my feelings. Getting a good night's sleep always helps alleviate my low mood and helps my energy levels. I find that going for a jog or a swim during the day helps me fall asleep more easily at night, and I also like to watch ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response) videos on Youtube.

Looking to the future, I hope to keep managing my depression. Depression may be something that I have to live with for the rest of my life, but that doesn't mean it is going to rule my life. I may retry counselling and/or medication, maybe when I'm more mature and more ready to talk about my problems. Ultimately, I want to have good mental health. To me, this doesn't mean being happy all the time, but rather equipping myself with the tools I need to manage my thoughts, and accepting that there will always be bad patches, but they won't be forever and I will come out the other side.

-Anonymous

If you have any first-hand experiences with depression and want to write an article in Felix for the OpenMinds campaign, please send in your articles to Moeko@imperial.ac.uk. For further information on how to get involved OpenMinds, email Moeko or visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/ICOpenMinds.

Useful Contacts

IC Disabilities Advisory Service disabilities@imperial.ac.uk

IC Counselling Service counselling@imperial.ac.uk

IC Health Centre imperialcollege.hc@nhs.net

Nightline **0207 631 0101**
(listening@nightline.org.uk)

Samaritans **08457 90 90 90**
(jo@samaritans.org)

Mind www.mind.org.uk

Time To Change www.time-to-change.org.uk

Union Page

Rep Week starts on Monday



Monday 25 – Friday 29 November is Rep Week, our campaign to increase awareness of Academic Representatives (or 'Reps' for short).

Academic Reps are the first point of contact for students with course or research group concerns, facilities issues and positive feedback. Reps sit on Staff-Student Committees and are an essential link between the College and students.

Find us in the JCR 12:00 - 14:00, Monday – Thursday and 13:00 – 14:00 on Friday. We'll be giving away Love Heart sweets, collecting your views about your course/research group and collecting Student Academic Choice Awards nominations for deserving staff.

Find out who your Rep is at imperialcollegeunion.org/academicreps.

**imperialcollegeunion.org/academicreps
#loveyourrep**

Vote for your December guest ales



The cold and dark nights are approaching and there is nothing better than having a sip of one of your favourite ales inside the warmth of the Union.

To get your favourite ale behind the bar all you need to do is take the poll at imperialcollegeunion.org/realales and the ales with the highest votes win! There is a separate poll for The Union Bar and h-bar.

The current poll will close at 10:00, Monday 2 December and the winning ales will be on sale later in the month.

December's guest ale will join our regular ales in the bars - IPA (£2.90 a pint) and Tolly English Ale (or TEA - £2.20 a pint).

imperialcollegeunion.org/realales

The Sexual Health Clinic is back!



Imperial College Union will be hosting another free sexual health clinic run by the Terrence Higgins Trust on Thursday 5 December. It will take place in the Activities Spaces, Union Building, Beit Quad. Services available include rapid HIV testing, Chlamydia testing, Gonorrhoea testing, condoms, lube and advice. The clinic welcomes all students regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, study type or country of origin.

Appointments can be booked in advance and a walk-in service is also available. To book an appointment or get more information about the clinic, please contact Zoe Richardson, Representation Coordinator, at z.richardson@imperial.ac.uk.

imperialcollegeunion.org/sexual-health

FEATURES

Editors: **VACANT**
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Natural History Museum Skate & Drink Review



TBIPHOTOGRAPHIC

Fiona Hartley
Science Editor

There's currently a student skating offer on at the Natural History Museum's ice rink. All day Mondays and Tuesdays until December 3, students can skate for £8.50 with a free drink at the Café Bar. If you present your student ID when booking tickets at the box office and then save your ticket, you can show it at the Café Bar for a drink of your choice.

I went to check out the offer on Tuesday evening with some friends. I've been skating at the NHM during previous years but I never fail to enjoy the ambience of skating there. In my opinion this atmosphere improves during the evening – the twinkling lights in the trees around the rink add something especially wintry to the event.

The Natural History Museum's skates are the most uncomfortable I've ever worn. They are the bane of any skating session I participate in there. Otherwise the skating is a lot of fun! Your session starts on the hour and lasts for 50 minutes so it's worth getting there 15 minutes early to make sure you take maximum advantage of the cheaper ticket. As a warning, putting your bag in the cloakroom costs £2 so you might want to take a big bag that you can put everyone's stuff in, or just not bring a bag with you at all!

Once you're out on the ice you are greeted with a great Christmas tree in the centre of the rink, forming a circuit. It can be very busy during certain sessions (the disadvantage with going in the evening) but almost all skaters regardless of ability seem to enjoy themselves. It's very informal and there are as many people skating around by themselves

as there are those hand-in-hand chatting away. I think only incredible skaters wouldn't have as enjoyable a time.

After the session you head back inside, hand in your skates and look forward to your free drink! (I guess you could get your drink beforehand but I'm not sure skating on a glass of wine is the best idea.) There's also a small on-site Mountain Warehouse shop and if the NHM's official skating photographer snapped a photograph of you and your mates you can buy your photos here (prices for photos start at £8).

If you're looking to definitely get your free drink without any hassle or stress involved, I advise avoiding the 8pm session that I attended. Even if you have a full day pick the 6pm or 7pm session. I was told that drinks vouchers could be redeemed up until half past 9, but when I arrived there was a sign on the box office saying your free drink could only be claimed until 9pm. They are very particular about this and will stop serving very abruptly as soon as the clock strikes 9, regardless of the state of your order.

I got my free drink by leaving the ice a little early. The drinks available are beer, house white or red wine, and cold drinks or hot drinks that include hot chocolate and various coffees and teas. You might want to pick up a menu so you don't have to make an ad-hoc decision about what to drink. The Café Bar has a real skiing resort feel to it, with long benches and large vintage trunks serving as tables in some spots. There's also an area with sofas around a big (obviously false) open fire. The food is pretty pricey so I wouldn't bother grabbing a snack!

The student offer is only on until December 3, so if it takes your fancy, don't delay and go next week!

The launch of a challenger, RCSU prepares for the next Science Challenge

Fiona Hartley
Science Editor

It's less than two weeks until the RCSU Science Challenge 2014 launch event, on Tuesday December 3rd. Come along to find out what prizes will be on offer and to hear the judges speak about science communication and reveal their questions for this year's Challenge. You can book your free place now online at <http://bit.ly/1ekv9Vj>. And there will of course be free food and drink afterwards! You really have no reason

not to attend.

The Science Challenge is our flagship event of 2014 and has included numerous distinguished judges. We have now announced all of our judges for this year. Professor Fay Dowker is a Professor of Theoretical Physics here at Imperial. Jon Kudlick is the director of communications with the Society of Biology. Pallab Ghosh is a science correspondent with the BBC. And Dr Jad Marrouche is a research associate with the Department of Physics, whose work often takes him to CERN.

Evening Schedule:

6:30 PM – Doors open, and you can



explore our arrangement of science demos in the foyer of the building.

7:00 PM – The Science Challenge Launch commences in G16 in SAF.

8:30 PM – Buffet snacks and drinks opens in the SAF foyer, with the opportunity to network with Imperial students and staff, as well as our invited guests and judges.

10:00 PM – Event closes.

Visit the Science Challenge website for more information: <http://bit.ly/1aJKA8a> and tweet us at #SciChal.

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'For me, a good night out is spent picking up moths'

Alessandro Giusti
Entomologist



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BUSINESS

What happens at uni...stays at Unii.com

Marco Nardone sets up a social networking platform for students

Marco Nardone
Writer

In 2011, Marco Nardone graduated with a degree in Physics from Imperial College. In just two years, the 25-year-

old has become CEO & founder of the UK's biggest student-only social networking platform, Unii.com.



The journey to becoming a social networking entrepreneur has been exciting, nerve-racking and demanding – all rolled into one! The first time I aired my opinions about my plans for a new social platform to close friends and family, admittedly I was met with a few nervous smiles and pats on the shoulder.

“Do you really think you can compete with Facebook at your age?” a few of my more blunt mates laughed. But that’s not what I had in mind.

The platform I created – Unii.com – wasn’t born to compete directly with the big players like Facebook or Twitter, and neither was it designed to take users away from them. Instead, the platform offers students the chance to meet like-minded friends on their course, at their university or in their accommodation – all before they leave home in September. When arriving on campus, students can then use Unii.com for every part of their student life: by either meeting and socialising with friends within the university network; joining and managing societies through our unique platform; or even finding a job placement through the dedicated jobsboard.

With younger audiences already dwindling on Facebook, it was evident to me that there was a hunger for a platform that clearly appreciated its

target market’s exact needs and kept them at the core of any development. For Unii.com, this niche market was made possible by ensuring only those with a university-accredited email address can sign in – finally putting an end to those snooping parents flicking through your photos or future employers digging around past antics you’d rather forget about!

But before this social start-up journey had even begun, it was vital I spent a lot of time (and patience!) figuring out the student market that Unii.com targeted. This involved understanding what students would find useful, which features would be desirable and the importance of a closed social environment. Being a recent student myself, it would have been easy to just use my gut instinct to craft something I would like personally. But Unii.com is about catering for all students across the entire UK, and I knew to become a successful start-up, I had to listen to the current market.

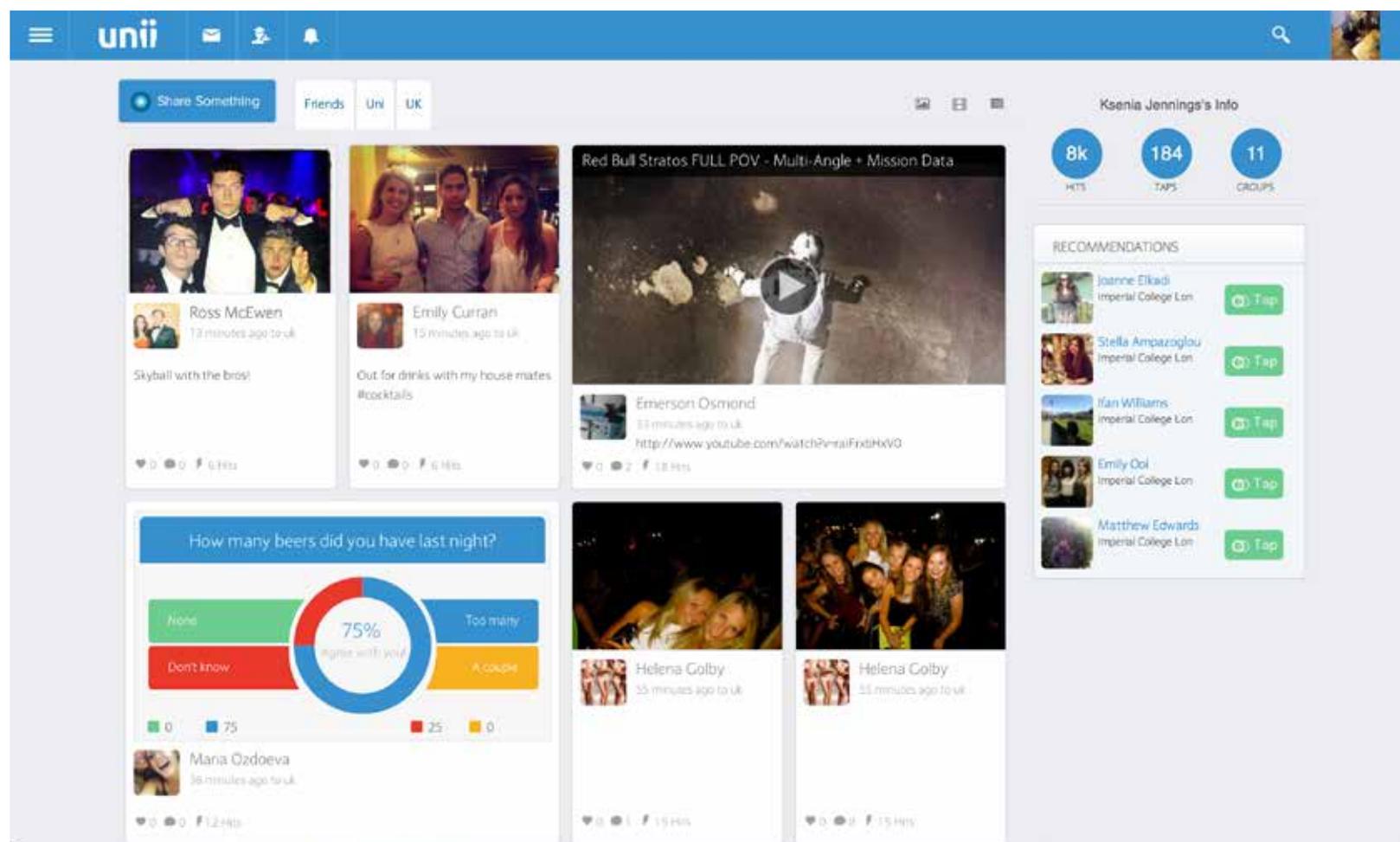
Holding research focus groups and listening to user feedback in the early stages of launch has helped Unii.com to grow rapidly, seeing a massive 100,000 students sign up in just six months. We continue to listen to these users and have just revolutionised the user experience on the platform – a direct action taken from our user feedback.

With the continued popularity of Unii.com, some people do question how I went from the world of science to the realms of social media. But

having a Physics degree at Imperial College provided me with skills that have helped guide me through my journey as an entrepreneur and CEO, in some really unexpected ways. The four years at university not only taught me to think logically and be thorough, but above all – never give up! Physics was a degree that involves perseverance, time, and of course, lots of studying. Unii.com wouldn’t be where it is today if either my team or I had given up at the first hurdle and it was these skills that helped keep me grounded in the beginning.

For students out there considering diving into the start-up world or the social media industry, that wise old saying “Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today” speaks volumes. It was this kind of thinking that led to the success of Unii.com – I saw a gap in the market, yet I didn’t wait until I was older or watch someone else swoop in and create an alternative website.

The future of Unii.com is looking bright, as we look to tip 200,000 users by 2014. I can understand why there were some doubts – as a young graduate entrepreneur, any industry breakout is going to be tough – but by understanding the gap in the market for something fresh, and researching the target market inside out, it’s proven to be a success and I encourage any Imperial College student to follow in these footsteps.



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Mars MAVEN mission launches

Fiona Hartley
Science Editor

This week the latest US mission to Mars launched successfully; NASA called the launch “flawless”. The rocket carrying the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft left the Earth on Monday from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, the site of many previous NASA mission launches. Just under an hour after launch the probe was released from the rocket, deployed its solar panels and oriented into cruise configuration.

“Everything looks good. The signals are coming in fine, and so far the systems that are on are reporting back great. We’re heading out to the Red Planet,” said David Mitchell, Nasa’s MAVEN project manager.

The MAVEN mission will be investigating the upper atmosphere and the ionosphere of Mars alongside the solar wind, with the intention of providing insight into the history of the Martian atmosphere, climate and the planet’s habitability. After a journey of over 440 million miles and lasting 10 months, MAVEN will reach Mars and will need to undergo a check-out period before finally beginning its primary data collection mission. This mission is scheduled to

last for one year, but NASA intends to keep MAVEN operational well into the future to provide a data-relay platform for surface explorers such as the Curiosity Rover.

MAVEN is equipped with eight data-collection sensors to determine the characteristics of the upper atmosphere and the solar wind. The instruments were designed and contributed by NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Centre, the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the University of California, Berkeley. The Centre d’Etude Spatiale des Rayonnements in France also provided the sensor for one instrument.

By exploring the composition of Mars’ upper atmosphere and the impact that the solar wind has on the atmosphere, lead investigator Dr Bruce Jakosky from the University of Colorado hopes to understand how Mars went from a wet planet with a dense atmosphere billions of years ago to its present arid state.

“The loss rates [of the atmosphere due to the solar wind] today are low enough that we’re probably not going to see the loss of the entire atmosphere,” says Dr Jakosky. “The reason we are studying it today, even though the loss rates are so much lower, is that we can understand the specific processes that are going on and learn how to extrapolate them back in time.”



Untouchable photons

Pavitar Singh Devgon
Science Writer

Photons can often be difficult to measure because as soon as they are, they are gone. Most measurement methods require direct absorption, or are in some other way destructive to the nature of the particle. This means that you have little time to glean all of the information before it disappears, and there is no way to double check your results. Now, if only there was a way around this. Oh wait, there might be!

Quantum theory: two words to strike fear into almost any scientist, closely followed by ‘coursework deadline’ and ‘rent due’. Weird and wonderful things happen in the quantum world, and if there was a feasible way to measure photons without destroying their nature, many new technologies, such as quantum computing, could gain footing. A report by Andreas Reiserer, Stephan Ritter and Gerhard Rempe in Science last week puts forward a different method of measurement: instead of detecting the photon as you

would a particle, by absorption, why not detect it as a wave?

One thing waves are really good at is reflecting. Reflection causes a phase lag, interference and diffraction in the photon-wave. The experiment set up by Reiserer’s team consisted of an optical resonant chamber containing a single atom, the walls of which were superconductive and thus highly reflective. A photon enters and will only interact with the atom if it is in the correct energy state, otherwise it will reflect off the wall.

Hold on to your hats, because this is where it gets a little crazy. The atom enclosed in the chamber is prepared in a superposition of allowed and forbidden states. The photon-wave enters and due to the forbidden state, is reflected. However, the atom will change as if it had interacted with the photon, because it is in an allowed state. The result is that it appears there was an interaction, but the photon still exists! We have measured the presence of a photon without destroying it.

The team repeated their experiments, showing the same photon could be repeatedly detected without being absorbed. Individual

photons were able to be detected with a 77% success rate, while close to 66% of the photons would survive

reflection. This was enough to prove their non-destructive measurement method. Though it may take a while

to refine the process, this is sure to prove effective in quantum optics, computing and entanglement.



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SCIENCE

Night owls perform worse

Amrita Ghosh & Arya Mehta explain why all-nighters aren't wise

Many of us think that staying up late at night gives us more time to be productive; however, a recent study at UC Berkeley has shown that 'night owls' perform worse academically and emotionally in the long run.

This study focused on 2,700 US adolescents of whom 30% claimed staying up later than 11:30pm on school nights, and many of them stayed up past 1:30am during holidays. The data for this study were obtained from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, where the records tracked back to 1994. It was found that GPA scores of the 'night owls' were significantly lower than their classmates who had earlier bed-times. In addition, sleeping late during summer holidays had an impact on the emotional well-being of these individuals.

So, why do so many teens stay up late? It appears that a number of factors affect this behaviour. Hectic school schedules, after-school activities and other academic commitments leave very little time for young students



MODEL: KEIR LITTLE

to socialise; thus these students compromise their sleep to make time to interact with their friends.

The circadian rhythm is any biological process that involves the

'human body clock' and it is involved in regulating physiological and metabolic functions. The researchers hypothesized that adolescents have something called an 'evening circadian

preference', which gives them a desire to work later at night.

In addition, another factor identified which keeps teenagers up so late is the increasing use of various electronic

gadgets at younger ages. Studies indicate that bright lights from laptop screens and smart-phones lead to a reduction of melatonin, a key hormone involved in sleep cycle regulation.

Finally, the study also suggests that poor parental monitoring could also lead to teens staying up late.

This is not the first study to have been published linking sleep with performance, thus it only reinforces that it is increasingly becoming a common problem in young adults. Regular sleep deprivation can have a great impact on the health of an individual; therefore this issue should not be taken so lightly. Most of you may think that this is irrelevant since we have already passed our adolescent stage.

But don't forget that we ourselves could become parents one day, and it would be our responsibility to ensure and motivate our children to follow a regular early bed time to help them perform better academically and emotionally.

Synthetic alcohol does this

Philippa Skett
Science Editor

For those reading this hungover in bed after that "quick pint" on a Thursday evening turned into a free for all, we have good news. It seems that our very own Professor Nutt, previous government advisor and keen advocate of drug legalisation, has finally identified candidate molecules that can imitate all the good parts of drinking, without that dreaded feeling the next day. The molecule can hopefully reproduce the pleasurable effects of alcohol, but, with a lower toxicity, may keep the

hangovers and health risks associated with drinking at bay.

Alcohol acts as a depressant on the central nervous system, and a multitude of receptors, including those that respond to the neurotransmitter GABA, can be modulated in activity by ethanol. GABA acts as an inhibitory molecule in vertebrates when binding to transmembrane receptors on the neurons of the brain, which in turn effects the transmission of nerve impulses and can result in feeling more relaxed or unfazed.

Ethanol is rather cavalier in its actions, however; it targets a lot of other cellular receptors non-specifically too, so has a large number of routes in which it can modulate its effects. Being able to pinpoint those

interactions that deliver the desirable effects of ethanol consumption is key, and it may be that GABA is the answer.

This alcohol substitute would target GABA receptors very specifically to ensure the positive effects alcohol can have are sustained whilst the undesirable side effects are reduced. These include the immediate effects such as loss of co-ordination, aggression and memory loss, but also the after effects, such as the hangover you may indeed be suffering right now. It seems too good to be true, right?

It seems that Professor Nutt is still discussing his top secret synthetic alcohol substitute use with investors, but is worried that the drug may be legislated too heavily by the government. This is somewhat

of a touchy issue that has caused controversy concerning Nutt in the past, with his recent paper in Nature this year urging the government to weaken the current legislation surrounding psychotics falling on deaf ears.

Although the alteration of legislation surrounding drugs such as MDMA and marijuana is an understandably more complex and controversial issue, hopefully such complications will not surround the possible legislation of this new synthetic alcohol substitute if the benefits discussed are a tangible reality.

Therefore it seems we can only sit and wait for the holy grail of student satisfaction for now. Unfortunately, for those that are still mulling over last



PHARMAMAB.IT

night's antics whilst hiding away from the world, this solution isn't going to be getting you to your 9am lectures in time today. Right now, it just might be better to get some toast and tea and fight off that hangover the traditional way.

Science in sixty seconds...

A 507-year-old clam, believed to be the oldest creature in the world, was killed last week by scientists trying to find its age.

Deforestation in the Amazon increased by 28% in the year to August 2013, the Brazilian government reports.

The comet Ison is now visible in the sky, and will be brightest on Dec 1. Predictions that it would be brighter than the moon were exaggerated.

Frederick Sanger, pioneer of DNA sequencing and Britain's only winner of two Nobel prizes, died on Wednesday aged 95.

