

8 PAGE VARSITY PULLOUT

All the info for next week's Varsity matches

ELECTIONS PULLOUT

Your guide to the big elections

FELIX

"Keep the Cat Free"



07/03/14
Issue 1571
felixonline.co.uk

Discovering Miso-gine-soc

THIS ISSUE...

Joe Letts
Editor-in-Chief

Felix finds evidence implicating the Men's Hockey XI 2's team in misogynistic behaviour online

CLUBS & SOCS



Check(mate) your Privilege

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This week *Felix* discovered the existence of "GineSoc", the alter-ego of the Imperial Men's Hockey XI 2's team. After discovering a certificate of "Gine" last week on a table outside the FiveSixEight (a bar located on Union premises), we carried out further research. Our investigations revealed the existence of an "@ginesoc" twitter feed (now removed), containing an explicit avatar image and a mixture of tweets to pornographic actresses as well as tweets about hockey matches. Included in the twitter feed were an invitation to a porn actress to visit Imperial College Union on a Wednesday night if she "ever want[ed] a good time in London" and a request for a shout out from Select UK Radio to "ginesoc hockey club, listening on the way back home from a big 4-2 win"



Felix also found a closed Facebook group called "ICHC Men's Ginesoc XI", in which the group identified themselves as "The glorious men's 2's" and linked to a definition of "gine" which states that gine means "sexual relations with a girl", which "comes from the word Vagina" and "is a harsh way of saying that someone wants to have sexual relations with a girl!"

Felix spoke to the ICHC asking them to explain why they felt it was acceptable to publish the material they did on social media in a way that potentially excludes the female members of hockey. In response to these allegations the Men's XI 2's Team Captain Jack Farrant stated via email, "ICHC is one of the largest entirely mixed sports clubs at Imperial and we pride ourselves in being one of most friendly and inclusive societies"

Felix also spoke to the Union, who released the following statement: "The Union were made aware on Thursday 6 March of allegations that the IC Hockey Mens 2nd Team were

associated with the facebook page and twitter account in question. A formal investigation into these allegations has been launched under the provisions contained in the Union's Bye Laws. While this investigation is taking place a suspension of activities has been issued to the team in question.

The Union takes allegations of this nature very seriously; we will be acting quickly to establish facts and explanations related to these allegations."

Looking at the evidence we have gathered, *Felix* believes that the squad is potentially in breach of BUCS Regulation 17 article 1, which states: "Every member institution and its clubs shall be responsible for ensuring that its players, officials and all persons purporting to be its representatives do not conduct themselves or print / have published any material which will bring the company into disrepute including social media platforms."

We also believe that the further

scrutiny on the squad is due to Union Bye-Law E, which deals with "Bringing, or having the potential to bring, the Union into disrepute", amongst other matters.

After we reported the allegations to both the Union and ICHC, the offending facebook group and twitter account were removed (although a text version of the twitter feed is still available in the google cache).

Have any further information? Please email us at felix@imperial.ac.uk.

TV



Exploring the wit of Stewart Lee

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FEATURES



A bit of interfaith discussion about extremeism

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written by JEZ BUTTERWORTH

directed by GRACE SURMAN

**DRAM
SOC**

imperial
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On St. George's Day, the morning of the local county fair, Johnny "Rooster" Byron, local waster and modern day Pied Piper, welcomes you to his alcoholic bucolic frolic at his trailer in the Wiltshire woods. On the set list are whizz, wangers, and tasty beats; a motley band of characters are after his gypsy blood. The council officials want to serve him an eviction notice, his son wants to be taken to the fair, a father wants to give him a serious kicking, and a beloved cohort of spongers want his ample supply of drugs and alcohol.

A state-of-the-nation comedy on contemporary rural life, 'Jerusalem' gives the proverbial finger to England's green and pleasant land.

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7pm
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Fri 14th March
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imperialcollegeunion.org

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news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS

Imperial Student mines Dogecoins

Maciej Matuszewski

News Editor

An Imperial student used College computers to mine 30,000 Dogecoins. The Dogecoin, which was first introduced three months ago and is inspired by the popular Doge meme, is one of a number of cryptocurrencies set up following the spectacular success of Bitcoin. Such cryptocurrencies are not controlled by a central bank but rather by a pre-determined algorithm. Individuals can donate some of their computer's processor time to running this algorithm and managing transactions performed using these currencies. They are rewarded for this by being awarded newly generated coins of that currency – this process is referred to as mining and is the only way in which new Dogecoins and Bitcoins can be produced.

Working late at night, the student was able to use ordinary desktop terminals to mine the Dogecoins. He follows the example of a Harvard Student who used their University's research supercomputer for Dogecoin mining. The currency has been growing in both value and popularity – most notably having been used to fundraise the money

to send the Jamaican bobsled team to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. However Dogecoins are not yet worth anywhere near as much as Bitcoins – the student's efforts have only earned him the equivalent of £20.

Speaking to CoinDesk reporter and former Felix editor Kadhim Shubber earlier this week the anonymous student said that he decided to use College computers rather than buying a powerful computer because he doesn't "find the cryptocurrency market stable enough to make real investments, at least for now, on a student budget". He added that: "I've not had a single issue yet, so I've kept scaling up! It seems they don't have anything set up to bring attention to the fact I'm maxing out the CPUs, which is nice".

However, by Tuesday the scheme was discovered by College ICT, resulting in the student being permanently banned from using the College's more powerful research supercomputers. In a statement to The Tab Imperial, the College said: "Use of the College's IT facilities for commercial purposes is not permitted without authorisation. Imperial investigates and takes appropriate action against instances of misuse, in line with information policies. Occasional personal use of College machines is permitted where use does not disrupt the conduct of College business or other users."

Chess Team wins at BUCA

Max Ettl

Games and Tech Editor

Two weekends ago, Imperial College London's chess club fielded three teams for the British University Chess Association championship (BUCA), coming away with two cases of silverware.

The first team competed in the open competition, where the real title of British Chess Champion was competed. Captained by James Hookham, and including Alex Galliano, Veronica Foisor as well as Chess President Arijit Gupta – the team that had been seeded first – was expected to retain the title that they had won last year. However, several hurdles stood in the way of Imperial's success. Over ten teams were competing, including formidable foes in Cambridge 1 and Edinburgh. However, after playing five rounds, all the worries of Imperial's first team were proven to be completely unfounded, as a clean sheet of five wins were secured leaving the Imperialites with ten points out of a possible ten, and thus confirming them as British Chess Champions for the second year running.

The Plate competition, which included Imperial's second and third

teams, was much less clear-cut. The second team, seeded first in this competition, consisted of first board Wan Mohd Fahzli, second board Boey Jin Huey, third board Shih Goh and fourth board, captain Luke Barron. Throughout the first few rounds, they routed their opponents, however a draw against main title contenders Birmingham did not bode well for the rest of the competition. However even after that setback, they team bounced back all the way to the last game, which seemed have been written in the stars, against Imperial's third team. The third team, lead by Maximilian Ettl and fielding Alina Mititelu, Nikolai Rozanov and Ioannis Englezos, had traversed an easier path. After losing against Birmingham in their third game, they had gone from strength to strength and won all their consequent games. This led to the game of the two Imperials being quite significant in determining the final position of the two teams. In a show of selflessness, Imperial thirds lost their game securing Imperial second's win in this competition, leaving them in fifth position in the standings.

In addition to the team prizes, six Imperial players won board prizes for their outstanding play. These included Nikolai Rozanov, Veronica Foisor and Luke Barron. All in all, this was quite a success for the Chess club, and hopefully this can be repeated in next year's competition. Read more in Luke Barron's full report next week.

Elections begin at Imperial College Union

Aemun Reza

News Editor



The Big Elections for 2014 have started this week at Imperial College. Campaigning started on Monday 3rd March and will continue through till the 14th March and voting opens next week on Friday 7th March and will last one week.

According to the ICU website, over 459 candidates are running. So even though there are over 100 positions, competition for certain positions will be tight this year. The infamous Union President position has seven candidates running.

For more information, follow the #VoteICU hastag on twitter or follow the Elections Blog on the ICU website.

To view the full list of who is running for what position check out felixonline.co.uk (<http://bit.ly/1czDRCr>) or read our lovely 16 page pull out.

Former College lecturer claims unfair dismissal due to student satisfaction

Joe Letts
 Editor-in-Chief

According to an article in the Times Higher Education, former College lecturer Yeong-Ah Soh has brought an employment tribunal claim against Imperial for the reasons of unfair dismissal, racial discrimination and suffering detriment for whistleblowing.

The former materials lecturer believes that she was fired due to low student satisfaction scores she received during feedback. When she started at College in 2010 Dr. Soh was allegedly told not to lower the standard of her teaching, despite negative student feedback.

According to the Times Higher Education Dr Soh also claimed that positive student satisfaction from students were often related to students expecting to receive strong marks in examinations in that subject.

At the time of going to print, College was unavailable for response.

Sponsored Editorial

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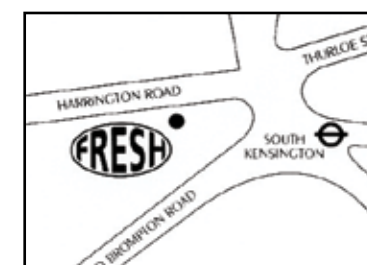
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An Joseph Interfaith Foundation Discussion – Extremism: Its Root Causes And How To Address Them

Nida Mahmud
News Editor

A recent Interfaith discussion at Imperial College London was organised by the Joseph Interfaith Foundation (JIF) and the Islamic Society at Imperial. Speakers from the Jewish Society (JSoc), the Islamic Society (ISoc) and the Catholic Society (CathSoc) discussed their views on the root causes of extremism and how they can be addressed.



Comment: Bension Tilley (JSoc)

Extrémism is one of the most hotly-debated talks of our generation. The publicity it receives in the media reflects its profound importance in modern day political discourse. It would be true to say that the vast majority of extremism that we hear of is Islamic in nature, but it would be ignorant of us to restrict our opinions on extremism only to what we hear in the media. In order for a person to be able to participate fully in a discussion on extremism, he must first appreciate the fact that extremism can permeate into any subject matter, be it political, religious, economic or otherwise. Then he must understand that his view on extremism is not shared by all: extremism is a fundamentally subjective matter. What is considered extremist to one person may not be to another.

The most appropriate forum for the analysis of extremism is in a public debate where all views are free to air in a non-judgmental atmosphere. I believe that the IC Extremism Seminar encapsulated all of these qualities, and as a result, all present were able to

put forward their arguments in total confidence that they would not be judged for them. This made for one of the most stimulating debates I have ever been part of, both at Imperial and outside Imperial. Although nothing was overtly concluded overall from the discussion, I feel that all present, including the speakers, came away with an altered opinion on how extremism manifests and its importance in their daily lives.

It was an absolute pleasure working with the Joseph Interfaith Foundation, the Islamic Society and Catholic Society on the seminar. The way the societies worked together is testament to the strong interfaith relations present on campus here at Imperial. Everyone present approached the interfaith discussions with a completely open mind, willing to learn about the traditions of other religions to broaden their already considerable knowledge of interfaith.

Events like these encompass the true spirit of interfaith and I am hopeful that there will be many more interfaith events to come in the remainder of this academic year, to which you are all invited!

Mehri Niknam (JIF)

The success of the seminar can be gauged from the fact that it was due to finish at 7:30. We carried on talking till 8:30

The Joseph Interfaith Foundation is a national joint Muslim-Jewish interfaith organisation. We are committed to fostering engagement through constructive and realistic

dialogue and interaction between the Muslim and Jewish communities in Britain. The Foundation also aims to promote a deeper understanding of both faiths among the general public. The foundation's projects are focused on 4 major areas: 1) University students; 2) Religious leaders; 3) Muslim & Jewish physicians; 4) Academics. . Please see our website: www.josephinterfaithfoundation.org

Comment: Yusuf Qureshi (ISoc)

Extrémism. A word which bombards us everyday in the media and has some form of definition in every single person's vocabulary. The basic definition of extremism is the maximum possible deviation from a central reference point, which in a religious context, would be our Prophets and scriptures. That being said, extremism is not necessarily violent. It is possible to be extreme in seemingly noble deeds such as prayer, fasting and even charity! The topic discussed, however, was a specific form of extremism; namely violence in the name of religion. As a Muslim, you would imagine that I shall now proceed to ramble on about how Islam is a peaceful religion and how the people who commit such disgusting and heinous crimes are definitely not acting within the realms of Islamic law. I won't. Remember the aforementioned central reference

point? For Muslims, it is the Quran and the way of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings be upon him). Muslims embrace the Quran as the word of God, who states that "whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely," [5:32]. As a Muslim, when I see such disregard for human life from people who claim to follow the same book and Prophet as myself, I can't help but wonder, have they even read the Quran? Have they any notion of how many times they've slain the whole of mankind in the sight of God? Surely, had anybody read this verse, it would speak volumes on the sanctity of life in Islam?

The fact of the matter is that "violent religious extremism" almost never has any religious motivation behind it. When speaking about extremism, two groups of people spring to mind. In any given ideology, there will be people who are willing to defame its

name for their own reasons; generally political.

This is the first group: few in number but with a clear but malicious vision. 'Predators' is a good description. The second faction is comprised of ignorant zealots, people who have immense enthusiasm for their religion but lack knowledge of its teachings; puppets. To put it very simply, the latter are manipulated by the former, who exploit the ignorance to give the illusion that the basis of these actions are religious teachings.

The solution is very simple: Education and stemming the flow of naive enthusiasts, ensuring that the predators are starved of puppets. We should see that religious leaders are properly educated and trained in the knowledge of their own religions and the state of current affairs and political climate, empowering them to take control of the surrounding community and to direct the energy of enthusiasts into something productive and beneficial to society.

Comment: Theo Susanto (CathSoc)

JIF is among the rare chances where different faith groups can engage in open discussion.

This is the second year I represented CathSoc. Unfortunately this year, I was less prepared. I was ill and still losing my voice; I was really nervous and I stuttered often.

Despite that, people gave me tremendous support and made me comfortable in continuing the dialogue.

Ms Mehri Niknam is extremely enthusiastic and always pushes us to loosen formalities and political correctness. Without which, a fruitful and meaningful discussion would be difficult to achieve

Personally I am always anxious about the event; being put out of my comfort zone. There is always the worry that the words I uttered were

not those that I intended, that I was not representing the views of my faith properly.

This year's event is different though; instead of representing my faith, I was there to discuss strictly my thoughts, and my rather mild experiences pertaining to extremism.

It was a powerful feeling to hear stories from other people about their experience: Harassment as what Benison had experienced can happen to anyone around us. Often we do not notice; little things that may push someone to the edge constantly happen.

Among some of the privileged, I tend to overlook the fact that extremism does not just occur with sensationalistic violence in some faraway land; dialogue such as this serves as a powerful reminder, that such misfortunes could happen to someone we can relate to.

At first, it seems that only extreme

constraints warrant such extreme reactions. However, it is apparent from the dialogue that the root was not just the constraints, but also the inclination to accuse the 'other'; to find scapegoats on the matters that befall the community.

Such unfortunate chain of events is possible mainly due to the suppression by those with knowledge and vision. Amazing is the significance of a strong will, no matter how twisted it is, in spilling out and influencing others to follow it.

It would be great for events such as this to grow, as they create a comfortable place for people to engage their viewpoints, build or rebuke their principles, and often to allow people to hear the other side of the story.

Sometimes we get too comfortable with our own community. I am afraid that in those cases, extremism often starts to sprout.

"JIF is a national joint Muslim-Jewish interfaith organisation. We are committed to fostering engagement through constructive and realistic dialogue and interaction between the Muslim and Jewish communities in Britain."

Editor: **Shiladitya Ghosh**
felix@imperial.ac.uk

FEATURES

Exploring the Student Consultation Framework

David Goldsmith wants your feedback on how College can best consult students about changes that affect you

David Goldsmith
Union President



Dear Students,
I am writing to ask for your feedback on something I am developing.
Running for the position of Union President I promised, in my manifesto, to “Demand a new mechanism to ensure student consultation from the outset of College decision-making” and in doing so help prevent situations like North Acton¹ happening again. I am developing a Student Consultation framework in order to fulfill this promise. It is a framework that will ensure that students are given enough input into decision-making that affects them, before decisions are made. I am asking for your help because it is important that there is strong student feedback to influence what the finished framework will look like.

To help please go to <http://tinyurl.com/qfeudwa> in order to view the framework. Please e-mail me with any feedback you have at union.president@ic.ac.uk. Otherwise you are welcome to attend Union Council at 18:30 on the 11th March in the Union Dining Hall (Floor 1, Union Building), where I will be presenting the framework, to give your feedback.

The aim of the framework is to standardise what students and staff together believe constitutes ‘appropriate consultation with students’ based on the impact of a decision being made. The framework produces for the user recommended consultation methods and avenues for acting on them. By doing this we set a minimum standard for how and how much students are consulted on decisions that affect them.

I have so far individually consulted with student reps and 15 senior members of College staff² in order to produce a workable draft. I am now bringing this draft to Union Council, the Union newsletter, Felix and my blog to give students the opportunity to feed back with their thoughts. This will heavily inform what the next draft will look like. I will also be presenting it for feedback to more College staff (including the Rector and the Provost), at the four Faculty Teaching Committees, three quality committees, the Provost’s Board, College Senate and College Council³ before running a campaign to make people aware of it- this will include training student officers in its use.

Not only does undergoing such a thorough consultation in developing a ‘consultation framework’ avoid hypocrisy, it also ensures that this framework has true buy-in and input from all stakeholders and will therefore be trusted as a useful tool.

Questions I would like you to consider:

I’m looking to get feedback or suggestions on any part of the mechanism and its implementation. I have though included some ideas for specific feedback that would be particularly useful for me:

1. Do you agree with the impact level each example has been placed against? (pg. 6 + 7)
2. Do you feel that the consultation methods recommended are appropriate for each impact level? (pg. 10-17)
3. Do you agree with the guidance given throughout the document?

Thank you in advance for your help.
Best wishes,
David.



“Demand a new mechanism to ensure student consultation from the outset of College decision-making”

“The aim of the framework is to standardise what students and staff together believe constitutes ‘appropriate consultation with students’ based on the impact of a decision being made”

References

1. Read about the Union’s #AgainstActon campaign last year here: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/campaigns/accommodation>
2. Those who have so far been consulted and their feedback incorporated into this draft:
 - Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education)
 - Denis Wright, Director of Student Support
 - Muir Sanderson, Chief Financial Officer
 - Dean Pateman, Academic Registrar
 - Simon Archer, College Tutor
 - Jonathan Narcross and JP Jones, College Communications
 - Lorraine Craig, Department of Earth Science and Engineering
 - Stephen Richardson, Associate Provost (Institutional Affairs)
 - Bridgette Duncombe, Department of Chemistry
 - Jenny Higham, Vice Dean (Education and Institutional Affairs), Faculty of Medicine
 - Jon Tucker, Faculty Operating Officer, Business School
 - Jeremy Bradley, Department of Computing
 - Emma Caseley and Jemma Allan, Education Office
 - Mike Russell and Saul Batzofin, ICT
 - Simon Harding-Roots, Chief Operations Officer
 - Rachel Hounslow and William Brown, Student Academic Representatives, Department of Chemical Engineering
3. Details on College committees can be found here:
 - <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/committees>
 - <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/collegedgovernance/governancestructure>

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Dr Silvia Bello
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Recovering from depression

Marissa Lewis
Wellbeing Editor



There's been a movement in the last couple of years to get people talking about their experiences with mental health, whether it's on a national scale such as Mind's *Time to Talk* campaign or Imperial's own *OpenMinds* campaign. There's also been a move to try and explain life with a mental illness to others who haven't suffered one, a daunting task at best, but a project which has yielded really amazing work. My personal favourite is *Hyperbole and a Half's* web-comic 'Adventures in Depression' (shown below) because it rings most true to my experiences of depression although, of course, everyone's experiences are different. It also contains the use of stick men, which is a well-known Union favourite.

What isn't discussed as much, or at least what I haven't picked up on, is what happens after you recover. I'll use the term 'recover' quite loosely here because it means different things to different people – for many, it isn't a matter of curing a mental illness and being magically better, but more like finding a treatment program which works and that leads someone to feel like they have control over their life again. For me, I had several years of really quite debilitating depression when I was younger and now I don't. I'm not currently receiving treatment for any mental health condition either.

I face a real temptation to simply close the book on that relatively long and painful aspect of my life. Talking about mental illness isn't easy and when you pass as a neurotypical person 99% of the time, you pick up on thoughtless comments from others who assume you're in on the joke. This year, I heard people say that they wouldn't want a sabbatical officer who'd had mental health problems

and, as a medical student, sometimes the opinions of my course-mates can be rather jarring. The idea of a doctor with mental health issues can be met with scorn, as a diagnosis is often equated to irrationality and instability, whereas patients with mental health problems can be seen as time wasters. Conversely, you can also find yourself excluded from discussions with fellow sufferers as you are assumed to be ignorant to these issues.

There are benefits to staying silent about mental illness and I'd be disingenuous to pretend there aren't; you don't have to deal with the associated stigma quite so harshly and you don't have to worry about people treating you differently. What I've found difficult this year is the increased scrutiny you get as a sabbatical, namely the odd Tab article as well as your image on video screens all over the Union, which amplifies your normal human desire to present an infallible image to the world by the factor of fifty. I often tried to find some sort of middle ground between saying nothing and full disclosure, couching my illness as 'poor mental health' or other euphemisms rather than being explicit – in doing so I found myself in the strange situation of being anxious to disclose even that much and feeling like I'd copped out of saying anything meaningful.

I also feel a bit ridiculous talking about something that happened years ago and that I was fortunate enough to get through. I grew up with a parent with very severe mental health issues, including delusions and hallucinations, which led to them falling in and out of hospital, often under involuntary sections. For a long time, I was trying to battle the perception I had that unless your illness called for sirens and hospitals, it wasn't really worth burdening anyone with. At the time, I managed to trick myself into thinking my condition wasn't really that serious as I was still sitting exams and getting good marks, despite not attending around half of my classes in sixth form. I now realise that was absurd.

When you're mentally ill, your perceptions often change in ways you don't realise and even now, several years free of depression, I'm still realising how messed up some of my old, lingering thought patterns were. My view of recovery at that time was particularly wrong. When I was sick, I either envisioned recovery as some glorious light at the end of a hideous tunnel that I'd never reach or I'd see it as equally bleak as my current situation. The reality was somewhat different and I think it goes something like this: life can suck sometimes, whether or not you have a mental illness, and life also doesn't care if you've had a mental illness in



Myself (centre), my friend (right of centre) and some travelling companions at the Grand Canyon, showcasing my variable hair styles.

the past and could really use a break, *thank you very much*. What changes is yourself – the issues that would have knocked me sideways a few years ago, which ranged from major events to getting out of bed in the morning, I can now handle. And although some days are rubbish, I'm aware that the bad times are finite and I will feel happiness again. Sounds simple, but I would have scoffed at these concepts in the past.

I also know how tempting it is to cling on to anything that offers you a chance of recovery when you're ill, whether or not this is rational, be it a friend or family member or a treatment program or risk-taking behaviours that give you the illusion of feeling something else for even the briefest period of time. For me, I didn't do well in any sort of formal treatment. I had counselling for a while but ended up just telling the counsellor what I thought she wanted to hear. After I was diagnosed when I was sixteen, I was referred to a psychiatrist to start drug therapy and CBT but that just freaked me out and it didn't take me long to drop out. Instead, I was fortunate to have amazing friends who put up with me for several long, difficult years (no small feat given they were just teenagers themselves) and I was fortunate to come to Imperial when things were at their worst – a drastic change of scenery was probably what I needed most of all. For the vast majority of the population, that isn't very feasible.

People often feel a lot of anxiety disclosing a mental illness whether informally to friends or formally to their departments in College. As Deputy President (Welfare), it's hard advocating people to do things that I've personally found terrifying in the past and this article is one of many steps I'm taking to rectify that. Recently, I've joined up with the

Counselling Service, Union Advice Centre and Disability Advisory Service to go around different departments in order to talk to students about mental health. One of the things I say in my talk is that although, in your head, you imagine people freaking out if you tell them you are having problems with your mental health, the most common reaction I've had to disclosure is people start disclosing themselves. I suppose I'm living proof as this article was prompted by a candidate for Disabilities Officer disclosing their own struggles with mental health on their public manifesto – for me the most compelling moment of the Big Elections so far.

Still, I want to end this article with something positive and so I'll talk about the moment that I realised I was getting well. I went to stay with a friend of mine (pictured above) who lives out in the middle of nowhere – her village doesn't even have a post office and only recently got a pub. We drove out to one of the fields around her house and it was a late afternoon, so the sun was just beginning to set, and we had the car radio blaring as we drove around in the open, not another person in sight. It's irrational but when you're depressed the main problem is that you don't see a way out and you lose hope of ever feeling anything again. For one moment, driving like an idiot and listening to canned pop songs in the middle of summer, I finally saw my life changing for the better.

I would like to share some massive moment of revelation that would be befitting of the end of a film, like staring out over the Grand Canyon for the first time (which I did some years later with the same friend), but no, my grand realisation occurred in the driving seat of a Ford Focus.

It was probably equally amazing.



WHY CAN'T ANYONE SEE HOW DEAD THESE ARE??



Hyperbole and a Half tries to show how even well-intentioned offers of help can feel to someone with depression

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Breakthrough in HIV gene therapy

Philippa Skett on the new gene-editing technique that gives HIV resistance

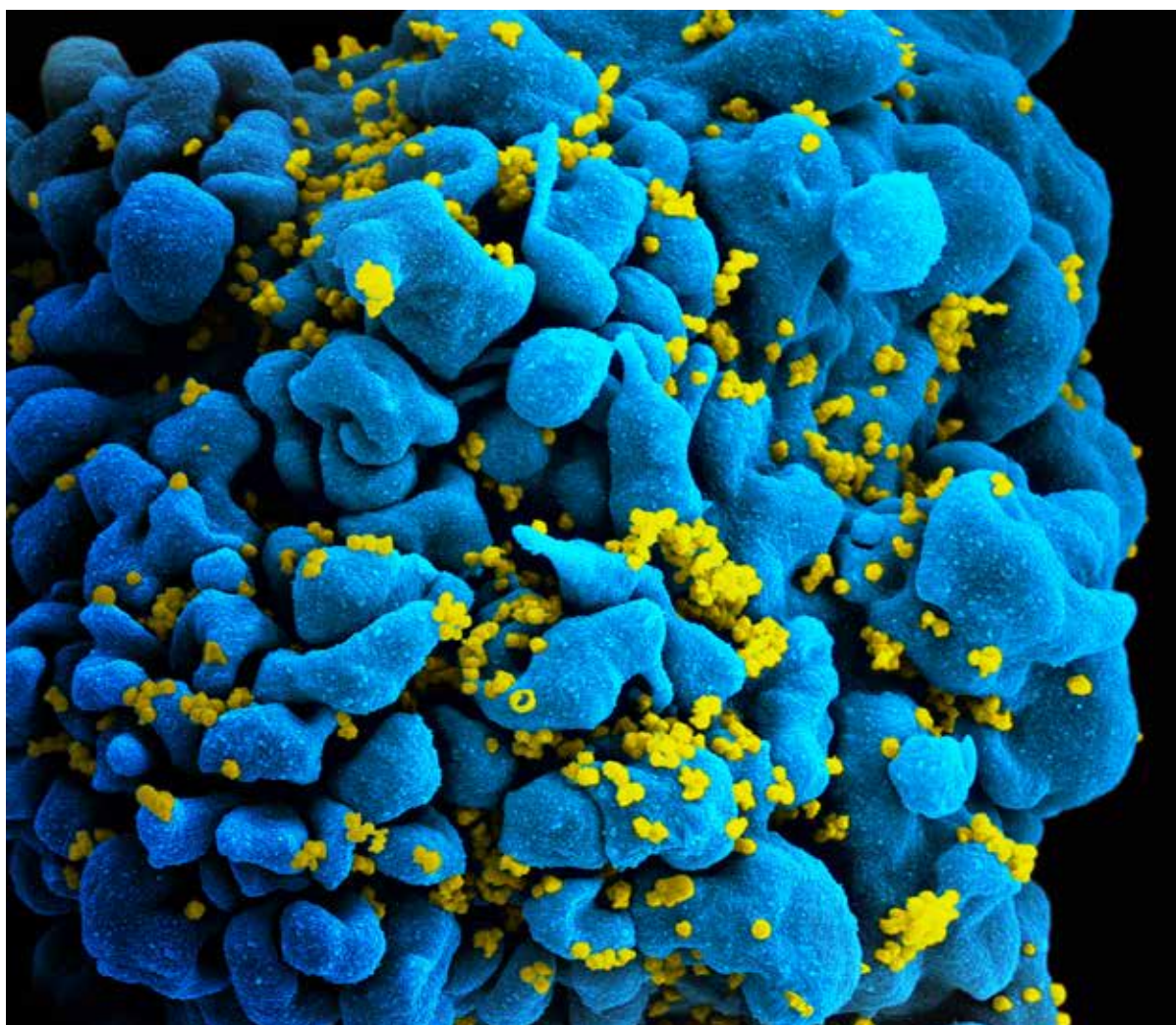
For the first time ever, researchers have succeeded in making enzymes target and alter the genes of immune cells that are susceptible to HIV infection. A clinical trial tested the enzymes, known as 'zinc-finger nucleases' and found that they were able to disrupt the gene CCR5, which codes a protein essential for HIV entry into T cells.

Although the clinical trial was only based on around 12 volunteers, it is a promising advancement in developing suitable HIV treatment.

Results showed that disruptions in the CCR5 gene allowed for a significant elevation of T cells in the volunteers' blood, indicating a decrease in the rate of successful HIV infection. Furthermore, upon half of the volunteers halting their antiretroviral drug therapy, their HIV levels increased more slowly than expected.

With the presence of HIV, the T cells containing the modified gene proliferated more rapidly – it seems HIV actually contributed to its own downfall.

Those who carry a mutation in the gene naturally are already resistant to HIV infection; in 2008 it was reported that patient Timothy Ray Brown was free from HIV after receiving donor bone-marrow stem cells that already boasted the disrupted versions of the gene. Unfortunately the provision of donor bone-marrow stem cells is not



HIV, coloured yellow, attacking a T cell

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

an option for many people who are infected with HIV, as the body is very

likely to attack the donor cells.

Unfortunately the HIV soon

reappeared in Brown, delivering a sobering blow to the research

community at the time. However, with this "gene-editing" technique, it seems that things are looking up again.

One participant in the study was lucky enough not to have the virus return at all during the entirety of the 12-week period during which the anti-viral therapy was paused.

Upon genome analysis, it was revealed that this participant actually already had one of the CCR5 mutations. Once the genes were modified, over half of the T cells in his body were resistant to HIV. "Nature had done half of the job," says Pablo Tebas, one of the immunologists leading the team at the University of Pennsylvania, where the study took place.

The next stage is to wean people off antiviral drugs altogether when undergoing the gene disruption treatment, and it seems that this could be a possibility. Other research groups are using the same group of enzymes to alter gene sequences in haematopoietic stem cells, which could potentially allow patients to make their own HIV resistant cells indefinitely.

Not only that, newer enzymes may actually be able to replace DNA as opposed to disrupting it, and these could be used to help treat a multiple of ailments from sickle cell anaemia through to cancer. Could enzymes truly be the ultimate editors? Only time – and a lot of research – will tell. **DOI: 10.1038/nature.2014.14813**

Debate over PLoS data-publishing demands

Christopher Yates
Science Writer

The Public Library of Science, the open access publisher of the largest scientific journal in the world, PLoS One, has announced that from the 3rd of March, authors of an article in any of their seven journals must make all data related to the manuscript publicly available immediately upon publication.

While many have welcomed this policy, others are concerned that it could be difficult to implement and dissuade people from publishing in PLoS journals.

Open access to results has been a driving force behind the development and growth of PLoS, and the new open data policy is a natural continuation

of that. PLoS hope that sharing of data will encourage collaborations and make it easier for old data to be obtained by relieving the burden on the scientists. They also believe it will permit validation and replication of results by third parties, as well as merging of data-sets to give new insights, which would not have been possible with only summary data. Advocates of open access have praised the policy, with Dan Gezelter of OpenScience.org stating that the policy makes PLoS "a much more attractive place to send our next paper".

In many fields, such as genomics, submission of data to online repositories is already commonplace. Ian Dworkin, a geneticist at Michigan State University, has benefitted in the past from data sharing and believes the policy will allow other scientists to "address interesting and novel

questions in the future" using the archived data.

However, not everyone has greeted the news so happily. Many authors are concerned about the size of the data, which PLoS states must be supplied in its raw form before any processing. The raw data produced when sequencing a human genome can easily be over 300 GB, meaning authors could have to make terabytes of data available. Exactly how this will be achieved is not clear, but the problem will also apply to many other fields handling large volumes of data.

Others are also concerned about data privacy. Some data may also not be released ethically, such as data relating to individual patients, or legally, if obtained from a third party. In these cases, PLoS requires the data to be available upon request, but not necessarily made public.

In addition, many groups use



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of SCIENCE

the same data to produce multiple papers, each investigating the data in a different way. By making the data publicly available after publishing a single paper, other groups will be able to use it, potentially being 'scooped' to an interesting finding. Writing on her blog, neuroscientist Erin McKiernan describes how in many cases, "data acquired are like gold", particularly

in labs with less funding, meaning releasing their data could decrease the amount of mileage they are able to get from a data set, impacting future funding opportunities.

This new policy is a brave step along the path to open science, and only time will tell how it impacts PLoS journals, authors, and the wider scientific community.

Debate: This House Values Security over Individual Privacy

Niall Jeffrey
Columnist

YES

It is ominously simple for people so far from danger to forget the value of their own security. When the details of the recent joint US/UK surveillance operations emerged, our value assessment of the governments' work was skewed due to our privileged positions of safety.

“

Although very relatively fewer people are victims of terrorist attacks than use Facebook, the harm to those victims of unprevented terrorist attacks are far greater.

”

The occupation of the NSA and GCHQ is saving lives and preventing attacks on innocent people. It is possible, using information searched for from Facebook and Twitter, for the organisations to automatically flag-up any potential threat before it happens.

Any irregularity in typical online activity can be the first indicators of future danger. Following up mobile-phone clusters in a distinguishing region or newly created friend groups that do not fit with the geography are all irreplaceable tools. Once a potential threat is discerned, more information can then be gathered. No other methods of terrorism detection or prevention are effective on an international scale.

The fact that the NSA is able to automatically discover this information prevents serious breaches of human rights by more aggressive means. The public hunger to hunt suspects directly in the wake of terrorist attacks, invariably leads to entities, like the CIA, forcefully following up unsubstantiated claims. A government agency preventing attacks and dealing with events with the most amount of knowledge has the greatest chance of not making mistakes.

The right to privacy itself is a goal that can only be achieved by a person who has already secured their right to life. Privacy is useless for those who are not alive to benefit.

When people weigh up the pros and cons of government surveillance, they do not picture themselves as the targets of potential terrorist attacks. The disconnect between media reporting of bombings or hijackings and our own personal reality means people do not seriously picture themselves as future victims. The idea of our personal Facebook data being analysed feels much more real than the surreal pictures on television. So when people choose between privacy and security they often think privacy is more important.

This is selfish. Although very relatively fewer people are victims of terrorist attacks than use Facebook, the harm to those victims of unprevented terrorist attacks are far greater.

It is true that you will probably not be a hurt by attacks directly or indirectly, but that does not mean someone else won't be. When you say that you want data to remain private, it is because you probably will never see the many benefits that can be gained from good, reliable intelligence to the government. If you deny the ability of security services to target potential threats, you are increasing the chance that someone, somewhere will lose their life.

Anita Chandran
Columnist

NO

When bodies such as the NSA are given unrestricted access to personal data, they are open to being abused. Large numbers of people are allowed top level clearance to NSA data within the United States. It is difficult, therefore, to keep control over this information. See Edward Snowden, a private contractor whose clearance level allowed him to access secret data. Although Edward Snowden's motives were not blackmail or use of information to destroy individuals within the state, it is not possible to eliminate the idea that this could happen in a system where security is valued over an individual's privacy.

Furthermore, governments themselves are in a position to misuse information for their own ends. That's not to say that states all abuse their power, but it's possible that individual governments use information to maintain their political advantage. Scandals such as Watergate (in which the Nixon administration committed were involved in a plethora of illegal activities against his opposition to further themselves politically) are good examples of where this sort of abuse poses enormous harms to people living within the state system. It opens them up to mistreatment that they are powerless to stop from the state which is constructed to protect them.

It is highly unlikely that government manipulation of this nature does occur en masse. So, why is it important that we value individual privacy over national security? It is for a manner of reasons that are more likely, that produce different sorts of direct harms to individuals.

Take the example of profiling in the search for threats to national security. Mass electronic surveillance is often used to single out individuals

on an ethnic basis. For example, consider the not insignificant number of 'suspected people' who are put on government no-fly lists for no apparent reason. These people are from a selection of 'danger groups.' This is a direct consequence of the way in which automated surveillance works (i.e. by considering certain permutations of characteristics which would suggest a person is 'suspicious.') However, the harm posed to an individual when they feel that the state is somehow aligned against them is significant. It is a huge inconvenience to be practically restricted but it is also a deeply distressing occurrence to be vilified for your ethnicity.

“

However, the harm posed to an individual when they feel that the state is somehow aligned against them is significant.

”

While it is true that some people are willing to accept the government surveillance, the potential harms of unrestricted prioritisation of security prove detrimental to a large number of people. Furthermore, the efficiency of such surveillance should be questioned. Terrorist links are nigh on impossible to spot with inefficient mass scanning of data. At the point at which the system is so open to abuse, and is so easily to the detriment of those within the state, it is impossible to prioritise security over individual privacy.



COMMENT

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Berlin: A Night Life Review

Jonny Mitigation

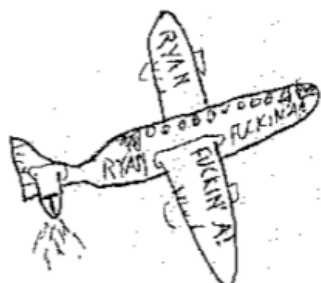
Anonymous



People are always on the hunt for a place to party, a place to have a blast, for it to be a hoot. Maybe, if luck will have it, you manage to make love sideways to the rhythm of Mandy and Stella Artoorhys in Dalston or Metric. But sadly, London can be a bit of a 'les incompetents' in this department. It can fail to deliver the goods.

We want a sustained but simple performance: great music, cheap drinks that don't cost an arm and a trip to A&E, and above all: 'livid gash' as my Australian-Berliner acquaintance puts it. We wanna vibe and be vibed – it's a dog eat dog world out there.

People also tell me that what I just outlined is delivered by Berlin in a competent manner. So I, Jonny Mitigation and Charles Rotknap, a dear raver of mine, set sail 'nach Berlin' one fateful January night. One Terravision bus to Stansted, one 'Ryan F****g A' flight; we cheekily fondled Berlin. If my memory serves me right, it was a Friday morning that we arrived in the vicinity of Kreuzberg, Berlin.



Having settled ourselves into a drengy yet surprisingly comfy 'hosto', we hit the sights. We're jonesing through the usuals, ever so gentle Bundestag (why the haze do you have massive queues manned by sporadic ticket office men?), art exhibitions (where East meets West), historic squats (F** Greenpeace for wrecking the vibe), massive statues of Soviet liberators (I have a selfie where I promptly flip them off) and rounding off the afternoon with a generous helping of Curry Wurst.

Enough with this hedonistic chauvinism, I say: no more distractions to the storyline. That very evening, we proceed to get lashed on Jager and Juice and hit 'Lerchen und Eulen'. This is a 'F*** ME KINDA SIDEWAYS' establishment that serves the best Moscow Mules and splendid Swiss cigarettes to be enjoyed indoors (Parisienne). All for a measly few Euros. The vibe of the place is mesmerizing, Berliners friendly as ever sporting phenomenally crafted 'Mutze's' (including myself, minus the Berliner part, but hey, I

felt like I was at home). AND you can get a Larry David sandwich: white fish, sabel, capers, onions, and cream cheese. It was as if I got killed in a drive-by Biggie-style, went to heaven Fat Boy Slim-style and back.

As we prep to leave 'Lerchen und Eulen' for Tresor, I acquaint a striking 18 year old brunette who, thanks to the ensuing conversation and ample amounts of bisexual tension, became vigorously passionate. The culmination of the said interaction was as per usual with me: a humble exchange of business cards. Her name is Sabrina and she sells shower curtain rings by day. Catch of the day.

Finally, we made it to Tresor. On the way, I managed to violate some subsections of my parole agreement, because after all, I act like a cop, I look like a cop, heck, I must be a cop! Oh I nearly forgot: we also met Ben Klock in McDonald's beforehand: a resident techno god who said we would get



HOSTO

No more dilly-dallying, time to talk Tresor. Where do I start: maybe with the fact that it is a pioneer of the post-89 Berlin scene set in an industrial power station, or that we got a 50% discount for looking berlin-ish? Here's a top tip: whilst waiting, don't speak English, don't talk to people, wear all black, have piercings, maybe a tattoo, hide being lashed well IF you hope to get in. Oh, and best have a hot girl with you, then it should be no problem. And try to look older, at least late 20s. I know, I hate pseudo-rules as much as the next guy. But hey, this is Berlin, so no much choice – this is a calculated loss because what awaits inside is divine and an anti-thesis to the outside's excesses. The inside of Tresor is spectacular: multiple levels, famous foggy dark tunnels, booming German techno, studded enclaves with fascinating people – everything lit in dim red lights. We get drinks – Mate it Gin – the best mixer possible. We light up. We close our eyes. We dance. It is a trance to be repeated. So much so, that the most dedicated members enter Tresor on Friday



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night and leave Monday morning just in time for work (did somebody say Mandy?).

It's electric – but we need to amp the wattage. Charles befriends a fellow raver: so smooth, so Berlin-esque of him. Turns out to our no-surprise, the fellow has 10 euro Mandy. Yes, please. The judgment might be cloudy, the price very low, but we take the skeptical plunge. 40 more minutes of dancing and it hits. And oh my, it hits. The warm fuzzy feeling of loving everyone and everything envelops us, suffocating our inhibitions. We dance

manically, clenching our jaws, and filming it with a GoPro – we are like that maniac from Flashdance, that steel town girl, who danced her heart out and danced herself into that place in dancing school. Sure, we tumble a few times like she did – but that does not deter us. We are Maniacs. If even just for tonight.

Next phase enters after replenishing our dehydrated bodies: chinning the wag. Discussing Kierkegaard with Carlotta was an experience, talking to Nina about Isaiah Berlin (what a coincidence!) was revolutionary. Mr Rotknap was a hit too although he chose to talk techno, making industry contacts – by that stage he was more aware than me of where we were, who we were. Actually who were we?

God knows. We coasted like this till 8am, savouring every second, hitting an after-party. It was glorious, when the dust settled, to be able to tuck into a Kebab so tasty, I would give it a Michelin star on the spot. Go for Durum rather than Doner: wrap is easier to tackle than a bap.

Nap and shower later in the

'hosto', we were ready to repeat the experience, but different venues. And we had ample of choice: we went for 'Mein Haus am See'. This bar is like no others: it proudly displays a sign: 'Hippies are welcome'. You see, Berlin can have a darker side: with the recent budding of the Hipster culture mixed with remnants of the Beatnik movement, it can be a bit xenophobic. The sign basically says: 'oi haters, keep accepting that money tourism brings to you, but order these hipsters around into a confined space so they don't 'bother' you anymore'. Vilifying any group of people for any reason is dangerous and abhorrent: treat everyone as an individual. Is it not what 'hipsterism' kinda espouses you might say? Ha, I wish but let's be honest: they are all just facsimiles of each other, fancying Echo Park to be a desert island is crazy talk.

I am putting brakes on my belief in 'radical individualism' akin to Ayn Rand, so let's talk venue. It's brilliant, less personal and more commercial, but still with style and grace. On a persy note, I still prefer 'Lerchen und Eulen' – it simply is unmatched. It's a place that on our very last night before the flight in the morning, Tuesday 2am stays open upon asking the bartender who serves us superb cocktails, talks, shares cigarettes and 'alcohol knowledge' (FYI, it is a 24/7 place but closes when no customers are there).

Time flies, and we get on the move towards Stattbad, our night's destination. On the way, we manage to get lost in a pharmaceutical factory of Bayer (this is thanks to our inebriation, not the 'basically-free' 24/7 Berlin tube system). We never waste an opportunity: we use it to espouse our love for Professor Nutt, calling him affectionately: 'Hazy Davo', 'Queasy Davo' or 'Sun, Sex and Suspicious Davo' to name a few. No one is confused.

After a while, we make it to Stattbad: this is a club like no other (seems like a pattern with Berlin). A 50s

converted leisure centre, with raves inside the pool, industrial Bauhaus infrastructure, heating rooms etc. This is heavenly – Berlin Boiler Room broadcasts from there. Needless to say, this was a night equally splendid to Tresor, minus that great feeling of loosing your Berlin virginity we had yesterday. My Dad says that what you do first, is usually most beautiful. Tongue in cheek at worst, true at best.

10am and we make it to Berghain. It is something you have to do but there can be no slip-ups. Notoriously amazing, secretive and sexual, it is a sight: old Stasi prison 10 or so floors high that became the world's greatest techno club. Just a testament to hedonism. I will leave it to the imagination of the readers as to what happened there. One word of advice: know your exits and entries.

Coming back in early hours of morning was fun: filming Jackass-esque challenges whilst downing kebabs after kebabs. I will never forget that morning and the breakfast we had in our 'hosto'. We slept for a day and a half.

To spare the agony of making this article into a tractate, I shall quickly whirl through the rest of events. That week, we got to see Kater Holzig out on a final night, meet zestful divorcees in Berliner Philharmonic, nip into Poznan, Poland for a friend's house party, vandalise the Berlin Wall with ironic/iconic Instagrams, see medical history museum with headless babies, get student discounts in Benihana and other unreal malarkey.

So what is the moral of this story? Well, Berlin is quite amazing, the best city to be young. And it gets even better in summer: all we did in a week is scratch the surface. Here is what we're gonna do: if this article appealed to you and wanna join me, Jonny Mitigation, Charles Rotknap and DJ Principal Goodvibes (another dear raver of mine) for a July in Berlin, drop us an email at whydoutyoufindfriendsonbeboorfriendster@gmail.com

Manifesto: Place in Marxist Thought

Christy Kelly
Writer



To round up my three weeks of commentary on the Manifesto, I shall try and place it in Marxist thought. I was originally going to write a short critique of Marxist thought but it quickly grew to an unreadable length and so I have settled for this slightly less ambitious task. Thus this text is half criticism, half recommendations for further reading. Before I start on the meat of the discussion I should say that in 1848 Marx had begun but by no means finished his study of political economy and so we should not place too much emphasis on the relative lack of 'economic essentialism' in the Manifesto; the outline of history in the preface of the Contribution was substantially the same as in the Manifesto, but the economic claims were stronger.

There is still, though, a rather crude and mechanical account of the development of ideas, in the Manifesto: 'The ruling ideas of each age have ever been the ideas of the ruling class.' Taken literally, this means that Communism will only become a ruling idea when the proletarians have taken power, or worse, that it is already only a bourgeois idea. Marx does make room for immanent criticism, 'when people speak of ideas that revolutionise society, they do but express the fact, that within the old society, the elements of the new one have been created.' However there is no denying that what we might call the theory of ideology in the Manifesto remains in the domain 'vulgar Marxism'. In their defence, it should be added that Marxists have a virtual monopoly on the sophisticated discussions of ideology.

A full discussion of ideology is quite impossible here, so I will leave it at the somewhat unsatisfactory comments above and move onto the main practical criticisms of the Manifesto. Put briefly, these criticisms are about the theory of politics, the 'national question', the role of women and the role of class.

These four categories, I believe, can all be subsumed under three more general criticisms of Marxism in general, though I will not discuss these extensively here: the criticism of Marxist teleology, politics and once again ideology. It can be seen that there is some overlap; for instance, the theory of politics in the Manifesto relates to the overall Marxist course on politics, as well as the reality of socialist political praxis. Similarly,

categories 2), 3) and 4) all relate in various degrees to both the Marxist theory of politics and ideology, though I believe it is important to distinguish the two. My final brief comment about these more general criticisms is that, though the central problem for Marxist thinkers today is the nature of a political subject, that is, a problematic of politics and ideology, the ultimate problem for Marxism has and always will be whether or not it is teleological.

1) **The Theory of Politics.** Ultimately, there is no theory of politics in Marx. Certainly, the vague practical recommendations in the Manifesto at best suggest that people should be pragmatic and analyze the concrete historical situation. While in the 1872 preface Marx and Engels

historical situation was not yet ready. Gramsci, however, has perhaps the best political sense of any Marxist thinker, with a theory of hegemony not unlike Foucault's discussion of power. The precise mechanism for this struggle for hegemony, however, has I believe been best formulated by post-Marxist thinkers Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe in their brilliant book *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy* looking at the way discursive fields become 'overdetermined' by certain hegemonic interpretations of words and phrases.

2) **The National Question.** In the Manifesto the role of nationalism in politics had a somewhat summary treatment. The Manifesto itself is staunchly internationalist, though it quite unconsciously accepts

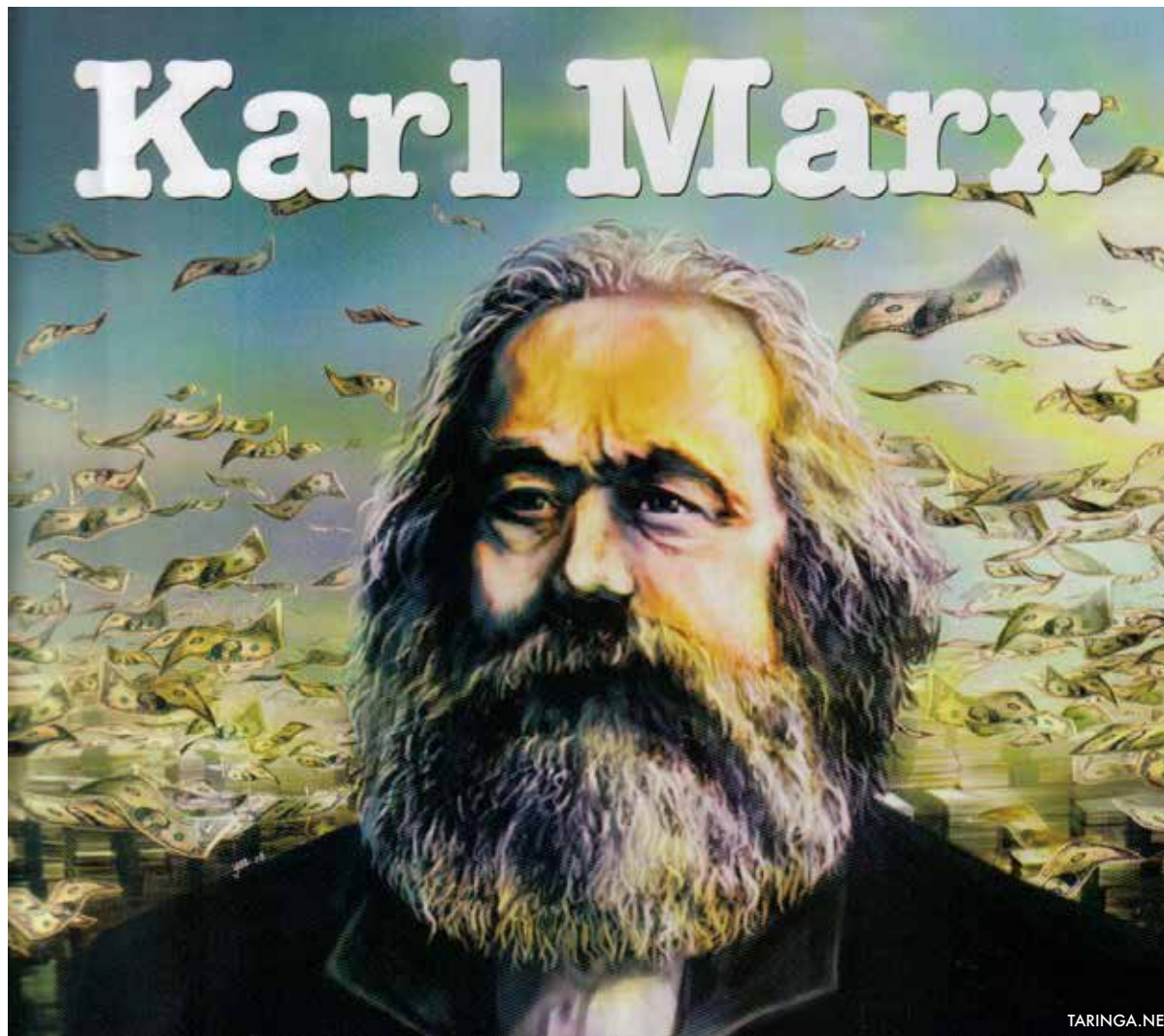
when striking over working conditions. Much of the early Marxist discussion of the national question suffers from the then ubiquitous error in taking nations to be as old as time immemorial (nations in general not particular nations like Germany or Italy which were clearly recent inventions). Serious scholarship on nations did not come until the flurry of books in Britain in the 80s, the best being Benedict Anderson's book *Imagined Communities* and the collection edited by Eric Hobsbawm and Terrence Ranger *The Invention of Tradition*. By then, of course, the writers had lived through the curious hybrid of nationalist pan-Africanism during the end of official Imperialism in the 60s. That this seeming paradox was possible was very suggestive for

'person to compete with' to 'women to compete with' is both the locus of sexism and irreducible to class rivalry. Similarly, feminism was for a long time a middle-class phenomenon; certainly, the 'women' Mary Wollstonecraft speaks of are unmistakably bourgeois women, though this has been largely remedied by the theorists from de Beauvoir on. Things were largely the same elsewhere in Europe and in the US though Howard Zinn does tell a rather touching story of a meeting between Eugene Debs and Susan Anthony. The relationship between Marxism and feminism has always been complicated, and will probably continue to be so.