COMMENT

Editors: **Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey**
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The Role & Responsibility of Comment

Eoghan J. Totten
@eoghantotten
Comment Editor



Comment sections across a broad variety of newspapers all share a common thread. The bulk of their published material will prove emotive for a sizeable portion of its readership. Individuals may empathise with views expressed in a given article. Others may be offended. On occasion a given issue may catalyse universal approval or (as

one has come to appreciate in the past seven days) disavowal of its material. In context of a parochial University community consisting of a spectrum of nationalities, ideals and beliefs (such as *Imperial College London*) the margins for error are slight. In light of this I wish to briefly examine the boundaries for the Comment section.

The balance of facility and mediation of opinion is the central dilemma for the Comment section. As was declared in the freshers' issue in early October 2013 it is in place to provide an extra medium of communication for the student body. This commitment inevitably lies in the category of facility. If a student submits an article they do so in good

faith. This should be honoured (where appropriate) during the process of editing and redaction.

The majority of contributors submit a piece of writing on the basis of elemental and core convictions, heartfelt emotion or in light of personal experience. Recent pieces similar to those centred on the Interfaith Movement, access for the disabled or the changing dynamic of Kenya typify the core aspiration of the Comment section to voice rightfully emotive issues.

Worldly reality means that many of these emotive issues originate from inequality, illness, conflict and even death. This changes the atmosphere of the Comment section with immediate

effect. The focus of obligation for an editor should switch from the facilitation of informative opinion to its mediation. This choice is made in an effort to engender peaceful and affirmative discussion and debate.

The mediation does not lie solely in the physical editing of an individual article. Mediation can be utilised by balancing a given article with a counter-article. This can prove to be insightful and constructive. My head-to-head with Rory Fenton on integrated education in the North of Ireland helped me to view the issue from a more objective perspective. In spite of this, the approach can backfire. Our readership will have realised this over the past week. Some topics are

skewed towards one plaintive truth, at least in the eyes of the majority of the socio-political body. The editor, in such instances, **should** follow his or her ethical code and decide on an article's suitability or offensiveness. On this basis it may be appropriate to reject or retract an article.

The past week has forced me to appreciate that while Felix Comment is part of a student newspaper (which, by definition, should be optimistic and uplifting) due credence should be given to the screening process of input material from the student body. The section editors will endeavour to maintain the high standards of the newspaper in future issues. We'll take criticism where it's due.

Commonwealth: Beginning of the End?

Visakan Balakumar
Writer

As the controversial 23rd Commonwealth Governmental meeting in Colombo closed earlier this week there was widespread feeling that the Commonwealth has suffered a huge dent in its credibility. In March 2013 (for the first time in its history) the Commonwealth set out a new charter emphasising the need for human rights, freedom of expression, good governance and the rule of law. Sri Lanka (Commonwealth chair for the next two years) frequently ignores these tenets.

Last weekend descended into a public relations disaster of unprecedented proportions for both Sri Lanka, and the Commonwealth.

Controversy over Sri Lanka's appalling human rights record overshadowed the summit. The meeting in Colombo (15th to 17th November) had the lowest attendance of State heads for years. Boycotts from Canada and Mauritius on the grounds of human rights and an Indian snub dominated the events preceding the meeting as the incumbent Government tried to rebrand Sri Lanka's image and deflect attention from its actions against the Tamil population – it failed miserably.

John Baird, Canadian Foreign Minister, noted on Commonwealth inaction on Sri Lanka that: "Canada did not get involved in the Commonwealth to accommodate evil; we came to combat it". In a post-colonial era, as the Commonwealth's relevance is increasingly debated, Sri Lanka's chairing of an organisation that has rebranded itself to be a force for good dooms the organisation. The

UK has cut its Commonwealth funding following Canada's contribution review. The most damning moment came from the Mauritian President Navin Ramgoolam. Warned by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Kamalesh Sharma, that it was "convention" for the Head of State of country to host the summit the Mauritian leader did not renege on his boycott. He withdrew Mauritius hosting of CHOGM 2015.

It was the actions of David Cameron that completely upstaged the controversial summit. After the conclusion of the opening ceremony Cameron departed on a historic trip to the capital of the Tamil homeland, Jaffna. He became the first world leader to visit the war-affected city since the end of colonialism in 1948. To quote the PM what he viewed "will stay with [him]". He visited the printing office of the popular Tamil newspaper (critical of Government), whilst uploading pictures of bullet holes in the walls of the office and the burnt out shell of a printer to Twitter. The office has been attacked repeatedly in recent years: 48 journalists have been killed in Sri Lanka within the last decade and it is ranked in the bottom 20 for press freedom. Most were Tamil. Many more have fled abroad or silenced their criticism. The chilling picture showcased the lack of freedom of expression in Sri Lanka, one of the "core values of the Commonwealth" as the Secretary General put it. It set the scene for the most sobering moment of the entire summit: as David Cameron's motorcade passed through the now militarily occupied city, scores of mothers clashed with riot police, seeking to bring attention to their plight. Over 140,000 Tamils remain unaccounted for in the Northern Province. Many of these mothers have sons who have disappeared since

surrendering to the Sri Lankan army at the end of 2009. A 35-year old Tamil activist named Sivakumaran Baskaran has been reported missing since the end of the 2013 summit. Sri Lanka has the highest proportion of 'disappeared people' on earth with 5676 cases registered at the UN alone. Pictures of Sri Lankan police pushing elderly women to the ground during a Commonwealth summit will endure. Some pleaded to foreign media tailing the convoy to help them find their missing loved ones while handing over pictures. Channel 4 received over 130 such photos in just one hour.

Recent developments serve as a form of resistance to oppressive regimes. This has happened before. In the 1970s the Commonwealth led the boycott of South Africa's apartheid regime. It was in this movement that the Commonwealth showed potential to protect and uphold human rights around the world. The Commonwealth

had found its soul. One wonders whether the organisation will keep Sri Lanka at the helm. With the UN Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay (and David Cameron) setting a March 2014 deadline for the Sri Lankan regime to conduct an independent investigation into the litany of war crimes committed at the end of the 2009 war and the Sri Lankan government remaining unwilling to do so, the stage is set for a third resolution to the UN Human Rights Council against Sri Lanka. The fact that the chair of an organisation emphasising human rights as one of its core values could be the target of a UN resolution will be disastrous for the Commonwealth. This is precisely why Cameron must call for Sri Lanka to be suspended and their chairmanship revoked.

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth has continually shielded Sri Lanka from criticism for

reasons unknown. Kamalesh Sharma has lost the faith of many, with the Canadian Foreign Minister labelling him a "stooge" of the Sri Lankan government. His withdrawal of a report from other Commonwealth ministers (proving Sri Lanka's impeachment of their Chief Justice to be unconstitutional) sent shockwaves of outrage around the world. The recent summit highlighted the Commonwealth's dangerous trajectory. It will be a rough road if it continues this way – one from which it might not emerge at all.

In my opinion the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse and Kamalesh Sharma were the men who killed the Commonwealth.

If you would like to find out more about Tamil atrocities in Sri Lanka and what you can do to stop it, please visit International Tamil society's Breaking the Silence stall in Sherfield on Monday 25th November.



“
The recent summit highlighted the Commonwealth's dangerous trajectory. It will be a rough road if it continues this way.
”

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COMMENT

Confessions of a GTA: Part 6

After marking 56 papers we become a bit overdramatic

The GTA
Anonymous



As an undergraduate, if you had asked me what the worst thing was about Imperial it was obvious: The exams. After working all those hours to be hit with the striking realisation that I did not, in fact, understand the topic even a little bit caused me to doubt many a life decision. I also came to doubt my native English following one particularly bad exam where I distinctly remember no verbs in the first two sentences. But never did I consider what happened to that stack of papers the GTAs insisted on counting for five minutes at least 12 times after the end of the exam.

I was asked to mark one of my class's mid-term tests, the standard 'Oh, but we want you to understand your progress, nothing to worry about, but since you are all here it can be a horrifically weighted piece of

coursework that you might fail' kind of thing. This was finally my chance to get revenge. I would be one of those awful GTAs that wrote nothing in feedback and in general gave marks lower than your wildest imagination.

What I did not expect to hit me was compassion. I have taught these students for two months now. I have struggled alongside them with techniques they will probably never use again... ever. I even sat with them in the exam and tried not to stand behind them or take too long to count the scripts at the end. I found myself rejoicing in their success, in those beautiful but startlingly rare papers which were close to the mark scheme and extraordinarily correct.

These were, however, the unicorn papers that were like a needle in a haystack or really just a stack. More commonly, I was assaulted by additional issues and, finally, broken hearted by being unable to read what people had written. This was frustrating. We would get halfway through a problem and suddenly it

became a maze of lines and artistic but illegible squiggles and nearly always, always, wrong at the end. I couldn't help them and pull them back from the oblivion of failure simply because I had no idea what was going on. As suddenly appeared or disappeared seemingly at random or life became some sort of integration with no limits or possible answer.

I know I was never a unicorn, but the shining lights for me were those people who admitted their weaknesses. A simple note to say I have forgotten the definition of sinh. I have assumed it is this. Or I think it went wrong here. These were the people that got the method marks as were those who had bad handwriting but spread everything out. I could save these people.

So at two in the morning, having lost the will to live, wondering what in heck did I teach these people, a GTA does not expect to see a unicorn, but a nicely laid out paper with the mistakes clearly marked. This was the Holy Grail.



Since when was wealth common?

Christy Kelly

Writer



What could possibly link Angelina Jolie and the first female President of Sri Lanka, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga? Why William Hague and last week's Commonwealth summit, of course! There has been a bizarre image occasionally popping up over the past few months, of a rather smitten MP standing beside Angelina Jolie talking about the horrors of rape and abuse that women suffer the world over. The most striking image I have of Kumaratunga is, perhaps, less comical: she had made a speech in Colombo brutally criticising the mass murder and war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan government in the closing stages of the 'war' against the Tamil 'Tigers'. I never expected to hear a former head of state claim to be ashamed at being from the country they served but these were the words that came from Kumaratunga's mouth.

Yet somehow, poor old Willy has forgotten Angie's campaign and is going to the Commonwealth summit held in Sri Lanka. Forget the 'allegations' of war crimes, of mass rape, of the murder of women,

children and civilians, by the Sri Lankan government since well before their culmination in the atrocities of 2011. Forget the videos of mass execution and war crimes in the Channel 4 Documentary: Sri Lanka's Killing Fields – one of those rare examples of journalistic integrity that renews your faith in the free press. The video may have been verified by the UN, but forget that, the Sinhalese government claims that it is a forgery. That clearly settles the matter.

Yes, once again, the British government has distinguished itself in its concern for alleged human rights abuses. But a boycott, no. That would be unthinkable and damaging. It is only through discussion, talk, and trade (especially trade), that we can encourage governments to act in a humane way. If I recall correctly, similar arguments were made by another respected Tory leader, and her American counterpart, apropos some other backwards regime... What was it again? Apartheid South Africa? I think there must be something wrong there but I can't quite figure out what. Well regardless, we must let history be the judge.

Getting back to the point; should we really, however, see the spate of boycotts as a positive sign? Although I would suggest it is idiotic to complain that, as one online headline put it, the Indian boycott was made for Political Reasons (what reasons, pray, were you expecting?), and though Canada's motivations are probably

relatively benign (the large Tamil expat population will also have played a factor), we should really never be satisfied with the stories politicians like to tell about themselves. PM Manmohan Singh may well care deeply for 'Commonwealth values', but the continued and sinister movements made by the Indian government against the Naxalite rebels has some disturbing parallels with the Sinhalese campaign against the Tamil Tigers before 2011. More likely, Singh felt the pressure of the large Tamil population (and elements of government) in India. If this was all, India's intentions would still be largely honourable – we often seem to forget that listening to the will of the people is essentially democratic and there is little wrong in principle if a politician serves that people instead of his or her own ideas and beliefs.

This is, however, not all. Is it coincidence that the Mauritian PM joined the boycott? Mauritius (along with Madagascar and the Seychelles) has recently seen a lot of Indian interest. India needs to protect its trade ships against the resurgent phenomenon of piracy, and these islands make ideal bases to do so. Well, there is that and the fact that India has steadily been losing out as far as imperial and geopolitical dominance in the Indian Ocean is concerned. China's String of Pearls strategy has been remarkably effective, isolating India and restricting its sphere of influence. And the Koh-i-Noor in that

string of pearls? You guessed it: Sri Lanka.

For instance, what does a largely Buddhist and Islamic country like Sri Lanka need with a \$400 million casino? Nothing, but the growing Chinese and Indian middle classes could do with entertainment when they visit the tropical paradise. It is just a pity that it is in the middle of a civil war... Oh wait! With a Reuters report estimating a further \$2.5 billion a year from tourism alone (a modest 5% of GDP, something equivalent to \$750 billion dollars in the US, or put differently, the entire US bailout fund), Sri Lanka needs to prepare itself to cater for all those nouveau riche. Or take the fancy new Lotus tower: it will be 350m upon completion, dwarfing the Shard, and funded out of the goodwill of the People's Republic of China. The Sri Lankan's benefit, the Indian tourists benefit and the Chinese benefit. Everybody is happy!

Except the Tamils. With the mass murders of 2011, further claims for independence are unlikely to be top priority for the people of Northern Sri Lanka. Especially considering the immediate future holds nothing but grim prospects. Manmohan Singh himself inaugurated the dredging of the ancient Ram Sethu Canal, trying to make the Tamil Nadu area of India a "rival for [the now destitute] Detroit". The toxic effects on the ecosystem are probably of secondary concern to Singh, particularly since the one of the worst groups to be affected will

be Tamils living in coastal areas of Sri Lanka, where small scale fishing is an intrinsic part of everyday survival. Meanwhile the great 'benefits' of Chinese investment have come at a bitter price to the Tamil people (assuming that the effective North/South divide doesn't prevent the even spread of new wealth as it always has done in the past). Is it coincidence that the \$4 billion worth of infrastructure projects and the new deep trade-links came after China sold Sri Lanka the weapons needed for the victory over the um, terrorist, children?

The only surprise in all this is that India bothered to boycott at all. It seems clear that they care very little about the Sri Lankan Tamils, and a short term spat with the teardrop isle may well lead to an entrenched Chinese position which India cannot desire in its small neighbour. The pressure from Tamil politicians may be considerable, though we doubt it can be important for a government so notoriously corrupt and which has such blatant imperialist ambitions. The general consensus is that India is only damaging its international position by boycotting this meeting, so what could be the motivation? It could be that the internal situation in India is even more desperate than commentators seem to think. Or could these whispers of a new Chinese-Indian trade deal I am hearing have anything to do with it? Common wealth? Somehow, I think not.

COMMENT

Editors: **Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey**
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Of cleaning (still), partnerships and Chessums

Joseph Letts
Editor-in-Chief

The recent cleaning response from Campus Services (see front page) indicates that some progress is being made in the 'cleaning situation'. However, one wonders why the department has taken so long to give an apology, even if they're only apologising for taking so long to provide adequate information to all hall residents. Felix would still like an answer to the list of questions we sent to them over seven days ago, we feel that the students should be getting some proper answers about the ways in which decisions were made that have a strong impact of their wellbeing and studying experience. Felix knows about at least one student who lives on a room where cleaning was not completed during the second rotation of the schedule, leaving the student to have a room that has only been cleaned once (so far) this term. While it is true that mistakes can be

made (or possibly the room was particularly untidy) did Campus Services think about the repercussions it's actions would have on the students, and indeed had the potential for these changes ever been discussed prior to the re-tender?

Imperial has recently signed up to the Renaissance Engineering Programme with the Singaporean Nanyang Technological University. The program is shaped to create a kind-of engineering polymath, with bright students being educated in engineering, science, technology, business, economics, and entrepreneurship (**College Joins NTU Renaissance Engineering Programme, page 3**). This progressive programme seems like a fantastic opportunity for the students who will be selected and may leave some current students wishing they were only a few years younger...

Oh, ULU, whatever next?

As you may have heard in last week's national papers, the President of the University of London Union, Michael Chessum was arrested the day after a protest he organised on University property. Following the controversy over Summer, where the University of London banned students from protesting on some areas of University property (see FelixOnline.co.uk on Aug 7th bit.ly/17S1ZrM), it seems as though the Union chose to ignore this warning while protesting about it's imminent closure at the end of this academic year. While it is important that students stand up for their views, the low turnouts for ULU elections and the decent size of the UoL constituent College Unions, some might see the closure of ULU and the repurposing of its building by the University as a progressive move that might improve the efficiency of services for students.

An Apology to Felix Copy Editors & Centrefold Members

During the production of last week's paper, due to a change in circumstances (which also led to a reduction in the number of pages), the paper was printed without the changes made by the Copy Editors. Felix would like to officially apologise for the misspent hours the Copy Editors lost while trying to improve the standard of the paper. This week all edits have been included, providing a better reading experience for both the readers and the Copy Editors.

We would also like to apologise to the students in last week's Centrefold, who took part in a distinctly off-centre centrefold. We hope to reprint the centrefold in a distinctly more central position later on in the year.

Felix.

Don't be afraid,
the Cat doesn't bite! If you have something on your
mind, want to share your opinion with the world,
want to write about the last gig, play, movie or
game you experienced, have an interesting news
story to share with us, fancy yourself as the next
Alan Sugar or just simply like to make illustrations,
make sure to send an email to us at:

felix@imperial.ac.uk

No experience necessary, honest.

Letters

Disrespectful Material

To whom it may concern,

I enjoy reading the articles on the paper but ever since I realised that you put a double spread of really disrespectful material in it I stopped. I think this can be better replaced with many different things, like a spread on some details of a country with interviews from people originating from there, which I would be happy to help; and I know hundreds of students who want this to be removed as well, I can give you a list of their names if you want; and I believe that if we take this out then the newspaper would be more highly regarded amongst the seniors and visiting researchers and anyone else who reads it expecting to read interesting facts about Imperial. If you have any questions please let me know and I hope to hear from you soon.

Thanks and regards,

[Name Withheld] x

Dear Sir,

Thank you for getting in touch with your concerns. I always enjoy reading letters. I await your petition with interest, it's always nice to get feedback (unless you want to wait for our feedback survey?). -Ed.

Dearest Felix Editor,

Perhaps my insults towards this bum of the forest [The Druid, see last week] were a bit exaggerated. He seems to be quite a nice chap (aside ice cream addiction). I agree that we should combine the might of the light and the power of nature to make the Union a better place for all. His point about fish is quite astute, and I beg you, dearest Felix editor, look into this matter. Furthermore I would like to complain about the state of the bathrooms in the Union. Recently I was relieving myself (taking a dump), and there was no toilet paper! Imagine my horror! I had to use the might of light to cleanse myself! Please inform those responsible that I shall be cursing them.

Yours Sincerely,

The Paladin

Are you guys serious? Well, just on the off-chance you are you'll probably want to write a paper to the Union's Exec Board (in charge of operations). I'm sure they'll respond to your problems with the treatment you deserve... - Ed.



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ARTS

Mojo in Soho, getting jazzy

Mario Lepore
Writer

What: Mojo
Where: Harold Pinter Theatre,
Leicester Square, SW1
When: Until 25th Jan 2014
Price: £10 - £85

mo•jo
Noun
A magic charm, talisman, or spell.
Magic Power.

The long awaited revival of Jez Butterworth's play *Mojo* opened on the 13th November, and saw Rupert Grint making his professional theatre debut. Premiering in the Royal Court Theatre in 1995, *Mojo* was the recipient of the 1996 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy, with a film adaptation released in 1997.

Based in the rock 'n' roll Soho scene of the 1950s, this black comedy is set entirely within the seedy 'Atlantic' nightclub. Silver Johnny (Tom Rhys



SIMON ANNAND

Harries) – a young and talented performer – has the potential to go far. However his jealous manager, the nightclub owner Ezra, tries to protect him from the advances of another local gangster, Sam Ross. After Ezra's body is found sawn in half and deposited in separate dustbins, it is left to the rest of the group to resolve the situation, and the nightclub in which they previously dreamed of success turns

into an isolated prison.

Featuring a phenomenal cast, it is at first strange to watch the valet from *Downton* (Brendan Coyle), Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint), 007's Q (Ben Whishaw), Merlin (Colin Morgan) and Made in Dagenham's Daniel Mays alongside one another as pill-popping, wannabee big-shot gangsters, together with newcomer Harries. The play is non-apologetic for its all-male cast,

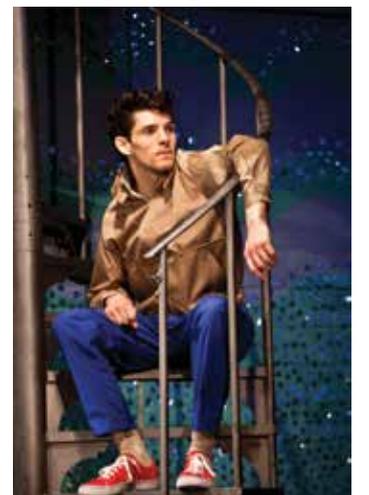
and deals with themes of masculinity and the fight for supremacy.

Although it is hard to erase the memory of Grint as Ron Weasley, his performance as Sweets the nervous sidekick is strong, with skilful comic timing. There are several well-written duologues between Grint and Mays that had the audience laughing out loud. Mays certainly conjures the most comic effect with his Chaplinesque persona and animated actions. The language used is not for the faint hearted, with the 'C-bomb' being dropped fairly regularly, and certainly accounts for the parental advisory that comes with the tickets. Coyle commands great stage presence as Mickey, however is occasionally let down by his cockney accent, which has a hint of *Downton* lingering at times.

The Second Act is certainly more powerful than the first; containing a death scene more realistic than any I have ever witnessed, movie or otherwise. Tension significantly climaxes towards the end and makes up for the somewhat slow opening of the play. The show was stolen by Whishaw, who's psychotic and

arrogant nature quickly turns light-hearted conversation into something more sinister. Recognition must also be given to the staging and lighting design: you are completely transported into this dingy Soho club along with its muggy air and stale alcohol.

Overall this is a playful yet dark performance that is powered by the strength of its cast. What it lacks in pace is made up for in the script and certainly allows for an impressive and entertaining evening out.



SIMON ANNAND

What perfect nonsense!

New *Jeeves & Wooster* play is laugh out loud funny, says **George Shillam**

What: Jeeves & Wooster in "Perfect Nonsense"
Where: Duke of York's Theatre,
Leicester Square, WC2
When: Until 8th March 2014
Price: £15 - £80

As proved by the BBC's recent TV adaptation of Wodehouse's *Blandings Castle* books, which any Wodehouse fan would have found painful to watch, it seems to be difficult to transfer Wodehouse's works to other forms of media. As such, I went into the theatre with mixed expectations. However, the initial signs were promising; I had high hopes when the preliminary mobile phone announcement was done using P.G. Wodehouse quotes.