4) **The Role of Class.** Class is a surprisingly complex concept in Marx's work as Lukàc's *History and Class Consciousness* shows. The formula oft repeated by vulgar Marxists and their more vulgar critics that kicks off the analysis in the Manifesto, 'The history of all hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggle,' is I would suggest, by no means as determinist as many people say, though there is not space to argue this here. Much has been made, recently, about the disappearance of class, though if this is true it is a purely western phenomenon and there is much reason to doubt that this is true even in the west. There is a very sad truth to Warren Buffett's words, 'there is class warfare, and it is my class, the rich, that is winning.' Certainly with international inequality decreasing and overall inequality increasing talks of the end of class society seem a little previous.

On the other hand, some recent analyses have also led to a proliferation of new classes, the precariat, the consumertariat etc. These discussions are basically idiotic, or even cynically disposed along the lines of divide and conquer, but they contain a core of truth which all the successful Marxist revolutionaries (Mao, Lenin, Ho Chi Minh, Castro etc.) picked up on. The truth is, in brief, the declining demographic role of the industrial proletariat and the persistent refusal of society to polarize itself into the two great camps as per the dictates of the Manifesto.

On the whole recent left wing critiques have not abandoned class analysis, but they have stopped thinking in terms of proletariat/bourgeoisie and the new elect revolutionary class is the lumpenproletariat of old; Negri and Hardt's 'rhizomatic multitudes'; the billion new slum dwellers, the unemployed and those subsisting on the informal economy – essentially the demographic base of the progressives in Latin America. Goran Therborn has written a perspicacious summary for *New Left Review*. I direct those interested there.



have realized that simply seizing capitalist modes of production is not enough, and while in the Critique of the Gotha program Marx uses the rather enigmatic phrase 'dictatorship of the proletariat' there is still no real theory of politics. Lenin gets somewhat closer, in a practical sense with the creation of vanguard parties, and in a more profound sense with what might be called a theory of action, which Rosa Luxemburg spells out best in her criticism of the Mensheviks refusal to revolt on the grounds that Russia's objective

the nation as the basic unit of political organization. Similarly, in Marx's day, there was probably little thought that there could be any hostility between national movements and socialist movements; though Garibaldi was a somewhat dubious socialist, the Fenians were considered kosher and had close links with Engels. It was really only with WWI that there was any conscious discussion of the antagonism between socialist and nationalist ends, though Benedict Anderson rightly points out that the Welsh miners did not feel unpatriotic

nationalist phenomenon.

3) **The Role of Women.** Here the issue is in many ways the other way round to the previous points. While the Manifesto, because of Engels, had a really rather feminist position for its day, Marxism has traditionally been somewhat hostile to feminist movements. Women, of course, were a large 'standing army' of workers to be exploited driving wages down and so typical intra-class rivalry no doubt played a part in this hostility though the transposition from

COMMENT

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This week's lolcats from the ever so secret lolcat editor.

Much cat, many word, such laugh, cate.



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Special thanks to: Kunal Wagle, Alex Hamilton and Tessa Davey, amongst others who put in a lot of extra effort in order to get this bumper-sized 64 page issue out this week.

Hangman's week as RON

Guest editorial

Monday

I woke up to loads of texts about the Union elections. Apparently everyone thinks I'm that obnoxious guy who puts himself down for all of the positions as some sort of cry for help. Hermione told me that if I'm not good enough for her then there's no way I'm good enough to win any of these positions.

Tuesday

As an (unwilling) election candidate, I thought it would be a good idea to bring some diversity to Imperial College Union. That quad out front of the bar would be just the right size for an old wooden ship.

Wednesday

I made some posters for my campaign, which I put up in all of the college toilets. Unfortunately, the returning officer and the police didn't appreciate my award winning work in the porn industry, and I was expelled from college.

Thursday

I came to the conclusion that the union is illegitimate, and that like all forms of government it should be abolished. Everyone thinks I'm an idiot, apart from all the people who donate bitcoin to my campaign. I stand in every election until the end of recorded time, and never get any votes.

Friday

Today I tried to get some postgrads to vote for me by hanging out in H Bar. However, everyone just assumed from the décor and the food that it was my latest fast food restaurant. And then someone told me that my bright red curly hair and clown suit were putting them off their burger. Twat.

Vote Ben Fernando for RCSU President



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ARTS

POETRY CORNER

Eye Sun

by Eamonn Postlethwaite

*My mistress' eyes are the sun,
and having gazed longing to them,
I find my retinas scarred.
I am blind to
any other beauty.*

*Her freckles are hotbright pinpricks and stars,
though
they themselves cannot pierce my murky gaze.
Instead they callous my fingertips as my eyes,
when I trace my love upon her back,*

*After her, my charred body
does naught but fill my nose with smoke.
After her, the harsh crackling of flesh
is sound.*

*Now my thoughts rebel against me, unafraid.
Their pressure shrinks me, and what remains
is butter spread too thin. Pop culture
as glue while I tear at the seams.*

*When my sun goes supernova
nothing will change for me.
My senses fled this sorry corpse, for without light
nothing grows.*

Fancy yourself a poet? Got an artwork you'd like to share? Made a nice origami? Send submissions to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk to showcase your work in Felix.

Is all art propaganda?



Pablo Picasso, *Guernica*, 1937

Indira Mallik
Writer



Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable. It's an instantly quotable adage from Banksy, but what does it actually mean? Can a line be drawn between outright political propaganda and the canvases hanging in every hip gallery in London? Or is all art propaganda, as the title of George Orwell's collection of critical essays claims? Visual media has the unique ability to reach the masses and influence thought and perception. Does linking this to political ideology threaten the integrity of the artist and the artwork itself, or is the art informed and heightened by this social and political context?

Propaganda and art have always been closely interlinked. War, in particular often blurs the lines between art and propaganda. Dating back to classical times, battle and its Generals have been glorified through art, calling men to arms. In modern times, as the public consciousness has turned away from war, art has similarly reflected the turning tide of anti-war sentiment.

A striking example is Picasso's *Guernica*; a visceral 11x25.6 ft canvas depicting the horrors of war, and the misery that followed the Nazi bombing of the Spanish town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War. It has gained fame for its bold political statement, made stronger by its lack of colour; it's blue, black and white tones reminiscent more of newsprint and photographic documentation of the time than of Picasso's usual style.

Though Picasso himself always considered *Guernica* deeply political, condemning violence, at the time of its unveiling in Paris it received little critical attention. In this respect it could be said to have failed in its role as propaganda, never receiving enough critical acclaim or seen by

enough people needed for truly effective propaganda. The piece has gone on to become a potent symbol of the destruction of war on the lives of innocent civilians. In many aspects, it is easy to fit *Guernica* neatly into the box of 'art' despite its political undertones. Other art pieces are more overtly propaganda.

Take for example Rima Najdi, a multidisciplinary Lebanese artist based in Germany, who has taken to walking the streets of Beirut dressed as a bomb. All in black except for a fake red dynamite suicide vest, Najdi hopes to highlight the danger the citizens of Beirut face every day, and the real fear they have of dying just stepping out of their homes. The idea for the installation piece came as a result of being a close to one of the car bombs that hit downtown Beirut, and the predominantly Shia area of Dahiyeh, where Hezbollah has a strong presence. Though without a doubt food for thought, can Najdi's work be considered true art?

Jackson Pollock would've thought not; abstract expressionism, the 20th century movement of which Pollock was a major figure, was based on the ideal that art should be wholly separated from ideology. Artists in the movement considered art to be of a higher form, that should be kept pure, and that the images or structures should flow from within the artist without seeking to influence or impart any sort of social or political context. It was the idea of 'art for art's sake', pure aestheticism.

But even pure aestheticism cannot be safe from becoming propaganda; ultimately the power to judge an

artwork lies in the hands of the viewer. Indeed, the work of the abstract expressionists including Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko was adopted as propaganda during the Cold War. In 1995, *The Independent* reported that the CIA had confirmed that it had secretly funded the abstract expressionists as a foil to the rigid socialist realism of Soviet art, as a symbol of American freedom and creativity.

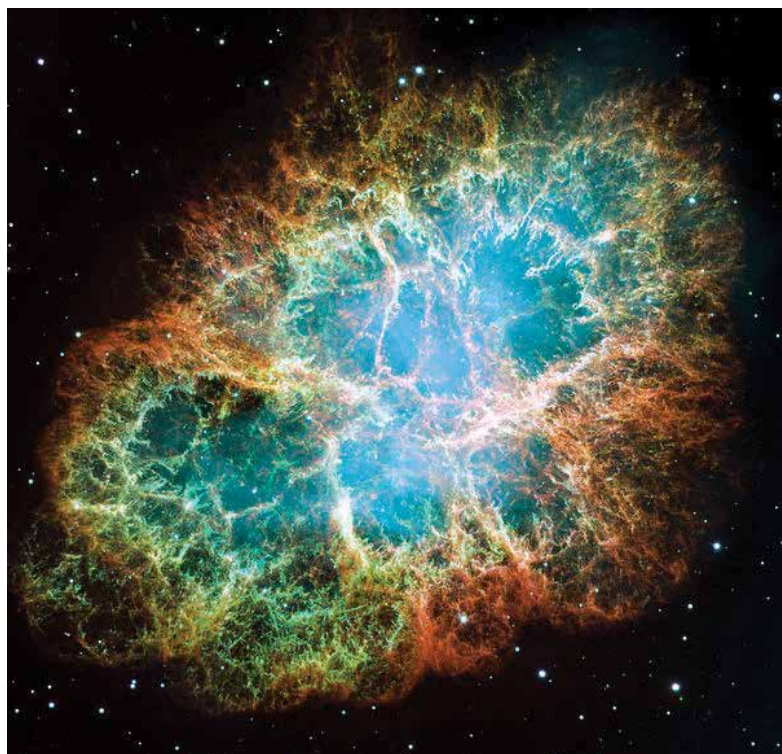
To address the question whether any attempt should be made to separate art from propaganda, we turn to Orwell when he writes in context of World War II in his 1949 essay *The Frontiers of Art and Propaganda*, "you cannot take a purely aesthetic interest in a disease you are dying from". Speaking about the way art was so endemically joined with war propaganda – take for instance *Rosie the Riveter* who has since become an icon of the women's war effort in the US, Orwell writes "[propaganda art] destroyed the illusion of pure aestheticism... propaganda in some form or other lurks in every work of art, [each] has a meaning and a purpose – a political, social and religious purpose".

It seems art cannot exist outside of the social and political context of its time. Emphasising form over substance not only opens the artwork up to the danger of being too academic for the masses to enjoy, but often proves futile. Orwell goes on to write "our aesthetic judgements are always coloured by our prejudices and beliefs." Thus even the most innocuous abstract piece may become a political statement in the mind of a particular viewer.



Jackson Pollock, *Number 11*, 1952

NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA



ARTS

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Tiny Tate display still packs a punch

Rhian Jones

Writer

What: Harry Callahan Display
Where: Tate Modern, SE1
When: Until 31st May
Price: FREE

The Tate Modern opens its Harry Callahan display with a quote from the photographer: “if a man wishes to express himself photographically, he must understand... his relationship to life”. Indeed, one of the most moving aspects of this display is Callahan’s reverence for the beauty present in everyday life. A Chicago Street, a carpet of autumn leaves; the photographer’s subjects are unremarkable, yet his images are endowed with a humble beauty.

Considered to be one of the pioneers of 20th century American photography and the New Vision Movement, Callahan was self-taught. He began taking pictures with Chrysler Motor’s Photo Club during his time as a clerk with the company in Detroit, and was inspired by the work of landscape photographer Ansel Adams to pursue

photography seriously from age 26, in 1941. Rejecting the prevailing trend for documentation of current events, Callahan preferred to draw upon his everyday surroundings in Detroit and Chicago for subject matter. His modern style earned him a teaching position at Chicago’s Institute of Design and later the Rhode Island School of Design, culminating in a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in 1976. However, whilst critically acclaimed in the States, Callahan’s name is little-known outside of art circles in the UK. Tate Modern’s exhibit aims to bring his work this side of the pond.

The display spans Callahan’s work from post-war black and white shots of Chicago to his colour images of the seventies. Callahan’s early urban images are testimony to his photographic craftsmanship, and ability to capture the mood of 1950s Chicago. His crisp silver gelatin prints lend themselves well to the clean lines of the buildings in his photographs, and complement his interest in form.

These urban images have a sombre beauty. Shadow dominates his photographs (the dense darkness of *Wabash Street, 1958* is almost tangible) and many cityscapes are deserted. Where pedestrians are

present, they seem unaware of the camera and Callahan is careful to preserve their anonymity. Men gather on a street corner in the uniforms of 50s Chicago, grey suits, their faces obscured beneath hat brims.

The same sobriety pervades Callahan’s natural landscapes – in *Detroit, 1941* a telegraph pole stands solitary in a field. Callahan’s eye for minutiae is evident in some of his close-range shots of buildings or landscapes, leading to a deconstruction of the subject’s form and lending his images a mischievous abstract quality. His close-ups of windswept Georgia Mountain grasses could be mistaken for a dog’s coat, his cropped snapshots of New York skyscrapers equally cryptic. Callahan’s use of multiple film exposure, allowing for superposition of images, creates some pictures that verge on the surreal; a nude female floats eerily on the side of a skyscraper in *Providence-Nude on Building, 1970*.

The display divides Callahan’s work according to three main themes: nature, buildings and people. However, it is arguable that the only person really present in the images here is Callahan’s wife Eleanor, who compliantly posed for him “rain or shine, whatever (she) was doing” throughout the 63 years of their marriage. Eleanor’s presence



Harry Callahan, *Providence, 1966*

© ESTATE OF HARRY CALLAHAN

can be heavily felt in different aspects of his work. She appears nude in an apartment, then fully clothed against bleak winter landscapes, at distant or close range. In *Eleanor, 1949* she emerges nymph-like from a lake, a nipple peeking from the glassy water. We are presented with close-up shots of portions of Eleanor’s body, and using multiple exposure, Eleanor’s naked torso shimmers in front of the landscape in *Aix-en-Provence, 1958*.

It has been suggested that Tate

overstates the importance of Harry Callahan as “one of the most influential figures in post-war photography”, and this small display only provides a taster of his work (around 90 photographs). Nonetheless, this retrospective – intimate, succinct and neatly curated – is a photographic masterclass that is in danger of being overlooked. So when you head to the Tate Modern to see the heavily publicised Paul Klee or Richard Hamilton exhibitions, make sure that you drop by.

Witty, irreverent, political collages

Jingjie Cheng

Writer

What: Hannah Hoch
Where: Whitechapel Gallery, E1
When: Until 23rd March
Price: £9.95, £7.95 concessions

In *Heads of State* (1920), two portly figures are pictured in their bathing suits before a feminine backdrop of butterflies, flowers and a woman with a parasol. One figure is the first president of the Weimar republic, Friedrich Ebert, and the other, his defence minister.

It is such comical and emasculating juxtapositions that make Hannah Hoch’s collages so subversive and entertaining. A pioneer of the photomontage technique, Hoch draws from journals and magazines to put vastly disparate elements together, creating whimsical, counterintuitive and sometimes irreverent pieces that comment on the political and social changes of the turbulent period in post-World War I Germany. A key contributor to the Berlin Dadaist movement but slighted by the other mainly male members, Hoch nevertheless left her mark as a witty, original artist who somehow managed to combine images into coherent wholes that tell stories of their own.



Hannah Hoch, *Heads of State, 1918-20*

COLLECTION OF IFA, STUTTGART

Although it is greatly disappointing that her arguably most famous work, and icon of the Berlin Dada movement, *Cut with the Kitchen Knife through the Last Weimar Beer-Belly Cultural Epoch in Germany* (1920) is not on show, as the fragile original sits delicately in the Neue Nationalgalerie of Berlin, this exhibition is nevertheless important in shedding light on her contributions to 20th century collage, as well as to the politically charged body of art of the time. Being the first major exhibition of her works in the UK, with more than a hundred pieces spanning from 1910s to 1970s, the

show puts this woman in the well-deserved spotlight.

Hoch had studied at the School of Applied Art in Berlin before working at the well-known Ullstein publishing house. Her early works saw a confluence of her background in functional art and aesthetics itself, as she drew inspiration from embroidery to create two-dimensional art reminiscent of tessellation. These early works reflect interplay between patterns and human figures, often nudes, with the geometric blending into the organic. Already we can detect an interest in collage – the work

White Cloud (1916) uses fragments of printed designs.

The ground floor of the exhibition follows the works of her Dada, or ‘anti-art’ period. Hoch often expressed her Dadaist appeal to irrational and chance humour through collages that subvert institutions. Perhaps influenced by the cubist works of her time, Hoch’s works are often disproportionate and contain conflicting perspectives. *High Finance* (1923) depicts two large-headed men in suits tangled up with a huge gun and military equipment – a sharp criticism of military-industry collusion in the republic. I found her collages extraordinarily refreshing for their blatant irreverence.

In her words, her photomontages “cannibalise the images of popular culture to satirise not only political figures but also gender inequality and sexual stereotypes”. Indeed, her important series *From an Ethnographic Museum* challenges conventional concepts of beauty by juxtaposing mainly female body parts with ethnographic objects. Said to have been inspired by a visit to such a place, the works in this series are at once bestial and strangely beautiful, as we acknowledge that there is aesthetic value in bringing different things together – an idea that went against not only the prevailing idea of beauty but more broadly, the totalising ideologies of National Socialism. These works may also be a comment

on colonialism and exoticism, questioning traditional boundaries of race and culture. She sums up her purposes best in her own words in the catalogue of her first solo exhibition at The Hague in 1929 – “I would like to blur the firm borders that we human beings, cocksure as we are, are inclined to erect around everything that is accessible to us...I want to show that the small can be large, and large small, it is just the standpoint from which we judge that changes, and every concept loses its validity.”

The exhibition extends to two galleries upstairs, one of which shows her massive scrapbooking project *Album*, created during Nazi rule when, in danger of persecution, she avoided public life and lived quietly in the Berlin suburbs. The other gallery displays Hoch’s post-war works, which took a turn from her Dada past and looked to nature for inspiration, becoming increasingly abstract and colourful. It is almost as if her works reflected the liberation she felt after the war, free from Nazi rule.

However, for me, Hoch will always be remembered by her bold and unapologetic political and social commentary of her Dada period. It is her matter-of-fact laying out of her uncensored opinions that give her collages an irreverent charm which tickles the surface, but at the same time, excavates important issues and places them starkly out in the open.



Photo of the Week
Xylem Extraction
Credit: Nico Ortiz

MUSIC

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Cloud Nothings - Here and Nowhere Else

Stuart Masson

Music Editor

It has been an unusual journey for Dylan Baldi, the man behind Cleveland based **Cloud Nothings**. He was signed as a one-man band and released his first two albums, *Turned On* and the self-titled *Cloud Nothings*, were recorded as such. They were full of lo-fi noise pop at its most frantic and fun, with catchy hooks oozing out of every song. They fitted seamlessly, although with little fanfare, into the lo-fi indie scene of the time. It was **The Pains of Being Pure at Heart** running late for a dentist appointment, **Titus Andronicus** after a Disney film or **Wavves** if they'd never seen any real waves. They were good, but they weren't the most necessary of bands.

In 2012, Cloud Nothings recorded *Attack on Memory*. It was the first recorded with the live line-up and was widely heralded at the time for being the dreaded "massive direction change". As someone who was a big fan of their early stuff, I approached it with a fairly closed mind. I was expecting it to be shit, but I was so wrong. They may have abandoned their noise pop roots. Sounding more like **At the Drive-In**, **Unwound** and



Fugazi than **Best Coast**, and the lo-fi production completely absent, it was certainly a big switch up. It was a switch up that changed them from obscure also-rans into one of the most important bands in modern indie rock. Mixing the catchy hooks with post-hardcore, grunge and a new found sense of disillusionment, it was one of the albums of 2012.

Here and Nowhere Else is not a massive direction change. Despite losing the extra guitarist, the sound remains pretty similar. There's still catchy hooks, there's still strong post-hardcore and grunge influences, there's still a furious sense of urgency. It might not be innovative, but it's still really fucking good.

Opening track, *Now Here In*, is an absolute beast that would have fitted in perfectly on *Attack on Memory*. Catchy riffs are matched with Dylan's laid back drawl, slowly building up to an explosive solo and a big singalong finale. *Giving Into Seeing* draws a lot from **Sonic Youth**, with repeated screams of "swallow" matched with a haunting dissonant guitar that just keeps rising. It's absolutely brilliant. All bands should sound like Sonic Youth. *No Thoughts* is Cloud Nothings at their most intense, whilst closer *I'm Not Part of Me* features some of his catchiest work allied with some of his best ever lyrics. Baldi's always been a big fan of repeating a single line and "I'm not telling you all I'm going through" is definitely one of his best refrains.

The highlight of *Attack on Memory* was the nine minute long *Wasted Days*. Bravely featuring second on the album it remains an absolute tune. They seem to have gone with a similar



idea of having one long track here, the seven and a half minute *Pattern Walks* is a bit more traditionally positioned as the penultimate track. It certainly doesn't have the same impact that *Wasted Days* did, but it's still pretty good. It follows a similar pattern of catchy section followed by instrumental section followed by another catchy bit, but it's just not at the same level.

The highlight here is *Psychic Trauma*. A slowed down first verse is pleasant enough, but it's the sudden tempo change that makes it. Everything gets faster, louder and more intense. It doesn't let up, it just keeps getting better.

Cloud Nothings seem to have settled on this sound, but that's for the best. As much as I enjoy the old stuff, this is better. Loads better. *Attack on Memory* was one of the best indie rock album of the last five years or so, and this one's definitely the best of this year so far. It's perfect shout-along-at-a-gig type stuff, but there's a lot of musical substance if you want to dig deeper. This is a highly rewarding listen, and it comes with a high recommendation from me, if perhaps a slightly less high one than *Attack on Memory*...

Wild Beasts - Present Tense

Lee Sewell

Music Writer

Prior to writing this review, I stumbled upon a recent YouTube recording of **Wild Beasts** performing a mellow and slightly mocking rendition of **Miley Cyrus'** *Wrecking Ball* (who doesn't?), but because the vocal complementation between front-men Hayden Thorpe and Tom Fleming is so damn great. Anyway, it goes without saying that Wild Beasts are much better than Miley Cyrus, and their most recent offering, *Present Tense*, may be their best.

For those of you unfamiliar with Wild Beasts, they hail from humble Kendal – home of those poignantly disgusting mint cakes. As alluded to previously, their style revolves around the vocal partnership of Thorpe and Fleming; Thorpe's tenor punches through intricate guitar riffs and brooding synth tones, with Fleming's harmonies bridging the space inbetween. The band started as a brilliantly flamboyant pop-rock outfit, and in succeeding albums have transformed to serious art-rockers. Some of their critics, however, have felt this has caused the fun to slowly bleed from Wild Beasts. I agree that perhaps they aren't the most exciting live act, with some of my crueller friends calling them "Mild Beasts", but the music speaks for itself. Are **Radiohead** fun? Are **The xx** fun? Is music even supposed to be fun? And perhaps the band agrees: in



Wanderlust, the lead single of *Present Tense*, Thorpe sings – "Don't confuse me with someone who gives a fuck". No fucks given here.

Present Tense itself follows on from 2011's *Smother*. To progress their sound the band worked in absence of their long-time producer Richard Formby and sought out to collaborate with producers more experienced in electronic modes. This electronic component is a distinct difference from previous albums, with a large integration of synthesizers at the expense of guitar-driven melodies. This serves to add further texture to the core of most tracks, helping to convey despair when needed, as in *Daughter*, but also amplify beauty, as in the track *New Life*. Personally, I've become pretty obsessed with *Wanderlust*, a track that somewhat epitomizes the changes brought in for this album. A dark punchy bass-line, an unrelentless drum loop, a choral-esque flickering synth, an outro that is as depressed as it is angry – it's a powerful track. As with *Smother*, I imagine most of the tracks will be 'growers', competing for my affection and attention.

Emiel's Guide to Classical Music

Emiel de Lange

Episode 8 - From North to South

Last week we discussed **Josquin**, who is often known as the 'Beethoven of the 16th Century', and in particular his work *Ave Maria*. For many generations, Josquin was regarded by theorists and other thinkers as the composer who had perfected the art of music. As Martin Luther wrote; "He is the master of the notes. They must do as he wills; as for the other composers, they have to do as the notes will". Josquin's use of imitation (different voices entering sequentially in a similar manner) and his synthesis of many different European styles would be taken up by his students and by their students too. The most famous of these were **Nicolas Gombert**, **Jacob Clemens** and **Adrian Willaert**, all 'Netherlandish' – Dutch speakers from present-day Belgium.

Willaerts had a particularly strong influence on the future of music, and although his style is very similar to Josquin's – indeed when he went to Rome he found the papal choir singing his music under the mistaken belief that it was Josquin's – he did make important contributions himself. His music was unprecedentedly smooth. Despite the many voices entering and exiting throughout a piece, the 'whole' seems to have its own energy and character; voices lost some of their independence, and their significance is subsumed into the effect of this 'whole'. What I mean by this is simply that the old way of thinking of voices as 'lines' which enter into polyphony and move relative to each other is being replaced by a more 'horizontal' view, where the harmonic relations



Netherlandish composer, Adrian Willaert

between each voice at any moment combine to give the music its character. Furthermore, Willaert gave his music new continuity by avoiding cadences. Cadences are the punctuation marks of music – the points at which a dissonant harmony resolves into a consonance to give a sense of finality. Willaert didn't simply avoid these, but cleverly prepared the listener for them before moving the harmony away – creating surprise, suspense and energy. It is easy to see that in preparing the listener for a cadence, the composer creates a context in which the cadence is expected, and

this too was a new, global way of thinking about harmonies within the context of others – a step on the way to our modern system of 'keys'.

One of Willaert's pupils became the most influential theorist of the day. The Italian, **Gioseffo Zarlino**, wrote widely on many aspects of music and sought to characterise the *Ars Perfecta* exemplified in the music of his master and his predecessors. In doing so he formally recognised some of the recent innovations and made them known to composers throughout Europe. The most significant of these may be the 'triad' – a harmonic structure which is still dominant



Music theorist, Gioseffo Zarlino

today. Whereas previously harmonies were characterised by the intervals present between voices, Zarlino recognised in the music of Willaert et al. a grouping of notes which acted as a functional unit. Composers often used a particularly pleasant stacking of notes which included the usual perfect consonants (the 5th octave), but also the interval of a 3rd. We now know that this stacking corresponds to the harmonic series of frequencies heard when a pitch is played but Zarlino attempted to justify it using some bizarre mathematics and called it the triad. Nowadays when we refer to a chord, such as C Major, we are referring to the triad built on C, which also includes the notes E and G.

Zarlino succeeded Willaert as the *maestro di cappelle* at St. Marks Cathedral in Venice. Here, Willaert had created a leading centre of music and invited colleagues from all over Europe to come work.

Venice became the centre of the musical world as wealthy merchants imported musical talent from the North and eventually the Netherlandish innovation would give way to Italian dominance.

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BOOKS

Ancillary Justice

Maciej Matuszewski talks about the the groundbreaking debut science fiction novel by Ann Leckie

Ancillary Justice, the debut novel of Ann Leckie, is one of those novels that had been recommended to me by pretty much everyone. However, as is often the case, my other commitments, and my impressively long reading list, made me put off picking up for quite a while. Now, having finally read it, I realise that I should have heeded my friends' advice and checked it out sooner because *Ancillary Justice* is truly one the best books that I have read in recent years.

"... *Ancillary Justice* is truly one of the best books that I have read in recent years."

The novel is set in the distant future, with humanity having spread across the stars – much of it ruled by the militaristic Radch Empire. Its leader, Anaander Mianaai, simultaneously occupies countless different bodies, giving her near immortality and allowing her to micromanage all of the many different star systems she controls. Mianaai exerts her will through her massive fleet of AI controlled starships. The largest of these each house thousands of ancillaries – bodies of former enemies of the empire who have had their personalities erased and are now controlled by the ships' AIs and used as soldiers.

Our protagonist is one of those ancillaries, containing the last remnants of the now destroyed AI of the ship *The Justice of Toren*. Taking on the name Breq she vows to take revenge on the person responsible for her ship's destruction – Anaander Mianaai herself.

"The plot is fast paced and well developed with exciting action and imaginative settings."

This is a set up that presents many different possibilities and Leckie certainly doesn't disappoint. The plot is fast paced and well developed, with exciting action and imaginative

settings. However, the wider themes that the novel explores are its real strength. We see how fear and self-interest perpetuates the brutality of the Radch Empire, despite most of its citizens being ordinary, reasonable people. We see how an atmosphere of hopelessness and repression can maintain a rigidly divided class system that helps no one. And we see how a 3,000 year old AI can develop into something far more human than anyone expected.

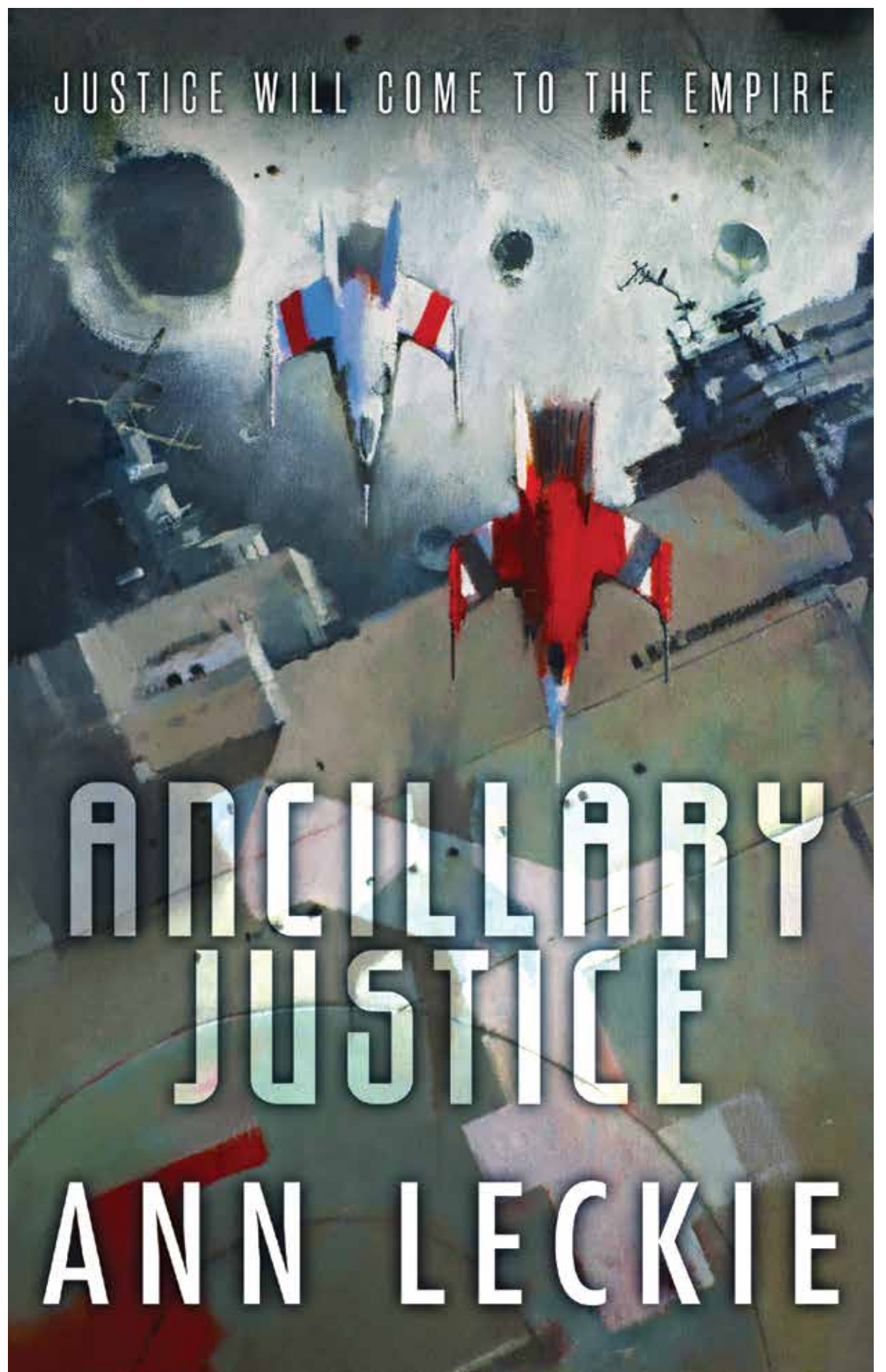
In the hands of a lesser writer, putting all these elements together would have resulted in a confused mess. Leckie, however, makes them all fit perfectly together – they all build on each other, and add to the central plot.

The focus of the novel is, of course, *The Justice of Toren* herself. The story is told in first person from her perspective, which really helps us to understand her. Over the course of the book her character is slowly and subtly developed as we learn how the weight of thousands of years of experience turned her from a simple fighting machine into someone far more complex.

"... fascinating and innovative, making the reader question their preconceptions about gender roles and stereotypes."

Another interesting aspect of the book is that Radchaai society has no concept of gender, and indeed many citizens of the Empire find it difficult to recognise gender in other societies. This means that, in *The Justice of Toren's* first person narration, every character is referred to by feminine pronouns. For most of the characters we never find out if they are biologically male or female and for other, such as Anaander Mianaai and her many bodies, we know explicitly that such distinctions are meaningless. This is a fascinating and innovative technique that really makes the reader question their preconceptions about gender roles and stereotypes.

All in all, this is a great book. I was hooked from the very first chapter and I sincerely recommend it to you all.





Notes to a Fresher 2

Creative Writing students present more short stories aimed at Freshers

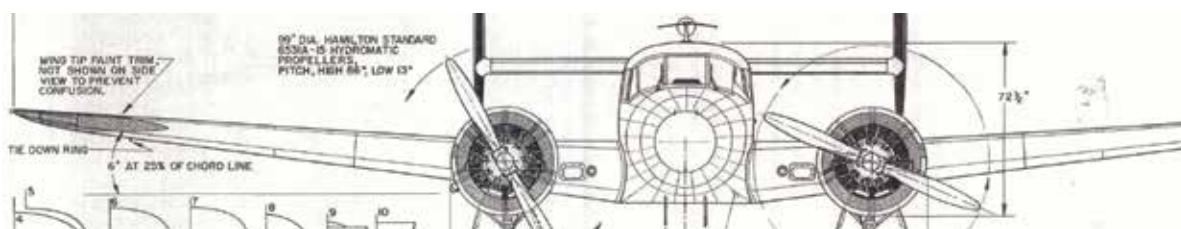
V&A

An elliptical droplet, circumference 7.8mm, accelerates at 9.81 metres per second, per second towards an open copy of *Advanced Spectroscopy and Nuclear Astrology, Twelfth Edition*. It collides with negligible force upon the page, with respect to the pressure exerted on the brain, encased by a skull of radius 8.61cm; the frame of which had 8 seconds before expelled said droplet. The head lurches and spins with median speed of 34cm per second to face bookshelves of height 2.1m. The aforementioned head oscillates along a vertical plane, with frequency of 30 shakes per minute. Temperature within the core of the brain is 37.2 degrees centigrade, 0.5 degrees above the mean temperature. Brain system mode set at 'Highly Stressed, Meltdown Imminent'.

The bipedal system malfunctions, causing the body to experience 1G as it is raised into the upright position. Further system failures lead to strides of length 84cm, bringing the system 7.32m closer to a doorframe, width 0.9m. The system stalls for 3.8 seconds, as unsuccessful irrational thinking overrides are attempted. The faulty bipedal network switches its operational frequency to 'Run' mode. Four groupings of 8 steps, each of height 22cm, are vaulted with 30% weight distribution on the right moiety of the bipedal system. Average speed is increased from 4 metres per second to 6metres per second, following a 90 degree turn, encompassing an overall change of torso direction from South to East. Memory circuits short-circuit for a duration of 21 seconds. Memory resumes as evasive maneuvers are initiated; introduction of a 20 degree tilt to the torso, preventing collision with an object (identified as Columba livia; pigeon), with circular trajectory of diameter 2m towards the right audio receiver. Bipedal systems regain function, allowing deceleration to walking pace, with default stride of 44cm. The system slows to a complete stop. Visual sensors observe light of wavelength 650nanometres, reflecting from a complex contour pattern, interpreted as spelling 'V & A'. Gas containment chambers expel air with flow rate 0.48L per second. Brain temperature decreases by 0.3 degrees.

System switched to 'relaxed' mode.

VC
Life Sciences, 2nd Year



What ate my soul

There she sits in the middle of campus.

Like an enormous spider, she draws in her prey with promises of comfortable study spaces, free computers and working printers.

One by one, students are taken in by her luscious charms, drawn to her like flies to a bug zapper. Through wind and rain, they journey far and wide to be consumed by her. They huddle desperately outside her jaws on the coldest of Saturday mornings. They sit within her grotesquely bloated abdomen through short days and long nights. And when they finally do leave, it is only to return the following day like addicts to a drug. She is a bank of knowledge; a vast repository of centuries of human advancement, and one page, one chapter, one book at a time, thousands of students a day leech off her wisdom.

But you must understand that one can never get something for nothing.

Every time a student steps out from between her pincers, they leave a little of themselves behind. A little joy, a little happiness, a little hope. A small morsel of their soul is retained by the great spider, payment for time spent within her belly.

When you stepped into Imperial all those years ago, you may have bursting with passion for learning, but the you who leaves will be little more than an empty shell, filled to the brim with mathematical equations, derivations, proofs and formulae, but devoid of any trace of emotion or life.

So, by all means, at the end of it all, sign that contract to sell your soul to J. P. Morgan. They won't realise that they're getting the short end of the stick.

MIM
Bioengineering, 3rd Year

Dear fresher,

Skempton is an inflatable bouncy castle that you're about to climb into. When it's inflated tomorrow, start making the most out of it. When you're not scratching your head while staring at the structures lab from the mezzanine, wondering when you'll get to play in it, which is never, take some very high leaps and enjoy some flips. Just make sure you don't bounce right out of it and injure yourself. Four years later, you will probably be drained, but extremely overjoyed and satisfied. Caution: Not suitable for couch potatoes and heels must be taken off.

Yours truly,
Bouncy castle operator

Kawthar Aljufairi
Civil Engineering, 3rd Year

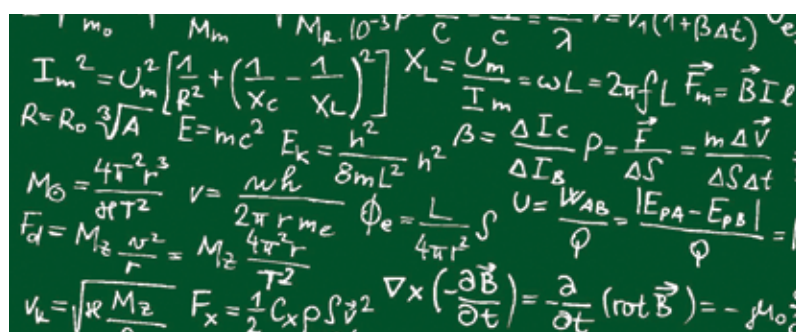


Quick tip: use the stairs. The lift's never there when you need it. But you'll wait anyway because – what else could you do? Busy, busy, busy. You're too tired anyway. And perhaps you'll save the extra minutes to slog over another tutorial, and another lab; another report, and another project. You might feel your body begin to atrophy as you spend all your time here but – anything to get a First, right?

Or you could be: a point defect in the bulk, an anomalous data point. You could use the stairs.

Will you?

JB
Mechanical Engineering, 4th Year



The following story was printed in last week's issue but the final sentence was cut off. Apologies to the author. - Ed.

When expostulating spirits have you defeated and you are ready to fall upon your own sword, remember: nothing contributes so much to tranquilize the mind and excite the body as a steadfast firm and repetitive grip of purpose, a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye.

Go on, have a wank.

Anon
Physics, 3rd Year

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*last SPORTS
NIGHT of Term*





Director Masterclass: Paul Thomas Anderson (1)

Peter Brook

Treasured Writer

Paul Thomas Anderson is the spiritual son of Martin Scorsese, he reflects many of the styles and themes of Scorsese's work whilst adding and refining to make a style that is very much his own. Their similarities include the penchant for long tracking takes, the style of epic multi-character stories and along side this many motifs, including the powerful adopted father figures.

PTA's early career began with *Hard Eight* (Sydney in the UK) a masterpiece of dialogue and intrigue following this with *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia*, both immense in scope and complexity multicastrated pieces. Following this, there was an interlude with the endearing *Punch-Drunk Love* (possibly Adam Sandler's only good film) before pushing onto two single character lead films with *There Will Be Blood* (which won Best Actor at the Oscars for Daniel Day-Lewis) and *The Master* (with Philip Seymour Hoffman and Joaquin Phoenix). These final two films are both draped with ideas of faith.



Hard Eight (1996)

Hard Eight opens with John C. Reilly's character on the steps of a diner as Philip Baker Hall's Sydney opens walks up to him and offers him a coffee. The opening 10 minutes of dialogue is probably the most intriguing and quick moving introductions to two characters I have ever seen. Both actors have opportunity to shine as Sydney takes the trepidatious John C. Reilly to Vegas to show him how to make some money. This dynamic of the adoptive father figure can be seen throughout his filmography, very specifically in *Boogie Nights* and *The*

Master, and in Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*, *Mean Streets* and *Goodfellas*. Another nod to Scorsese's *Goodfellas*' Coco Cabana tracking shot is the first shot we see of as we walk around the casino, and it is just glorious!

There is one scene which probably has more intrigue than anything I've ever seen before. Sydney has been called to a motel room where something has gone wrong with John C. Reilly's character, and for the longest time all we can see is Sydney's face as he looks in the room talking with those inside. It makes you shift in your seat so as to try to see around the frame of the screen into the room

yourself. The excitement and terror at that moment was incredible.

Finally, an idea that follows us through this film and into *Magnolia* is this idea of coincidence; JCR's character opens with a story about why he can't light his cigarette because he refuses to carry matches as once a packet spontaneously exploded in his pocket. It incites a laugh at first, but also offers the audience to accept other weird spontaneous situations later in the story, as we are primed to remember that weird things really do happen. This idea takes to another level in *Magnolia*...



Boogie Nights (1997)

This film is just a cataclysmic event in film, it follows the life of porn star Dirk Diggler getting his first job in porn, to the highs of his career in the mid-seventies, to the terrible 80s when his life starts to fall apart. Every era has a massive tracking shot around a big party showing the characters mingling, interacting and it gives us an opportunity to reflect on how their complex lives are unfolding, a club owner who wants to be in movies, a stereo salesman who just won't let the cowboy aesthetic go...

Really this is an epic that focusses on Dirk Diggler played by Mark Wahlberg growing up in the wrong crowd, who's ambitions start pure, well as pure as making pornos with 'real storylines' can be. And on New Year's Eve 1980, things start to go wrong, he tries cocaine for the first time and goes from being very affluent to trying to hustle

drug dealers out of money (one of the most stressful scenes in the movie, fire crackers being let off by a high kid not only puts the characters on edge, but put everyone in the room into physical states of discomfort and tension). Alongside the wonderful characters we also get a soundtrack that is just the best of the 70s, so make sure you have the speakers turned up to 11. Again, we have some strange and wonderful acts of genius coincidence that make the world seem so real and exciting; we also get a strong adoptive father relationship between Dirk and the porn baron who brings him into this world and makes him rich. Really an amazing cast, from Philip Seymour Hoffman (who appeared in all but one of PTA's films except *There Will Be Blood*) playing a lonely and weird runner in the porn world, to Julianne Moore, Burt Reynolds, John C. Reilly and William H. Macy.



Magnolia (1999)

Another multi-character epic that has no fixed narrative, but relies on weird coincidental links between a wonderful cast including Philip Seymour Hoffman, Tom Cruise, John C. Reilly, William H. Macy and an outstanding Julianne Moore. The opening (watch it on Youtube), which kind of has nothing to do with the plot of the film takes three true stories about completely unlikely coincidences and sets them up against what you are about to witness. There are so many writers that struggle to make one character interesting, and PTA manages to write about 10 totally compelling characters that have so much depth, history and truth to them. We follow Tom Cruise, a man who runs Pick Up Artist seminars, William H. Macy as a former 'What do kids know?' TV champion and Julianne Moore, a trophy wife dependant on Xanax to get through the day, has to collect drugs for her dying husband. How these stories are related, and the strange events that get them there, really let us get inside the heads of these characters.



Punch-Drunk Love (2002)

Punch-Drunk Love is the only film in PTA filmography which runs under an hour and half and has a tone and style very much of its own. It is also one of the few films that I have enjoyed with Adam Sandler in. It follows Sandler, playing Barry Egman, who seems to suffer from a crippling anxiety after growing up with seven overbearing and cruelly teasing sisters. His anxiety leads to him violently lashing out at inanimate objects. He is otherwise sweet and conscientious. Again, the coincidental finding of a small piano, a phone call to a phone sex line to talk about life leading to him being embroiled in blackmail attempts. There are also many other elements from the performance that make this movie

wonderful, we have superb cinematography and just beautifully designed shots. The shot of Barry finally kissing his love in a silhouetted, busy hotel is breathtaking and the movie has intermissions include impressionist style video art, which, along with the costumes and sets, creates a beautifully vivid world in which Barry lives. Roger Ebert, the renowned film critic, said of Sandler in this film "Sandler, liberated from the constraints of formula, reveals unexpected depths as an actor. Watching this film, you can imagine him in Dennis Hopper roles. He has darkness, obsession and power. He can't go on making those moronic comedies forever, can he?" Unfortunately, with the benefit of hindsight we know that Ebert was wrong... *Jack and Jill*...

Next week, I will conclude by talking about *There Will Be Blood* and *The Master*

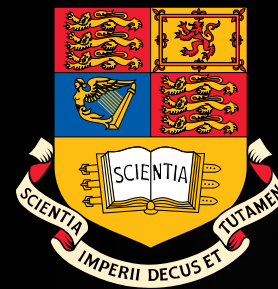
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PULLOUT



ICSM VS. IC



EDITED BY
KUNAL WAGLE



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sport Imperial

BASKETBALL



Imperial College prove too strong for Imperial Medics

Ranjodh Sanghera's heroics for the Medics were in vain as the Medics Basketball team succumbed to a classy College.

Kunal Wagle
Sports Editor



On Friday 28th February Imperial descended on the Copper Box (the beloved stadium in the Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park) to watch one of the most highly anticipated clashes of the year. But before the London Lions match there was the small matter of the College playing against the Medics in the first Varsity clash of the year.

The College got ahead early and stayed ahead, with the Medics struggling to match them. College managed to surge ahead to a 22-8 lead after the first quarter, and from then on Medics were always playing catch-up. At half time the lead had begun to stretch, with the College taking a 36-17 cushion into the half-time break. Despite a strong start to the second half from the Medics, the College continued to move ahead (despite a lack of discipline leading to many free throws), before they sealed the game in the final quarter at a convincing 62-36.

Due to a lack of signposts at the Olympic Park, the Felix reporting team only reached the Copper Box in time for the second quarter, in time to witness a key moment in the game – a shootout between the two mascots – Victoria and Albert. When they couldn't be separated after five throws each (none had reached the basket, let alone gone in) there was a roar from the crowd as the players replaced them on the court for the second quarter.

At the start of the quarter the Medics enjoyed a good spell of possession near the College basket, but were unable to translate this into points on the board, and soon found themselves conceding again. Unfortunately for them, this was to be the story for most of their evening. It was now 26-8.

The other main theme for the evening was the ill discipline of the College as they defended. The Medics clawed their way back into the quarter

from the resulting free throws, and eventually the score was back to 26-12 with just over four minutes to go in the second quarter. However, it was not just the medics who were benefiting from carelessness at the back. Restarting after gifting the college a point from a foul, a simple pass was fluffed, and the College were able to slot home for yet another 3 points. Yet again, a spell of pressure by the Medics had only resulted in the College stretching their lead.

The Medics were not able to take advantage of more free throws that came their way, and the College were pleased to hear the half-time whistle blow – but that was not before the College's number 7, Thomas Defferriere had slotted another 3 pointer for the leaders. It was 36-17 at half-time.

The half time entertainments consisted of the London Lions cheerleaders dazzling the crowd with one of their dance routines. However this was quickly eclipsed by an impromptu dance off between the two mascots. After a few minutes, it was clear that the Medics (represented by Victoria) had just shaded it. It was to be the only battle that the Medics would win all evening.

Clearly the Medics coach had given his team a grilling, as they came out for the third quarter all guns blazing. Inspired by their forward, number 13 Ranjodh Sanghera (who had been so far the one shining light in the Medics' performance), the Medics were able to post seven unanswered points within the first two minutes of the third quarter, leading a worried College coach to call a time-out with 7:40 to go.

After receiving the hair-dryer treatment from their coach (although how he could possibly have had a hair-dryer courtside I don't know), College started to find their feet in the quarter and started to put some points on the board. At this stage the Medics had no answer to the College's rebounds, and they were able to slot away points at will. But it was the same old story at the back for the College as they gave away foul after foul after foul. Luckily for them, with the exception of Sanghera, the Medics didn't look

like scoring from any of the resulting free throws, resulting in the lead being kept safe. In fact, the Medics then suffered from a very poor final minute, as the College added six unanswered points to take a lead of 22 points into the final break.

The final bit of entertainment provided was a shootout between a member of the College and a medic from the crowd. However, because the standard of this shootout was even worse than the shootout between mascots Victoria and Albert, it's probably best to gloss over this one.

The Medics needed a fast start if they wanted to win the game, and whilst it briefly looked as though they might just manage that, it quickly became clear that they were going to fall short. The College were able to shut down the game very effectively, with no change in the lead after the first five minutes of the final quarter. With just a few minutes to go the College provided a play that described the game in a nutshell. With the medics laying siege on the College basket, the College were able to weather the storm and then break away, force a foul and then register a point of their own. After this the lead kept stretching, and it was clear that it was game over. This didn't stop the Stadium announcer from continuing in his regular gusto, especially when he commented to people in the crowd who were wearing cut-outs of the players, "I've just realised you guys have brought face cut-outs with you. You guys are some of the best fans ever".

The rest of the game passed without much incident and the College were able to complete a regulation 62-36 victory to put the Medics in their place. Sanghera deservedly took the Golden Basketball for his role of MVP, but unfortunately for the medics, the rest of their team were no match for a classy, yet ruthless Imperial College.

On the right are a selection of photos from the Basketball all credit Jack Elkington/Felix Sport.