My expectations were more than met. Every conversation of this play elicited laughs and the script never lost sight of its source material. I was particularly delighted to see that Wodehouse's description of Spode had been included – "a big chap with a small moustache and the sort of eye that can open an oyster at sixty paces".

Perfect Nonsense is an adaptation of the novel *The Code of the Woosters*.

It's one of the best known P.G. Wodehouse books, partly due to its television adaptation (the one with the cow-creamer), and the play sticks remarkably closely to the book except in one way; here the premise is that Bertie is putting on a play about his recent weekend at Totleigh Towers, where the original story takes place. Essentially, it is a play within a play.

This twist works very well, and provides ample opportunities for more humour to be injected. He enlists Jeeves and his Aunt Dahlia's butler Seppings as the two other members of his cast, and the two butlers, as well as playing themselves, impersonate all the other characters in the play. It gets sillier and sillier (not least when Seppings tries to play the formidable Roderick Spode), culminating in Jeeves playing both parties of a conversation, leaping back and forth across the stage.

The one downside of this was that some of the characters seemed flatter than they could have – Spode, for example, lost all sense of menace. On the other hand, Stephen Mangan's performance as Bertie was the star of the show. The way he interacted with the audience (despite Jeeves' disapproval) had the whole crowd roaring with laughter, and the feeling



DAVID JENSEN

that Bertie was actually improvising the whole thing was convincing. Matthew Macfayden was also impressive as Jeeves, managing to remain superbly aloof throughout all his gags. His other roles are equally polished, from Stiffy Byng to Sir Watkyn Bassett.

One other minor quibble is that not all of the humour reached such a high standard. As well as the original jokes from Wodehouse's writing, and the humour stemming from Bertie's endearing inexperience and ineptness at acting, there are other far clumsier gags. Butterfield, the butler at Totleigh Towers, seems to be in the play for the sole purpose of thanking anyone who asks him to do something. This is a joke that is, the first time, only mildly funny. By the end it had definitely started to grate. Thankfully, however, these jokes make up but a small proportion of the play.

Overall the show lived up to its name, but not always for quite the right reasons. Casual Wodehouse fans, or those who have only seen Fry and Laurie's TV show, will love this farce for its imaginative silliness, but more die-hard Wodehousians will miss the cleverness and subtlety of the master of comedy's sublime wit.

BOOKS

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Raw Words: Part One

An original short story by Eoghan Totten

“As you go through life Shane, remember one thing. There’s a price to pay for everything.”

The words of Aodhán Madine, my father, once spoken flippantly, now touch a raw nerve. Time has passed and they’re like daggers, sharpened by the whetstone of the crash.

We were happy back then. Through the untarnished eyes of infancy my family’s fortunes seemed promising. Glimpses of things to come were bathed in the deep tones of Dad’s voice, like stars in the ether.

January ‘94 was my fifth birthday. I remember it vividly. Dad had taken my elder brother Joe and I out for a drive. Perched beside him in his clapped out Ford Transit we gazed out at the barren building site. I’ll never forget his smile as he pulled up by the curb. It was one of unadulterated relief, stretching from ear to ear.

“Your Dad’s building twenty houses here. It’ll keep dinner on the table for the next while”, said Dad.

He put the van in gear and pulled away while Joe and I fell back into childish nonchalance, playing ‘I Spy’ as we weaved through the labyrinth of Dublin streets.

Back then the Madine household was lively. We moved after Dad’s building firm took off. ‘A. M. Construction’ was gathering strength. He was never out of that van. Joe and I would ask over the breakfast table, “Where are you building houses today, Da?” He’d reply, “Lucan, boys” or, “Sandymount, lads”. He had signs up all over Dublin with embossed letters that read: “A. M. Construction – Getting the Job Done”. Mammy used to tell us that he was off to build a cage for the Celtic Tiger.

I find it haunting that some of those signs still hang in tatters, nineteen years later.

We arrived home. Heaving me up onto his shoulders, he ran up the drive-

way and through the open front door, with Joe giving chase. The house was peppered with boxes crammed with our things, like parcelled promises of life to come. We moved through to the kitchen. A horde was gathered around the table.

“There’s Sarah”, said Dad, kissing my mother on the cheek. Granda Michael was there with outstretched arms to receive Joe and I. Dan Harrington, Dad’s business partner, looked on with a smile, as did Mickey Bishop, his best friend. His billowing black moustache gleamed in the half-light. Joe and I were mesmerised by my birthday cake with its five flickering candles standing proud and tall.

Later that evening, briefly stirring from the joy of the celebrations, I ventured back into the kitchen. The adults were gathered around the table in animated conversation. I was hit by a number of sensations: the shadows dancing across their faces; the veracity with which they held one another’s gaze; and most strikingly, the rumbling tone of their voices.

“You’re onto something big, Aodhán”, said Mickey Bishop. My father began to stare wistfully into space. “Jaysus, I could pocket two-hundred thousand punt”, he whispered.

“You’ll have to sign the Lucan deal by Monday and maybe the whole lot”, said Dan. Mammy joined in. “Sure the bank said they’ll approve any loans you’ll need.”

For a fleeting instant I caught Granda’s eye. They were moist with tears as he spoke. “Sign it Aodhán. Give your boys the comforts I could never afford to give you. The Madines deserve a break. It’s our time.”

Mammy turned and saw me. She carried me upstairs and had me ready for bed in an instant.

I loved my room. My bed was in the corner beneath a skylight embedded in

the ceiling. The stars glistened in the deep blue azure of night. Sleep enveloped me. My eyes began to flicker as I stared into this hypnotic tapestry. One of my closing thoughts was of how the stars, like majestic sentinels, watched over all the children of Ireland... and I thought of how the phosphorescence of Granda’s tears looked just like those stars. They appeared as one and the same thing, curators of hope and of dreams.

The years wore on. Each cycle of the calendar saw the promise of the last dwarfed by that of the next. Ireland’s destiny became enmeshed with the prosperity of the times, woven into a single fabric that we hoped had no end.

Houses, roads and bridges flashed into existence as the country was enveloped in an economic mirage. Dad’s work went with this rushing tide. During those years the house was in an eternal state of flux. Workmen came and went, trailing a veil of dust in their wake as rhythmically as day and night.

I’d rush home from school in the evenings in anticipation of the surprises and changes awaiting me. Initially they were subtle, like fresh coats of paint on the walls or a new vase for the dining room. In time they became magnified and exuberant, at least in the eyes of my brother and I. One balmy spring evening we rounded the corner of our Avenue and stopped dead in our tracks. Dad was waxing a new BMW. With its opulent, black body and tapered exhaust it rendered Joe aghast. It fuelled my imagination for many weeks. I christened it ‘The Bat Mobile’ there and then. Dad replied, “Good man”, before grinning and patting me on the head.

That evening my thoughts became sinister. Gazing through my skylight the night revealed itself. Dad had scolded me for bursting into his office. He’d been sitting nestled behind his desk with his glasses perched on the bridge of his nose. He scrutinised numbers of impressive length inscribed in a thick ledger. A sole desk lamp provided the only light in the room. Squat piles of money were neatly arranged on the table. He laced the notes back and forth between his fingers as though in a trance. He whispered as he counted with his face held taut in a concentrated grimace.

When he looked up his face went limp. His expression was a rich complex of surprise and hostility. Even as an eight year old boy I could deduce a veneer of embarrassment...even shame. It was barely perceptible but it was there.



“Out now Shane”, said Dad. His voice cut through me like a knife through butter. I turned to leave but hesitated, compelled to be defiant.

Squarely holding his gaze I turned his familiar phrase back on him, “There’s a price to pay for everything, isn’t there?”

He hurdled the desk and raised his hand before I could blink. It stopped short. He became as still as a statue. The colour drained from his cheeks as he spoke. His voice was as cold and piercing as his stare: “I’ve never been able to decide whether you’re incredibly bright or incredibly stupid.”

His pallor returned on a reinvigorated wave of rage. The crisp notes were bunched between his fingers as he yelled, “Out!” I burst into tears. He took me in his arms. I remember him whispering to me as he carried me from the office, “I’m just tired. I didn’t mean it Shane...did I?”

His animated voice later drifted up the stairs. Mammy reproached him for losing his cool. I heard the rustle of leather as he settled in his chair. He sighed and spoke. “Look at that money on the table Sarah. It doesn’t look right, like it shouldn’t be there. More and more keeps coming in...but sure, everybody’s at it. I often question whether that makes it right. Then I remember how I’ve broken my back since 1988... for you, for the boys. Shane was right. Everything has its price.”

He fell quiet. Mammy broke the silence, “Aodhán, he’s only a child...” Dad

cut in. “I hope he learns one thing. In this day and age ask no questions. You go forward or you fail.”

As I rolled over in bed I willed sleep to come. You go forward or you fail. His words seemed defamatory back then. Jesus, if he knew what was coming...

Joe and I were always close. We loved cars. Joe would idle away the weekends staring vacantly at Dad’s BMW. With his legs tucked under him he’d crawl beneath its aggressive bulk, combing every inch of its garrulous opulence. Dad used to humour him and say, “She’s worth every one of the thirty thousand invested in her, Joe.”

Whenever he mentioned money I’d lose interest, as though by linking the car to reality its magic was dispersed. At this juncture I’d jump on my bike and cycle around town, often passing through one of Dad’s building sites as the lifeless shells of innumerable houses merged and blurred. With my heart booming I’d return and collapse on the front lawn, taking pride in my exertion. I never touched the brakes. One afternoon Dad forced a helmet on me. “There’s a price to pay for everything”, he said knowingly, staring me down.

High on the elixir of risk, I didn’t care. In my head I was Michael Schumacher and he never lost... just like Dad.

Come back next week for the conclusion of Raw Words. If you are interested in submitting your own short fiction to Felix, don’t hesitate to email us at books.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Flash Fiction – ISON by Tom Rivlin

Well, I’ve had a nice few billion years, but I think a change of scenery would do me good.

Hmm, it’s getting hotter... Goodness, I’m leaking!

Oh well! Hello Earth, the cosmos awaits me! Enjoy the show!

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MUSIC

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Metal Hammer: Defenders of the Faith

Thomas Heaven watches some of metal's biggest bands

Imperial Rocksoc was out in force this weekend to catch the Metal Hammer: Defenders of the Faith IV tour. It doesn't get much more metal than a show headlined by modern day Vikings **Amon Amarth** with heroes of the grindcore and melodic death genres **Carcass**, the fresher faced **Bleed From Within** and cult 80's heavy metal band **Hell** opening proceedings. All to a sold out Kentish Town Forum filled with excited fans.

Hell's impressive stage set-up and backdrop is more than you would normally expect from the first band of four but doesn't come as a surprise to those familiar with the group. Frontman David Bower delivers a theatrical performance during which he performs exorcisms on lucky crowd members in the front row and performs self-flagellation, all whilst sporting some pretty

wicked looking red contacts. The classic NWOBHM sounds that accompany this spectacle more than match up to it. Having initially formed in 1982, a series of unfortunate events meant that Hell were only able to release their debut album upon reforming in 2008, having survived in the underground tape trading scene for the intervening period. It is a great disappointment that we are only treated to five songs and are denied the devil horns and stilts seen at bloodstock earlier this year.

Bleed From Within from Glasgow are up next; they are making a habit of getting onto some fairly major billings having supported **Megadeth** earlier this year. Given the animosity felt by some members of the metal community towards bands of the metalcore ilk, Bleed From Within might be forgiven for approaching a show featuring **Carcass** with some trepidation. As it turns out, there is no sign that the group's

confidence has been affected at all. A small group of fans manage to open up a pretty sizable, if sparsely populated pit, in the centre of the room. I also saw vocalist Scott Kennedy attempt to catch his own spit at one point, which is pretty strange behaviour, but whatever works for you I guess.

Carcass come to the show having released *Surgical Steel* in September, the legendary group's first album since 1996. Carcass played a pioneering role in the grindcore genre with their early works, being among the first to record anything so musically extreme at the time. They hold an influential position within melodic death metal as well due to the album *Heartwork*, released in 1993, which helped establish the genre alongside bands from the Swedish death metal scene. The gory themes and imagery that they put forward, a deliberate statement given their own strongly held vegan views, as well track titles full of medical terminology and sound clips about autopsies have been highly influential. Not to mention the effect of the extreme vocals or furious technicality of their guitar and drum sounds. They are clearly the main draw for many at the show given the initial response to their 'Surgical Steel' banner. Frustratingly the Forum's muddied acoustics mean that Jeff Walker's gnarled vocals are often lost behind the music but this cannot fully hold back classics like 'The Mortal Coil' or 'Corporal Jigsore Quandary' which go down a storm regardless. Carcass are more than able to live up to their legendary status.

Bad news first, the forum's stage is too small so Amon Amarth were not able to bring their Viking longboat with them for this show. If you are unfamiliar with the Viking themed melodic death metal group, that first sentence should tell you everything you need to know. They have a long ship! Is there anyone that doesn't think that is awesome? Even without their centrepiece, frontman Johan Hegg can still sport a comically oversized hammer for the show, as well as the standard huge backdrop pictures of Surtur, Odin and many Vikings. Some snazzy looking tombstones make an appearance during 'Runes To My Memory' complete with glowing runes. From the moment 'Father Of The Wolf' starts, pandemonium descends, with a huge backlog of unstoppable anthems and an unlimited supply of epic, ridiculous bravado, Amon Amarth deliver pure fun for the whole of their set. Urging the crowd on and chugging from drinking horns, they give the impression that they too are having a great time. Having opened with newer material from the recently released *Deceiver Of The Gods* album, which proves the band



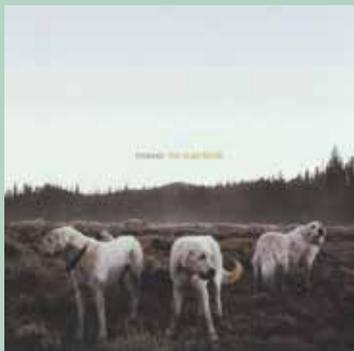
is still going strong, more established tracks like 'Guardians Of Asgaard' and 'Destroyer Of The Universe' provide great opportunities to sing along. As is pointed out, it doesn't even really matter if you know the words, it's death metal, nobody can understand you anyway. Although I doubt anyone has that problem with tunes as catchy as these. Twin guitar harmonies usually reserved for power metal acts

are combined with the bite of death metal and Hegg's signature deep growls to produce an instantly identifiable sound. There was never going to be enough time for this many great bands and sure enough when 11pm arrives it seems like everyone is left wishing for more. Fortunately Amon Amarth have been announced for this summer's bloodstock festival so they may just have their wish granted.

AMS album of the week

Panic! At the Disco – Too Weird to Live, Too Rare to Die!

A world away from the pop punk sound of *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out*, **Panic! at the Disco's** new album, *Too Weird To Live, Too Rare To Die!*, lands us smack bang in the middle of the contemporary electro and dance scene. I'm neither surprised nor upset by this move; Panic! has always pushed the boundaries and demonstrated versatility (fingers to the second album, Beatles nay sayers). However, previously the vocals were balanced with an eclectic use of instruments and quirky sounds. Now we have a less than imaginative use of the vocoder and this album is synth'd up to its eyeballs.



Ultimately, the success of this album is down to Brendon's voice. The album begins with 'This is Gospel,' where he smashes us in the face with the chorus (the vocals ring true through the vocoder which is just there as a genre play thing). In round 3, 'Vegas Lights' with its distinct 80s and glitzy Vegas influence (a little on the nose given the name, but hey!) further sets the scene for Brendon's vocal onslaught. In rounds 4, 5, & 6, - 'Girl That You Love', 'Nicotine' & 'Girls/Girls/Boys', we are fully against the ropes, bludgeoned and in awe by these tracks that are surely destined to be club anthems. In the closing round, we are put to sleep by 'The End Of All Things', a lyrical and poetic reminder of the softer (despite the harsh electronic tones) side of Panic! A phenomenal display by Brendon but not as impressive a Panic! collection as I might have hoped for.

On to the music videos. 'Miss Jackson'. Cult... what... huh? Anyway, the video for Girls/Girls/Boys is definitely worth a comment and a watch. Brendon, who conceded this summer that he, alongside everyone, is a little bit gay, took it upon himself to cast homage to **D'Angelo's** 'Untitled [How Does It Feel]'. Now, D'Angelo's caramel creation is steamy and dripping in eroticism. Brendon, however, do you even lift? Bless him, for he should have done at least one push-up prior to making this music video. The one redeeming feature of the video occurs at the final chorus when Brendon flicks his hair at the camera, charged with all the emotion that wailing about girls loving both sexes naturally would result in, and that makes this writer favour the album and closer to agreeing with Brendon's summer sentiment.

George Spence-Jones





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MUSIC

Sixteen Fantastic Bands and It's About Time!

Stuart Masson & Forrest Seiwald report back on About Time festival

Last Saturday saw the Bussey Building in Peckham play host to About Time #2. A day festival chocked full of the best in UK emo, screamo and noise rock is tough to say no to, so we headed down to check out some bands. The two stages were staggered so you could see everything, and we did our best.

First up were **Healing Powers**, a shouty punk band from Durham who are definitely one to keep an eye on. As good as the music was (and it was great), the main thing we took away was their stage presence. A lead singer who, whilst angrily shouting, looked really cheerful as he bobbed up and down and a bassist who never once turned to face the crowd. Certainly a spectacle. Next up was **COP**, a noisy punk band who were enjoyable if not, er, hugely memorable... next band! **Mars to Stay** are a jangly slowcore band whose live showing was pretty weak. The guitar was a bit too loud and it all felt a bit over the top. **Playlounge** brought the tempo back up with a set of two-man noise rock that can only be described as a **No Age** clone. Don't worry though, they are really good at it and a band I'd definitely recommend. **Cosmic Thoughts** were another noisy punk

band and the first two songs blew us away and then they played a slow song that never seemed to end. **Luckily Twisted** didn't slow down once – a pulsating set of exciting noise rock with some absolutely brilliant riffs. Definitely a great discovery! **Carson Wells** were on next. A fantastic screamo band from Aberdeen who were already a firm favourite with one of the group. Luckily, they didn't fail to deliver, and we all left thoroughly impressed. Sadly, the next band were not so popular amongst our group. **Blood Sport** are best (and kindly) described as a shit **Battles**. By this point the vegan food stall had set up, so a burger each definitely helped deal with it. At this point there was an hour and a half break due to a play happening in the building. We took the time to recuperate in a local pub and then got straight back to it.

First after the break were the incredible **We Came Out Like Tigers**, a black metal screamo combo who use a violin and spoken word sections as well as the more expected blast beats and brutal vocals. This performance was mindblowing. A frontman who spent the set violently throwing himself around the crowd just helped add to the mesmerising nature of it all. It was definitely something extremely different,

but it really was spectacular. The fact that we all loved this so much despite the polarising nature of the genres involved really shows that there can still be beauty in brutality. **Human Hands** were pretty decent, but we were all still recovering from the majesty of the band before. Up next were **Well Wisher**, an upbeat emo-punk band who put on a really enjoyable show, whilst not being something to write home about. **Plaids** definitely are an emo band who take heavy inspiration from first wave emo but still sound fresh and exciting. They didn't disappoint live either, delivering a great set of all their best tracks. **Nai Harvest** were on next, and they didn't disappoint either – a noodley, twinkly midwest emo act who a couple of us have been big fans of for a while now. They are also a band who have disappointed live in the past. Not this time. This time they were spot on. Up next was something very special. **Raein** are the kingpins of the Italian screamo scene (it's a thing). They are crushingly heavy when they want,



but also capable of beautiful melody and anthemic singalongs at the drop of a hat. This performance blew the place apart. I'm still finding bruises all over my body and my arm still isn't completely working but I don't regret a single second. The main highlight was definitely the entire front section losing its shit for a spectacular singalong performance of **Tigersuit**. The penultimate act was **Joanna Gruesome**, a noisier twee pop act who put on a great show. Highlights included a great cover of **Galaxie 500's** 'Tugboat' and the guitarist and bassist (who spent most of the set in the crowd) being lifted above the crowd's heads against their will as they attempted to play their last song. Headliners were **Joan of Arc**,

fronted by Tim Kinsella of **Cap'n Jazz** and **Owls** fame. It was a really nice, mellow way to end the night. Sadly, due to a few problems that happened with the venue, they were cut short and only played for 35 minutes.

This was a spectacularly good day out. A fantastic advert for both the UK emo scene and DIY shows in general. 16 bands, most of whom were great, several of whom were beyond great. There may have been a few issues with timings towards the end, but that was out of the promoters' hands, and to be honest, didn't hugely detract from us having fun.

I can say for sure that I will be making an appearance at About Time #3!

Chasing The Dragon

Richard Clifton reviews Chase and Status' show at the O2 Arena

After two consecutive number two albums and massive sets supporting both **Eminem** at Reading and **Prodigy** at Creamfields, **Chase & Status** have become one of the few dance acts with a crossover appeal large enough to play an arena tour in support of their most recent album, *Brand New Machine*. Whereas **Pendulum** or **Prodigy** did extended runs of late shows at Brixton Academy during the heights of their respective popularities, Chase & Status' show at a venue that hosted **One Direction** for nine sold-out shows earlier this year produced some bizarre contradictions, such as MC Rage encouraging fans to rave late into the night despite an 11pm curfew and £5 drinks.

The O2's lack of suitability for dance music did not get in the way of a good time however. The 20,000 tickets to the show sold out well in advance and most fans arrived very early to listen to the strong support bill on offer. **Pusha T** is featured on one of the standout tracks from *Brand New Machine* ('Machine

Gun') and so was a natural choice to support at such a large show. His affiliation with **Kanye West's** GOOD Music label has given him large numbers of followers in the UK and so his performance was thoroughly enjoyed. A fellow drum and bass producer, **Netsky**, was selected as the main support and did not disappoint. He assembled an excellent band for his live show and they flew through many dance anthems in a half hour set, finishing with Netsky's anthemic remix of 'Everyday' by **Rusko**.