BASKETBALL



JPR WILLIAMS CUP



Interviews with the Captains

Sports Editor Kunal Wagle catches up with the two captains to get their thoughts and opinions ahead of the flagship game on Varsity Day.

VERNON MCGEOGH

1ST Team Captain

The Stoop.

What is your prediction for the game?

A game of two halves that will be decided after 80 minutes.

The Captain's Message:

This year has been a mixed one so far for the Imperial Medicals 1st XV. The beginning of the year was tough due to a run of injuries and having to integrate a large amount of new members into the team. However, since Christmas, the injured have returned and under the increased competition for places the squad has thrived. This has led to a large group of players all capable of putting in a shift and a great team atmosphere. Consequently, results have improved and we are looking forward to continuing this good run of form into Varsity and the UH Cup.



How has your season been so far?

The season has been mixed. It started off in September, moved on through Christmas and ended up in March.

How much does this game mean to you?

It's a really important stepping stone before the UH final.

How does it feel to be playing at The Stoop?

Well, it isn't quite Teddington is it?

Where will this game be won and lost?

MICHAEL O'CONNELL

1ST Team Captain

How has your season been so far?

The IC 1st XV started the season with the goals of promotion, a similar cup campaign to last year and to win Varsity. Unfortunately St Bart's have dominated the league, we are the only team to have managed at least a draw against them with Bart's winning their other eleven matches. A very comfortable win over the Medics at the start of the season also puts a shine on the year. Our cup campaign came to an end with a 1 point loss to St Marys after a very impressive performance.

How much does this game mean to you?

The success or failure of our season rests on winning this game, it is hugely important for the team and the motivation to win is incredibly high. We have been targeting this game from the start of the season and although we have been trying to say

that it is just another game it is naïve to think that the boys won't be more pumped up than usual for this one.

How does it feel to be playing at The Stoop?

I was injured in my second year so last year was the first time I was able to play at the Stoop. It was an awesome experience. It is also important not to overstate the importance of the stadium, people have been known to get overawed by the occasion and not to perform on the day.

Where will this game be won and lost?

There is a saying in rugby that says the forwards decide who wins the game and the backs decide by how much. I believe in this and on Wednesday the team that wins will be the team that can dominate the set piece and the breakdown. Without these key victories no team can gain any momentum and it is very difficult to win the game.

What is your prediction for the game?

A spirited medic performance but IC will have too much for them over the 80 minutes.

11. Nzekwue	PROVISIONAL LINE UPS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)				11. White
	7. Godfrey	7. Murray			
	1. McGrath	1. Bagby			
9. Barry	4. Warren	4. O'Connell (C)	9. Fraser		
15. Short	8. Rees	2. Hobson	8. Hardisty	10. Cox	15. O'Donnell
10. Scarborough	2. Poynton	5. Nielsen-Scott		12. Bowden	
12. Clough	5. Morris	3. Lineham	6. Hedley (VC)	13. Floyd	
13. Super	3. McGeoch (C)			14. Mann	
	6. Saeed				
14. Whitby					

RUGBY



1ST TEAM

Jake Bagby	Adrian McGrath
Thomas Hobson	Vernon McGeoch
Jon Lineham	(C)
Michael O'Connell ©	Tom Sheerin
David Nielsen-Scott	Oliver Brunckhorst
Tom Hedley (VC)	Matt Poynton
Tom Murray	Greg Warren
Jon Hardisty	Robbie Ley-Greaves
Scott Fraser	James Morris
James Cox	Scott Godfrey
Fred White	Abdel Saeed
Joe Bowden	Tom Rees
Mike Floyd	Raj Atkar
Jon Mann	Marc Macmillan
Josh O'Donnell	Andrew Barrie
Rob Kyle	Alex Scarborough
Dave Jones	Jonathan Super
Olisa Ufodiam	Oliver Clough
Matt Blackett	Vaki Antoniou
Chris Macbeth	Oscar Short
Josh Lowe	Chidi Nzekwue
Tom Catchpole	Jack Whitby
	Matt Harling
	Anthony Rayner

ALEX JOHNSTON

2nd Team Captain

The Imperial College 2nd XV had a slow start this season but we've picked up momentum just in time to smash the medics come Varsity. We're confident that with our star players: Charles with his unbelievable kicking record and our very dominant very English back row Ruaridh, Eifion and... Matt we will be able to nullify the medics, providing that they actually turn up to play Rugby this year. Captain Alex Johnston has taken leading by example to a new level this season by trying his hand at every position possible apart from Hooker, claiming that he gets enough of that off the field. Alex Clayton has turned into a commanding presence behind the scrum keeping a close eye on Willy Jones in his new position at second row. Hopefully we'll be seeing more Poon than just Eugene in the Union after thrashing the medic's at Harlington – if 'French romantic' Maxime actually passes the ball. Let's just say the medics will be sorry they shut the A&E department at Charing Cross come the 12th March.

JOE HEYLEN

2nd Team Captain

As IMRFC 2s, we have had a season of mixed results but throughout have played with ferocity, flare and finesse. We currently sit mid table in the BUCS league with some sub par performances before Christmas knocking us out of promotion contention. Nonetheless, impressive form post Christmas has seen us challenge the best in our league, most notably a comprehensive win against Middlesex 1s (current leaders.) Over the past few weeks the forward pack, lead by the likes of Tom 'the friend zone' Howe, Jamie 'the bush' Close and Dan 'not so doughy' Campioni, have put together some top class rugby, in particular some dominant set piece. This puts the team in a strong position heading into Varsity.

We have also won through to the UH cup final so hopefully by the end of March we can have two new pieces of silverware in our trophy cabinet!

PIP HEGGIE

Women's Rugby Captain

Women's rugby has had a great season after promotion to BUCS SE1A. The majority of LUSL matches are left to be played but we remain confident we can still win the league as we did last year. As a club we are mixed with both medics and IC and so for Varsity we split the team in half and play 7's or 10's against each other. Despite the fact that we know one another very well our competitive spirit always takes over and it is a fiercely fought game. IC won for the first time ever last year and is looking to repeat this in 2014! This year's Varsity is set to be nail biter as the two of the highest scorers, Kath Fok and Sammy Gottardi, are medics whilst IC has the best boot in the land belonging to Lana Lee, and the French centre Carolanne Vouriot who is not one to be messed with.

GEORGE HILL

3rd Team Captain

Imperial Medicals 3XV, arguably the most competitive IMRFC team (albeit in the lowest BUCS league in the South East) have had a fantastic season so far. Technically unbeaten, top of the league and through to the semis of the BUCS cup, we are approaching varsity this year brimming with confidence, and are hoping to be the first medics 3s team to win varsity since 2010.

Led by an aging part time skipper, our phenomenal form of late has certainly been due to hard graft, and team effort.

3RD TEAM

Adam Postlewhaite	Orr
Merlin Potter-Adams	Simmonds
Phil Buckley	Mahalingham
Luke Lombardo	C. Harrison
Henry Legge	Truell
Edoardo Cavallazi	Rezk
Dan Clay	Naeem
Tim Harrington	Pallant
Luke Armitage (C)	Clancy
Alex Leonard	S. Harrison
Richard Fish	Kerr
Christian Mellor	Shaan
Charles Prichard	Bloomer
Ikenna Okoli	Turner
Darius Singh	Hill (c)
Peter Bridgman	
Alex Munster	

WOMEN'S RUGBY

Kirstie Edwards	Sarah Burns
Clara Gago	Marta Casanovas
Heather Grant	Kath Fok
Ellie Harvey	Sammy Gottardi
Pip Heggie (C)	Charlie Stephens
Amy Humphreys	Ellie Stewart
Rabia Lakhani	Wakana Teranaka
Tessa Davey	Mona Theodoraki
Lana Lee	(C)
Alice Liberman	Ran Xiong
Aamna Mohdin	
Carolanne Vouriot	

2ND TEAM

Alex Johnston (C)	Darius Baboli
Dave Jones	Dan Campioni
Will Griffiths	Jag Gill
Jonathan Stancombe	Conor Walsh
Will Jones	Joe Heylen (C)
Maxime Bedouet	Adam Sullivan
Matt Harvey	Jamie Close
Eifion Foster	Tom How
Ruaridh McKay	Kiran Patel
Alex Clayton	Tom Martin
Ali Jones	Ollie Wroe Wright
Stefan Grossfurter	Anthony Rayner
Charles Price-Smith	Jack Spinner
Eugene Poon	Faadil Dawood
Matyas Moltar	Alex Davidson
Ciro Monti	Hugh Crawford
Henry Legge	Smith
Hugh Mckinon	Med Harris
Alex Leonard	Alexz Scott
Alexis Faure	Joe James
Will Taylor	Mo Shaath
Jon Leong	

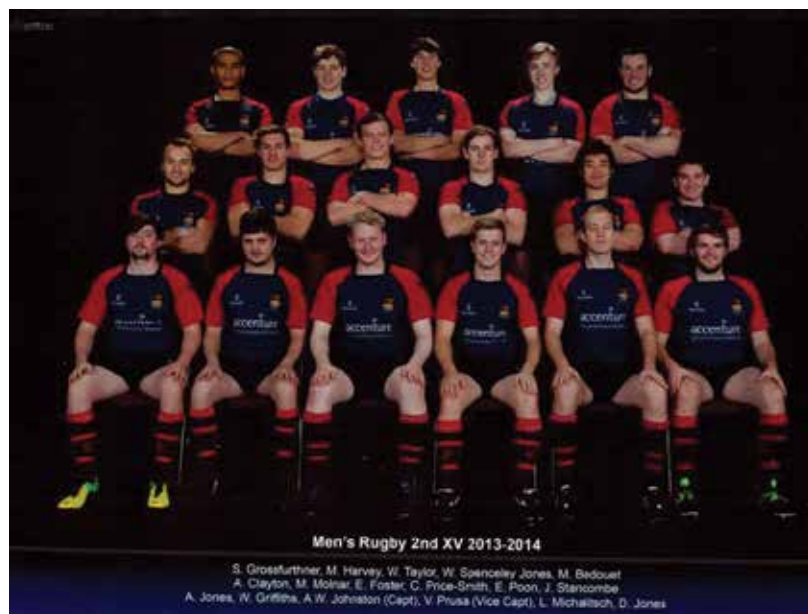
LUKE ARMITAGE

3rd Team Captain

So BUCS have seen fit to label the medics 3s as 'Imperial 5th' and IC 3s as 'Imperial 6th'.

On the 12th March we will set the record straight.

Even after another horrendous blunder left us with no games nearly all second term, our spirits are high. Captain Luke Armitage is encouraging cider for all so the 3s are motivated. Merlin the wizard has magically fixed his disfigured finger, and pack veterans Lombizzle and Cavallazzi are out for a third straight varsity win. With specialist number 8 Tim Harrington hoping to control the ball at the back, our scrums look solid. In the backs we have the port connoisseur A. Leonard working with recently converted flankers Fishy and Christian, both out for blood. Darius has recently returned from teaching Mike Brown how to play full-back, and with Henry Legge predicting a fire about to burn, this is set to be an unmissable encounter.



FOOTBALL



JACK ROBINSON

1ST Team Captain

The main priority for the team this year was to secure survival in the new BUCS league which we have just been promoted into. We have surpassed this, and are sitting comfortably in 2nd position behind a very good Hertfordshire 1s team, with two matches to go. Our LUSL campaign has had a few hiccups, but began very well by thoroughly beating our Varsity opponents, the Medics, 5-0. Facing them again at the end of the season is something we have all been greatly looking forward to, and there is no doubt in my mind that we will be up for it and all over them from the first whistle. Our prolific front three of Alex 'Cravin'Dale' Dale (10 goals, 8 assists), James 'Jimmy' Murphy (14 goals, and his goal mountain of 16 assists), and myself (20 goals, 7 assists) smell blood.

DANIEL MOXHAM

2ND Team Captain

A stellar season for ICUAFC 2nd XI has led to a title charge in BUCS and a solid, top half of the table performance in a debut season in the LUSL premier division. Highlights of the season include a goal from the halfway line, a 6 game win-streak and an anthem of Scatman that will stay with the squad for the rest of their days. Lowlights involve jam jars, spinal injuries and having to listen to the perpetual moaning of IC's veteran striker. After trouncing IC Medic 1s 5-1 on their own patch, who knows what is in store for IC Medic 2s at Fortress H? One thing is for sure; they don't want it half as much as we do.

MARKOS REISSIS

2ND Team Captain

The Imperial Medics 2s FC are looking like a formidable force this year with great success coming in the BUCS league so far and a great chance to fight for promotion! The team has experienced both highs and lows throughout the season, however the team has really come together in recent weeks and will be going into Varsity with a rich vein of form. With some massive games coming in the run up to Varsity our preparation could not be better. The team is showing their desire to really compete at all levels and this is why I am sure the medics will record a big win come March 12th. A superb striking force, a master class in midfield, a dogged defence and a gallant goalkeeper is what makes the Imperial Medics 2s FC a great unit and with a great captain leading the team, come varsity it won't be a matter of if we will win, but more the matter of by how much we will win!

JACK HEALY

1ST Team Captain

2013/14 has been a season of transition for us, with the loss of several first team players to injury and the stresses of final year meaning we have found it difficult to adapt to a higher level after BUCS and LUSL promotion last season. However, despite this and a difficult run of fixtures before Christmas, we are currently five games unbeaten and are still in contention for survival in both leagues coming into the run-in. We also have high hopes of success in UH and NAMS cup competition. Going into Varsity, we can't ignore the fact that we suffered the ignominy of a 5-0 defeat to IC 1s earlier in the season, but this will only serve as added motivation to gain revenge when it really counts on Wednesday 12th.



ADAM ROSSITER

4TH Team Captain

A mixed bag for the 4s this season. The Saturday league has been running better than the tough Wednesday league. A lot of very good new teams joined the Wednesday league, hence making it a very competitive one. All the hardest games have been played and now the weaker teams are left. Hopefully a strong finish will ensure we can finish mid-table in both leagues, something which can realistically be done. The United Hospitals cup (between the London medical schools) has been going well and we are now through to

DANIEL BATES

3RD Team Captain

The seasons been completely different for the 3s in our two leagues. On Wednesdays the results haven't been as good as we would have liked, but we've been fighting back in the past few weeks, we're looking to finish in the top third of the table. On Saturdays we have had a lot of success, we're currently sat at the top of our league and are looking for some silverware. At Varsity we'll be looking to put last year's loss firmly behind us, and are looking forward to a great day. We have a really strong squad and lots of determination, and I really believe that ICSMFC 3s will be victorious on the 12th. Come on ICSM!



the semi finals. We have a busy schedule leading up to Varsity with winnable games so hopefully a strong finish to the season is on the cards. If we can then carry this on to Varsity then a good game should be had and maybe the underdogs can come out on top.

CHRIS SCHON

4TH Team Captain

It's been a mixed bag for the 4th team this year. Whilst we are top of the league and on a charge towards promotion in our LUSL league, we have struggled to adapt to our new BUCS league, with long away trips and unknown, tricky

MYLES JARVIS

3RD Team Captain

The ICUAFC 3s have gone from strength to strength this season, an impressive feat given that we are coming off the back of promotion in both BUCS and LUSL leagues. We have seen strong additions from within the club and from the new wave of freshers, including Faidon Mitzalis, international man of mystery and Francis 'SBU' Nwobu. The business end of the season is set to be an exciting one; we currently lie 1st in BUCS and are well in contention for a LUSL promotion. Varsity will be the 3s' only fixture versus any ICSM team this season. Having initially played for the medics myself in first year, victory will be all the sweeter when it comes.

ICUAFC VS ICSMFC

1ST TEAM

Daniel Casas Bofarull	Hugh Ford
Peter Nugent	Joseph Barker
Christian Nielsen	Mohammed Ali
Omar Amjad	Jack Healy (C)
Ivan Diaz	James Iliff
Jonathan Hill	David Hillier
Jonathan Crawford	Kevin Buell
Ahmed Cherif	Thomas Stroud
Kolawale Ayanwale	Avi Korman
Lee Lawson	Jack Amiry
James Murphy	Ken Mawhinney
Alexander Dale	Patrick McGown
Alexis Bellot	Kem (Ifeanyi
Matteo Prestinoni	Onubogu)
Jack Robinson (C)	Michael David
	Adam Green
	Youssef Saleh

2ND TEAM

Sam Mason	Markos Reissis
Michele Tonutti	Alastair Brown
Tom Samas	Joshua Khan
Miles Covers	Michael Narouz
Andy Smith	Louis Peters
Daniel Moxham (C)	Mustafa Franka
Tim Beasley	Odhran Keating
Will Wilson	Mike Maruthan
Andy Sears-Black	Omer Jamall
Nozomi Satake	Zubair Froogh
Robert Maizonnier	Maroof Ahmed
Kume Feese	Calum Stapley
Vedat Ratib,	Michael Colwill
Dom Affron	

3RD TEAM

Sanjiv Dutt	Bradley Lonergan
Phillip Gantner	Joel Corkill
Jack Peacock	Sheeraz Iqbal
Chris Rochester	Daniel Bates (C)
Adam Marks	Guy Hooker
Naven Ghulam	Omer Jamall
Faidon Mitzalis	Hisham Abubakar -
Alex Whittington	Waziri
Taha Butt	Will Pitts
Alex Hugh-Wilson	Khalid Kazi
Myles Jarvis (c)	Michael Bussell
Julian Iacoponi	Oliver Kemp
Tyrone Scille	Varun Sudunagunta
Francis Nwobu	Zubair Froogh
	Obinna Abani
	Osman Nayeem

4TH TEAM

Michael Masam	Adam Rossiter (C)
Ben Ganesh	Sean Done
Chris Schon (C)	Liam Johnstone
Sam Duffield	Pietro Vassalo
Callum Richards	Arjun Pattel
Dylan Patel	James Liston
Inigo Torres	Hugo Barete
Marcello Valerio	Angus Francis
Andy Nguyen	Coleman
Guy Frankel	Stephen Rowlands
Matt Knights	Dominic Fernandes
Guillaume Alba	Julius Guth
Mene Moni-Nwinia	Riaz Rampuri
Henry Rowett	Will Ravis
Bruno Howard	Harry Posner
Ben Rowley	
Pascal Gehlert	
Josep Casa	
Sofiane Hamadi	
Fogo Adelowo	

Your Guide To... The Big Elections 2014 (Manifestos)



Voting opens 12:00, Friday 7 March
Voting closes 12:00, Friday 14 March

All photos and manifestos have been reprinted as they were submitted with the candidates' nomination. Candidate list correct as of 18:00, Thursday 6 March.

Big Elections 2014

President

**Alberto
Perez Robledo**

No manifesto supplied

**Ahmed
Raja**



Hi I'm Ahmed Raja and am running for president of Imperial College Union for 2014. My agenda is simple and straightforward, with my main focus on increasing diversity, participation and most importantly social events to ensure that everyone enjoys a fun year at Imperial. Using my past experience as president of the union at college level, I promise to completely transform the union into one that will be matched by none in terms of its socials and opportunities! But in order to do so, I need your help. So please vote

for me and become part of the movement that will make Imperial College Union an unparalleled body of student representation!

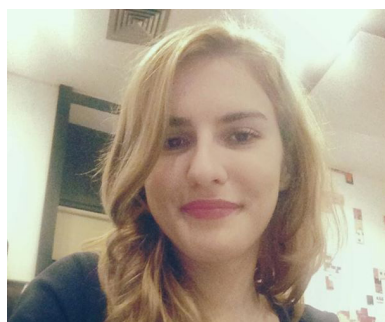
**Charles
Prichard**



Hi, Charles Prichard here. You wana know why you should voterer for me ratherer than anyone who cared. Well I'll tell you later. But first , let me tell you what I want, and therefore what you want - I want a little bit of chicken fried. A cold beer on a Friday night. A pair of jeans that fit just right. And the radio oooooon. Nah but seriously, my main issue with Imperial is that they still don't sell dip dabs on campus even after my many letters. Once you vote me as your supreme overlord, the chosen one, I will ensure dip daps for all!

Don't hesitate to ask me for dip dabs in passing.
A VOTE FOR CHARLES IS A VOTE FOR DIP DABS EVERYWHERE.

**Irina
Moraru**



No manifesto supplied

**Jonathan
Pratt**



Every student deserves to feel that their Union is working for them, and I am going to make this happen. The Union has been one of the best things about my time here, but I want to make it even better for even more people. I have observed and reported on the Union as President of STOIC (the Student Television Society) for three years now and I've seen what can be done to make it better. As President I promise to

-Encourage the use of the Union during the day: there needs to be a coffee machine and lunchtime menu.

-Introduce better and more inclusive nights out in the Union: as well as improving the club nights on offer we also need to continue to run events not necessarily focused on alcohol.

-Keep students up to date with my progress with monthly updates in Felix.

-Introduce ePetitioning to make sure that the Union is listening. At the moment it is not clear how you can make your voice heard by College and the Union: an online system to raise the issues that matter to you, and allows other students to support you, is absolutely crucial.

For my full manifesto, and expansion on the above points visit votejonny.com. Every student matters, and our Union should reflect this.

-Provide more support for students applying for standalone Masters after completing an Imperial Undergraduate degree.

-Create a Union resource for extra information on courses, and a centralized textbook resale system.

Big Elections 2014

Plabon Saha



Hello there! I am Plabon, the current RCSU President. During this year, I oversaw an increase in UROP funding, helped depts to organize more events and have made Science Challenge bigger with notable guests at the launch. Previously, I was the RCSU Treasurer and had jobs at the Union related to finance, the bar and more visibly a brief stint as a union model. This gives me a sound understanding of what needs changing. I have had first-hand experiences of standing up for students and making the changes you want happen.

My policies if elected are:

- An online e-petition system designed to give more power to the students
- Dedicated full time staff support for the Graduate Students Union
- A review of UROP opportunities across faculties to lobby for further funding and more placements
- Continue current work towards an insurance scheme for international students so they won't have to pay six months' rent upfront
- Oyster top-up service at the union
- Re-training provisions for all personal tutors
- Increased union revenue to go direct to clubs and societies as further funding

- Further development for Reynolds with student consultation and invest increased revenue into ICSMSU.
- Extensive training for bar staff to cut down waiting times at the bar. Use Metric a lot more. Look to bring in local bands and offer more live music at an affordable price.
- Develop loss making provisions at the union (eg catering) and invest this back into students

Vote passion, progress and prowess. Vote Plabon.

Extended manifesto at www.voteplabon.co.uk

Thomas Wheeler



I have the experience, motivation and enthusiasm to make your University work for you.

I want to make your time at Imperial as valuable as possible. To achieve this, I want to focus on improving: Satisfaction, Development and Inclusivity.

Who am I?

I have 3 years of experience working closely with the Union during my Physics degree. I have been the Chairman of Exploration Society, Social Secretary of Mountaineering Club, and RCC Chairman of 48 clubs, (with a £350,000 turnover). I've also managed a business, organised international expeditions and raised thousands for charity.

To improve Satisfaction, I will:

- Create a confident, informed student voice that enables us to question decisions we disagree with
- Engage with College to maximise the funding that is available for students who want to undertake Undergraduate-Research-Opportunities-Programmes-
- Lobby departments to increase the quantity and quality of feedback for exams and coursework
- Aim to meet student demand for work-experience/ internships/placements by utilizing the relationships between departments and industries
- Ensure that we are properly consulted on all decisions that affect us by pushing to implement a college-wide

consultation system

To encourage Development, I will:

- Push the Careers Service to provide more alternative graduate opportunities (outside finance/consulting sectors)
- Further existing relationships with other London Unions to encourage more art, music and creative collaborations on campus

To ensure Inclusivity, I will:

- Improve the support, visibility and recognition that Overseas Clubs receive
- Continue to fight the 'Immigration Bill'
- Push for more mental-health support on campus

Visit www.VoteTom.in to find out more.

President

#1

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Play your part in **England's largest student vote!**

the **BIG ELECTIONS** 2014

Big Elections 2014

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Abigail de Bruin



In a constituent union with over 300 clubs and societies it is easy for groups to feel they are lost somewhere in the noise.

Setting up smaller management groups would create a better forum for the exchange of ideas and facilitate targeted help.

Also, creating events that allow the clubs and societies to work together in the style of ArtsFest etc. will give a more united atmosphere within the union and provide greater exposure to smaller or new projects.

Providing greater year round support for committees via workshops and seminars would allow for smoother running of clubs and societies and ensure that help is offered at the times when it is needed most.

Furthermore, providing talks on sponsorship and alternate funding methods would make finance options more clearly and easily accessible.

Dedicating weekly drop in hours would allow clubs and societies to deal more effectively with unexpected problems and a blog updated weekly, including a 'Top 10 society events', would allow for better publicity.

If elected, altering the room booking system would also be a priority; a more user-friendly system would provide greater ease and flexibility improving the efficiency of room allocations.

Vote Abi for DPCS for a person who supports and truly appreciates the wide variety of clubs and societies Imperial has to offer.

Christopher Witham



The Union and College are undergoing many changes, so it's important that your Union representatives understand how to manage these in everyone's best interests.

I'm a final year Physicist who has been involved in Union activities of all kinds throughout his time at Imperial. This year I have been President of the Musical Theatre Society and I have sat on the College's Arts Imperial Board, giving me insight into the decision making processes outside of the Union. I have represented Imperial as a member of Ultimate Frisbee, I'm an active member of Snooker & Pool and Tabletop Gaming, and I've written and copy edited for Felix. As a member of A Cappella group 'The Techtonics' I have performed at a variety of functions, giving me a strong knowledge of how the Union needs to adapt to different societies. It is this wide experience of Clubs and Societies that I will use to ensure the Union acts in the best interests of its members.

During my time as Deputy President (Clubs and

Societies) I will:

- Ensure the Union and College make full use of their facilities.
- Work with College to make sure that the movement of departments to other campuses does not impact the ability of students to get involved with Clubs and Societies.
- Push the Union to update the room booking system.
- Minimise the impact to Clubs of changes to outdoor training spaces.
- Improve understanding between Societies and College security.

For more information and a full manifesto please visit votewitham.wordpress.com

Irina Moraru

Confused about what's going on? It's simple. I can help you in 3 simple steps:

- 1Vote IRINA
- 2Proceed to the next position
- 3Repeat step 1

Big Elections 2014

Deputy President (Education)

**Bradly
Kneisel**

Please see my website at BSKforDPE.com for all my ideas!

Imperial rates poorly in student satisfaction. I want to change this issue by enabling students to identify schemes that work well for other Departments and adopt those in their own Departments.

I have been the Biochemistry Year Representative for three years running now. I have aimed to implement platforms by which students collaborated and enriched their degree experience despite these difficulties. I would like to implement similar platforms for all Departments.

My plan involves creating a central website at which student support information is housed. While there are several sources throughout which this is spread, there is currently no one place any student can visit where they can find both information pertinent to them (e.g. mitigating circumstances procedures, guidance sent to tutors, usual grade distributions, planned changes to the degree programme) and compare the support available to them versus other Departments. In brief,

this website would amalgamate any information that usually 'floats on the grapevine' within Departments.

The purpose of these systems would be (a) to provide representatives with definitive evidence about the efficacy (or lack thereof) of techniques implemented by other representatives and (b) to provide a public forum in which students can (anonymously) discuss issues pertinent to their educational experience at Imperial. I will identify schemes (like interactive marking and student-led tutorials) that students find work well in their Departments and implement those schemes College-wide by using technology to provide students a place to voice their opinions.

**Irina
Moraru**



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**Pascal
Loose**



I'm Pascal, a third year EEE student and I'm running for Deputy President Education to ensure that you have the best academic experience!

I have previously been involved with the Union as a year rep. My contribution was recognised with the John Lever Memorial Award for contributing significantly to teaching and learning achievements. I have also been web editor for RAG and I am currently EESoc's treasurer.

As your DPE I will:

- Take e-learning to the next level. Even though lectures are currently recorded, the quality is often low and only few lecturers participate. I will ensure that the quality will get better and that more lecturers will take part in the scheme.

- Improve academic feedback. Many students are still receiving inadequate feedback for their coursework and lecturers often dismiss year reps' feedback. I will change this by improving the communication between the student reps and staff, for example by expanding the current rep-staff conference.

- Provide more social events for postgraduate students and integrate the representation system for PG within the Union. The PG reps are not connected to the Union and by reaching out to them I will ensure that the opinions of PG are heard.

If you want to see changes at your university, vote for Pascal!

Big Elections 2014

**Selina
Leung**



I'm running for Deputy President (Education) because I care about the quality of our teaching at Imperial College London. I'm currently a final, fourth year Chemistry student.

During my time at Imperial, I've held a number of positions of responsibility. I am the Webmaster of ChemSoc, a position which I have held for two academic years. Additionally, I'm the Secretary of History Society and an Ordinary Member of Union Council. I've also been involved a promotional video for the Chemistry Department. What has motivated me to run for Deputy President (Education) is the satisfaction of helping to generate a positive outcome for students. I feel that after four years here, I can certainly contribute to our student life and satisfaction.

As Deputy President (Education), my aims will be to:

Review the late submission deadlines for coursework.
Review the quality of our coursework feedback.
Liaise closely with all faculties to continue the

development of personal tutor arrangements. Ensure that feedback from students, particularly through SOLE, is actively investigated with improvements implemented as quickly as possible. Look into bettering our tutorial systems as necessary, for example pushing for more tutorials beyond second year.

As an individual, I'm easy going and approachable. I'm happy to voice your opinions and represent what you want from your time at Imperial. Fundamentally, I will work hard alongside the other Sabbaticals to certify that changes will be made to improve our student life overall.

Vote for me, please and thank you!

Deputy President (Education)

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

**Alexander
Savell**



Finance and Services is a role that, I believe, deserves real experience and responsibility. With 8 years of college experience including; chairing several varied clubs, a management group, working at the Union and the new h-Bar and sitting on Union council and other committees, I believe I am the man for the job. My passion for engagement in ICU hasn't wavered as an undergrad or postgrad and I think my experience has let me see not only how much progress we have made as a Union, but also where we still have work to do. Not only do I want to continue pushing us to do better where we excel, but also to start fixing the things that we have lost and those we've yet to get right.

At the top of my priority list for this are:

- Make the union a place for students, not for profit
- More live music, comedy and other events
- Help clubs run events more easily without large minimum spends
- Help students that want jobs
- Even more inclusion of student staff in all union venues
- Better training and real accreditation e.g. Cask Marque

-Active help and support for students moving on to other work

- Make Club and Society Finances easier
- By Increasing the number of payment methods readily available on Eactivities

For more info please take a look at my online manifesto (AlexSavellforDPFS.webs.com) or my facebook page (www.facebook.com/AlexSavellforDPFS). Many thanks and vote Alex Savell for DPFS.

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

**Irina
Moraru**



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Big Elections 2014

Deputy President (Welfare)

Arka Sarkar



In my three years at Imperial I have been passionately involved in student welfare at many levels. As an elected house rep on my hall committee and as a year representative within my department I successfully lobbied for positive change and improved conditions for my peers. As a year rep in the RSM I appreciated the power of student feedback as a vehicle for change, and hope to improve the impact of this system college-wide. Time spent as a Hall Senior showed me the issues new students face as they begin their first year at college, and allowed me to hear student feedback from every department in a friendly, relaxed environment. These experiences provided me with the skills and determination to strive for better welfare conditions for all students, from the fresh-faced new students to the weary PHD!

Increase awareness of all welfare services
Create a comprehensive welfare services hub where all services are easily accessible, with tailored sections for individual student needs
Increase support for key welfare officers, including liberation, LGBT and disability officers
Improve welcoming schemes for incoming students
Tackling welfare issues for international students:

- Hosting welcoming events during the opening weeks, introducing students to support services e.g. visa support centre
- Opening a dialogue with college over the issues of rising international fees during the duration of a student's degree
- Run welfare weeks throughout the year, allowing focused action on topical student issues
- Establish a college-wide baseline for extenuating circumstances
- Lobby with health centre to extend triage hours

Christopher Kaye



My 4th year at Imperial College and I feel it's time to give something back.

Coming from a comprehensive school in Bristol, I have been immensely grateful to receive a Bursary from Imperial during my time here. It has given me opportunities in London I would not have otherwise had.

If elected, I will donate 33% of my generous salary to Imperial Scholarships.

I will work with the DP(E) and College to try and change the new Late Coursework Penalty which I believe to be draconian. College must be more understanding of real life scenarios, while rightly maintaining academic rigour.

I want to be part of a 'back to basics' Union, which is not so distant from the people it's meant to serve.

I have never been afraid to raise matters to Union Council. For example, I raised issues such as the disgraceful (and in my opinion, unnecessary) policy of 17-year-old freshers not be allowed to the Welcome Night at the Union.

I will not go to conferences or on 'Nice Trips' unless I believe my going would benefit Students as a whole.

I would really like to engage with Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (of which I am a member). I applaud what they do, in encouraging schoolgirls to choose Science A-Levels.

Finally, it is important that Sabbaticals remain accountable after they are elected. I will propose that *you* be given a vote on whether your Sabbaticals are awarded Honorary Life Membership towards the end of their term.

Deputy President (Welfare)

?

Which Faculty will win?

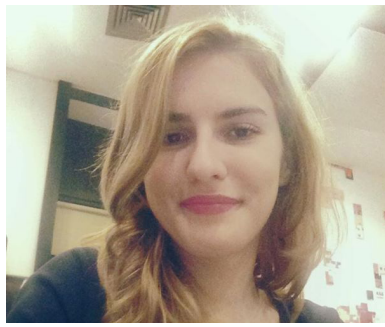
Keep up-to-date with our exciting live election statistics online all week at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections



Big Elections 2014

Deputy President (W)

Irina Moraru



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- 2 Proceed to the next position
- 3 Repeat step 1

Felix Editor

Irina Moraru



Confused about what's going on? It's simple. I can help you in 3 simple steps:

- 1 Vote IRINA
- 2 Proceed to the next position
- 3 Repeat step 1

Maciej Matuszewski



I have been involved with Felix since I first came to Imperial and I have developed a great passion for it.

Two years ago I restarted the paper's Books section and have been its editor ever since. This January I also joined the paper's News editorial team. I have written over 140 articles, both for these two sections as well as many others, including Film, Television and Science.

Felix is such a great paper because of the huge amount of effort put into it by ordinary Imperial students. I would therefore want to make it less daunting to get involved in contributing. I would also regularly meet with students to find out their concerns and their ideas on how to improve Felix.

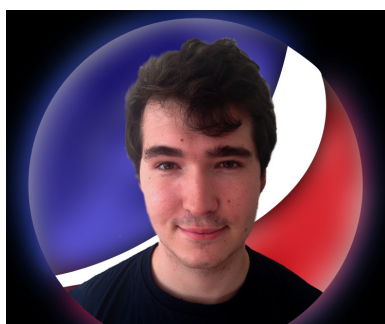
I understand how important clubs and societies are for many at Imperial and so I would make it easier for different groups to publicise their events. In particular,

having been Chair of the Media Executive this year, I understand the importance of collaboration with groups like STOIC and IC Radio.

One of the key roles of Felix is holding the Union to account. Having sat on the Union Council and the Clubs, Societies and Projects Board I know a lot about how the Union works. I will attend all important Union meetings and make sure that you are kept informed of what really matters to you.

For more information check out my campaign website (www.VoteMaciej.com). Remember to vote Maciej for Felix Editor.

Maximilian Eggl



Felix is the voice of Imperial. Recently, this newspaper has become a self-contained unit rather than serving all of Imperial. I believe that for Felix to be something that speaks to and for all students we need to involve all of Imperial. I would like to achieve this by starting a survey, to help the reader shape Felix.

Additionally, I hope to involve more students by consulting societies for certain sections as well as directly interacting with students through Facebook & Twitter and having a meet-and-greet sessions. Furthermore, it is paramount for Felix to have a separate team to organise events and publicity, as well as a team of online editors to manage internet content.

Postgraduates are an important part of Imperial but Felix tends to ignore them. I will change the rounds to include distribution points in postgrad areas too. I will also encourage postgrads to submit articles about their research, making Felix more Imperial-centred.

I plan to distribute Felix every Friday in the morning, so it's there for that 9am lecture. I will also increase the number of copy editors to reduce mistakes and typos. Lastly, I will better integrate the website and app together.

Due to the rebuilding of the union, the new Felix editor will have the opportunity to shape the future of the newspaper. Having worked as Technology and Games Editors, I have invaluable experience to make Felix the voice Imperial deserves. We need the max from Felix, so put Max in Felix!

Felix Editor

Big Elections 2014

Felix Editor

Philippa Skett



Felix needs a kick up the arse- and I'm the girl to deliver it.

I've written for Felix for three years now, been a section editor for two (Science), and the Editor-In-Chief of the I, Science magazine for one. I've worked for a press office team outside of university, and I'm studying an MSc in Science Communication. I know how real-life journalism works and how to take a publication through to print; skills essential for any Felix Editor.

I plan to:

- Overhaul the design and layout of the paper to keep it fresh-faced.
- Publish news on our website as soon as it happens, so you don't have to wait until Friday to find out what is going on across campus.
- Make Felix funnier! I plan to deliver a bigger Hangman to keep you conscious through Friday lectures.
- Encourage investigative journalism.
- Revitalise Sports and News sections with dedicated writing teams for each, to ensure nothing falls outside the Felix radar.

- Remove the Union's influence over Felix to keep the voice of the students a priority.
- Provide training for editors so they have the skill sets required to produce exceptional pages.
- Reduce Union influence over Felix to keep the voice of the students a priority.
- Eradicate redundant white spaces, inconsistently formatted pages and spelling mistakes.
- Enhance the social side of Felix!

Overall, I want to restore Felix to its former glory of an intelligent, humorous publication that makes you feel just that little bit guilty if you start to doodle on it.

Felix Editor

ICSMSU President

Dariush Hassanzadeh-Baboli



There is something special about ICSM students. We are different. We pride ourselves in having the best medical students' union in the UK. My extremely active role within the extra-curricular life of ICSM, coupled with my past involvement in ICSMSU as the previous Clubs and Societies Officer, has allowed me to gain a wealth of experience that I hope will hold me in excellent stead as ICSMSU President.

If elected I will strive to:

Education:

- Ensure all sites provide the best quality teaching, particularly with regards to the recent restructure of Year 3
- Provide drop-in sessions for educational advice

Sites & Services:

- Ensure common rooms across all sites are fully equipped for your needs and voice student opinion on further developments in the Reynolds building

Graduates & Biomedical Scientists

- Better integrate the Graduate Entry, Direct Entry and Biomedical students into ICSMSU, particularly at social events.

Welfare

- Continue and expand on ICSMSU welfare campaigns
- Always have an open door so that you can discuss any issues whenever suits you best

Careers

- Work with NWTFS to ensure students receive advice and updates with regards to further training
- Entertainments-Review ICSMSU events in order to increase attendance and cater towards all students

Clubs & Societies

- Use the experience I gained as Clubs & Societies officer to offer the best possible advice to ensure their financial sustainability

If given the opportunity it would be an absolute honour to represent you as the next President of ICSMSU. For more information visit www.VoteDariush.co.uk

ICSMSU President

Big Elections 2014

Student Trustees

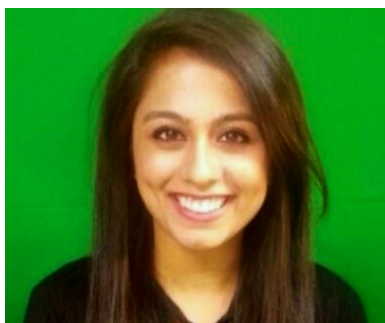
**Enric
Juan Alcocer**



Hello,
My name is Enric and I am a 2nd year Materials student. If you are reading this it is probably because you care about our Student Union and its smooth running. That is what my job as a Student Trustee will be: making sure that the Union does not diverge from its aims, objectives and promises, and that it treats everyone fairly.
One of my main duties will be to speak up for those societies and individuals who feel their voice is not heard in the Union council. I will deal with all sorts of issues including fair financing of all societies, especially those with fewer resources, so that the Union spending is just and equal. I will also keep track of the progress made by Union sabbaticals on promises made during their campaigns and that they are placing all their efforts in working to achieve these. Have you ever felt that your issues were not taken into consideration or ignored by the Union representatives?

As the vice-chair of IC Sinfonietta I know that feeling. The union sabbaticals are sometimes very complicated to approach and they do not respond to your issues the way you would like them to be solved. I will democratize the Union by reporting their progress to you through Felix and by having an open 'virtual postbox' where you can tell me your concerns. Trust me to be your Trustee!
Enric Juan

**Hiba
Saleem Danish**



Our Union manages revenues of £5 million per year. And one of the crucial roles of a Student Trustee is in overseeing how this money is filtered to provide wide-ranging services and opportunities for you, the student body!

In three years at Imperial, I've been lucky enough to meet people from many different departments and now I'm running to be YOUR student trustee because I want to engage students, from all faculties, in important questions such as: where does all the Union funding go and what opportunities can the College offer you?

As a current member of the Union Council, I have seen first-hand the power we have to drive real change to improve upon our university experience. I want to build on this experience as an accountable, representative and approachable voice for the student body, and work towards shaping the Union's aims and objectives based on YOUR direct input.

The role requires an active involvement in the College's governance and direction - and I'm about as keen, pro-active and committed as it gets. I want to improve the transparency and awareness of the executive committees, whilst introducing more effective channels of communication so that student views are constantly addressed.

As your Student Trustee, I will work to build on the Board's previous successes to ensure we continue to improve upon the Union's long-term strategies with YOU in mind, creating opportunities and driving change across all departments and student bodies - graduate and undergraduate - equally.

#VoteHiba - because you can trust in me.

**Irina
Moraru**

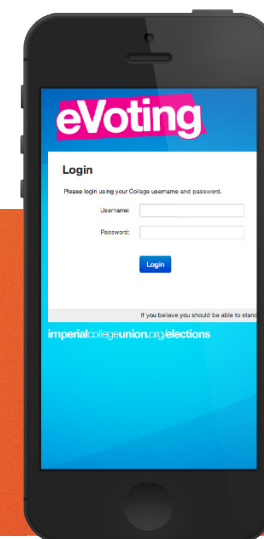


No manifesto supplied

Student Trustees

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Visit bit.ly/voteicu through your phone's browser.



the
**BIG
ELECTIONS
2014**

Big Elections 2014

Shiladitya Ghosh



I'm Shil, a 2nd-Year ChemEnger from Singapore. Next year I wish to serve YOU as a Student Trustee of ICU, to ensure that actions and plans drafted by the Union:

- A. account for your interests and their official objectives,
- B. keep the College's reputation in mind, and
- C. maintain fiscal prudence.

I ask for YOUR vote to put me in a prime position as a Student Trustee, to push for a number of directions for the Union to consider heading in (so as to help YOU and Imperial) such as but not limited to:

1. Develop Imperial Plus and the Union's Volunteer Accreditation System to more appropriately recognise the various Clubs, Societies & Projects' volunteer officers' efforts throughout the year so YOUR extra-curricular efforts are better documented for your future benefit,
2. Employ a more comprehensive framework to support the Constituent Unions (CGCU, RCSU, RSMU, ICSMSU) in their activities/events so they can serve YOU better from the start,
3. Garner more support for initiatives and

organisations like StepChange, Arts Imperial, and Imperial Hub to boost Imperial's overall social, cultural & environmental engagement... so YOU have a better chance to be involved all-round College life and help promote Imperial's reputation,
- Produce a *revamped* official FAQ for incoming students, based on the informal guide compiled yearly on the Freshers Facebook Group so OUR juniors can better prepare themselves for life at Imperial.

I've been involved with >25 clubs/societies (including leadership roles) so you'll definitely be in experienced hands if you vote for me!

Tagore Nakornchai



Hi, I'm Tagore, I'm a 4th year medic, and I'm running to be one of your union trustees. The union is an incredibly important part of your student life, and student trustees play a role behind the scenes in running it.

I have a wealth of experiences in various clubs committees, and have been a member of the union council for the last 2 years, first as an ICSMSU ordinary member, and this year as part of my role as Interfaith Officer. I have also played a role in the Recreational clubs committee as a communications officer, facilitating inter-club communications as well as helping clubs out with grant applications.

I know how the union works, what it can do, as well as its limitations, so I will be able to keep the union and sabbatical officers in line, but also know when they're doing all they can. I will focus on delivering

accountability and ensuring the long term viability of the union, and make sure mistakes made in the past are not repeated. I will continue attending union council meetings in order to monitor the smooth day-to-day running of the union, as well as to voice your concerns. I won't impress you with vague promises and grand schemes that I'll never be able to keep if elected; that's not what trustees are for. I am always available and contactable with various concerns and ideas. I've enjoyed representing you these past few years, and would love to continue doing so!

Thomas Lim



tl;dr I have broad experience across the Union, and am ready to accept the responsibility the Student Trustee role entails. Vote for me, Thomas: a Trustee you can trust!

Hi Imperial! I'm Thomas and in my third year of EEE. I've seen the Union from a range of perspectives. I led EESoc (the Departmental Society for EEE), sat on Council for the past two years, and I'm the current System Administrator (writing the Mums and Dads matching algorithm!) for the Union (and was a year rep!). When it comes to ICU, I really have seen it all - pun intended!

The Trustee Board supervises the Union's long term strategy, approves legal and financial decisions, and is the last step in the appeals process. My in depth knowledge of all parts of the Union is key to being a good Trustee. The roles I have taken in the Union put me in good stead to oversee the Union's activities,

and to accept the significant responsibility of being a Trustee. I want to give something back to the Union, and I believe there is no better role than Student Trustee.

I have worked tightly with students and union staff on various projects, and I am keen to continue to help the Union improve the student experience. I have had significant exposure to decision making and challenging conventional thought, both of which are needed for a strong Trustee board to look after the Union.

Vote for Thomas, a Trustee you can trust!

Big Elections 2014

Council Chair

Irina
Moraru



Confused about what's going on? It's simple. I can help you in 3 simple steps:
1 Vote IRINA
2 Proceed to the next position
3 Repeat step 1

Paul
Beaumont



The role of the Council Chair is to be impartial, allowing for fair and open debate at Union Council, as well as independently representing the views of students expressed at Council to the Union Trustee Board.

As ex-President of the Union, I am well informed of the Union's procedures and processes, having implemented the current Constitution & Bye-Laws, and having been held responsible to Council and chairing the Union's Executive Committee in 2012/13. When President, I worked to increase the number of relevant student issues being discussed at Council, though am aware it is still a body not well understood by many:

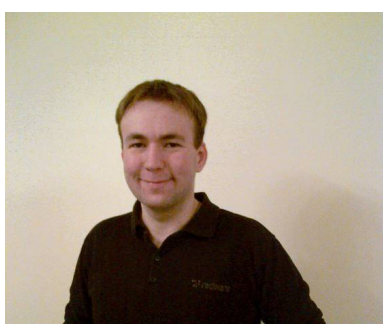
- If elected as Council Chair I aim to encourage more open and free discussion through fair and effective chairing.
- I would disseminate information widely to all students with reports to Felix and The Tab on relevant

discussions had, making it easier for you to learn what the people representing you to College and nationally are doing (without having to trawl through reams of meetings' minutes!).

- I intend to support every student who would like to raise issue or request something from the Union by simplifying the process for the submission of papers and ideas for discussion.

Sabbaticals and officers are there for you (I know, I've been one!), and whilst Council has been strong in analysing sabb's proposals, there is an opportunity for others to initiate discussion, making the Union truly student-led. With my previous experience, I believe I am the best candidate to facilitate this for you.

Stephen
Ball



Council has a hugely important role in our Union: it is the place where our voices can truly be heard and is where the true power in the Union lies. Council needs a Chair who can ensure that meetings are purposeful and effective.

As Council Chair I will:
- bring professionalism to meetings. We might not be being paid but doesn't mean we can't speak and act to high standards. Accepting anything less from members results in a Council which does not work well together or for us.

- ensure that your representatives are being effective. I will ensure that it is easy for you to check on your representatives' attendance at meetings and on the matters that have decided
- why should you have to wait a month (or longer) to see what decisions have been taken by Council
- put student issues at the top of the Agenda and

support Council in being proactive in dealing with concerns. Why should we wait for College to fail at supporting our needs before we act? The consultation framework currently being worked on by the Union President should allow us to be better informed about changes, but unless Council acts on matters then there will be little gain.

For more information and my full manifesto visit:
<http://pageeasy.com/councilchair/>

I am a third year undergraduate physicist and am Chairman of RCS Motor Club. I have previously sat on the Governing Board of a National Youth Organisation and attended various other committees and meetings, including the British Youth Council.

Big Elections 2014

CGCU President

Robert
O'Keeffe

No manifesto supplied

Timothy
Munday



Hi I'm Tim, I'm a Third year Civil Engineer and I'm currently the CGCU Regalia Officer. However I haven't just spent this year restocking the ties and scarves; I went CGCU crazy. I've helped organise and run events such as the mince pie giveaway and C&G Week, been involved in the yearly budgeting process for the entire CGCU and I even helped out the Academic and Welfare officers from time to time. Now I think the CGCUs great, as an organisation it's got a lot of potential to make studying engineering at Imperial so much better. But in no way do I think it's perfect, being on the committee this year has given me real experience of the challenges and problems faced by the CGCU. I know how the CGCU works and why it doesn't work. I know how to make CGCU better. CGCU needs to stop being run like a club that provides two events for Freshers a year and start to be run as an actual union. After all the CGCU represents all of us academically to the Faculty, looks after our welfare and is responsible for all the DepSocs and other engineering societies. I want to put U back in

CGCU!

- Prioritise Academic Affairs and Welfare
- Run Events Members Actually Want
- Promote our Historic Links with the City of London and the CGCA
- Set long term objectives and plans for a better CGCU

So vote for experience, vote for someone who knows what to do, vote for Tim.

CGCU President

Graduate Students' Union President

Nida
Mahmud



Hey I'm Nida, a first year PhD student and the current International Officer in our Union, I've been at Imperial since I have been an undergraduate so I know how everything works really well.

Postgraduate student at Imperial are at the forefront of the research done, but the experience they have as a student should be the best.

I'm enthusiastic and passionate about the representation of our PG students. I've been News Editor for Felix for the last two years. During my time at Imperial I've been a Hall Senior, a Year Rep, on Union Council, a member of the Welfare Board and a member of the Executive Committee. I have spent time doing either research or studying across four different departments at Imperial, so I have a good idea about the areas that need improvement. If elected, I will strive to:

- Provide a greater spectrum of events for postgraduates; ranging from careers events, cultural events and socials that cater for everyone.
- Campaign against government policies that impact students the hardest.
- Ensure PG students have a strong and dedicated

voice to represent them.

- Implement a Buddy System where new PhD students can speak to older students for advice.
- Organise and support campaigns relating to PhD issues; e.g. tuition fees, academic, and accommodation.
- Have 1:1 drop in sessions for students.- Get Staff for the GSU.
- Push for greater PG student representation in the union.

Vote Nida for a united future!

GSU President

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/vote> to cast your vote!



Big Elections 2014

Hassan
Ahmadzadeh



As Imperial College postgraduates, we are the key players to keep Imperial as a world-class university and resolve the challenges faced by the world today. To achieve this, I am looking to improve the quality of GSU activities, as the main Imperial College postgraduate community. Having been the Academic and Welfare Officer, member of the current GSU executive committee, and postgraduates representative this year, has given me the experience of leading an executive committee, how to influence the college committees' decisions and how to collaborate towards a common goal. My past commitments have given me insight into the structure, the strengths and weaknesses of the GSU and also the changes which can be made to improve the postgraduate quality, which will certainly be of benefit as GSU president.

In particular, as a president of the GSU I will work to:

- Empower postgraduate students; I will make sure your voices are heard at all levels across the college to ensure the quality of all postgraduate-facing services.
- Develop more effective representation system and feedback mechanism among postgraduates so that all postgraduates can affect the college decisions about their studies.
- Improve your welfare quality by coordinating various numbers of social events for postgraduates (research does not mean to be always in the lab or behind your computer).
- Facilitate postgraduates' tuition fees payment (I know tuition fees are sometimes very frustrating)

I'm looking forward to work with all of you to get the best out of our postgraduate life at Imperial College.

GSU President

RCSU President

Alberto
Perez Robledo



No manifesto supplied

Benjamin
Fernando



Hi! I'm Ben Fernando, RAG Treasurer and captain of Imperial's University Challenge team.

In my nine years as a charity fundraiser, effectively running my own branch of an international development charity and sitting on committees that have raised over £200,000, I've learnt how to manage an organisation on the scale of the RCSU in an efficient and financially transparent way. Not one of the events I've ever run (the craziest of which was my attempt to climb 5,554m up Mount Everest) has ever been a failure.