With the crowd properly hyped for the main act, Chase & Status came onstage and flew through their first few songs. While playing their second song, 'International', a blackout occurred and the rest of the song and 'No Problem', which followed, were played in darkness. MC Rage informed the crowd that a particularly destructive thrown drink had hit the lighting board and encouraged a chorus of boos towards the culprits. Neither the band nor the crowd let the technical malfunction dampen their spirits and as the lights came back on, **Tempa T** burst onto the stage as the first guest vocalist

of the night to help deliver an incredible rendition of **Hypest Hype**. Chase & Status played through many of the songs on their later two albums but also included a few songs from their debut, *More Than A Lot*. The show was spectacular, with Chase and Status themselves playing synths and sequencers from behind a giant, illuminated C and S and explosions of pyrotechnics accompanying heavier parts of songs. MC Rage filled the brief pauses between songs by keeping the crowd jumping and anticipating what was to come. Many more vocalists came out to add to the show, such as Liam Bailey during the excellent 'Blind Faith' and Jacob Banks during *Alive*, and in cases where the singer was busy their face would be displayed on the giant screens around the arena ('Delilah during Time').

The two hour set sped by with the energy levels remaining high throughout. Just as the crowd were preparing for a night of dancing, the encore was upon us and Chase & Status finished on a high, tearing through an aggressive cover of 'Killing in the Name' by **Rage Against the Machine** and finishing on the up-

tempo 'Fool Yourself'. Chase & Status definitely put on a show worthy of any rock band currently touring but they have had to sacrifice some things in pursuit of commercial success. The 11pm finish meant the harder fans would be off to other events to dance the night away whereas a few years ago Chase & Status would be playing that two hour set at 4am in Fabric with fans having just as good a time and I am sure a part of

them still wishes that was the case. Their gig was an excellent showcase of many different dance genres (from jungle to house to trap to drum and bass) and their ability to produce a cohesive album using all these influences and then tour it imaginatively and energetically has gained them many fans and allows them to retain the underground credibility that first brought them to attention.



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2014 at the Oscars



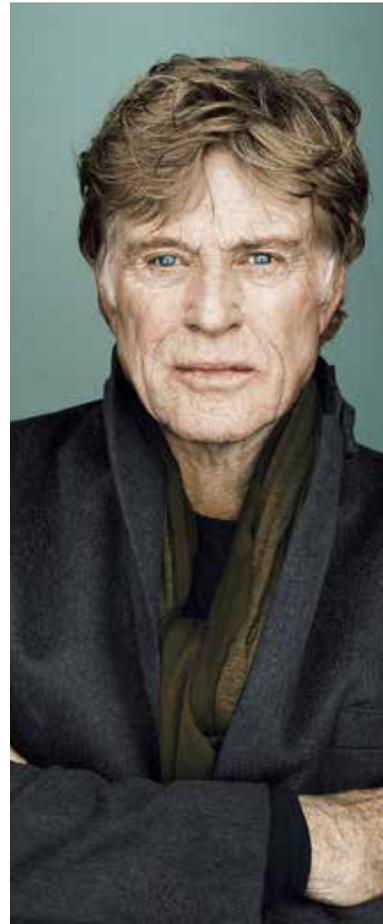
Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave*)

Director Steve McQueen certainly hit the critical jackpot with his brutal, unflinching slavery drama, and at the heart of such ordeal is Chiwetel Ejiofor who is utterly compelling in the lead role. A free black man kidnapped and forced into slavery, Solomon Northup (Ejiofor) spends hellish years working away whilst witnessing and experiencing unthinkable, unjustifiable cruelty. This will be a first-time nomination for the usually under-the-radar Ejiofor, who, no doubt, will be a better known name in the industry by the end of the year.



Tom Hanks (*Captain Phillips*)

One of this year's expert nail-biting thrillers is headed by Tom Hanks, whose mission is to protect his ship and crew from Somali pirates who board with machine guns. His intelligence, courage and calm sense of reasoning keep him alive throughout, although it's the final scenes that serve as an impressive showcase for Hanks' abilities. The film itself has attracted some controversy surrounding the accuracy of events, but this in no way should hurt Hanks' chance of scoring a nomination, who is possibly looking at a double nomination this year.



Robert Redford (*All is Lost*)

Leading J. C. Chandor's one-man survival drama at sea is none other than screen veteran Robert Redford, who gives what must be one of the toughest, most physically challenging roles of his career. Redford is the only credited member of the cast, and he alone is responsible for keeping the audience captivated throughout the whole film, which he successfully does. That he is 77 years old makes this man vs nature film that much more tense and exciting to watch, and as Redford reaches for the very last ounce of the human survival spirit, it's one thrilling ride.



Forest Whitaker (*The Butler*)

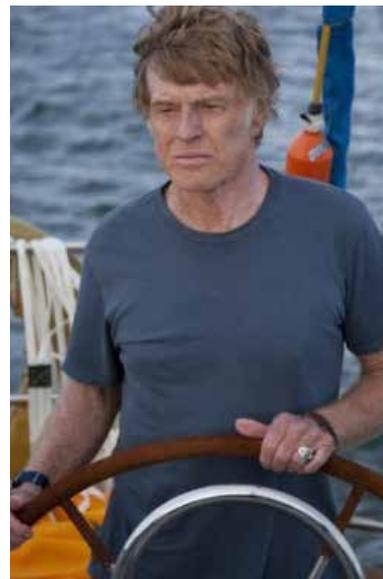
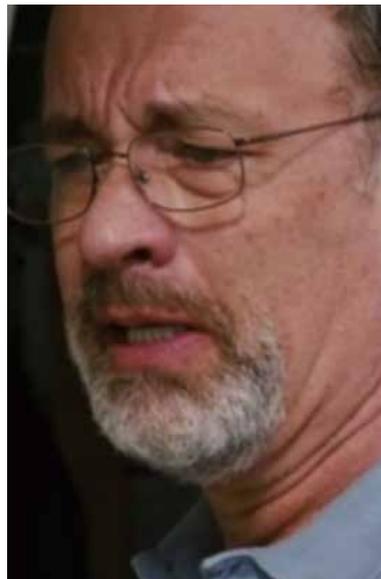
It may have been a while since the release of Lee Daniels' massive Oscar-bait of a film, but momentum is certainly strong enough for Forest Whitaker to be able to gain a well-deserved recognition for his deeply touching turn. In portraying a White House butler who served for over three decades, Whitaker is mostly very quiet, but most certainly powerful even in his long-sustained silence. It's the best thing Whitaker has done since his Oscar-winning turn in *The Last King of Scotland*, and maybe a second win won't be so far off.

December is just around the corner, and film studios are lining up their critically-lauded films to take part in this year's much-anticipated Oscar race. As with any year, there are strong contenders in every field and it's certainly too early to be betting on a winner.

So over the next few weeks, **Felix Film** will be giving you a breakdown of the actors, actresses and films that will be grabbing the headlines in the near future; but this is in no way a definitive list, as some of the films haven't even been released here yet.

This week in our feature is the Best Lead Actor category.

**Ready...
Steady...
Go!**



Best Leading Actor



Matthew McConaughey (*Dallas*, *Buyers Club*)

As an HIV-positive man when there wasn't much known about the disease (1985), Ron Woodroof has only himself to depend on when it comes to securing drugs that have yet to reach the United States. Matthew McConaughey lost 50 pounds for the role, which explains his gaunt figure, but it's in his raw, vulnerable and inspiring performance that the film truly comes to life despite its bleak subject matter. McConaughey's versatility knows no bounds, and given his *Magic Mike* snub last year, he deserves a spot here.



Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Wolf of Wall Street*)

It's a surprise to many that Leonardo DiCaprio has never won an Oscar. He has been consistently unlucky with his nominations, always forced to face off against difficult opponents. So will this finally be his year of glory? Working in his favour is the fact that he's under the direction of Martin Scorsese, and that the studio has enough faith in the film for a Christmas Day release. But once again there are some acting heavyweights vying for the always competitive Best Actor category. He may have to sit out for another year.



Bruce Dern (*Nebraska*)

This year's Cannes Film Festival's Best Actor winner, Bruce Dern stars in Alexander Payne's new black-and-white family roadtrip drama that is as hilarious as it is heartwarming. Although starting off as a grumpy, deluded man with a dream of collecting his million dollars just by turning up to a scam agency, it turns out Woody Grant (Dern) has so many more stories to tell than that, which is why *Nebraska* is one of this year's best films, with Dern in a pivotal role that sees him largely cold and distant, although with the right amount of warmth.



Michael B. Jordan (*Fruitvale Station*)

The Academy likes to pay attention to at least one independent film each year (perhaps to show off their focus on variety) and if there is ever a film to get into the mix this year, it's 2013's Sundance hit, the based-on-a-true-story account of the shooting of Oscar Grant. Jordan is set to scoop up some newcomer awards (he has done so already with the Hollywood Film Awards), but is he ready to play at the highest of the levels with this year's competition? It's unlikely for sure, but if all the love for the film sticks around, there could be a chance.



Idris Elba (*Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*)

Hand-picked by Barack Obama to screen at the White House, this Nelson Mandela biopic has awards glory written all over it. The critics are already raving about Elba's outstanding performance as the President of South Africa. Plus, Elba has been growing in popularity thanks to his successful stints on television with shows like *The Wire* and *Luther*. He has been making the transition from TV to film over the years (*Thor*, *Pacific Rim*) but this is setting out to be the biggest critical hit of his career yet.



Hugh Jackman (*Prisoners*)

Hugh Jackman has truly outdone himself following on from his Oscar-nominated role in *Les Misérables*. As a grieving, desperate father who will stop at nothing to find his kidnapped daughter, Jackman goes to incredibly dark places, using morally questionable methods to get to the disturbing truth. His slow transformation from a loving, caring family man to something more sinister and monstrous is one captured stunningly well by Jackman whose role will no doubt spark debates among cinema-goers. It's a well-layered, haunting performance.



Oscar Isaac (*Inside Llewyn Davis*)

Singing always goes down well when it comes to attracting award attention (just look at the guy to the left) although how the Academy will react to folk music is left to be seen. But regardless of music taste, the Coen brothers' tragi-comedy works because of a likable central character. There is something heartbreaking about witnessing something that will never be, as we follow Llewyn (Oscar Isaac) struggling to catch a break in the music industry. His incredible singing that makes you fall in love with an entire genre of music should help too.



Joaquin Phoenix (*Her*)

His rather chequered relationship with the Academy (calling the awards 'bullshit' is never a way to go when it comes to winning favours) isn't going to win him any fans, but this quirky romantic comedy in which Joaquin Phoenix's character falls in love with a virtual machine's voice (much sweeter and more touching than it actually sounds) may just be unique enough to catch the Academy's attention. It's a fascinating concept, with a talented enough actor to sell the story with sensitive exploration of an highly unusual character.



Christian Bale (*Out of the Furnace*)

His performance here has been described as his 'greatest performance', which is really saying something for an actor who has consistently delivered in outstanding roles time and time again over his long-standing career. When it comes to dedicated intensity, no one does it better than Bale. With a Best Supporting Actor Award (*The Fighter*) already under his belt, has time come for him to conquer the other category as well? This may not be a biopic or based on a best-selling novel, but given the early mixed reviews, Bale's performance is praised most.



Josh Brolin (*Oldboy*)

The much-anticipated American remake of Chan-wook Park's *Oldboy* (that no one actually wanted in the first place) hits the screens in 2013 (a decade after the original's release). Will Smith was once worryingly set to star in the new version, although it's good to see someone of Josh Brolin's scruffy bad-boy killer intensity took over instead. The Motion Picture Association of America highlights "strong brutal violence, disturbing images, some graphic sexuality and nudity, and language" which could potentially act as a deterrent.



FILM

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The comic success of Don Jon

Jack Steadman

Star Writer

Don Jon

Director: Joseph Gordon-Levitt

Writer: Joseph Gordon-Levitt

Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Scarlett Johansson, Julianne Moore

Runtime: 90 minutes

Certification: 18



Joseph Gordon-Levitt's directorial debut (which he also wrote and stars in – the classic triple threat) opens with a rather unobtrusive montage that flicks between credits and the standard examples of society's objectification of women. It makes a rather obvious point – objectification is everywhere – but the complete absence of context sets the initial tone of the film in a no-man's-land of taste: is this just another film that uses objectification as part of its draw, or is this one that openly rips into and lays bare the misogyny behind that objectification? (I'm going to spoil things for you here, because



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if I don't, it completely derails the review, and tell you this is very much the latter. Obviously.)

From the title card comes a sequence that is almost instantly the perfect example of TMI (Too Much Information for you acronym-ophobes) as 'Don' Jon (Gordon-Levitt) details his, ah, 'me time' routine. Explicitly detailed. With clips from the porn and everything. And then, just when you think Don Jon might finally have found the limit of the detail it's prepared to go into, it goes further, and just keeps going. It's an incredibly confident (and bold) film for a debut director – and it works all the better for it. A more nervous hand could have sunk this film, instead the

assured direction and script ensure it stays afloat, confident in the comedy and story being good enough to get past the initial awkwardness.

Fortunately (oh, so fortunately), both of them are more than good enough – the comedy is spot-on, getting laughs from both the insanely smart script and its brutal realism. In a film that opens the way *Don Jon* does, it's perfectly acceptable for people to talk the way people in real life actually talk (shocking, isn't it, people talking like people in a film), with quickfire exchanges and inane banter (mostly involving Jon & Co's 'scoring' – literally, not in the euphemistic sense you foul-minded slob, although they do that too – of women at the bar)

keeping the laughter fairly constant. The family comedy is a treat, from Tony Danza's admiring of Jon's new girlfriend (which got perhaps the biggest laughs of the night) to Brie Larson's deadpan expressions (with Larson walking off with the film's highest laughs-to-lines ratio: one line to many, many laughs). Julianne Moore's introductory monologue is equally delightful (and by delightful I mean hilariously awkward and off-the-wall – I have a weird definition of 'delightful' it seems), and the in-car skits are perhaps the film's highlight; ten 20-second shots that perfectly encapsulate Jon at that point in time.

It seems a little excessive to continue raving about the comedy quality of

Don Jon, but it's easily its strongest asset, as the script skewers absolutely everything it can lay its hands on, from the obvious – misogyny, objectification, porn, gender norms (there's a great argument about 'cleaning' in the film which is the complete opposite of what you expect and therefore perfect) – to the unexpected – TiVo, the Church, advertisements, Facebook. You name it, it's probably getting fun poked at it. Even films. Especially films. Hell, *Don Jon* pokes fun at itself. And that's why it's so good.

Well, it's not the only reason. The perfect performances play a significant part in that as well – everyone is on top form here, from Larson with her one line to Gordon-Levitt and Scarlett Johansson (amazing, as ever) with their many. The great use of recurring imagery (trips to the gym, the car skits, confessions – half the film consists of variations on the same ten or so scenes, and yet it works), the solid editing and the constant sense of discomfort all combine to produce one hell of a film. It's not perfect, by any means, but then as the film tries so hard to point out – nothing, and nobody is. Not sex, not relationships, not movie-making. But at least *Don Jon* comes close.

Can Fassbender handle the truth?

Jack Steadman

Star Writer

The Counsellor

Director: Ridley Scott

Writer: Cormac McCarthy

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Penélope Cruz, Javier Bardem, Cameron Diaz, Brad Pitt

Runtime: 117 minutes

Certification: 18



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On paper, *The Counsellor* should be perfect. Cormac McCarthy's first original screenplay (a few of his other books have been adapted into screenplays – notably *No Country for Old Men* and *The Road*), directed by Ridley Scott, the genius behind *Alien* and the man with such a passion for McCarthy's work he's been trying to work out how to film *Blood Meridian* for years. Plus a heavy-hitter cast featuring the likes of Michael Fassbender at the point where his career seems utterly unstoppable, Javier Bardem after his scene-stealing turn in *Skyfall*, Brad Pitt following on from holding up the entire film of *World War Z* and both Cameron Diaz and Penélope Cruz, amongst many, many others. What could go wrong?

Obviously, the immediate answer to that question is: absolutely everything. Fortunately, that's not quite the case here, but *The Counsellor* is an extremely complicated beast. McCarthy's script is a real treat in terms of the spoken word, delivering some exquisite monologues that just wouldn't exist in any other film, but it does make the film incredibly heavy on

talking heads – there are a few pulse-pounding moments of action, but on the whole it's a film that requires a lot of investment in the characters for, ultimately, no reward. In traditional McCarthy style, *The Counsellor* is unrelentingly bleak, offering a flicker of (false) hope at the beginning with a proposal before rapidly spinning off into an uncontrollable descent into hell for the eponymous counsellor. There is no innocence, no hope, no redeemable features left in the world of *The Counsellor*, and the final cut leaves a film with no closure. It's horrifying – and on one hand it's a move that leaves the film feeling unfinished, but on the other, it couldn't end any other way. This is not a film that was meant to have a happy ending, and to give closure (other than the deaths of various characters) would be to undermine the preceding two hours.

With such a dialogue-heavy film, much depends on the actors to deliver the goods and make it all engaging (and believable – how many monologues do you encounter in the real world?). With the names *The Counsellor* has on board, there

was never any doubt they'd manage it. Fassbender is endlessly watchable, Bardem is absurdly sleazy (proving his incredible versatility, from the silent and threatening assassin in *No Country* to the evil mastermind in *Skyfall* to this utter sleaze-bag), Diaz is an enigma wrapped in a riddle, wrapped in a question (to paraphrase someone more intelligent), Pitt is charming and Cruz does an incredible job with a very limited part. There are flashes of black humour through the endless darkness, and the cast handle it well, rolling off the fantastically verbose dialogue like nobody's business.

Despite the stunning script, the assured acting, and the delightful directing (Scott's as on-form as he's ever been – with a script that's less of a horrifying mess than *Prometheus*, he has plenty of chances to show off) it's still hard to conclusively like *The Counsellor*. It's a long slog through a two hour run-time, and the resulting feeling of emptiness and shock that it leaves is not the best way to leave a cinema.

The very fact it can have that effect speaks volumes.



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FILM

The Badfellas JFK + Vantage Point + Bobby

John Park

Film Editor

The Family

Director: Luc Besson
Writers: Luc Besson, Michael Caleo, Tonino Benacquista
Starring: Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, Tommy Lee Jones, Dianna Agron, John D'Leo
Runtime: 111 minutes
Certification: 15



What starts off promisingly enough heads for a rapid decline in quality when director Luc Besson doesn't quite know what to do with the impressive cast he has assembled. Whatever it wants to achieve, whether that is comedy, family drama, or invoking some kind of nostalgia, it fails on all counts, and without any decent action to make any of this worthwhile, Besson's newest marks a disappointing low for the French director. That the film's executive producer is Martin Scorsese doesn't appear to have added much to the finished product.

Mafia boss Giovanni Manzoni (Robert De Niro), along with his wife (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two children (Dianna Agron, John D'Leo) are relocated to Normandy, France as a part of the witness protection programme after he rats out a powerful enemy. They have been on the run for six years now, and FBI agent Robert Stansfield (Tommy Lee Jones) tasked with keeping the family safe is quite frankly sick of having to move them around so much. "Try to fit in, I'm getting tired of finding you a new place to live every 90 days" he says, and the newly named Blake family promise to behave themselves.

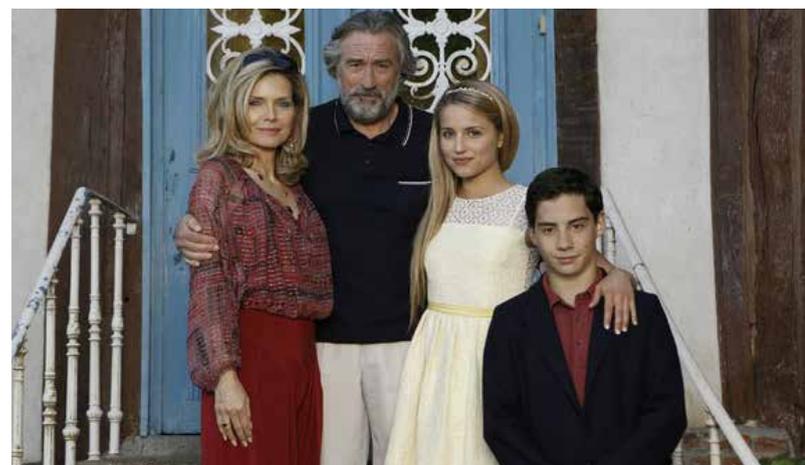
That is until the father beats up a plumber who is trying to rip him off, the mother blows up a local grocery

store after getting insulted by snooty French people, the daughter attacks a sleazy boy with a tennis racquet, and the son starts running a mini-Mafia ring at his school.

Sound fun? It really isn't. Aside from a few seconds of actual narrative flair that signals some kind of direction or purpose, the film comes to an awful standstill where characters mope around whilst trying to adjust to their new lives. There is the inevitable showdown that must occur between the "Blakes" and the wronged bad guys who are on the hunt for the traitors, but at a staggering 111-minute running time, you wonder whether the Mafia could hurry up and get on with tracking people down.

How do the Blakes pass their time in the meantime? Fred (De Niro) starts writing a book – a memoir of some sorts that he thinks will be a good idea given his criminal past. The FBI agent wisely advises against this, but to no avail. When Fred finds an old typewriter, he's an unstoppable literary machine. Maggie (Pfeiffer) invites people around for a barbecue, is a cooking queen, and finds peace by going to church. She confesses her sins to a priest. The priest is horrified and tells her never to come back. What these supposed sins are the audience never finds out, since that actual confession itself is never shown. Belle (Agron) is about to experience what it's like to fall in love with the wrong man: a teacher. For someone her age, she's very misguided and frustratingly immature when it comes to relationships, which marks the weakest subplot of the lot. Warren (D'Leo) doesn't really get up to much, although he does play a significant part in the film's most outrageous strand that outlines the steps by which the antagonists finally manage to track this family down.

Despite the cool, relaxed demeanour of De Niro, and the feisty energy from Pfeiffer, *The Family* is a disappointingly dull feature that mistakes portraying utter empty boredom with inducing nostalgia. Is this a black comedy? A family drama? It's neither.



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John Park

Film Editor

Parkland

Director: Peter Landesman
Writers: Peter Landesman, Vincent Bugliosi (novel)
Starring: Zac Efron, Marcia Gay Harden, Colin Hanks, Paul Giamatti, Billy Bob Thornton, James Badge Dale, Jacki Weaver, Ron Livingston, Tom Welling, Austin Nichols
Runtime: 93 minutes
Certification: 15



There are far better movies out there that are based on the assassination of American President John F. Kennedy. *Parkland* may boast an impressive cast the trailers have no trouble showing off, with the obligatory "Academy Award Winning" or "Academy Award Nominated" slogans written above the more famous names of the bunch headlining the film. But what is the point of having so many talented individuals all cramped together in a 90-minute running time without any of them given proper room to breathe with their characters?