As Union Council Rep I've pushed hard on issues that matter to you as RCSU students, like scrapping entrance fees to Sports Nights. In my two years as Year Rep in Physics I've worked with the department to implement a fairer exam system with more consistent feedback.

As RCSU president, I will make sure that we keep

up our reputation for brilliant events: increasing the capacity of our Balls whilst also having events throughout the year to cater to those who don't like to drink.

With regard to representation and welfare, we need to strengthen our academic support network. We will work with our DepSocs to improve the Wiki note-sharing facilities, whilst also improving the Mums&Dads scheme and working with our departments to make the Personal Tutor system more effective, with specific emphasis on mental health support.

In a nutshell, I think the RCSU needs to reach out to its students more and stand up for us when we need it to.

RCSU President

Big Elections 2014

**Cecile
Borkhataria**



Hey everyone!

My name is Cecile and I'm running for RCSU president. I am currently the RCSU Vice-President and last year I was elected as Academic Affairs Officer. Having had two years of experience on the RCSU, I have the necessary skills and understanding of how the RCSU is run to make it an unforgettable year for all of us:

As president, I would plan:

More memorable events - RCSU events are always big nights on our calendars, and I feel that they can be even better! We can spice up customary balls with add ons such as performing acts, tasty treats and much more! More events in collaboration with other faculty unions will allow for a larger budget and new exciting venues.

Broader career events - Students often tell me that

Confused about what's going on? It's simple. I can help you in 3 simple steps:

- 1Vote IRINA
- 2Proceed to the next position
- 3Repeat step 1

they would like to see more career events that are not banking based. If elected, I would incorporate more sectors such as Science Communication, PR and health economics in career talks.

Euro trip - Next year, I'd like for RCSU students to have the chance to go abroad with their fellow scientists for an affordable getaway weekend.

Stronger academic representation - In my role as AAO, I learnt that students were particularly concerned about exam feedback and coursework guidance. If elected, I will strongly lobby to obtain these.

Broader events - I would introduce a range of events that cater to all interests, such as poker tournaments, gaming events and tea parties!

Vote for a year you'll never forget, vote Cecile!

**Irina
Moraru**

**Serena
Yuen**



Hi! I'm a second year physicist and the current treasurer of the Imperial College Physics Society - I helped organise the first international PhySoc trip to CERN for 35 students and have increased sponsorship by getting a record number of sponsors for the society, meaning more frequent and varied events could be put on for our members than ever before!

I want to spread that success to the RCSU - I already have a good idea of how DepSocs function and, if elected, would:

-Use existing contacts to secure sponsorship and further subsidise events.

-Hold barnights at the start and end of each term, and increase opportunities available to ride Jezebel at RCSU Balls.

-Increase the number and variety of careers events, especially during the first term when most students apply for internships or graduate places.

-Provide more opportunity for interdepartmental collaboration, and hold an RCSU Sports Day in the summer term.

-Introduce a new "Buddies" system for students going on a year abroad. This will enable them to meet other students who are going or who have gone to the same foreign university.

-Hold more frequent Mums and Dads events throughout the year.

-Increase levels of outreach and science communication by building awareness of RCSU Broadsheet and improving prizes and judges for the annual Science Challenge.

Furthermore, I am not afraid to speak my opinion and will act with the best interests of members at heart. Vote for more, vote for Serena

RON

You should list Re-Open Nominations (RON) as a preference if you feel that the candidates you have not yet listed are not suitable for that position.

Big Elections 2014

RSMU President

Alexander Mytenka



I'm Alex Mytenka and I'm running for RSMU president because I want to make a difference to all life within RSM.

As assistant station manager of STOIC and secretary of Media I demonstrate leadership, and as part of a team of likeminded people to ensure that we can make life within the RSM better.

My campaign is 2-fold:

1. Improve RSM as a whole, focusing on improving Material participation and influence within the RSM, bringing the two departments closer together; helping us to improve and share in our successes.

Broadening our use of social media to engage students, and increasing other opportunities for student communication.

Increasing communication and co-operation between all departmental societies to help each other, share ideas and improving their respective abilities to organise events and increase student enthusiasm and participation.

Greater cross-departmental events; to appreciate each department and the aspects which link us together.

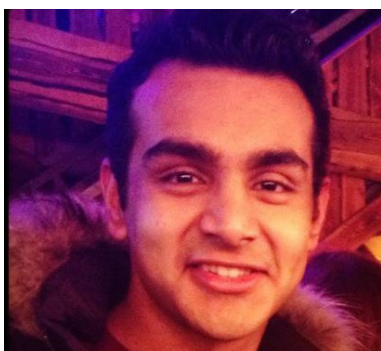
(Materials main floor need bigger lockers similar to ESE common-room)

2. Lay the ground work for a long term strategy to broaden the RSM's influence and importance within Imperial; ensuring that presidents after me will not have large battles to put us pride of place within Imperial.

For greater importance on the bottle match, getting everyone at Imperial excited for it: long term goal of eventually making it as important as the varsity match.

Short term: Increasing our ties with media societies, e.g. Radio, STOIC and FELIX, we can present who we are and why people should care, to a much broader audience.

Aneesh Misra



Much like Team GB's bid for the gold medal in the Curling Final at the Winter Olympics my candidacy for RSMU President is dynamic, exhilarating and has women weak at the knees. In line with the concept within Curling; 'the harder you stroke, the further it goes', I believe in going that extra mile, regardless of how much stroking that needs to be done.

I want to give something back to a close-knit family that has given many memorable experiences during my time at university. My involvement within the RSM has ranged from my role on the Committee as the PIT-Licity Officer and within the Rugby team's efforts of retaining the Bottle this year in Camborne. A vote for me will mean:

-Better funded social events

- My experiences within school and university have allowed me to establish relationships with companies willing to support the RSM. This will allow us to host

events with bar tabs at a variety of venues

-Improved relationships between the student and the employer

- Securing summer internships has always been an issue for undergraduates and I want to work with the teaching staff in devising new ways of making this more accessible -Introducing relationships with charities

- The RSM lacks any association to local charities, and I want to introduce events where not only we as a union can have good time but also give something back to the community.

So as the Dalai Lama once said 'You've got the love to see me through..

Vote Aneesh!

Benjamin Warnick



I've spent my second year as a Royal Miner aboard three of the RSM committees. As RSM Hockey President, Men's Hockey Captain and DLB treasurer I have learnt a huge amount about the inner workings of both the RSMU and the ICU. As a part of my hockey role I managed to secure tour funding by presenting in front of the CSPB which has given me a good insight into how the union at large is run. Furthermore, as DLB treasurer I have been actively involved in every step of organising trips, talks and social events.

As President I will aim to improve participation in the union by encouraging the DepSocs and sports teams to put on more events early in the term as this is

where long lasting bonds within the RSM are formed and where from my experience both hockey and DLB have had the most success in getting fresher's involved. Furthermore I will strengthen bonds with the union to ensure that traditional RSM events such as Fresher's Dinner are safeguarded and to maintain the high standards of events and participation throughout the year; with emphasis on the fantastic clubs, sports teams and societies that the RSM offers us. In short I will continue to uphold the traditions that make the RSM such a wonderful and unique place to study whilst still updating and streamlining the way it is run.

Vote Ben! x



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Voting opens **12:00, Friday 7 March**

Voting closes **12:00, Friday 14 March**

Vote online at
imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Visit our website to vote and get more information on all the positions and candidates.

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections





Two versions of Anchorman 2

Jack Steadman

Treasured Writer

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Director: Adam McKay

Writers: Will Ferrell, Adam McKay,

Starring: Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd, David Koechner, Dylan Baker, Megan Good, James Marsden, Kristen Wiig, Greg Kinnear

Runtime: 119 minutes

Certification: 15



Anchorman 2 has been a long time coming. Ten years, in fact. Partially due to the length of time it took for the original film to actually turn a profit/become the absurdly large cult hit it is today (which is sort of a pre-requisite for being a cult hit, in a way), partially due to the multiple other commitments of the various creative types involved, partially due to some major questions over whether a sequel was worth it or could ever actually be any good. The law of sequels is a brutal one, and – certainly from my memory/the list from *Scream 2*, none of the few exceptions that do exist are, in the strictest sense (*Scream 2* arguably being the closest, and that was a horror film first and foremost), not comedies. So the odds are very much against *Anchorman 2: The Pointless Subtitles are Back* here.

In the broadest possible sense, *Anchorman 2* somehow manages to defy those horrible odds. It's snigger-inducing from the start, and there's enough material packed in here to guarantee at least a few out-and-out uncontrollable fits of laughter (assuming, of course, you were a fan of the original's slightly surreal sense of hu-

mour). It's as quotable as the original in places (the level of improvisation allowed over the top of the baseline material creates some corkers), although it's never quite so brilliantly fresh. The original is so ingrained into almost everyone's brains that the idea of the jokes (and film) going in the direction you least expect is kind of the direction you most expect it to go. Which kills it slightly. In the moment, though, that point is irrelevant. For those two hours of cinema, almost everything about this film is hilarious, apart from the few bits that aren't.

If you'll forgive that painfully obvious tautology, there are some noticeable flaws in *Anchorman 2*. Most notably: it's too damn long, meaning it joins my ever growing list of films which would have been so much better if they'd spent longer in the editing suite and less time on the screen. Several of the jokes are drawn out – in some cases, that's the point, it's where the laughs come from, in others, it kills the laughter dead. Plus, with the only semi-relevant plot (as before), it can't help but feel like things lose their way slightly, leaving the film feeling like it's treading water at various points, firing off gags to distract you from its lack of movement.

There's also heavy recycling of the old scenarios, often adopting the tried-and-tested sequel method of making it bigger. Again, in the moment – it's hilarious. The news team battle in particular is a stand-out moment, but it's still just repeating the same gags as before with different faces and different stakes.

Throw in some obvious satire which makes a really relevant point (which is then mostly ignored), and a few jokes where it feels like maybe we're being uncomfortably invited to laugh at Brick and Chani, and *Anchorman 2* eventually boils out to more hits than misses. It's much more fun if you loved the original, and if you go in fully aware that this is very much designed to hit all those buttons again, just harder. And for a longer period of time.



Jack Steadman

Treasured Writer

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues... Continued

Director: Adam McKay

Writers: Will Ferrell, Adam McKay,

Starring: Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd, David Koechner, Dylan Baker, Megan Good, James Marsden, Kristen Wiig, Greg Kinnear

Runtime: 119 minutes

Certification: 15



So, thanks to the nature of the filming of *Anchorman 2*, as with the original, there exists an (almost) entirely different cut of the film. Same situations, different jokes. In some cases, completely different spins on the storyline. Which is inevitably what you're going to get when you film 'actual' takes based around a solid script, then just let some insanely funny and smart people lose to improvise their way around it.

Of course, this around, what with the sequel being 'bigger' in every way, this alternate cut hasn't just gone straight to DVD. No, it's come out – for one week only, and for Ron Burgundy's last cinematic outing, according to director Adam McKay – in cinemas. With "763 (approx.)" new jokes, if the posters are to be believed. I didn't count, for the record. That's effort.

What isn't effort, though, is spotting the few moments of old material (I say 'old', I mean 'from the first film that only came out in November and so is only 'old' in sense of the lifespan of a fly or something') that creep in. Presumably a funnier, or as funny,

take doesn't exist for those shots. For the majority, though, this is an enormous quantity of new material, and it completely changes the feel and flow of the film. Several character beats are altered or dropped entirely, and the ending (along with a few other minor scenes) is changed entirely. It's also twenty minutes longer, which is seriously bordering on taking the piss for a film like this, although it doesn't actually feel twenty minutes longer. Whether that's because the original felt too damn long already, or because I fell asleep (I didn't, to my knowledge), I don't know (I do, it's because the original – the original sequel, that is, because this isn't confusing enough – was too long, I didn't fall asleep).

Weirdly, where dragging out jokes the first time around had a habit of killing them, here, the multiple sequences that are significantly prolonged from their predecessors actually feel funnier, as being given more room to breathe allows them to open up far better. It's almost a reversal of quality – some of the weakest scenes become the strongest, and vice versa.

Ultimately though, it's a very weird feeling watching this, especially when you've become familiar with the original. Jokes you've grown to anticipate fail to appear, with entirely different punchlines appearing in their place, although there are welcome appearances from gags that made it into the trailers but not the final cut, which is a nice 'familiar yet unfamiliar yet technically familiar' moment. If that makes any sense, which I'm almost certain it doesn't.

I feel slightly bad for scoring this, what with it being a derivative, alternative work rather than an actual film, per se, but the fact that much of the material – while funny – just isn't as funny as the jokes in the final cut, perhaps somewhat obviously, means it's a weaker little cousin. It's still good, and it wouldn't have been too much of a disappointment if this had been the real thing. But that doesn't mean I'm not glad it wasn't.



 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial



Lars von Trier: Danish troublemaker 2

John Park

Film Editor

Antichrist

Director: Lars von Trier
Writer: Lars von Trier
Starring: Willem Dafoe, Charlotte Gainsbourg
Runtime: 108 minutes
Certification: 18



There's a fine line between what's art and what's downright filth and pornography. *Blue Velvet* is art, *Caligula* most certainly is not, and as for *Intimacy*, I can argue for both. Lars von Trier enjoys pushing the boundaries with his films but his most recent *Antichrist* is his most challenging film yet. There have been so many stories surrounding the film, so many condemning the violence that a lot of people I know went to satisfy their curiosity. Half of them walked out and a few of them ran out at some point in the film. To be fair, there were people fainting and walking out at the Cannes Film Festival so who can blame them?

The film is divided into four chapters plus a prologue and an epilogue. Within five minutes into the film, there's a graphic sex scene which quite proudly shows the male genitalia in (God help us) slow-motion. Whilst He (Willem Dafoe) and She (Charlotte Gainsbourg) are having passionate sex, their young child falls out of a window and dies. Already, the film is giving off an incredibly disturbing and sinister vibe. Trying to deal with their grief, they travel to Eden, a cabin in the middle of the woods detached from the rest of the world. Since He is a psychiatrist, they try therapy but when nature that surrounds them start turning more and more evil and sinister, you know they won't last long at all.

All the horror stories involving the explicit nature of this film are all true. There's female castration, ejaculation of blood, self-harm, and the list goes on and on. How someone comes up with these ideas is beyond me and if you can't handle violence and gore, it's obviously best to avoid this.

But before the final act, the film remains relatively calm, moving at a steady pace, engaging the audience with some intense character development. The build-up towards these horrific violent sexual acts is in fact very impressive. How von Trier uses trees, animals (one of them is a talking fox, growling "chaos reigns"), grass, and even conkers to bring out the characters' deepest, darkest fears is handled

with absolutely no violence, very little soundtrack, relying completely on the atmosphere of the creepy forest. Von Trier clearly shows that He and She are changing simultaneously with the environment. As the events start getting more and more disturbing, and as they occur more and more frequently, their attitudes towards one another become more hateful, fuelled by anger and lust.

To an extent, why these two characters end up in such a psychological mess is explained. They are both wrecked with guilt, She being more affected than He. Their feelings become repressed until She snaps and spirals out of control. This process is portrayed perfectly by the two leads. Gainsbourg is so utterly convincing that even at the slightest hint of her mind deviating from sanity, we are all naturally bracing ourselves for something terrible. Dafoe tries desperately to help her but ends up becoming a victim to her cruel acts. They have terrific chemistry together, showing their deteriorating relationship with plenty of energy.

So the discomfiting setting and both actors have been very successful so far at giving us plenty of terror. Did von Trier really need to go into all the violence? Was excessive violence yet another one of his brave experimental cinematic techniques? We'll never know, since his interviews provide no detailed insight into how he came to write and direct this film.

Antichrist should most preferably be seen on your own. If you at no point cry, faint, run out of the room or vomit, you've done well for yourself. Such a shame: the atmospheric, artistic beginning was shaping up to be one of the most original recent horror movies. But then von Trier had to overload the screen with horrific violence towards the end.



Melancholia

Director: Lars von Trier
Writer: Lars von Trier
Starring: Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Alexander Skarsgård, Charlotte Rampling, Kiefer Sutherland
Runtime: 136 minutes
Certification: 15



Kirsten Dunst's Cannes Best Actress Award winning performance in Lars von Trier's *Melancholia* is certainly worth a look, even if the Danish director frequently causing trouble and stirring up controversies (the latest one being von Trier admitting that he understands Hitler which invited all sorts of criticism from international press) is not greatly to your liking. His films are depressing, and almost always see victimised women getting into unimaginably difficult situations through very little fault of their own. A rule to which *Melancholia* is no exception. This time, the world is ending, and not in the metaphorical way. Life on Earth will actually come to an abrupt finish. There is a large planetary body called Melancholia. What was suspected to pass harmlessly is now on a head-on collision course, and there is nothing anyone can do to stop that. But the planet itself serves no further purpose than for von Trier to subject his female characters through some tough ordeals. This the director staying true to his style and trademark, whilst incorporating a new theme.

Of course, most characters are not initially aware of this mysterious foreign planet that will mark the end of their lives. We look at the complex lives of two sisters, Justine (Dunst) and Claire (Charlotte Gainsbourg). Justine, the younger of the two, has just gotten married to a charming, dedicated man (Alexander Skarsgård), although she does not seem to be over the moon about her nuptials. She appears to be a victim of depression, and her highly unpredictable, repressed behaviour that struggles to sustain her marriage and even herself threatens to ruin her existence. After a lengthy, intense slow-motion opening in which the thunderous soundtrack from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* signals the world's end, and the audience gets a glimpse of 'The End', we focus back to Justine, heading up to her sister's lavish countryside mansion for her after-party, in which many wedding traditions are supposed to be carried out (the first dance, the cutting of the cake, etc.). But looking so distant and vulnerable, we worry whether she will make it through the night.

Not helping, are her bitterly divorced parents, who have reluctantly united under one roof for the sake of their daughter's wedding. But of course, not everything goes smoothly. Their fierce and possibly a little drunk mother (the unforgettably sharp and piercing Charlotte Rampling) openly lashes out at her ex-husband who is proudly accompanied by a younger lover, and is AWOL during most of the party. She is highly uncooperative, and we begin to wonder why she came to this in the first place. This tense, uncomfortable atmosphere is not what Claire's filthy rich husband John (Kiefer Sutherland) wanted, who incidentally paid for everything himself.

The stress becomes unbearable for the already damaged Justine, and after the disaster that is her wedding reception, she suffers a breakdown. And this is one of many aspects in which Dunst excels in her mature, sincere performance. She doesn't have an emotional freak-out, but instead slowly descends into a state of complete hollow mental state in which she cannot bring herself to do or care for anything. Her performance is a wonderfully measured and grounded one, firmly holding on to the film's emotional core. Dunst reportedly used her own experience from depression as a source for playing her character. Well it works, and it works brilliantly. Distancing herself from everyone, including her husband and her sister, she is constantly in a blank, self-destructive state, and everything becomes meaningless to the heroine.

However there is one thing that Justine becomes fascinated by: the incoming planet. Convinced that the Earth they are currently living on is 'evil', Justine welcomes the planet, and is not afraid of the inevitable consequence. Claire, who has a lot more to lose, acts differently. As the seemingly calm and collected one taking care of her younger sibling in the first half, she becomes paranoid whenever the planet becomes larger in her eyes. Despite her idealistic and optimistic husband's assurance that Melancholia will cause no harm, Claire's mind also starts to wobble, at the thought of losing everyone she loves, including her innocent young son.

Claire and Justine don't share the easiest of relationships and this is shown clearly through yet another excellent female performance in this film. Gainsbourg, although showing warmth towards her sister, also lets out some cold air towards her, letting her frustration and annoyance seep through in her steadfast treatment of Justine. Hers is also an impeccably layered and detailed performance, one that beautifully matches Dunst's. Gainsbourg has worked with von Trier before in the much more graphic and unobtrusive *Antichrist*, in which she played a mentally unstable, ultimately



violent protagonist. Here she is much quieter and restrained, although not without the usual intensity the talented actress can portray on screen. She cannot stop obsessing over Melancholia's size and the proximity of the planet to Earth, and towards the second half it's Justine, the younger, seemingly more damaged sibling, having to stand firm whilst her older sister turns into a blubbing mess.

Von Trier has that exceptional skill of turning the most unlikely subject into extraordinarily beautiful art form. Some perceive this as pretentious offering, but what he manages in *Melancholia* is simply gorgeous to look at, although the most dramatic moments do require patience to truly set in. He is terribly fond of that Wagner soundtrack, which he uses to its maximum level as it crescendoes and crescendoes to the whopping big finale. It's an awe-inspiring, unforgettably charged moment of wonder, from a director who usually tends to stay away from using grand special effects. But von Trier never forgets whose story he wants to tell. This is about the mental unravelling of two sisters facing the apocalypse, and he never steers away from his pitch-perfect, outstanding leads. It's not an easy film to watch by any means, any film by von Trier carries with it a certain kind of expectation that it won't be a mood-lifting, particularly joyful film, but the gripping dynamic between the two central women, surrounded by impending disaster, is completely original, and oddly sensational. The director's reputation and his anti-social nature might have made the film hard to advertise for and to attract much attention upon its release, but now that the controversy has almost settled down, it's about time to focus on his actual work, without prejudice, and marvel at his wondrous new cinematic achievement.



The big winners of 2014

2014 Academy Awards

Best Picture: **12 Years a Slave**
 Best Actor in a Leading Role: **Matthew McConaughey** (*Dallas Buyers Club*)
 Best Actress in a Leading Role: **Cate Blanchett** (*Blue Jasmine*)
 Best Actor in a Supporting Role: **Jared Leto** (*Dallas Buyers Club*)
 Best Actress in a Supporting Role: **Lupita Nyong'o** (*12 Years a Slave*)
 Best Director: **Alfonso Cuarón** (*Gravity*)
 Best Screenplay (Original): **Spike Jonze** (*Her*)
 Best Screenplay (Adapted): **John Ridley** (*12 Years a Slave*)
 Best Animated Film: **Frozen**
 Best Foreign Language Film: **The Great Beauty**
 Best Cinematography: **Gravity**
 Best Editing: **Gravity**
 Best Production Design: **The Great Gatsby**
 Best Costume Design: **The Great Gatsby**
 Best Makeup and Hairstyling: **Dallas Buyers Club**
 Best Original Score: **Gravity**
 Best Original Song: **Let it Go** (*Frozen*)
 Best Sound Mixing: **Gravity**
 Best Sound Editing: **Gravity**
 Best Visual Effects: **Gravity**
 Best Documentary: **20 Feet from Stardom**
 Best Documentary, Short Subject: **The Lady in Number 6**
 Best Short Film, Animated: **Mr Hublot**
 Best Short Film, Live Action: **Helium**



2014 Independent Spirit Awards

Best Feature: **12 Years a Slave**
 Best First Feature: **Fruitvale Station**
 Best Male Lead: **Matthew McConaughey** (*Dallas Buyers Club*)
 Best Female Lead: **Cate Blanchett** (*Blue Jasmine*)
 Best Supporting Male: **Jared Leto** (*Dallas Buyers Club*)
 Best Supporting Female: **Lupita Nyong'o** (*12 Years a Slave*)
 Best Director: **Steve McQueen** (*12 Years a Slave*)
 Best Screenplay: **John Ridley** (*12 Years a Slave*)
 Best First Screenplay: **Bob Nelson** (*Nebraska*)
 Best International Film: **Blue is the Warmest Colour**
 Best Cinematography: **12 Years a Slave**
 Best Editing: **Short Term 12**
 John Cassavetes Award: **This is Martin Bonner**
 Truer than Fiction Award: **Let the Fire Burn**
 Someone to Watch Award: **Shaka King**
 Producers Award: **Toby Halbrooks, James M. Johnston**
 Robert Altman Award: **Mud**

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The sound of cringe

John Park

Television Editor

The Sound of Music Live!



The Sound of Music is without doubt one of the most beloved films of all time whether you like it or not. There isn't a Christmas that goes by without Julie Andrews running on top of a hill singing at the top of her lungs, making the moody yet a-true-softie-at-heart Christopher Plummer fall in love with her, dressing the von Trapp children in those hideous curtain clothes and together sneakily escaping the Nazis in their final moment of hurrah. And so it's understandable why there was so much social media hate and concern when American Idol winning country music star Carrie Underwood was chosen to play the lead, something the von Trapps themselves were not too happy about, instead suggesting Academy Award-winning Anne Hathaway for the role.

Is Underwood as dreadful as people thought she was going to be? Not quite. The good thing is she can sing, and yodel too. She of course does not carry the finely tuned, piercing voice of Julie Andrews, but the more gutsy, forceful interpretation of the 'Good Girl' singer works just fine. It's only when she stops singing and has to act that problems start to emerge. Her delivery of lines is so flat and monotonous that it often feels like the audience is being subjected to a primary school amateur production of the musical. She may have won Grammys, but she will not be winning any acting Oscars any time soon for sure.

The opposite is true for Stephen Moyer as Captain von Trapp. He can act, but he can't sing. Thankfully the number of times he's required to do this is scarce compared to the times Underwood has to speak, but the all-important 'Edelweiss' and the 'Something Good' duet lack a strong emotional punch because of this. Watch as Moyer struggles through his solo: his toe-curlingly cringe-worthy interpretation of 'Edelweiss' is almost unbearable, which goes to show the best has definitely not been saved for the last

in this special one-off television event.

The love story between the two characters is of course a massive selling point, one that Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer forever forged in their 1965 hit film, although nothing of the sort is remotely replicated here. There is no heart, no chemistry, and no passion. The two leads appear as though this is a massive chore for them, and granted, performing live for so long cannot be easy, but there is something so mechanical and robotic about their performances that no convincing, smooth portrayal is ever in sight throughout the three-hour running time (that thankfully takes into account commercial breaks – the actual show runs for around two hours).

The wonky, dubious accent of Laura Benanti, as the posh Baroness Elsa Schraeder, so obviously trying to seduce her way into Captain von Trapp's pants (clearly not thinking through the seven children she'll have to inherit along with his estates) is at times, unintentionally hilarious.

The only performer who really

stands out is the four-time Tony-winning Audra McDonald who can both sing and act (sadly a rare find in this remake event). Her belting, operatic rendition of 'Climb Every Mountain' is powerfully resonating to say the least and as a firm mother-figure to Maria, she has a brief but crucial and memorable role, one that is filled by a much accomplished actress.