It must have sounded fantastic on paper, which is probably how it managed to attract so much talent for such an inadequate little film. The President's assassination is shown from various different angles, and how this sudden turn of events starts to affect everyone. But the general consensus is, everyone is shocked. Everyone is sad. And everyone is crying. Watching the news on their television screens, they can't believe what they're all witnessing. The tears start pouring. Frankly that does very little for the audience.

As John F. Kennedy is rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital (hence the film's title), he is met by Dr Charles James Carrico (Zac Efron in a surgical gown – and no, I wouldn't want him to be my doctor either) who freaks out at first but then steps up to the biggest challenge of his life and tries his best to save POTUS with his limited medical expertise. Help from Dr Malcolm O. Perry (Colin "son of Tom" Hanks) doesn't improve the situation much, and it's no spoiler to reveal that he in fact, does not make it, which makes all the nurses cry. Oh, and Jacqueline Kennedy (Kat Steffens), who has been left a widow, cries too.

The Secret Service agents are angry. They didn't see the attack coming and they essentially collectively failed at doing their jobs. Roy Kellermann (Tom Welling) and Emory Roberts (Austin

Nichols) look all puffy and sulk on screen, whereas Forrest Sorrels (Billy Bob Thornton) gets down to business trying to track down the man (Paul Giamatti) who inadvertently filmed the entire assassination on his camera, hoping to find some answers there.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is in a state of mass panic as it comes to light that Lee Harvey Oswald (Jeremy Strong), the man identified as the shooter, was in fact in their offices a few days prior to the shooting. Oswald's threats weren't taken seriously at the time by the Feds, which in light of recent events, would make them look beyond incompetent. They're scared, some evidence-burying takes place, although to what end we're never even shown.

It's a highly disjointed, confused film that brings together several snapshots of various people's lives and leaving so many strands hanging. Very little connection is made in between the characters, which is crucial in making such 'hyperlink' dramas work. This is Landesman's debut film, and with so much dense material and a large cast to juggle around with, it appears he is out of his depth with this one.

The only worthy subplot is one involving the assassin's family members. Robert Oswald (James Badge Dale), Lee Harvey's brother, is faced with an impossible situation when he and his family come under intense media spotlight. Looking at this chaotic event from the family's point of view offers an interesting dynamic for the film to play with. As a family they want to stand by Lee Oswald for his grave actions, but on the other hand there is that completely relatable issue of difficulty in understanding his thought process. Dale plays the most fascinating role in the film thanks to having a lot more deserved allocated screen time than his co-stars, and when the excellent Jacki Weaver enters the picture as the unintentionally funny, delusional conspiracy theorist Margeurite Oswald, the mother, this narrative strand only gets better. Even though it's clear that Lee Oswald is the villain here, there is something deeply sad and unsettling when it comes to what his brother and mother have to face and what is left for them to clean up.

A more intimate, focussed film concentrating solely on the Oswalds would have served this idea better. There is so much distraction that even the impact the best scene of the film should have had is lost, which is a huge letdown.

With so many ups and downs throughout, it's a film that requires an enormous amount of patience, as you will have to endure endless scenes of useless characters faffing about.

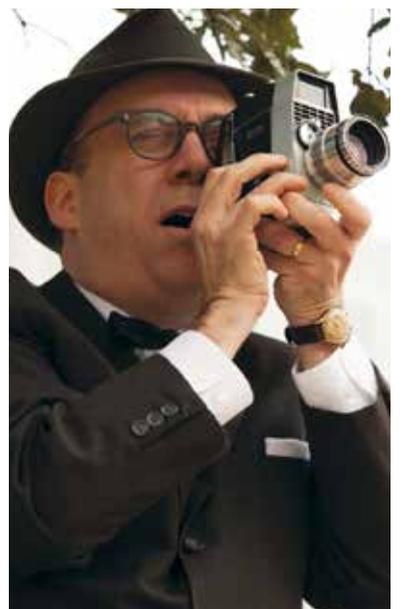
Is it all worth it in the end? Not really. You'll be better served by watching documentaries or interviews.



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Ding dong the witch

American Horror Story: Coven



John Park Television Editor



Incest. Rape. Murder. Witches. Voodoo. Resurrection. Zombies. Slavery. Blood. Goats. Snakes. Limbs. A severed tongue. Yes, Ryan Murphy is back doing what he does best – laying on the dark and twisted in the new season of his hit anthology, *American Horror Story*, this year appropriately titled *Coven*. Every season is a standalone one, each with its very own beginning, middle and an end, which stops the show from growing stale, as fresh new ideas come alive every year. As can be sussed out from the title, we focus on a group of modern day witches who face extinction.

Zoe Benson (Taissa Farmiga) discovers her unique witchy 'gift' of literally being able to use sex as a deadly weapon, when the first boy she does the deed with dies of a mysterious brain haemorrhage. For her own protection and education, she is sent away to a special boarding school run by Cordelia Foxx (Sarah Paulson), who is focused on teaching her students Madison Montgomery (Emma Roberts), Queenie (Gabourey Sidibe), Nan (Jamie Brewer) and Zoe whilst also keeping them safe from dangers of the outside world.

The unexpected return of Fiona Goode (Jessica Lange) signals trouble

for everyone involved. As the reigning Supreme of the generation, she is the most powerful witch in town, although age seems to be taking its toll on the once-omnipotent glamourcat, and her obsession with keeping her youthful looks and powers intact is her main objective. Cordelia isn't thrilled to have her unstable mother around the house, and her tendency to seek out trouble and violence wherever she goes. Also not pleased with this new arrival is Marie Laveau (Angela Bassett), an immensely skilled voodoo queen who's been alive since the 1800s, it seems.

New addition Kathy Bates also has a prominent role, based on the real-life Madame Marie Delphine LaLaurie, whose infamous treatment of her domestic staff is portrayed on the screen here, as she gains pleasure in torturing her group of black servants. It was promised Bates would play a woman five times worse than her *Misery* character of Annie Wilkes, and Bates' LaLaurie does not disappoint. How she fits into the overall modern day timeline is through some spooky voodoo trick which promises to have a lot of fun in store for us.

American Horror Story is a show where restraint has no place in any of

its episodes. The crazier it gets, the more deliciously fun it is for the audience. The uneasy truce between the witches' coven and the voodoo practitioner builds to a boiling point early on, and gloves will certainly be coming off as these two powerful forces go head to head, reigniting a bloody war that should light our screens ablaze with fire, blood, guts and gore.

There is internal conflict within the coven, as Fiona's reckless use of her powers alerts the Council, headed by Fiona's long-time nemesis, Myrtle Snow (*American Horror Story* regular Frances Conroy with crazy red hair). This rivalry is also setting up to become a juicy plot strand, and with two actresses of exceptional acting abilities, their showdown should be one to look forward to.

Murphy's genius move of recycling various members of his cast is one of the most attractive features of his anthology series. Lange, as usual, is a commanding force of nature who makes the show what it is, Paulson is equally as strong, Denis O'Hare is immensely creepy as a loyal cross-dressing, doll-collecting, tea-party-loving house servant, and making a particularly welcome return is Lily Rabe as a slow-moving, slow-talking

but powerful witch who can resurrect anything. She, too, is not all right in the head, which will most definitely lead to unpredictable developments.

Zoe's relationship with Kyle (Evan Peters) brings back the similar forbidden love subplot from *Murder House* that was missing in *Asylum*. Early episodes have been so busy with setting the tone with different witches that Zoe and Kyle haven't yet had a whole lot of time to spend together. The same goes for the new neighbours of the witchy academy, the good-looking Luke (Alexander Dreyfuss), his bible-thumping mother Joan (Patti LuPone), as well as Cordelia's shady looking husband Hank (Josh Hamilton). But so far seven episodes have aired, and with six more to go, everything is looking so far so spooky.

American Horror Story does have the tendency to start off incredibly strong and die down slightly towards the end (as is reflected by its television ratings), but what it promises to deliver in terms of shock value and campy fun is done so week after week. It's highly addictive, and for those who can stomach the constant flashes of unthinkable violence, *Coven* is quite a ride, and promises to be a whole lot more horrifying in future episodes.



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TELEVISION

atches are here

Witches of East End: Season 1



John Park Television Editor

Remember how awful it is when an American actor tries to unsuccessfully imitate an English accent? Well here is the perfect example of where the opposite has gone completely wrong. Yes, an English actress who tries (and sometimes it doesn't even sound like she's trying one bit) to put on a convincing American accent. She fails every episode of course, although that alone isn't enough to write this show off completely.

Julia Ormond is the aforementioned guilty accent offender, as she ventures wildly between both dodgy American and sometimes proper posh English. She plays Joanna Beauchamp, an immensely powerful, immortal witch who is cursed with having to bury and give birth to her daughters time and time again no matter what she does to protect them. Her daughters Ingrid (Rachel Boston) and Freya (Jenna Dewan-Tatum) live until they reach the age of 30, die, then are soon reborn for Joanna to go through the painful cycle

of giving birth and raising her daughters only for them to die all over again.

This time, Joanna is determined to hold on to her daughters, and so keeps the magical powers a secret from her children. But it doesn't take long for them to find out about their abilities, especially when Joanna's fun-loving, magic-practicing sister, the girls' aunt Wendy (Mädchen Amick) drops by for a visit.

As if this wasn't complicated enough for Joanna, it turns out she has angered a lot of bad people over the years thanks to her immortality and powers, and now one of them may be out for revenge. Before this evil can attack her beloved family, Joanna must race against the clock, identify this force, and contain the threat.

It's not just Joanna who is having a tough time though. Each daughter has soapy love-life problems to deal with. Freya, recently engaged to Dash Gardiner (Eric Winters), a dreamy doctor, couldn't be happier, despite his mother's (Virginia Madsen – who should have a bigger role) frank disapproval. This is until she starts having weird dreams about Killian (Daniel Di Tomasso), the estranged brother of her fiancé who she's never met. Very awkward indeed. Is there some sort of supernatural pull that is hinting at destiny? Or is Freya just really into the wild child of the two sisters?

Ingrid has always been interested in pagan rituals and witchcraft in general even before the discovery of her

powers, but now that she's equipped with the knowledge that she is, in fact, a witch, it doesn't take long for her to start experimenting. She too has a love interest, Adam (Jason Winston George), the handsome cop, although the need for secrecy surrounding her identity makes it difficult for their relationship to move forward.

Witches of East End is clearly more fun when it is spending time with magic, not with individual relationship drama. Both Boston and Dewan-Tatum have enough likability and charm to carry their own plot strands, but when compared to the weight and charisma carried by Ormond (despite her horrendous, vomit-inducing accent) and the refreshingly bright and perky Amick, they cannot quite hold their own. When the four of them come together however, there is no telling what they will be able to do.

Even in the most dire circumstances, the show remembers to have a lighter touch, with humour spread throughout to make up for the shortfall when it comes to delivering the dramatic goods. So far, nothing particularly eye-catching has happened, but it's a show with potential. Given the many centuries Joanna has lived through, there will no doubt be many flashback sequences that take us to all sorts of different time periods. For those who can't handle the madness of *American Horror Story: Coven*, here is another witchy show whose spell you can fall under.

Cartoon Corner

Tom Rivlin

Welcome to Cartoon Corner, the new weekly column where we explore the wonderful world of animation! (Not anime. We have a separate club for that.) Each week I'll be doing either a review of a currently airing show, or a retrospective on something more nostalgic. So, word counts are tight here, let's start with an obvious one!

Adventure Time!

(Come on, grab your friends!)

Adventure Time really is an ideal show to start this column with, as it's a perfect example of a Cartoon Network kids' show reaching many people outside its target audience on the basis of it being just damn good. At first it might be hard to see why – the show starts off rather unassumingly, dropping you without fanfare into the world of Ooo, and introducing you to Finn (the human) and Jake (the dog... who can stretch his body into limitless forms). More characters are introduced as time goes on, however, and each one leaves an impression in their own unique way. Early episodes are seemingly simple, but each one holds surprises and defies expectations.

As the show progresses, though, it becomes clearer that it's really something special. The surrealism leads to countless memorable scenes and episodes, and the show swings between diabetes-inducing saccharine and horrifying terror with hilarious abruptness. Eventually you learn more about the history of the magical world they inhabit, and the shocking truth of Ooo's history casts the entire series in a whole new, bleak light, yet the overall tone of the show defiantly remains the same.

Personally, I think that the best part of the show is how wonderfully it shows Finn growing up. Like Aang in *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, he is voiced by an actual kid (Jeremy Shada), whose voice breaks during the show, and it really adds an extra dimension to the notion of Finn maturing as time goes on. He experiences love, loss, pain and joy in ways that feel very organic and real for a person of his age, and most importantly, we see him growing up.

Adventure Time isn't my favourite cartoon of all time, but I completely understand how it gathered such a large fanbase, why it's always a hugely popular cosplay choice at conventions and how it has kept running for 145 episodes (and counting). Simply put, it's a smartly written, charming, light-hearted, yet often emotionally heavy adventure that I strongly recommend you make time for. (See what I did there?) Each one is about ten minutes long, so they're perfect revision breaks for that holiday studying we're all definitely going to do...

Next time, a nostalgia trip: he's gotta get back, back to the past, *Samurai Jack*!



TELEVISION

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The Fang-tom Menace

Latest adaptation of *Dracula* has yet to impress

Emily Fulham Television Editor

It was easy to respond to the news of NBC and Sky's latest venture, *Dracula*, with a roll of the eyes. What with the frenzied spate of anything vampire-themed following the dubious success of *Twilight*, including the rise and fall of *True Blood* and *The Vampire Diaries*, it would appear that the show is jumping on the bandwagon five years too late.

On the other hand, when looking for source material for a tale about vampires, you'd be hard-pressed to find anything better than Bram Stoker's original novel which was, after all, responsible for igniting the whole vampire craze in the first place. The titular character in the book, first published in 1879, is a far cry from Edward Cullen, with no sparkles or teenage angst in sight. In hindsight, it's more surprising that it took this long for a new adaptation to be made.

The show takes more than a few liberties with the story, which isn't in itself a problem: over the years, the story has been adapted and reinterpreted so many times that it's difficult to do it in an original way. Yet there's a lot to puzzle over from just the first episode. The pilot starts off with two archaeologists investigating a crypt, where they discover the ominously caged remains of a skeleton in a sarcophagus. In a twist that is shocking to approximately no one, one of the tomb raiders turns out to be somewhat shady and slices his partner's throat over the skeletal figure, thereby rejuvenating the corpse. So far, pretty standard for a vampire flick.

We're then transported to London

and introduced to Alexander Grayson, aka Dracula, posing as an American businessman for reasons I couldn't quite figure out (this would be less of an issue except actor Jonathan Rhys-Meyers puts on a pretty atrocious American accent). He's throwing a grand party in an attempt to impress the British socialites, which he does by unveiling his new invention: a machine that generates wireless power drawn from... the Earth's magnetic field, apparently? This is about all the explanation we receive, apart from *Dracula* boasting how Edison and Tesla couldn't manage it, and a lot of steam-powered machinery in the basement.

Suitably impressed with Dracula's new technology is Mina Murray, a young medical student studying under Van Helsing, who's being escorted by her beau, journalist Jonathan Harker. She is immediately drawn to Dracula, who likewise takes an interest in her after flashbacks reveal she looks identical to his long-dead wife.

The show makes some pretty big departures from both the novel and previous adaptations, not least of which is the role of Van Helsing – traditionally Dracula's nemesis – who is revealed to be the person responsible for reviving Dracula in the first place. Also introduced are a few new characters, such as Lady Jayne Wetherby, a rich socialite who gets pretty intimate with Dracula in a viewing box at the opera, but who's also handy with a pair of knives.

Dracula has all the ingredients of a decent vampire show, but so far seems to be lacking in something. Dracula himself doesn't feel menacing enough, with too much emphasis on his charm and good looks (admittedly hand-



NBC

some though Jonathan Rhys-Meyers is); it gives the impression that the vampire is being portrayed as an anti-hero, rather than the straight-up monster he's supposed to be. NBC and Sky Living, the channels jointly responsible for producing the show, were also both home to the fantastic *Hannibal* which premiered earlier in the year,

and perhaps would have done well to take from there a few tips as to how to reimagine a famous fictitious villain. Whilst ratings are dropping off in America, *Dracula* seems to have

gotten off to a stronger start here in the UK, and with a first series of ten episodes, there's plenty of time for the show to pick up. Let's hope *Dracula* finds his bite in the near future.

What's on this week

Don't miss

Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor

The long-awaited 50th anniversary episode promises to bring back much-loved characters from the past, including the tenth Doctor and Rose Tyler. For fans who just can't wait to get their fix of the Timelord, two mini-episodes, *The Night of the Doctor* and *The Last Day*, are available on the BBC website and iTunes.

Sunday 24th November,
BBC One, 7.40pm

New this week

Legacy

Set at the height of the Cold War, this one-off special from the BBC follows Charles Thoroughgood, a young spy thrown head-first into his first mission: turning an old Soviet university acquaintance over to the British side. However, things get personal when Charles is told a secret about his father, causing him to question everything he knew about the man.

Thursday 28th November,
BBC Two, 9pm

On catch-up

Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.

After a shaky start to the new show from Joss Whedon, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* is starting to show signs of improving. In the latest episode, the team take on another top secret mission, with an odd pairing leading to some unexpected team bonding, and Agent Coulson's secret-keeping is called into question as he investigates one of his own agents.

Online on 4oD until Sunday



SKY

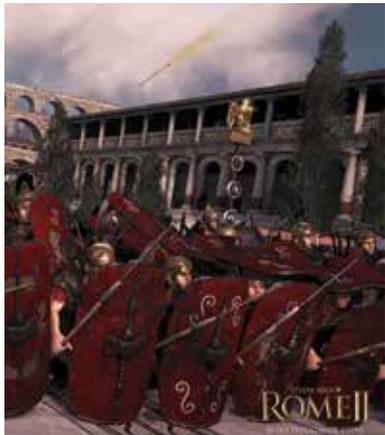


Rome 2, Totally worth it?

Does this sequel to one of the best strategies games live up to the hype?

Maximilian Eggl
Games Editor

I have meant to write this article for quite a while. This game was released on the 3 of september 2013, almost two months ago. I had pre-ordered it almost a month earlier in my excitement. Let me just explain to you, I LOVED the Total War series. Beginning with Medieval, all the way to Empire, I had been a fan of this series. It just epitomised everything that a strategy game was supposed to be. Complex enough to keep me playing for hours, yet simple enough to pick it up and understand everything within 5 minutes. These games were exactly what I thought the perfect strategy game should be. All in all, for those 4 games I must have poured roughly 800 hours into this game over 6 years. In fact with the original Rome Total War I managed to conquer the entire map



with three different factions. It was pretty much the only game I played in my school days.

Before we get to the actual review of the game, let me just recap what this game is about. Basically you are dropped in ancient Europe and take control of one of the multitude of factions that were around at that time. You can use diplomacy, economy or outright warfare to dominate your neighbours and ultimately the entire world. On your way to world domination you will be faced with several objectives, choices and epic battles. However what makes the total war series unique is the mix between turn based strategy on the campaign map (you can see the entirety of Europe) and the real time strategy on the local battlefield. This gives you the ability to playing the emperor, controlling large swathes of the ancient world, as well as the general who has to motivate is tired and rain drenched soldiers.

Now let us return from the ancient ages and fast forward to the 3rd of september of this year. After following the dev blog for several months, reading every piece of news I could get my hands on, the day had come. After having pre-loaded the game onto my computer, I was stoked and excited. I was ready to play. I fired up the game and got right into the tutorial. My first impression was that, while everything seemed quite similar to my old experiences there were still many quite significant new additions. Quickly my excitement turned to horror as I realised how much they had changed from my



beloved sequel. Gone were the family trees that let you see all your faction characters, gone was the option of micromanaging a town, gone was the ability to friggin pause your battle with the space bar (trust me, for me that was the absolute worst. I cannot tell you the amount of times I have hit the space bar expecting to stop time and reorder my troops, and just see them obliviously marching to their doom). In fact, a lot had gone that I had loved about the Total war series. Instead, on my first impression, I saw a game that was trying to be what I enjoyed but couldn't decide between being too difficult or to easy, too bloated or thin on material. In fact, after I had completed the tutorial and played some token rounds of the normal campaign. I stopped and didn't play the game again for a month.

This was the ultimate disappointment for me. One of the cons that stick with me from those first impressions was the ridiculous amount of factions. This made starting out a diplomatic

minefield (oh how I missed being surrounded by rebels which I could attack without any moral qualms), it also made the end of turn wait almost unbearable further into the game. If you turned on the option to see the AI moves, then you would literally wait ten minutes and just see horses moving back and forth. By the time your move came back again, you had forgotten everything you wanted to do. Another were several actions that creators of the game seemed to expect you would take for granted. I mean I couldn't for my life understand why I couldn't garrison my town. It took me several frustrated turns to figure out that the buildings in that town provided it with soldiers. My biggest complaint though is the slowness of the game. I remember being able to take of large swathes of Europe on the easy setting within the first couple moves in the first Rome. However here even in Rome 2, it takes me 10 moves to take over italy alone. It just makes everything seem to drag along.

Therefore my lack of incentive to pick this game up again.

However my guilty conscious would not let me go. I loved this series, I payed money for this game. I was going to give it another chance. Another chance I did give it. And on second viewing I did find some positives. Without my over hyped expectations I could appreciate things that my bitter eyes had overseen in my first sitting. The update in graphics is absolutely great and some of the additions are not that bad! I mean the naval battles recapture some of that epicness I felt when I first played the Total war games. Also the new battle mechanics make the battles so much more immersive and realistic! In fact the second session was significantly longer than the first failed one, and there will be many more.

All in all I think this game is quite an achievement, apart from some cons which are being cleaned up in each successive update, and was worth the £30 pounds I spent. However I guess I made the mistake of playing it like it was the first Rome, which it wasn't. It is its own game, and cannot be seen as a twin (albeit higher graphics) than its predecessor. So if you are someone who is happy with their old Total war games, and sees absolutely no reason to change, in fact would abhor change, avoid this game. It will just disappoint you. However if you are looking for a new approach to this classic series, and don't have too high expectations I would suggest go for it!

Now I'm off to conquer the world with....hmm...I'm feeling the Iceni (brits) today!

New Addition: Screenshot of the week!

Send in your stuff

This is a call out to all you gamers out there. If you have a funny/bizarre/epic screenshot you wish to share just send it to : games.felix@imperial.ac.uk. At the end of the year we will tally up all the scores and the winner will win a free game! Finally your chance to achieve some kind of fame and glory!

Felix Games Team



Winner: The stiletto wearing, dildo wielding head basher

THE DRUID



Runner up of the week: No pants = Respect gained!

THE DRUID

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GAMES

Wii U No consider Nintendo?

Calum Skene
Games Editor

Last week my fellow games Editor Maximilian Eggl pointed out some of the main differences between the upcoming PS4 and Xbox One. Although I see many good things in both of these consoles I feel that even though it has already been out for a year, the Wii U deserves a mention. I am, as some may have noticed, a pretty hardcore Nintendo fan but I shall try and keep this as informative and unbiased as I can. So here follows an account of why I believe the Wii U is a real competitor and something that should be considered, and just a general overview of what I think of consoles.

Maybe the first thing to start with in a console comparison review is a little background of consoles I own. Nintendo wise I own everything back to the SNES and hopefully one day I will get a NES too. With Sony I have a PSP go and a PS2, and from Microsoft I have the Xbox 360. So as you can see I have owned a little of everything. In the last generation of consoles despite loving the Wii my favourite was the Xbox 360. I played my Xbox to death (literally many red lights of doom death) and I just went straight out and bought a new one. I preferred the Xbox mainly because it had pretty much every title I wanted to play. I was a major fan of Halo (until 4) and Assassins Creed (until Revelation's), and played a stupid amount of GTA4. This is something I

couldn't have done on the Wii! So then why did I play my Wii? Simply because it's the only way to play games in my favourite franchises of all time. Nintendo consoles are and always will be the only way to

download just about every classic game that I dearly missed from the Nintendo 64 and back (except Donkey Kong 64).

Things changed when I got my computer. I was able to download cheaply

combination of Wii and computer was far more suited towards my needs.

I bought the Wii U shortly after launch for many reasons. Primarily because I wanted to play the new Nintendo games that

to play, Assassins Creed 3 and Batman Arkham City (which, even though I played before, wasn't boring to play as they revamped it for the Wii U). The Wii U controller itself has a large screen which enables you to play most games entirely on it and, despite the size, is really comfortable to hold. It even offers interesting multiplayer options where one person uses the controller screen and the other the TV. If you still want a controller more like the Xbox and PlayStation ones, Nintendo offers the Pro Controller which is super comfortable, looks great and has crazy long battery life. For some games you can even use the Wii remote and Nunchuck. For me this just shows that Nintendo lets you play games exactly as you want. Playing Black Ops 2 on Veteran difficulty with the Wii Zapper attachment is epic and makes up for any loss in graphic quality. If you want amazing graphics why not just invest once in a computer?

Nintendo is also the only next gen console to offer free online multiplayer. Unfortunately the Wii U isn't getting every new title (GTA5) but as I can pick most of these up on the computer I am not too bothered.

In the end the Wii U is a great living room console, which lets you play games how you want. It offers the most diverse controller options, is the only backwards compatible console, has a great line up on the virtual console and has on demand TV services such as Netflix. When considering which console you want I hope you pay attention to the Wii U. It is currently available for £230 (far cheaper than its competitors) and will only get better with time.



play Mario,

Donkey Kong, Zelda, Metroid, Super Smash Bros... In my view these games are unique, and as mentioned before there is nothing else like them on any other console and in this way Nintendo has the best exclusive title lineup. Yes Xbox has Halo which I dearly love, however there are other shooter games on just about every console. In fact originally I bought a Wii entirely for the Virtual Console. Here I was able to

in Steam sales just about every game I had loved on the Xbox and play these with the wired controller plugged into a USB socket. My Xbox was therefore replaced by the superior (and quieter computer). My Wii however was not replaced. It was still my TV console of choice, enabling me to relax and play classic games, and the excellent Wii games Nintendo makes. I did miss the Xbox but my new gaming com-

were coming out such as New Super Mario Brothers Wii U, but also because I wanted back something of the console gaming feeling. Sometimes I just prefer to lie back in my bed playing games on the TV rather than sat at the computer. This time around though, I think the Wii U is enough to not make me want the Xbox One or PS4. It is powerful enough to have 3rd party games. At launch it had titles I really wanted

Indied, Games that you will surely love! Calum Skene reviews some great indie games (yes, again)!

Recently I have picked up a few games through steam sales which I have loved for their originality. These were cheap games in which I have already racked up an impressive (or unimpressive depending on your viewpoint) number of hours in. So if you're looking for a great game to add to your steam libraries read on.

Escape Goat is a puzzle platformer



in which you play as a goat accused of witchcraft and thrown in prison. You must escape by awakening several sheep which you find at the end of 6 levels. This game has classic puzzle elements such as pushing switches in the right order, not getting trapped etc and platformer elements like jumping and jumping higher. However where Escape Goat differs is in the new mechanics it adds. How will you solve puzzles while being blasted by invincible fire ball throwing wizards? By using the new tools the game gives you, such as your mouse friend who can travel in small cracks and climb walls and the magic hat which, in select puzzles, lets you teleport to your mouse friend. Ok I can see that this game sounds ridiculous, but it really works. The puzzles are inventive and fun to solve, and the platform elements add to make this

an engaging game. Visually I think the game looks awesome, and it reminds me of games such as Doom and Hexen. Strangely where this game really stands out for me is the soundtrack. Escape Goat has a beautiful 8-bit Beverly Hills cop themed soundtrack which I loved so much that I downloaded it and put it on my iPod (which you can do for free). For the price this game is great and you will get your money's worth.

I had heard about Hotline Miami from a friend and instantly wanted to buy it but held off until it appeared in a sale. This top down view game has you carrying out hit jobs normally in people's flats. You start off with just your fists but as you take down people you can pick up their weapons and the more you play the more weapons there are. Each mission you get to choose a mask that gives you special abilities.

You start with a mask that doesn't do anything but over time you start to build a collection of some pretty useful abilities. My favourite was a mask that enabled you to kill your enemies by slamming a door into them (which normally just knocks them out). This led to a time where feeling trapped I fired off the last of my gun. When I looked back at the screen everyone was dead because they had been killed by the door I was standing behind. This however was extremely lucky as in general this game is hard! Each floor of a building will need to be completed in one go and this leads to frustration but a massive feeling of success when you finally manage to kill everyone. The levels remain fresh by adding interactive elements (picking up a pan of boiling water from a kitchen), and different enemy configurations. Sometimes

you are forced to be stealthy or just run in and be quick, but on the most part each level can be completed in many different ways and it's this creativity that makes the game so much fun. Not visually demanding this game can be run on most machines and will add a fun game to anyone steams library if you can handle the violence.



 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

FOOD

Stop Waffling. Eat it instead

James Tsim tasted one and had a chat with the CEO of Wafflemeister



This is not your average waffle shop. Wafflemeister boasts a secret Belgian recipe which dates back to the 1950s. The freshly made waffles are topped with a range of toppings, from Belgian chocolate fudge and freshly whipped cream to fresh fruit and natural gelato. Wafflemeister is all about delivering a high quality waffle – their promise is: “It takes a lot of hard work, continuous training and dedication to become a Meister. The Wafflemeister takes great pride in providing high quality, fresh and great tasting products which do not contain GM ingredients, artificial flavourings, colourings or preservatives.”

How is it different from its competition?

1. Online delivery service to be launched in December which will offer same day delivery or next day delivery UK wide.
2. 15% Discount to students at Imperial College London.
3. Loyalty Programme: Bronze, Silver and Gold. This gives you access to a large range of deals and offers, with increasing benefits as you go from bronze to silver to gold.

The ‘meister’ in Wafflemeister, founded by Alex Troullier, means in German ‘a dedicated craftsman who is passionate about his trade’. I spoke with Alex to find out more:

Q: Tell me about yourself.

I was born in Switzerland and grew up in Canada, Germany and Spain. I did an MBA at Imperial and have business experience setting up, for example, a company that imported vitamins. I then decided to go into the retail space during my MBA, setting up the Belgian

Food Company (BFC), for which I opened 2 branches, one in Oxford Street, the other in Baker Street. In 2000, just after I graduated, I got an offer in finance, so I sold my shares in BFC and went into Finance for ten years. This involved working with private equity, hedge funds and capital raising. After a decade in finance, I went back to the waffle space because I missed waffles and for some reason it had a soft spot with me. I bought back BFC from the current owners who had neglected it as they had also brought a publishing company in Dubai. They were very happy to sell the company back to me and I set about revamping and repositioning it within the market space. Some of the factors which I thought were important were to focus on handmade, homemade waffles using natural ingredients (organic when possible), redesigning and rebranding the business. I opened branches in South Kensington and Portobello road market and supply Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge with waffles.

Q: Why did you set up a waffle business and what is your vision of Wafflemeister for the future?

I have always been passionate about good tasting food, whether it is savoury or dessert. When I set up the business, apart from the conventional sandwich bar and the occasional crepe shop, for example ‘My Old Dutch’, there was not much choice. Even to this day no one really does great waffles apart from us and there is no real brand ownership.

My vision is that we will own this space; when people think of waffles they think of Wafflemeister, whether this is in retail where you walk into the store, online where you get it

delivered or hopefully in the future, supermarkets. We will also hope to sell frozen waffle dough, where people can purchase their own waffle iron so they can bake waffles themselves and have that fun experience. We have opened up Wafflemeister branches in Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur’s Petronas twin towers through franchises and will expand to Dubai next February. We hope to have opened ten stores globally by the end of the year and 20 stores by the end of next year.

Q: Can you give me some insight into your personal experience of the MBA programme at Imperial?

This was a very positive experience for me. One thing that stood out the most to me was the case studies. I did an executive MBA where I had a full time job as well as committing to studies. This flexibility meant I did not have to put any of my goals on hold, and was able to carry on with what I wanted to do simultaneously. It was a great experience to work under pressure as part of an international team, to meet deadlines which were set.

Q: What advice can you give to students interested in enterprise?

It is important that students know exactly what they want to achieve, how to get there and have them written down. Don’t make the list too long as, just simple points, as the ‘to do’ list can get too long sometimes. The hard work you put into achieving your goals will pay off, be it finishing your degree or starting your own business.

Now that winter has arrived, next time when you are hungry, why not pop by Wafflemeister for a warm waffle?

Waffle Facts

The word ‘waffle’ first appeared in the English language in 1725. It was directly derived from the Dutch ‘wafel’, which itself derives from the Middle Dutch ‘wafele’.

The waffles we know today were actually descended from flat cakes from ancient Greece. They ate it with cheese and herbs and were cooked between two metal plates.

The modern waffles were actually born in the Middle Ages. Waffles were cooked over a fire using two metal plates with wooden handles. Most of them feature the familiar grid pattern but some waffles had fancier designs.

Waffles might be more international than you think! Belgians make the batter with ale yeast, the Americans quite often have theirs with fried chicken. The Norwegians like theirs with cheese and in Vietnam, coconut milk is often added! Hong Kong waffles feature peanut butter, and they also have it in a ball-shaped pattern!



“Eggette” in Hong Kong

Want to show off your culinary skills?

Are you a budding cook or a first timer?
Cooking for your flatmates or going alone?

Well, share the photos of your lovely meal on Twitter and Instagram and hashtag it with #FelixFood.

It (and perhaps your recipe) could appear on Felix!

Or why not write for Food? Email food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

On safari: East African delights

Cruising through Tanzania's national parks in search of big cats

Priyank Shah

I've had the privilege of growing up in East Africa, complete with the staple diet of safaris, beaches, poor roads and corruption. So having been to most national parks and game reserves in Kenya, we finally decided to venture next door to the fellow Swahili-speaking nation that is Tanzania, home of the famous Serengeti National Park.

For two neighbouring countries that share the same language and currency, the difference between them is certainly startling: Kenya has long been the commercial and economic hub of East Africa, whereas Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. Tanzania has, however, been spared the internal strife that has blighted many African states. Indeed, the remains of some of the earliest traces of humanity, including the legendary two million-year-old *Australopithecus habilis*, were found in Tanzania's Olduvai Gorge, one of the world's most important paleoanthropological sites.

Tanzania is an extremely large country, approximately four times the size of Britain. Our journey began in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, from where we drove south to the border town

Namanga, before crossing the border into Tanzania and stopping in Arusha. From here we finally met our guide and driver, the wonderfully-named Ezekiel Mwanza, who was going to be with us for the duration of the safari.

Our first port of call was Lake Manyara National Park, famous for its tree-climbing lions who love nothing

more than acacia trees. Unfortunately we didn't manage to see any, but we were blessed with plenty of other beautiful wildlife. From here we headed to the Ngorongoro Crater, a national park in itself, measuring a whopping 264 square kilometres. Next was a seemingly endless seven hour drive north to Lobo National

Park, and finally two days at the Serengeti National Park. Serengeti translates from Maasai as 'endless plains', quite an apt name for a park covering 14,750 square kilometres.

The Maasai Mara in Kenya and the Serengeti play host to one of the most spectacular events on Earth: the migration of over one-and-a-half-

million white-bearded wildebeest and two hundred and fifty thousand zebra, for which numerous Nile crocodile eagerly await in the rivers nearby. The sheer amount of wildlife we saw was staggering. Casually witnessing fourteen sleeping lionesses, sated from their recent meal together, was so special. Leopards are allegedly one of the most elusive of creatures around: not only did we see one, but we saw it casually climbing a tree!

It's an unfortunate truth that the Maasai Mara is now suffering the effects of mass-tourism, in contrast to a trip across the border, where policy is focused on conservation as opposed to profiteering. A trip to Tanzania is very expensive for a foreigner, and the prices don't even have a concept of a low season. One of the guides remarked that "Tanzania has the better parks, but Kenya has better marketing". Everyone we met was from mainland Europe. Tanzania has sixteen national parks, 29 game reserves, and 40 controlled conservation areas and marine parks. One of particular note is Gombe National Park, where one can go chimpanzee trekking.

All in all, the trip was absolutely fantastic. For those with an inclination to go on a safari anytime soon: head to Tanzania. And swing by Kenya, obviously.



This photo caption is so boring that even this hungry lioness is dropping off. Get back to the articles.

Travel! ...And other narcotics

Backpackers: stoned on a drug of complacency and compromise

Pablo Colón

Travel is, in so many ways, a powerful drug. This resemblance is one that I've always considered, and the analogy seems to hold true with respect to most of travel's traits, except perhaps for the fact that you can't physically sniff travel through a crisp fifty after crushing it with a credit card.

People who have never travelled will never properly understand the concept and, as with drugs, tend to fall into two camps: those who can see the appeal but for whatever reason haven't pursued it, and those who dismiss the notion as a waste of experience, time, and money. To attempt

to explain it to the outsider is an exercise in futility. That's not to say that it's some exclusive club, but rather something that people should experience for themselves in order to draw their own conclusions with

MDMA from some sub-par Silk Road vendor, there's always the occasional backpacker who contracts dengue fever or ends up having to bribe their way out of a situation in which they've done nothing wrong, but on the

The rush that punches you in the face when you touchdown, with a ridiculous number of days and miles ahead of you, is very much a physical sensation, a sort of coming-up. There's the strange adjustment period as

when it's all over too soon make you impulsively hunt for your next hit.

It's also a pretty expensive habit, but one that you can justify the costs for on the basis that it's too much fun, and something you probably won't be able to do once you're all grown up and in the real world. Unless you're a part of that rare breed who wants to maintain the habit well into adulthood and retirement.

Travel brings together people from all walks, and provides the opportunity for them to go a little bit crazy and generate some stories that probably won't ever be told to the grandkids. It's something that everyone should experience – before diving soul-first into the nearest hedge fund or strategy boutique – and something that offers at least some solace in what are otherwise, sadly, pretty dark times.

"the analogy seems to hold true ... except perhaps for the fact that you can't sniff travel through a crisp fifty"

as few preconceptions as is possible.

Those fortunate enough to be acquainted with travel typically regard it as a positive, life-changing experience. Of course, like the unfortunate psychonaut who is unjustifiably sold PMA in place of

whole it's the sort of experience that enriches you and your perceptions.

There's that element of excitement and danger as you plunge into the unknown, providing you're willing to tread at least a little off the well-beaten Banana Pancake Trail.

you struggle to adapt to a completely alien milieu, before you relax into what you're doing and enjoy the ride, talking to strangers and taking part in activities you'd probably never consider doing back home. And the yearning and nostalgia that kick in

Hidden jobs... How to find them

The Careers Service
Imperial College London

Have you ever wondered why the very job you are madly interested in you never see advertised? Well it could be that it is part of the 'Hidden Job' market. It is estimated that approximately 70% of all vacancies filled have never been openly advertised. This can be particularly prevalent for what are called 'experienced hire' opportunities but it can also be common in certain industry sectors at the graduate and intern level. So why are some jobs hidden like this? Well there are several reasons. Firstly it takes time and money to advertise job opportunities so if your company is in a sector that is highly sought after then you might prefer to wait for potential candidates to come knocking on your door. For smaller companies who only recruit as and when the need arises there might be a fear of being swamped if they make their opportunities too public. In some cases the work area is highly specialised and so only a known group of people possess the right skill set so why look further afield; and finally many jobs are filled through contacts and networking, so it is all about who you know. So to maximise your job hunting chances you need to take into account this hidden factor as well as the more openly advertised opportunities.

So how do you break into this mystery area?

Here are four golden rules that will help you succeed.

Research – It is important that you understand the normal recruitment methods for the work you are trying to get into. Does the sector almost always advertise or not? An easy way to find this out is by checking regularly in all the normal sources for vacancies such as newspapers, specialist journals, career websites, company websites and of course JobsLive. If you can't find what you are looking for it does not necessarily mean it doesn't exist, it could just require a little more effort and ingenuity to find it. Your careers consultant at College will be able to help you understand the norm for the area you are trying to get into so consider booking an appointment to see the careers consultant who works with your degree course. There is also useful information on the www.prospects.ac.uk website Types of Jobs section with details on a wide variety of occupational areas including information about typical sources for vacancies. While you are researching the work area it is important to understand what skills are required for the work as well because a big part of this type of job hunting involves selling your skills.

Sell your skills – Knowing what you have to offer is all important in the 'Hidden Job' market. It will be down to you to understand how your knowledge, experience and skills fit with the work you are interested in, and then marketing them in a way that is going to be irresistible to a potential employer. It is all



THE FULL FOOL

If you can find Waldo, you can probably get that job you've been looking for...

about showing what benefits you can bring to the organisation. Make sure when you are constructing your CV and covering letter that you are highlighting all the right areas of expertise. Provide good clear evidence of what you can do; show that you understand who they are and the work they are engaged in. The speculative cover letter needs to capture their attention and leave them wanting to find out more about you. There is useful information on writing cover letters at <http://bit.ly/1aEIOFb>.

Be proactive – Planning your strategy is vital. Firstly, from your research, you need to create a target list of potential employers. The more effort you put into this and the more imaginatively you think about possible resources the more likely you are to come up with a long target list unique to you. There are the obvious areas such as using internet searches but you could also think about other resources. Specialist journals and publications have articles which may name key players in the sector, who has recently been active in research, winning contracts, developing innovation, collaborating with other companies etc. Some publications may carry job adverts but they may also carry adverts for products or services and you can use these as a way of researching companies too. If you know the sector you are interested in holds information/trade fairs these can also be good ways to seek out company details.

Having put together your target list try to find a named contact. It always pays to send a speculative letter or email to a specific person. It is very easy to hit the delete button if you feel a message is not personally addressed to you but if it has your name at the top human nature tends to make us much more likely to reply. So check company web pages where you will often find an 'about us' section which may include lists of key personnel.

The next step is to decide how to approach them. Here it pays to be subtle: the 'Give us a job' up front attack does not always pay off. It can help to use a 'softly, softly' strategy where you build up some connection first. Have you got a reason to make contact? Are you doing something on your course: an assignment, a project, some research that would give you an opening? Sometimes asking for some help or information relating

to your degree or research can provide just the right opportunity to develop a connection further and you will be surprised how often people will respond to this type of request for assistance. Then, having made the connection, it is a lot easier to build this up step by step. You could ask for a short meeting to find out more about their particular work area, advice on your CV, possibly a request to work shadow for a day. Getting yourself known and having a 'foot in the door' are just the keys needed to unlocking this hidden market.



Network and use your contacts – Making use of your network is also essential and in this type of job hunting it is all about building up that list of contacts. Make sure people know what type of work you are interested in. You will be surprised how, in the course of general conversation, someone will know of someone else who happens to work in that area. Also if you do make speculative approaches which are not successful always follow up by asking if they happen to know someone else who you might contact. That gives you another name to add to your target list and can also act as an introduction, "x suggested I contact you about..." Use your friends, parents, family, colleagues, academics, family friends and all of their contacts to spread your potential network and provided you approach them diplomatically and politely this extended web of contacts will prove to be a fantastic resource. For more help in how to network for success check our Quick Guide on Networking at <http://bit.ly/1aPTFsI>.

Hopefully this article will have given you a starting point in breaking into the 'Hidden Job' market but if you need further help get in touch.

Careers Events

Apply via Jobs Live unless stated

Workshop
25 November, 12:30 – 14:00
Group Mock Interview

Seminar
25 November, 16:15 – 17:15
Create a Winning CV

Lunchtime Careers Talk
25 November, 13:00 – 13:50
Applying for Postgraduate Study in the US

Workshop
26 November, 12:30 – 14:00
Preparing For Assessment Centres - Group Activities

Seminar
26 November, 16:15 – 17:15
Interview

Lunchtime Careers Talk
26 November, 13:00 – 13:50
Engineering Support Services - delivering critical support

Workshop
27 November, 12:30 – 14:00
Preparing For Assessment Centres - Presentation Skills

Seminar
27 November 16:15-17:15
Assessment Centres

Employer-Led Skills Workshop
27 November, 13:30 – 15:30
Business Networking Skills Workshop (Teach First)
Book in person at Careers Service – £10 deposit required (correct change only!)

Workshop
28 November 12:30-14:00
Preparing for Assessment Centres – In-Tray / E-tray Exercises

Seminar
28 November, 16:15 – 17:15
Create a Winning CV

Lunchtime Careers Talk
28 November, 13:00 – 13:50
Quant Trading and the Technology Behind It

Seminar
29 November, 16:15 – 17:15
Effective Applications



CLUBS & SOCS

Editor: **Nida Mahmud**
felix@imperial.ac.uk



Christmas is Coming

Ben Fernando
Charity Editor



It's that time of year again – Christmas! Once again the hordes of charity appeals are descending upon us, all asking for our help. But other than giving away our Christmas money (which I'm hoping to talk about next week), what can you and I do to help? There're a number of ways that our time can be put to good use. I've not put a huge number of links in this article, but if you're interested a quick Google search with the name of your area and what you'd like to do will probably lead to some contacts. Otherwise, www.volunteernow.co.uk has a pretty neat interactive search function that might help you narrow down what you want to do.

The first, and perhaps most common volunteering activity over Christmas is helping the homeless. Over the winter period the low temperatures and higher incidence of infectious diseases means that the death rate amongst the homeless noticeably increases, and obviously charities work to try and combat this problem. Crisis, a leading homelessness charity, runs several temporary shelters over Christmas in various cities: www.crisis.org.uk.

You could also think about volunteering to help vulnerable people who aren't necessarily homeless. Christmas tends to be a time when organisations are short on staff but the demand is nonetheless high – consider a helpline like Samaritans, or perhaps an old people's home. These often run small Christmas parties or events that require help from people who aren't specially trained, but who are enthusiastic and willing to pitch in.

If you'd like something a bit less front-line, you could think about helping out for a couple of hours at a local foodbank, or promoting present recycling. The former involves taking donations of unused food, like tins and cereals, and packaging and distributing them to people who need them. Again, Christmas often sees the problem of food poverty highlighted, as people spend more on their heating and can't afford to eat. What's more worrying is that the incidence of food bank usage is actually going up in the UK, something which I find rather shocking.

Present recycling promotes the use of Christmas presents that we would otherwise throw away or stick in a cupboard somewhere. Charity shops will always be really keen to get their hands on unwanted presents which can go a long way to making up their takings in January, which often sees a decline in sales for shops. If you get a new laptop or something, you could also consider recycling the old one, though an organisation like Computer Aid (www.computeraid.org).

Finally, one thing which those of us who grew up in the UK will remember is the Christmas Fayre/Fair/Market/Church Fair/event, which always has a charity presence. If you'd like a slightly more chilled volunteering opportunity, you could find out which charity is going to be at any of your local events and volunteer to help out: be it selling merchandise, helping on the door or whatever. I've been to loads of these and they're generally good fun, you'll likely get a cup of tea and a biscuit for your trouble as well.

So there's a few ideas, a list that's by no means exhaustive. Whilst we all of course have our own ideas of what we'd like to do in terms of relaxing and working over Christmas, even a couple of hours that you spend helping out can go a long way to making a big difference in the community.

Ben

Don't miss a treat!!

Imperial College Symphony Orchestra play Rachmaninov, Khachaturian and Beal...



ICSO

If you've never seen Imperial College Symphony Orchestra play, you're missing out! Full of science-loving musicians, ICSO is Imperial's flagship orchestra playing great music to the highest standards.

After the success of playing to a sold out Cadogan Hall last year with the stunning BBC Young Musician 2012 Laura van der Heijden, ICSO have begun this year with the fabulous annual weekend trip to Dorchester. Staying with amazingly generous host families, ICSO performed alongside the Thomas Hardye Singers before

introducing our new members to the wonderful Dorchester night life!

Our first South Kensington Concert is on Friday 29th November 2013 in the Great Hall at 8pm. Tickets cost just £3 for students in advance and are available from the Blyth Centre on Level 5 of the Sherfield building.

Alongside a jazz clarinet concerto performed by the phenomenal Chaz Keiderling (one of the winners of Imperial's Concerto Competition), ICSO will also be playing the epic Rachmaninov Symphony No.2 – the perfect programme to take you away from your manic week of work, it is

guaranteed to be a night to remember!

Yet this is just the start! Next term will see ICSO perform Britten's War Requiem with IC Choir in Winchester Cathedral, as well as four more concertos from Imperial College performers. In the summer, ICSO have been invited to perform a concert in aid of UNESCO in Sibelius Hall, Finland – providing the base for a very exciting Summer Tour to Helsinki!

We hope to see you on the 29th November and feel free to get in contact at icso@imperial.ac.uk if you'd like to stay in touch with our events or have any questions!

IC Radio Schedule

friday 22 november

20:00 – 21:00 **First House on Blackstreet**

sunday 24 november

13:00 – 14:00 **The Attic**
Tune in for an hour of R&B, Hip Hop, Trap, Afrobeats, you name it! #TheAttic

15:00 – 17:00 **The National Student Radio Chart Show**

17:00 – 18:00 **The Happy Hour**
Join the Sunday fun with happymichael! Random cool features and stories with awesome tunes (and sometimes a complimentary laughing fit!)

monday 25 november

18:00 – 19:00 **Movies, Musicals and More**
Stage, Screen and Beyond...

19:00 – 20:00 **All Mod Cons**
If you like music, frequent technical problems and unusual pan-european accents, this is the show for you!

20:00 – 21:00 **The Eclectic Ectoplasm**

21:00 – 22:00 **Stuart's Deep Bath**

tuesday 26 november

16:00 – 17:00 **Relax-ay-woo**

17:00 – 18:00 **The IC Punk Rock Show**

18:00 – 19:00 **Dr. Frog's Rad Hour**
one hour of totally rad music, old and new.

19:00 – 20:00 **IC Sessions**
From the IC Radio studios, TedZed join us for an exclusive set live on radio.

21:00 – 22:00 **Best Foot Forward**
A weekly fix of brand new indie/alt/

electronica.

wednesday 27 november

13:00 – 14:00 **The Attic**

14:00 – 15:00 **The RockSoc Radio Rampage**
Great music brought to you by the Rocksoc Community!

17:00 – 18:00 **The Power Hour**
Two Irish lads bringing you some excellent banter, topical comedy and powerful tuneage.

22:00 – 23:00 **Predrinking with Charles and Ellie**
An in depth look at steam engines in the 19th century.

thursday 28 november

18:00 – 19:00 **Faux Pas Fm**
Chris, James and Fiona bring you a show that's a bit like one of those films that's so bad it's almost good.



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PUZZLES

Sudoku

Each row, column, and 3 x 3 box must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. That's all. Enjoy...

Harder:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 4 | 1 | 9 | | | | |
| | 6 | | | | | 3 | | |
| | | 3 | | 5 | | | 1 | |
| 7 | | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | | | | 8 |
| | 1 | | | 4 | | 9 | | |
| | | 8 | | | | | | 4 |
| | | | | 7 | 6 | 2 | | |

Killer:

No clues! Instead, the numbers in each cage must add up to the number in the top left. Numbers cannot be repeated in a cage. Tips: The numbers in each box, row and column must add up to 45. Look for cages with only one possible combination e.g. a two wide cage total 3 must contain 1 and 2 .

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 13 | | 14 | | 6 | | | | 14 | |
| 14 | | | 19 | | 7 | | | 12 | |
| | 11 | 24 | | | 17 | | | 14 | |
| 9 | | | 8 | | | | | | 14 |
| | 11 | | 21 | | | 3 | | | |
| | 15 | 8 | 16 | | | 16 | 15 | | |
| 15 | | | | 21 | | | | | 11 |
| | | 4 | | | 16 | | | | |
| 8 | | 21 | | | | | | | 8 |

Last Week's Solutions

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

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 |

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 |

FUCWIT League

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|--------------|---|
| nickwp | 24 | Helix | 8 |
| Jia Choo | 18 | Emma and Ben | 6 |
| Adam Stewart | 15.5 | Gabriel Quek | 4 |
| Yufan Zhao | 14 | WJ | 3 |
| Juliette Chupin | 8.5 | | |

Crossword

Nonogram

The lengths of runs of shaded squares in each row and each column are given. Squares can only be shaded or unshaded. Solve the puzzle to unveil a pretty picture.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | | |
| | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | | | 7 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 2 | 10 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 1,1,1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,2,2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,2,3,2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4,1,5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,5,1,1,1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,2,2,4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,2,2,2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,2,2,2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,2,2,2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,4,2,2,1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,2,3,2,5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,1,1,2,2,2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3,3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,13,1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,4,1,3,3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,1,3,1,2,1,1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

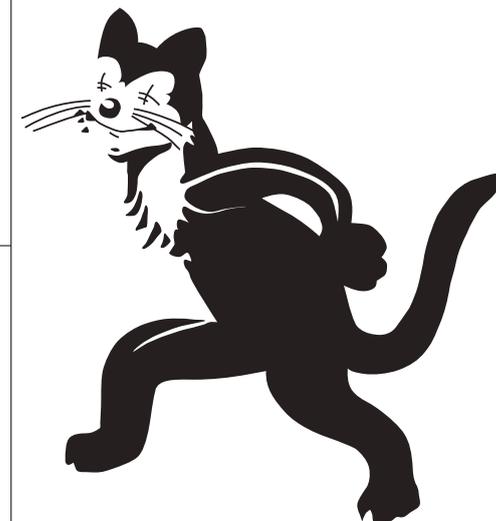
Crossword Clues

Across

- Sceptics' name for Alaska, initially
- Inadvertently say
- Coffin-carrying vehicle
- Tycoon Aristotle
- Bean who played Odysseus
- Disorderly
- A living fossil of a tree
- Armoured ungulate
- Faith celebrated in the Lotus Temple, Delhi
- Beaver's feat
- Weasley matriarch
- Ex-President of India
- Elephantine material
- Word describing a pond that's gone green
- Tunes, melodies
- Clownfish symbiont
- Letter for change or difference
- Ozil of German football
- Urge, motivate
- Eastern-most town in Eurasia
- Resting spots of the ancient Silk Road

Down

- Tintin antagonist
- Synonym of burned (slang)
- Throughout the length of (prep.)
- Henry VIII's philosopher victim
- Russian pole-vaulter of repute
- Economist Amartya
- Famous Tokyo electronics shopping district
- Surname that sounds a lot like a synonym for 'nerd'
- Rome's answer to Homer
- Biblical apocalypse
- Exclamation of joy
- Pasta cooked just right, to Italians
- Crazed person
- Dull surface
- Lava before it escapes the volcano
- Plains of Nepal
- Number appearing most in a dataset



HANGMAN

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This Week In The Past

The Historian
Hangman Contributor



2008 – Dow Jones Industrial Average reaches its lowest level since 1997 but thankfully it resolves itself pretty quickly and this moment is virtually forgotten.

1985 – Microsoft releases Windows 1.0, which, whilst now fairly old, is still much, much better than Vista.

1962 – The Cuban Missile Crisis ends just in time for Kennedy to be assassinated. This cements forever the popularity arising from his one legitimate success. Although in your case, universal popularity will probably arise from the act of dying.

1910 – Start of the Mexican Revolution. Although, I bet you're so ignorant that you neither knew Mexico had a revolution, let alone against whom they were revolting (it was against long-term autocrat Porfirio Diaz BTW).

1686 – Charles Francois Felix operates on King Louis XIV of France's anal fistula, which is definitely something you needed to know right now as you eat your lunch.

1307 – William Tell shoots an apple off the top of his son's head in one shot. Whilst this strikes a blow to the Swiss nobility, it does leave his son with severe trust issues for the rest of his life.



I bet you're wondering who this is. It's fucking Porfirio Diaz, the dictator of Mexico for over 30 years at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. You're probably the kind of ignorant twat who doesn't give a fuck about anything beyond their small, meaningless lives.

"Fed up with how Hangman's written?" Don't email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and fuck off!"

"Want to get rejected by yet another Felix Section" Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give it a go!"

GREENDITORIAL

The Hangman
Hangman Editor



Artic Drilling Station – Following the release of Greenpeace activists by the Russian state this week, this editor believes the World's nations are not doing enough to suppress environmental campaigners and, indeed, activists in general.

This writer feels that the Russian judiciary were far too lenient in releasing these stupid and annoying protesters after a mere 30 days in gaol.

It is often forgotten just how much of a nuisance to everyday state activities these one-issue tossers are. Those tents in Parliament Square, for example. They're ruining the views for not only the tourists but also our humble, hard-working MPs as they enter and exit the House of Commons.

Ultimately, we should be encouraging the World's governments to arrest

even more of these lazy, good-for-nothing, boring fuckers who can't see beyond they're single-minded and frankly selfish issue.

As reluctant as this editor is to criticise the normally excellent response by the Putin and the Russian government to unnecessary opposition, this must constitute a missed opportunity and dangerous show of clemency. So, shout at protesters; arm the police; increase the number of days someone can be held without charge and our government might just be able to get some work done.

Culture In Hull Allegedly

Timothy McSweeney
Hangman Editor

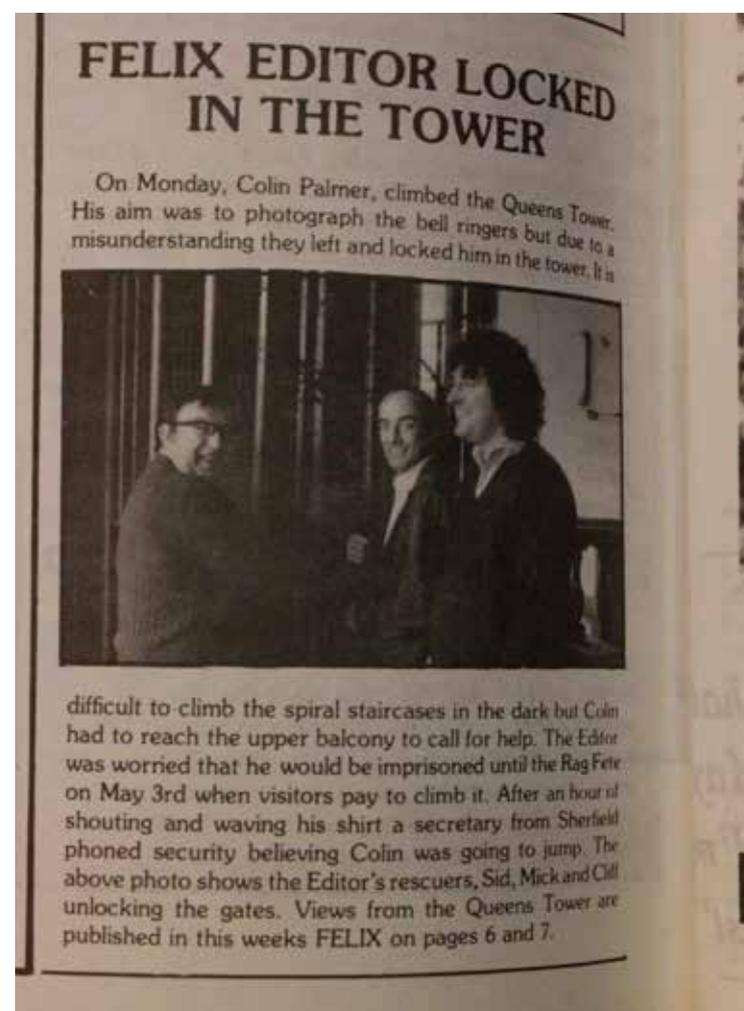
After the announcement this week that Hull is to be the UK's City of Culture in 2017, this reporter can confirm that yes, this is indeed the same Hull that's situated in the East of the UK on the Humber Estuary.

The announcement also implies the discovery of a previously undocumented source of culture in Hull, a revelation that will come as a shock to many.

Naturally, the choice of a city – previously believed to have never been contacted by culture – raises the question of how the selection committee defined 'Culture' in their criteria.

This decision, however, does not come without precedent. Many still remember the confusing time when Liverpool was declared European Capital of Culture to the bemusement of all other European cities who largely did not consider Steven Gerrard to be particularly cultural.

Felix in the past.



Comment Wisely Follows Hangman's Lead

The Hangman
Hangman Editor

Following the publication in Hangman last week of an extremely self-referential article, another Felix Section, Comment, has wisely followed suit.

Quickly realising that another ingenious idea had emerged from the depths of the Hangman mind, Comment Editors Eoghan Totten and Tessa Davey churned out

an appropriately self-referential article (see Comment Section). In a piece that included multiple references to both previous Comment articles and the Comment Section itself, Editor Eoghan Totten successfully imitated Hangman's own distinctive style.

However, whilst Hangman Editor, Hangman, praised the attempt by his fellow section editor, Hangman did go on to state that it "could have been more self-referential" before adding, "frankly there was more than one reference to a world

outside of the Comment bubble". At press time, it was rumoured that Felix Editor, Joe Letts was considering reversing his previous opposition to self-reference and make sure all Felix articles were exclusively about Imperial College's student newspaper, Felix.



Comment successfully produces a passable version of the self-referential article, much to the section's credit.

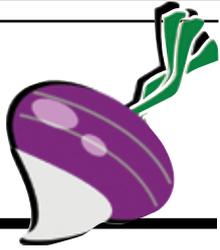


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HANGMAN

the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



Banker Uses Cocaine People Apparently Surprised

Following the revelation that former Co-op Bank chairman, Paul Flowers may well have bought cocaine after appearing before a Select Committee, it has emerged that many were somehow surprised by the news.



Flowers giving evidence, probably all high and shit. In fact, that's probably not a mustache at all and just a bag of coke. Picture Credit: BBC

It seems almost shocking that in this day and age people are unaware that bankers and indeed many in the City are regular consumers of illegal substances.

How the fact that a member of one of probably the biggest drug consuming communities in London is taking drugs has surprised people is truly baffling.

Equally, the marvelling that has taken place at the irony between Flower's role as a Methodist minister and his blatant hedonism is similarly confusing to anyone who has more than five minutes experience of the world

"How could he be so hypocritical?"

wondered one moron fascinated by the contrast between Flowers' public and private personas and who clearly has inexplicably never heard of one of the most common of human failures – failing to take your own advice.

At press time, The Turnip cannot understand how the general population appears to be so naive as to actually think this story is particularly newsworthy or worth much attention.

SIMPLE SIGN SOLVES LONDON'S CYCLING ISSUES



England Still Shit

Friendly Results Fully Prepare Fans for World Cup



These England fans are now well-prepared for a summer of misery in Brazil.

Successive friendly defeats either side of last weekend has led England manager Roy Hodgson to state that he feels England fans are now thoroughly prepared for the World Cup in Brazil next year.

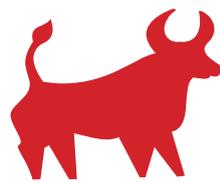
The results also reassured fans still confused by England's successful qualification campaign that the national side was indeed still a bit shit.

Hodgson stated "Hopefully this result will reduce the pain of failing to qualify from a group that will probably contain Switzerland as top seeds" before adding "We've done this for the fans, because it's the hope that will kill them"



ARIES

This week you have to decide between crapping out your nose, or sneezing out your ass. On the pro side, both would be quite hilarious party tricks. However one of them would make every trip to the toilet an absolute torture, and the other is sneezing out your ass.



TAURUS

This week, your swaggin self can't seem to stop saying YOLO, SWAG right? Every one starts avoiding you, because they can't deal with your swag, YOLO! You YOLO yourself up in your room and SWAG yourself to death to the sweet lullaby of the YOLO song. YOLO?



GEMINI

This week you decide to audition for those star wars Disney auditions, because you deserve the fame after years of anonymity at imperial. You stand in line believing that that main role is fated to be yours. One official looking girl comes up to you in excitement, and you know your time has come! It turns out that they needed a jabba hut stand in, and your body shape was perfect...well at least you're in a movie right?



CANCER

This week, after the brutal murder of Steven, you attempt a Frankenstein style resurrection of your pet mold. You get all different types of filth from around every hall, a fungus from Evelyn Gardens, a bacteria colony from Tizard Hall and a bunch of ameoba from Beit. Everything works out however instead of your beloved Steven you instead get his homicidal brother, Evan.



LEO

This week, nothing happens to you at all. You read right, nothing! Nada, niente, rien, nichts. Why are you still reading? Don't you have anything better to do? C'mon, get lost, I am busy here.....Seriously, you are still here? What are you expecting, some kind of joke? Here's one: What did the fish say when he swam into the wall? Damn!



VIRGO

This week, you wake up as Bad Luck Brian. Since you are internet wise you know what awaits you, so to avoid tempting fate you lock yourself inside and stay in bed. However it turns out that that day, your lecturer awards a first to anyone who turned up to his course as he is tired of marking exams. Oh also, you shit your pants.



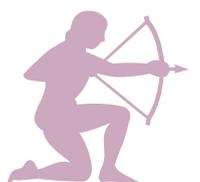
LIBRA

This week you find a bathroom hidden away, which no one ever uses meaning it is in pristine condition. You start taking shit, enjoying the clean that surrounds you. However to your horror you discover that there is no more toilet paper, meaning that you have been pretty much imprisoned on your porcelain throne. Three weeks later cleaners find your body and toilet poem you scratched into the wall.



SCORPIO

This week, after a drunken night out you find that someone has grafted a penis to your head. At first you find the dangling appendage quite amusing and you play with it. However the novelty wears off pretty quickly, and soon you get tired of being called a dickhead. You try to cut it off, but pass out from the blood loss and find it has attached itself to your ass. Pint?



SAGITTARIUS

This week, the alignment of Mars and Venus means that you will be unlucky in love, but lucky with your coursework. However due to an asteroid smashing into Uranus, you may want to be careful about someone eyeing you up in a club, I mean you wouldn't want him to put anything where the sun don't shine. Right?



CAPRICORN

This week the Editor sneers at you while you open a new Felix bundle, despite standing next to a delivery bin full of several hundred fresh copies. As you run away laughing, with Felicies being blown away by the wind he takes out a calculator and carefully aims for your head. He throws the calculator and hits your friend, who happens to be an Aquarius. While you tend to your friend's mathematical injury, the Editor picks up two bundles and runs towards you, mad with hysteria! As you turn to run away he throws both bundles, while screaming "This is FELIX". However, tired after delivering the paper this morning, his is tackled to the ground by a visiting school child. You win this round!



AQUARIUS



PISCES

This week you go to watch the 50th Anniversary episode of Doctor Who at the cinema with several of your friends. You arrive at the cinema and find yourself seated next to the lecturer your accidentally swore at last week. As you turn away embarrassed he takes out a sonic screwdriver and blasts you to bits. What a way to go. Missed the show though...

SPORT

Editor: Kunal Wagle
sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



IC beat Subway sellers

Paul Nugent gives the juicy details

It was a cold frosty morning; luckily the weather was a little more stable than Frosty's stomach walls. Beasley faced a huge debate though: to wear a layer underneath or not. Sacrifice warmth and endure the possibility of nipple chaffing, or lose vital fluids. It was a tough choice, almost on par with the age-old optimal banana consumption time and optimal shower temperature. We got out on to the pitch well before the opposition, making sure to lock all of our lectures notes in a safe. As we were warming up, the second half of Westminster 1s arrived, opting to jump out over a barbed wire fence rather than walking round to the actual entrance – clearly a bright bunch. I hope they're a little smarter when I tell them what I want in my Subway.

Wanting to bounce back from two 1-0 defeats, high pressing, hard work and plenty of chat were on the agenda. Dale was missing from the warm up, which has become the norm on a Wednesday night. Captain Robinson led the pressure from the front, shouting out multiple orders at their back four who scrambled to find the BLT. Rumour has it he only takes girls to Subway to see if they can handle a foot long. Vicious. The pressure from the team was starting to pay off as Westminster panicked at the back and they had no outlet on the pitch. Instead they had a lump up top, but all of that muscle meant nothing as Diaz and Amjad didn't even have to come out of first gear to beat him to the ball. His touch was terrible, and Westminster were routinely broken down. We ended the first half well on top, passes were slick, wingers were skinning defenders and Crawford had resisted the temptation to wade in to the Children's Activity Centre. All we lacked was a goal.

The second half almost delivered one instantly. From the restart, Cherif played a ball in behind to Murphy who

latched on to it and fizzed it invitingly across the box, with Robinson just getting his first time finish the wrong side of the left post. It was promising from IC, who needed a goal more than the Union needs efficiency. IC continued with high pressing and were awarded a few free kicks, but when nothing was coming to fruition, we stayed disciplined and kept plugging away. Murphy then won another free kick on the edge of the box. After squandering a few free kicks previously, he had to make this one count, and he did. Sending the future Subway employee that was their goalkeeper sprawling across the goal to try and reach the ball, his efforts were pointless as the ball went in off the far post. IC erupted like a virgin reaching a climax; all the hard work had paid off and there was definitely the capacity for more goals. IC were creating loads of chances, slipping balls in behind their back four, however the aforementioned lump, with a touch that would get him on a particular register, decided that ejaculating wasn't the only thing he would be doing prematurely today. Now in the role of linesman he was flagging absolutely every through ball to Robinson offside, but, to be fair, he probably didn't know the offside rule. It's not a problem though, as I'm sure they have plenty of ketchup, salt and pepper in Subway for him to learn. Bend It Like Beckham.

With IC's unique brand of high pressing football beginning to take a toll on them, the game started to open up a bit, although Westminster's non-existent knowledge of the offside rule ran throughout their whole team, as they were caught offside multiple times by a militant back four. IC almost extended the lead to 2-0 as Captain Robinson pulled off a diving header, but wanted it a little bit too much and sent the ball in off his hands. The last 10 minutes were a bit shaky but with the deployment of Crawford and Beasley we saw the game out well.

IC win in Cup

Paul Nugent

1st XI Football Player

LUSL Cup days – the highlight of any IC footballer's career, more magic than the FA Cup and more grit and determination than a drunken iNuge verbally attacking a granny on a night bus after the union.

We were facing off against Kings Medics 2s, who we overturned in the Semi Final on our way to winning the cup last season. We face their 1s, who won the LUSL league last year, later in the campaign, and we needed to send a message to them, much like we did to UCL's 1s earlier in the season (By thrashing their 2s 13-0 in a friendly). Murphy was noticeably missing, as was Crawford. Suspicious. Rumour has it they were on a romantic getaway together; neither were available to comment as they were both 'busy'.

The football was fast flowing from IC and the midfield trio of Cherif, Ayanwale and Hill were keeping the ball well in midfield

and hitting the channels well. Dale was beating his man all day for pace on the right and Prestinoni's dribbling skills meant that Kings Medics didn't see much of the ball, and when they did, the back four's militant back line caught them offside. The goal came as quickly as an over excited fresher in bed. Dale got down the right, eating his man for breakfast (that's not the only thing he eats, ladies), playing the ball square through the CBs legs, and directly in the path of Captain Robinson who opened his body out in a Nugent-esque fashion and slotted the ball in. The keeper was once again left sprawled, legs open and dominated (Robinson, 2013). Rumour has it Captain Robinson snapchatted a picture of their keeper to all his friends to gloat. Not that he's done anything like that before.

We went in at half time 1-0 to the good. Our lead was quickly doubled as Prestinoni's tight dribbling saw him maze past several players before wading into the box and being hacked down by their CB. Captain Robinson stepped up to take the penalty, and he grabbed the chance by the balls and squeezed as

hard he could, thrashing the ball in to the bottom left corner and sending the keeper the opposite way. 2-0, advantage ICs. From an absolutely huge goal kick from Wells which bypassed even their centre backs, Captain Robinson drifted in from the left and in behind the defence to take the ball first time on his chest, instantly putting him one on one with the goalkeeper which he easily dispatched via a wonderful volley in to the back of the net to round off a hat trick.

The tie wasn't over yet though as King's Medics pulled one back from a corner. We did well to hold off any more pressure and contain them following their goal. Beasley's introduction saw the game settle in one favour and his warm up was so quick he actually got out of the illustrious second gear. Nielsen and Nugent took it upon themselves to bomb up the pitch and try and reclaim some much needed fantasy points. Shamsi had other ideas though, making a good run down the middle allowing Dale to play him in, however he did his best to put the ball anywhere but on target. 3-1 was the final score and saw IC 1s progress in to the next round of the cup.

IC do the double over KCL

Julian Iacoponi describes the action

On both Wednesday 13th and Saturday 16th of November, the ICUAFC 3rd team played the King's College 2nd team, home and away respectively.

On the Wednesday, coming off the back of some huge confidence boosting wins in both the BUCS and LUSL cups (#cuprun), the atmosphere within the squad was teething with tension to test ourselves against a respected side.

When kick-off did come and was followed moments later by a clattering Taha Butt tackle, it was evident that this fixture was going to be a tightly-fought affair.

Solid defending from both sides meant chances were few and far between in the first half. A tireless Francis Nwobu nearly eked a goal from a bouncy through-ball from Myles Jarvis, only to be cruelly denied with a stellar off-balance claw away from the goal line by the King's keeper. Perhaps the best chance of the half fell to Julian Iacoponi – playing the floating role on the edge of the box at a corner – but unfortunately the ensuing bounce volley which fell to him so sweetly rose bitterly over the bar.

Both teams were content with going into the half-time break at 0-0. Starting the second half with a positive mind set, Alex Whittington slipped a stellar sliding pass into the feet of Myles who, leading from the front as skipper, slotted away.

Initial 1-0 nerves kicked in as some sloppy passes left the IC goal exposed, requiring some strong sweeper-keeper play from Sanjiv Dutt. Despite some sustained pressure, Miles Cov-

ers' orbital throw-ins helped IC get back into King's territory, and the 3s started to dominate again.

With the defence becoming more compact and composed with the Anglo-French pairing of Jack 'Allez' Peacock and Vincent Avena ruling over the King's attack, the 3s started penetrating behind the King's defence with Adam Marks linking up well with Naven Ghulam up the right flank. The game was tilting in IC's favour, and Francis began imposing himself on the towering King's centre-halves evermore. Muscling out his opposing defender, he lofted a defence-splitting ball through to a sprinting Julian Iacoponi to challenge for a 50-50 with the King's keeper, only for the fresher to sky his shot, again. This time however, the aerial route to goal was deliberate, with the chip-cum-lob over the goalie – despite convincing the rest of the team it was going into the hockey pitches over the fence – dropping in at as vertical an angle as possible, going into both the top and bottom corner simultaneously: not something you can say everyday about a goal!

Relentless one-twos down the wing led to more crosses and corners, one of which fell to Julian, sneaking in at the back post, to slot a soft volley finish inside of the post. Right place, right time, and it was 3-0 with IC in cruise control. An audacious bicycle kick effort on goal from Alex Whittington – spectacularly saved by the opposition keeper – was the highlight of the remainder of play, whilst the back four ensured a clean sheet with yet more confident clearances and clear communication. What a victory,

and what a day.

The return leg on the following Saturday the 16th was away at King's home pitches at Berrylands (#FortressB), and proved just as fruitful, with another 3-0 3-pointer secured for the magical 3s. This match-up transpired to be another cagey affair, and was indeed tighter than Alex 'Tutti-Frutti' Hugh-Wilson's infamously skinny skinny-jeans. Chris Aspinall made some crucial blocks in goal to keep his sheet clean, and Adam Marks had his strongest performance of the season (if not the best performance by any player in any season) in defence and attack, timing tackles and containing the King's flank play, whilst picking out his winger with scientific precision and reliability. This even prompted an onlooker to say, "Does your right back usually play for a higher team?" – high praise for the East Cornwall cornerback.

The game was finally unlocked at the 70 minute mark, courtesy of a narrow pitch and those aforementioned rocket-like long throws from left-back Miles Covers, which somehow smallest-man-in-the-club Myles Jarvis got on the end of, to slot in an opportunistic goal. The other goals again came from the skipper-scorer-supreme: one from a cracking free-kick cross causing the King's keeper to fumble into the net, and the other a tap in after right-winger Alex 'Fantasy Futsal' Hassan placed the ball expertly into that famously most uncertain of corridors, which Myles smashed in at the far post.

3-0 and the match secured, it was time for celebrations to begin.

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SPORT

Premier League Predictions

James White
Football Columnist

Man City v Tottenham
(Sunday 1:30pm, Sky Sports 1)

Both these teams recruited heavily in attack over the summer but, whereas Manchester City's Sergio Aguero and Alvaro Negredo are firing on all cylinders, Roberto Soldado et al. are seriously struggling for goals. On top of that, City are extremely strong at home and it's hard to see Spurs troubling them. Andre Villas-Boas will probably set up defensively and play for a point as he has done in recent matches, but can Spurs hold out for 90 minutes? I doubt it.

Prediction: 2-0

Everton v Liverpool
(Saturday 12:45pm, BT Sports 1)

This should be a cracking Merseyside derby. Both sides play attractive football and have shown flair, hunger and real quality all season. Everton are unbeaten at Goodison Park this year, but they come up against the Premier League's strongest attacking pair in Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge. All 22 players on the pitch will be up for this, so expect goals. If it was at Anfield I would give Liverpool the edge but the Toffees are so strong at home that I have to go for a draw.

Prediction: 2-2

West Ham v Chelsea
(Saturday 5:30pm, Sky Sports 1)

Chelsea went into the international break on a bit of a downer, mustering 1 point from 6 against Newcastle and West Brom, and even that was courtesy of a highly contentious penalty decision. West Ham also lost at Norwich, but the big difference between these sides is in attack. Mourinho can call upon Fernando Torres, Demba Ba, Samuel Eto'o and a wealth of midfielders, whereas Big Sam has nobody. He can use the small Upton Park pitch to his advantage and restrict Chelsea's width, but the Blues will ultimately have too much class.

Prediction: 1-2

Cardiff v Man Utd
(Sunday 4pm, Sky Sports 1)

Man City came away from Cardiff empty-handed earlier in the season and David Moyes' men will be put through their paces here. They simply cannot afford to drop any more points though and Rooney and van Persie should see them over the line.

Prediction: 1-2

West Brom v Aston Villa

West Brom finally look the complete footballing outfit, and Steve Clarke is right to say they would be higher up the table but for some poor refereeing decisions. Aston Villa's best performances come away from home but with Christian Benteke off colour, the Baggies can claim bragging rights in the Midlands derby.

Prediction: 2-1

Best of the rest

Arsenal v Southampton

Who would have thought this would be 1st versus 3rd place at the start of the season? Both sides are doing brilliantly and Saints will be as hard as ever to break down, but the Gunners are very hard to oppose right now.

Prediction: 2-1

Fulham v Swansea

Swansea have made a slow start so it's just as well for Michael Laudrup that Fulham are playing like amateurs at the moment. Craven Cottage does not suit the Swans' expansive footballing style but they are the better side and should take at least a point back to South Wales.

Prediction: 1-1

Hull v Crystal Palace

Crystal Palace's best two recent displays have been at home to Arsenal and Everton, but they scored in neither and goals are their biggest problem. Hull are by no means a free scoring side but they know how to win ugly at the KC Stadium.

Prediction: 2-0

Newcastle v Norwich

The biggest challenge for Chris Hughton is to prove Norwich's win against West Ham wasn't just a flash in the pan. They need to build on that, but their away record is abysmal and Newcastle's French midfield maestros have the flair to hurt them.

Prediction: 2-0

Stoke v Sunderland

Stoke haven't won since August but Mark Hughes won't face an easier game all season. Sunderland have issues all over the pitch and the Potters should have enough to edge this one. Only at rock-bottom Crystal Palace have the Black Cats won away from Wearside.

Prediction: 1-0

Water Polo: Germany Tour Diary

Lillan Agerup reports as IC Water Polo record their first ever victory in Germany



IC WATER POLO

To kick off the season, the water polo team returned for the fifth time to Germany for the Aachen Annual Water Polo Tournament. Not having previously won any matches in Germany, the team arrived with no expectations other than giving it their best shot and getting in a lot of playing time to allow all levels of players improve their skills.

The tournament kicked off on the Saturday morning after a short night of sleep in the corridor for most people, with Maurice sleeping on the bar top. The girls kicked off with the first match. Starting out modestly, they picked it up in the second half with Jo scoring our first goal of the day. Although the girls played well, the other team was too strong, leaving the girls at a 1-5 loss. The girls' second match was tougher, with the other team playing violently and the match resulted in a 1-7 loss with another goal from Jo.

The guys started a bit slowly in their first match but got better in the second half with Tim getting two goals in and our fresher Irish James getting in another goal. We also had Stuart put the ball in the corner of the goal after a good pass by Tim. The guys lost the match 4-10 but, scoring more goals in this match than we have in the whole tournament in previous years, the guys were pleased with their performance. The second match of the day was tougher for the guys but Alex scored in the second half leaving the final score to be 1-10.

Saturday night the team got ready for the legendary water polo party. Our team mascot The Blumenkholen

was broken early in the evening, but this did not stop TJ from getting photos with all the girls at the party. Thanks to Tom BF Imperial were the last to leave the party only three hours before the first match on Sunday morning. After some good navigation and some solid driving from Stu (mainly on the right side of the road) the team arrived safely at the pool. The guys' match kicked off at 9 am and impressively all the guys got in the pool. The hangovers and lack of sleep left the guys badly defeated 9-0. Their second match of the day was more successful with Irish James scoring 3 goals, one of them beautifully set up by an interception, sprint and assist from Jackson. Captain James took on the strongest German player he could find to protect the freshers and still managed to get in a solid goal. The match ended 4-6 with another loss, but it was still one of the best matches we have played, so everyone was pleased.

The girls also had a match on the last day and, with a motivational talk from Joey, they all tried to forget their pounding heads, giving everything in the last match.

Starting off strong Jo managed to get in a goal early in the match, giving us an edge over the other team. Smashing in another goal in the second half, the excitement was rising as the girls won their first ever match in Germany 2-0!

Satisfied with the weekend and their progression, the team is ready to take on the other UK universities knowing nothing will compare to the German beasts.

The Ashes Column

Kunal Wagle
Sports Editor



Writing on the eve of the Ashes, in our new column we preview the series



GETTY IMAGES

If there is one thing that almost seems certain, it is that England face a much tougher task than the one they undertook during the summer. With the addition of George Bailey (who showed strong form in the recent one-day series in India), Australia's batting looks a bit stronger. England's bowling hasn't impressed as much as they would have liked in the tour matches, and the England management don't seem too sure which bowling combination is their strongest.

However, England would have been very strongly encouraged by their top-order's batting performance. Michael Carberry has shown that he is the ideal partner to Alistair Cook, which would also allow Joe Root to remain in the lower order where he has had more success.

Mitchell Johnson has been added to the bowling attack for Australia and has been looking dangerous – especially during the one-day series against India. James Faulkner, the Australian all-rounder, will also be expected to play in the test after showing his explosive credentials against India. In the five games against India, Faulkner scored 65 and 116 – both at strike rates of higher than 150. However, despite this, his bowling was below par, and he will be looking to correct that in this series. The key to Australia's challenge will be Michael Clarke and Ryan Harris, both of whom are injury prone. The Australian backroom staff will have to work overtime to make sure both last the series.

Writing the day before the Brisbane test begins, it is clear that whilst England will be tested more than they were this summer, they should have more than enough firepower to take the series comfortably. Pessimists, however, will point out that, whilst England won 3-0, they were probably saved in two tests by a combination of rain and contentious decisions. If those decisions had gone Australia's way, the series may have ended differently. They have to be wary of that this time round.



"Thank you very much... Goodbye."

Kunal Wagle
Sports Editor



On Thursday 16th November 1989, a sixteen-year-old took guard in his first innings for India and faced one of the most feared bowling attacks in the world. He was dismissed by fellow debutant Waqar Younis for 15, but everyone knew that there was something special about this schoolboy – the youngest ever test cricketer at the time.

24 years later to the day, this 'little genius' gave a 25 minute farewell speech to the crowd at his home ground in Mumbai, talking about how "it is hard to believe that this wonderful journey has come to an end". In light of cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar's retirement Felix takes a look at his ten best innings in an India shirt.

10. 114 v Australia Perth 1992

Tendulkar, on his first tour of Australia, was fast running out of partners as India slumped to 159-8 in Perth (known as one of the bounciest pitches in the world). The Australian bowling attack was looking forward to exposing a major weakness in Sachin Tendulkar's game by bouncing him out. But he responded in a way nobody could have imagined. His innings of 114 from 161 balls gave India a fighting chance (which they ultimately wasted), and gave the world a clue of what might be to come.

9. 155 v Australia Chennai 1998

This innings was one of the famous battles that took place between Tendulkar and Shane Warne over the years. When Tendulkar arrived at the crease, India were 47 runs behind and two wickets down. Shane Warne was in his element, bowling on a fourth day Indian pitch with a lot of rough on the leg side. Under pressure, Tendulkar launched into one of the best counter-attacking innings anyone has ever played, frequently slog-sweeping Warne into the stands. When India declared later in the day, Tendulkar was not out on 155 and had helped India to a match winning lead of 347.

8. 146 v South Africa Cape Town 2011

Tendulkar had already scored one century in the series – his fiftieth – but this was by far and away the more

important one. India were level at 1-1 and aiming for an improbable series draw on the green and bouncy pitches of South Africa. India were 28-2 in response to South Africa's 362 and were in trouble – especially considering the low scores that both sides had presented in the series thus far. Against an impressive Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel, Tendulkar racked up 146. Tendulkar then scored a patient 14 from 91 balls on day five to save the test, the series and India's status as number one in the world. This would turn out to be Tendulkar's last test century.

7. 119 v England Old Trafford 1991

Chasing a near impossible 408 to win the game, India slumped to 127-5, and even saving the game looked unlikely. A seventeen-year-old Tendulkar then shocked everyone as he produced a performance with great character, scoring his first test century and saving the game for India – against all odds.

6. 143 v Australia Sharjah 1998

Australia's target for India of 284 was largely irrelevant in this game. The more important figure was that of 250 (adjusted after a sandstorm mid-game), which is what India needed to book a place in the final on net run rate (Australia had already qualified). On a tough pitch – and Shane Warne bowling – Tendulkar produced a master class, scoring at more than a run a ball to lead India to the final.

5. 241 v Australia Sydney 2004

This innings could almost be thought of as the resurrection of Tendulkar's career (although that might be a bit over the top). Tendulkar had endured a miserable 2003, scoring only 150 runs all season. The rumblings had started – maybe Tendulkar was past his prime? Tendulkar proved them wrong in the New Year's test in 2004, scoring 241 not out as India racked up 705. His next two innings were 61 not out in the second innings, and 194 not out in the first test against Pakistan. He wasn't dismissed in 2004 until April 5th. Tendulkar was back to his scintillating best.

4. 98 v Pakistan Centurion 2003

It may seem strange that one of Tendulkar's best innings isn't a century – especially given he has 100 of them – but the reality is that even Tendulkar thinks this was his best innings, period. There was a lot of hype surround-



BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN INDIA (BCCI)

ing the last group stage match – India and Pakistan had not played each other in more than three years. Chasing 274, Tendulkar famously destroyed Shoaib Akhtar in his first over, and went on to score 98 in 75 balls, despite suffering from cramp. Fireworks went off in India after the match – not because India had qualified for the next round, not because of the result, but because Tendulkar had single-handedly knocked arch-rivals Pakistan out of the World Cup in the first round.

3. 200 v South Africa Gwalior 2010

It was only fitting that the first person to score 200 in One-Day-Internationals was the leading run scorer in the form of the game. Already leading 1-0 in a three match series, Tendulkar batted serenely through the entire 50 overs, scoring his 200th run in the last over. India went on to take the series 2-1. To put it into context, Tendulkar only batted one other time in the series, scoring 4. He was still named man of the series.

2. 103 v England Chennai 2008

When people remember this innings they'll also remember the circumstances that surrounded it. The 26/11

terrorist attacks had just taken place in Mumbai, and this match had had to be hastily rearranged and moved to Chennai from Mumbai. Tendulkar, a Mumbai man, had appeared in many advertisements in the lead up to the match telling the Indian people to stick together. On the pitch, India had been behind the 8-ball for the first four days of the match. But as usual Tendulkar came to the rescue. Chasing 387 to win (the third highest chase ever at the time), Tendulkar reached his hundred while hitting the winning runs. The commentator's words, "Make no mistake about it, this is for Mumbai" could not have been more apt.

1. 134 v Australia Sharjah 1998

If his previous innings in Sharjah was great (see 6), then this performance that Tendulkar produced two days later in the final could only be classed as sensational. By this time Tendulkar was clearly causing Shane Warne nightmares (he also scored a century against them in the ICC Champions Trophy later in the year, along with the ones in 9 and 6), as he again swatted him away. Chasing a target of 273 to win, Tendulkar led India to victory scoring 134 from 131 balls.

BUCS Home Fixtures

27th November 2013

BADMINTON

MENS 1ST VS BRUNEL

MENS 2ND VS MIDDLESEX

MENS 3RD (MEDICS) VS ESSEX

BASKETBALL

MENS 1ST VS SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

MENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS SURREY

FENCING

MENS 1ST VS UCL

WOMENS 2ND VS SUSSEX

FOOTBALL

MENS 1ST VS BRUNEL

MENS 5TH (MEDICS) VS ESSEX

HOCKEY

MENS 5TH VS LSE

WOMENS 1ST VS PORTSMOUTH

WOMENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS HERTFORDSHIRE

MENS 1ST VS HERTFORDSHIRE

MENS 3RD VS BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

LACROSSE

WOMENS 1ST VS OXFORD BROOKES

NETBALL

WOMENS 1ST (MEDICS) VS CANTERBURY

SQUASH

WOMENS 1ST VS SUSSEX

TABLE TENNIS

WOMENS 1ST VS KCL

MENS 1ST VS CAMBRIDGE

MENS 2ND VS KENT

TENNIS

WOMENS 2ND VS BRUNEL