The young cast, which includes the seven von Trapp children, are there to look sweet and harmonise well, which they do, even though Rolf (Michael Campayno), the Nazi boyfriend of von Trapp's eldest, Liesl (Ariane Rinehart), is clearly not "17 going on 18" as he sings in possibly one of the most misogynistic songs of all time. The two of them are also required to roll around on some very limited-space outdoor set design that looks more dangerous than romantic.

Despite the surprising omission of the song 'I have confidence', the musical numbers translate well, with simple but neat choreography to delight and put us all in a cheery mood. It's

a real tribute to the musical itself that even decades after the stage premiere, there are songs that are still catchy and hummable, which goes to show the love for *The Sound of Music* will not be dying out no matter who does what to butcher the talky gaps in between the music.

Being a live television production rather than a one-stage set performance, the show uses its freedom to move around in between the different background sets built. Scene transitions are generally smooth, although the incredibly plain-looking backdrops only further reflect the serious limitations of the production quality.

Having been watched by over 18 million people in the States upon its debut in December 2013, NBC has signed Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, the two creators responsible for this tacky rehash, to produce even more live television presentations stage shows. Please, please, please leave some of the greats alone. Nothing to do with *The Phantom* or *Les Mis*. Having feature films is good enough.





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TELEVISION

Culture returns to the Idiots' Lantern

Ryan Ehlers takes a ride in Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle

"I am culture," declares a delusional and ranting Stewart Lee in the final episode of the new series of Comedy Vehicle, 30 minute episodes of stand-up comedy. He lists some admittedly impeccable credentials: books published by Faber and Faber⁽¹⁾ ("not Tesco's own brand"), having co-written and directed an award-winning opera⁽²⁾, having curated jazz festivals, and performed John Cage pieces to paying audiences. He does not count among these credentials the BAFTA that the second series of Comedy Vehicle won in 2010 for Best Comedy Program⁽³⁾. This is perhaps unsurprising, given that in previous series he has denounced television as "the idiots' lantern", and Channel 4 as "like a flood of sewage that comes unbidden into

your home". He has not, he assures us, seen *Breaking Bad*.

"I am culture," and yet here he is, snarling at us through our idiots' lanterns once again. This tension between his apparent high culture pretensions and his low culture medium⁽⁴⁾ is one of Lee's favourite subjects, even when he is not addressing it directly. His books consist of transcripts of his stand-up sets, carefully introduced and contextualised, and densely, ironically annotated⁽⁵⁾ as if they were serious literature. It's a theme that American comedians have been quick to pick up on, though none are as thoughtful or funny as Stewart Lee⁽⁶⁾.

To this end, the first episode, which aired last Saturday, was about "pornography, and the human imagination, and the internet, and all these

sorts of things."⁽⁷⁾ Lee doesn't take long to start wheeling out his usual tics. There's a pre-prepared note, imaginary phone conversations with his hand, claims that he doesn't really know what he's doing, pausing to allow the audience to guess a punch line before he delivers it anyway, thematic consistency unusual for a stand-up show, and insistent repetitions ("I am culture," declares Stewart Lee). There are hints that his idiosyncratic style might finally be becoming wearing⁽⁸⁾, drained of its power to shock, but this first episode is among the most accessible 30 minutes of stand-up he's done and these tics are still new for a new audience. Somewhat brilliantly, matching form with content – imagination – Lee closes with a routine which requires us to imagine a second voice he's talking to on the phone, before fading away and inviting us to imagine Lee's closing lines as well.

Lee's other obsession is the status of the stand-up comedian. For Lee, the role of a good comic (or court jester) is to remind the establishment how ridiculous it is. How can a comic do this effectively if they are not themselves a low-status figure?⁽⁹⁾ Stewart Lee has now won a BAFTA, made documentaries for Radio 4, writes for *The Sunday Times* and *The Guardian*, had books published by Faber and Faber ("not Tesco's own brand"), co-written and directed an award-winning opera, and curated jazz festivals, and performed John Cage pieces to paying audiences⁽¹⁰⁾. He's no longer a low-status figure. He attempts to cut

himself down, and justify his ranting, by beginning the series with the claim that Lee Mack has attacked him as "a cultural bully from the Oxbridge mafia," and supposedly he is merely responding to defend himself. On top of this, the show is cut throughout with claustrophobic shots of Chris Morris (*The Day Today*, *Brass Eye*) interrogating and antagonising Lee, who is visibly a broken man. Lee is in turn "a charlatan," "[like] the devil," "like a mad old pope"⁽¹¹⁾. For now, he continues to just about get away with it.

"I am culture," declares a delusional and ranting Stewart Lee in the final episode of the new series of Comedy Vehicle. He's probably not. He is funny though. It seems apt to paraphrase Lee's friend Simon Munnery. You can watch everything else on television and dismiss it as nonsense if you like. You can dismiss it as nonsense without watching it to save time if you prefer. And that's the route I've chosen.⁽¹²⁾

(Saturdays at 10 pm on BBC 2 until 5th April)

Footnotes

⁽¹⁾ A publisher he shares with Samuel Beckett, Ted Hughes, T.S. Eliot, Sylvia Plath, Seamus Heaney, William Golding, Ezra Pound, James Joyce, and W.H. Auden, among others.

⁽²⁾ For which some eccentric religious fundamentalists demanded he should be tried for blasphemy.

⁽³⁾ Incidentally he might also have mentioned documentaries made for Radio 4, and his writing for *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Times*.

⁽⁴⁾ A medium he shares with Bernard Manning, Jim Davidson, Frankie Boyle, and historical court jesters.

⁽⁵⁾ It looks a bit like this.

⁽⁶⁾ Bo Burnham captures it wonderfully in his song *Art is Dead*: "Have you ever been to a birthday party for children, and one of the children won't stop screaming? [...] I am an artist. Please don't revere me... I am an artist. You're free to correct me... I'm just a kid."

⁽⁷⁾ Lee's words.

⁽⁸⁾ This might be the point. At any rate, I suspect Lee would approve of this response, insistent that continued repetition will make it funny again later.

⁽⁹⁾ For Lee, the chief crime of Frankie Boyle and Jimmy Carr is not that they are offensive, but that they are bullies: high-status figures applying pressure downwards.

⁽¹⁰⁾ This repetition is more like Homer than Stewart Lee, really. I'm trying my best.

⁽¹¹⁾ Presumably Lee's rejection of the internet is like a medieval pope's rejection of mass-printed bibles in common languages.

⁽¹²⁾ Stewart Lee also used a version of this joke, dismissing Russell Brand's book, in the first ever episode of *Comedy Vehicle*. Munnery is dismissing the Bible, with the context that he's on stage as a character, and the character is clearly insane. He walks on stage in a red jumper apparently covered in roses and opens with the immortal words, "Good evening. I am the Church of England."



Hipster *House of Cards* you won't find on Netflix

Maciej Matuszewski

Contributor

Few people could have escaped the popularity of the Netflix political drama series *House of Cards*. However, the US show is actually a remake of a 1990s British TV miniseries of the same name. While I have heard wonderful things about the remake I have always had somewhat of a fondness for British television and have always found the UK political system more interesting than its American counterpart. Therefore, it should be of no surprise that I decided to devote the little time that I had between lectures and project work to watching the original (though its length – just four hours in total compared to the remake's thirteen hour long first season – was probably also a contributory factor).

I must say that I wasn't disappointed.

Set in a fictionalised version of the aftermath of the resignation of Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister, the show follows Francis Urquhart, the Chief Whip of the Conservative Party – responsible for maintaining discipline on the back benches. After helping his colleague Henry Collingridge become leader of the Conservatives and win the subsequent general election, he expects a reward in the form of a senior Secretary of State position. However, when Collingridge reneges on his promise and decides to leave his Cabinet unchanged Urquhart vows revenge and begins scheming to become Prime Minister himself. This sets off a tense and densely plotted story as Urquhart uses every dirty treat in the book to unseat his opponent.

The focus of *House of Cards* is, of course, Urquhart himself. He is fierce-

ly intelligent and absolutely ruthless. Much of the fun of the show comes from seeing how he manages to skillfully and subtly manipulate all of his opponents into doing exactly what he wants. His genius comes from doing almost everything indirectly, from the shadows, never admitting to anything. His approach to politics is perfectly summarised by his oft used line: "You might think so, I couldn't possibly comment". He appears to be so charismatic and earnest, thanks in large part due to a stunning performance by Shakespearean actor Ian Richardson, that even his greatest enemies believe him to be their best friend.

Urquhart is also a great character on a more personal level. At the start he appears to be an ordinary, if ambitious, upper class man. However, as the show progresses we find out that he has a darker core – he is utterly



self-centred and doesn't care about anyone who gets into his way. However, he never becomes an outright villain. He is always a well-rounded and nuanced character. Through the writing, acting and the unusual technique of Urquhart often performing asides to camera, we get a picture of

him as real life, three-dimensional human being.

This is an intelligent drama that works on many levels. It has a tense plot and is effective as both a political thriller and an in-depth character study – certainly something worth devoting four hours of your life to.



Is Competition really that good?

Maximilian Eggl

Games Editor

I seem to be in a bit of a gaming rut at the moment. I bought a few games in the Steam sales and in Humble Bundles that I haven't given due gaming time. Instead of exploring the vastness of my steam library, I am always playing the same game: *CounterStrike Global Offensive*.

For all you who don't know what *CounterStrike* is or haven't read my previous articles, *CounterStrike* is a super-successful series made by Valve based on a mod of the Half Life series. Either as a terrorist or a counter-terrorist, you attempt to achieve your goals, like planting a bomb, defusing a bomb or killing your opponents, whilst trying to stop your enemy doing the same.

While this formula seems quite boring and repetitive, I would say not, as there are many different variations of the original game mode. This is not a review of CS GO, however, but rather a look at the competitive matchmaking system in which I have wasted so many hours.

Imagine what I described above, but instead of just casual players, you have a team of 5 all working together to win, playing another team of 5 just as determined. Playing 30 rounds, 15 as terrorist and 15 as counter-terrorist, you must win at least 16 to clinch victory. If you die in a round that is it you have to wait till the next round. Furthermore, once you have died you can watch your team mates try to win. All this combined can sometimes make emotions run high. If you are the last person alive and you know that the rest of the team is watching you, the pressure can be quite real.

Your performance in the match as



well as your win percentage influence your global rank and rating. The best of the best can be scouted for pro teams, and actually compete for serious money.

This, coupled with the tension and excitement of the individual round, really adds to this game's replay value,

more so than anyone would expect.

I, myself, enjoy this game mode very much, but at the start I found that I was quite lost. For beginners, the maps and strategies, the tension and pressure can really be too much. I recently played with Calum, the game's co-editor, and one of our teammates got so frustrated

at the beginner skills of Calum that he actually told him to commit suicide (or something to that effect which can not be printed). Thus, if you are a beginner, stay away from this mode and play the more casual game modes.

The best and simultaneously worst thing about the competitive mode is your teammates. They make or break a great gaming session. If you get enthusiastic, funny and great companions, make sure you friend them as they really make playing CS GO enjoyable in any form. On the other hand, if you encounter those douchebags who surrender at any sign of difficulty, leave or are just a**holes then I feel sorry for you.

Competitive matchmaking is there to extend the number of hours you spend playing CS, and it does so admirably, especially if you are as competitive as I am. If this game is getting stale for you, seriously try out this game mode, you won't regret it!

More than just a Terraria Clone

Calum Skene, chopping and mining for survival as he is bound for the stars

Starbound is a platform adventure game currently in beta and being developed by Chucklefish Games, a UK indie games studio. I love this game! I am eight hours in and I've barely even scratched the surface of all that is available in this game. Indeed I've only just completed the tutorial, a fun yet disheartening experience that will be shared later in this review. This game is special, and not just because fellow games Editor Max bought it for me at Christmas or because it's an indie game. Read on to find out why you should spend your time playing this game.

At first impressions Starbound can be described as a sort of 2D version of Minecraft, a lot like Terraria, except it is set in space. When you start out you get to choose between 6 races which are all different. At the moment, the races are sort of similar, apart from appearance, but each race does get its own armour, weapons and recipes. I picked the Avian race, bird looking creatures who can't fly but are fierce warriors. You start the game aboard your spacecraft, however you have no fuel! Stranded in space you must beam yourself down to the nearest planet and survive while gathering materials.

For new players the game provides a handy tutorial, and you are rewarded money for completing it. It was simple

to start with, and my Avian character was doing well. I built a campfire, a workbench and a hunting bow to hunt the variety of alien creatures the planet has. The alien enemy creatures remind me a lot of Pokémon and the game tells you the attacks they are making. One in particular reminded me of Psyduck as it picked me up and dropped me using gravity slam. After my relaxing time hunting to get meat, and mining, I was presented with the final quest in the tutorial. I had to build a distress beacon to attract attention from passing spaceships.

The recipe for the distress beacon needed a lot more materials than

anything I had built before so off I went mining into the deeps, and I mean *deep*! You can dig down far, and find dungeons with treasure chests, abandoned research centres filled with money and different enemies. I spent nearly two hours mining and the varied landscape helped keep the game fresh. Down in the deeps I discovered more problems than just enemies. It is cold when you go down far, and if you are away from a torch or campfire you freeze to death, but it is not the cold that killed me. In the underbelly of the planet my Avian creature died of hunger as I failed to find monsters to hunt for meat. Dying

in this way, although frustrating, was a lot more interesting than just being killed by monsters. Back on the surface after re-hatching from an egg I had the materials for a distress beacon. Ignoring the messages to properly prepare I used the distress beacon and all my materials with it and got destroyed by a UFO that came down. I was in shock, 2 hours were completely wasted as I needed to build a new distress beacon to call the UFO back and this time be prepared to destroy it. My need for revenge drove me through the 3 hour mining session I needed to get enough materials to build a full set of armour. I even

went to an Avian town and murdered and stole enough money to build the beacon. My small wingless Avian had been though a lot, but this time, with a lot of running, I was able to destroy the UFO and the penguins it beamed down to the surface to obtain the molten core: a required material for the Metalwork station.

If it hasn't come across in my epic adventure, this game is addictive. Not many games would hold my attention after having been destroyed by a UFO following a big mining session. Starbound manages to keep you entertained as the landscape is unexpected and changing. At one point I jumped out of my seat as meteors came down and destroyed everything near my house. Starbound has lots to do already and it's just in beta. It differs from Minecraft by offering quests which keep you entertained when you don't know what to do as well as offering the sandbox experience that many enjoy. When you get good enough to leave your first planet you can find new worlds with harder enemies, but increased ore, and get money to buy more powerful weapons. The game looks beautiful and has calming music to accompany your journey through space. I urge you all to buy Starbound now and enjoy this great game while seeing how the game evolves through the beta.



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The Mt Gox Bitcoin Debacle

Yong Wen Chua, on the dangers of trusting an online currency

The fledgling cryptocurrency Bitcoin suffered one of its biggest setbacks this past week when the (formerly) largest exchange Mt. Gox filed for bankruptcy protection. The beleaguered exchange has been marred by a string of management problems before it filed for bankruptcy protection. Yet, the currency has been relatively stable amidst all of these: after briefly falling to US Dollars (USD) 400 per Bitcoin after the news broke, it has now recovered up to a steady state of around USD 650 at press time.

Decentralisation is at the core of Bitcoins through the clever use of cryptography. There is no central authority to prove, or disprove that Bitcoins are “owned” by anyone in particular. There is a distributed public ledger, known as the “blockchain” that keeps a log of all the transactions that have ever taken place between Bitcoin addresses. In order to “spend” the coins, one has

to prove ownership of the coins via the use of private keys associated with public Bitcoin addresses. In other words, with the blockchain, it is possible to trace how Bitcoins have exchanged hands, and calculate exactly how many coins a certain address has in its possession.

There are generally two ways to obtain Bitcoins: mining or exchanging with some fiat money. Mt. Gox was one of these exchanges. For some time, Mt. Gox was one of the largest exchanges where people could turn their USD into Bitcoins. But according to some leaked documents and insider information, the company was very badly managed and some claim that the writing was on the wall for it to collapse.

Mt Gox suffered a series of setbacks along its way. The first setback that Mt Gox suffered was in late 2011 when it suffered a breach to one of the textbook attacks: SQL injection. Throughout 2013, Mt Gox would periodically shut down for



“cooling off”, always blaming some glitch or another. Customers were complaining for weeks long waiting for withdrawals, with some allegedly never completing. Mt. Gox was also having to face several legal issues with the US government. It was during this time that other exchanges began to spring up and become more prominent due to the various issues facing Mt Gox.

On February 7 2014, Mt. Gox

halted all trading activities. It cited a problem with “transaction malleability”, a known issue with the Bitcoin protocol, as a reason for doing so, and hinted that it had lost money to this problem. This was not a catastrophic problem because if the software were written properly, they would be able to safeguard against this problem as many other Bitcoin exchanges have done so. Nevertheless, Mt Gox cited this as a reason, and hinted that they have lost a significant amount of their money. Finally, on February 24, Mt Gox shut down without a word and filed for bankruptcy protection soon after.

Right away, the various exchanges issued a joint statement saying that the problems at Mt Gox do not represent a problem with the Bitcoin community at large. Bitcoin is not centralised at Mt Gox, and the fall of a player, albeit a big one, does not spell the doom of Bitcoin. This sense of optimism seem to be shared by the community. After falling rapidly on the day Mt Gox shut down, the price of Bitcoin quickly rose and stabilised at a value higher than before Mt Gox shut down.

Perhaps the old adage of having any publicity is good publicity rings true as Bitcoin turns a new page in its history.

The News Bubble

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

Apple in Cars

These days you cannot help but encounter Apple or one of its products in your average life. Even if you don't own a product, your friends will. Therefore avoiding interacting with the fruity company has just gotten a bit harder. Apple just recently announced CarPlay, a system with which you can connect your iOS device to your car. However, at the moment this is only available in Ferrari, Mercedes and Volvo cars. Apple does plan to release this feature with BMW, Nissan, Kia just to mention a few. Therefore if you buy a car in the future, you might hear Siri's sweet, sweet voice from your car's stereo.

Facebook on spending spree

After the WhatsApp acquisition (which you can read all about in the brilliant article by Tola Makanjuola), most of us would have a well deserved, and perhaps guilty, rest. Mark Zuckerberg doesn't seem to want a rest. To further his Internet.org initiative, Facebook is now going after drone manufacturer Titan Aerospace for a purported 60 million dollars. These drones then would fly over internet starved regions, beaming internet (among them surely Facebook) to potential users below.

Maximilian Eggl
Yong Wen Chua
Osama Awara
Technology Editors

WhatsApp with FB?

Tola Makanjuola, on the social giants latest buy

At some point last week, news hit that Facebook had acquired perhaps the most ubiquitous form

of communication today:

WhatsApp for £16 billion. It goes without saying that social network users both on Facebook and Twitter shared their ‘in-depth’ insights (ramblings) on the elaborate purchase, thoughts ranging from rational (how will Facebook monetize WhatsApp?) to the downright, well, put politely, irrational, (it's the end of the world as we know it). It is an interesting situation worth pondering however, why would Facebook, home to over 1 billion users buy WhatsApp?

To begin with, Facebook spotted an opportunity to get into mobile and with its deep pockets made an acquisition that is difficult to fault. They had initially tried to release HTC

phones with a Facebook interface, which tanked spectacularly. Clearly not an easy market to

compete in (see Google's purchase of Motorola), Facebook simply did what most established entities do, buy the smaller competitor. Google had done the same when it tried to compete with YouTube and wound up buying the video streaming website. So point number one, Facebook has apparently succeeded in expanding its business portfolio to the mobile communication platform.

The chat feature on Facebook has become a diminished feature of the social networking site as users opted for private messaging.

That problem has been rectified somewhat by the integration of the messaging and chat feature, however, the chat feature remains switched off by many of its users. WhatsApp on the other hand provides an instant, user friendly platform amassing users all over the world of close to 500 million users. Through this acquisition, the fight for which messaging platform is of preference to the public has been extinguished, and Facebook effectively has decisively established an additional avenue through which to serve its users.

Finally, statistics show that mobile phones share more photos through



WhatsApp than on Facebook, a key activity that has made Facebook so popular over the years. Probably more importantly is the fact that this activity is occurring in developing countries, where the app has grown immensely in popularity. Facebook have therefore seen an opportunity to expand into those regions in a bid to “make the world more open and connected”. Just days after the acquisition, WhatsApp had an outage for 3 consecutive days, not necessarily a great start to the partnership which will see WhatsApp remain independent, but certainly not the end of the world...is it?



Check(mate) your Privilege

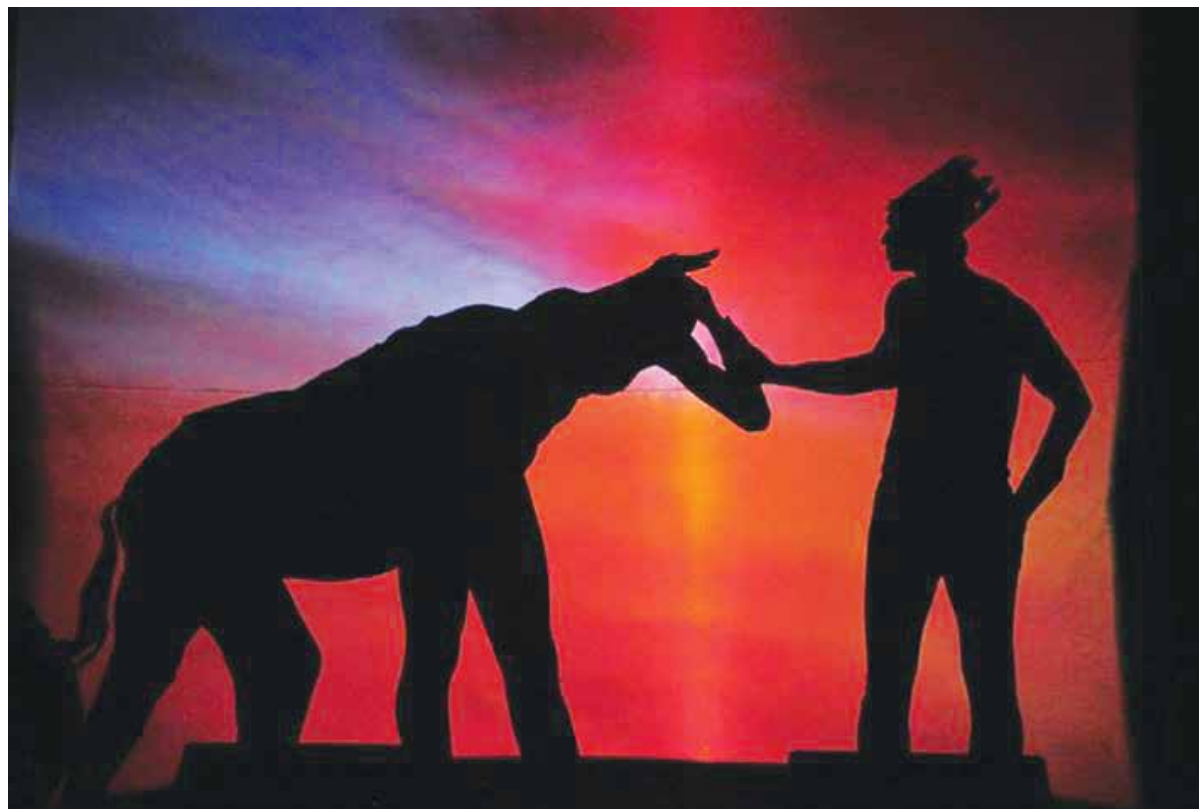
Carol Ann Cheah revisits Malaysian Night - now as a non-performing/producing outsider

It's one thing to write a review for an Imperial College student production. It's another thing to write a review for such a show you've personally been involved in for two years (both in acting and production) - and therefore already know the good/bad/ugly that comes with it. You find your pride and bias as an insider/alumnus of said production ("oh it was amazing and we could do no wrong!") grapples with your professional view as a neutral outsider with prior external stage experience. Still, that was the situation I willingly put myself in when I made a snap decision to attend Malaysian Society's MNight this year - this time as an audience member with no involvement.

If you haven't seen the infamously-vandalized poster located in the 4th floor of Central Library that's made the rounds on Facebook, ICU MNight is an annual 2-day production that takes place in the Great Hall. It's a showcase of Malaysian culture and quirks wrapped up in an acting and dancing extravaganza, with tickets for both nights selling out. This year's production was titled Checkmate, directed by Pashiini Supramaniam and Shi Kai Wei whilst being produced by Wee Kii Teh and En Lin Goh.

I took my seat in the packed hall minutes before the emcees - Clayton Qwah and Jia Sheng Lee (two of my fellow MNight 2012 alumni!) - made their entrance. With light-hearted humor and a good dose of cringe-yet-clever punnery, the duo set the stage(ha!) for the rest of the show, bringing audience energy levels up. They then made way for a spectacular opening dance filled with stunning shadow imagery, which started the show with a bang - whilst also introducing the plot and depicting some key characters.

The play revolves around a decade-long conflict between two fictional countries, Bolehland (pronounced bo-lay-h-land) and Kiasuland (kee-ah-soo-land) - a reference to the



A Scene from the Opening Shadow Dance

DANIEL SAW/ MALAYSIAN SOCIETY

friendlier "rivalry" between Malaysia and neighbouring Singapore. With both countries' royal families having suffered casualties in the war, a temporary truce is called. The Bolehland princes - Fitzgerald (Jae Hann Lim) and Edward (Edward Tan) - travel to meet the newly-coronated Kiasuland king, the hilariously quirky Raja Kingthik (Kharthik Chakravarthy) and his bubbly yet unrefined niece Princess Seraphina (Sharon Fu) for peace treaty negotiations.

Opposing ideologies between the princely siblings - cynical elder Fitz believes in war, younger naive Ed lives by diplomatic negotiation - served as a constant source of tension that underpinned the whole play, with hidden assassination agendas from their father (the duplicitous King Kang Kung, played by Wei Jian Tan) threatening to rear their ugly head.

During their visit, Prince Fitz and Princess Seraphina fall for each other, rendering the prince torn between his ideals of a hostile Kiasuland takeover and his desire to keep the princess happy. Drama rollercoaster all around, we say!

Despite the somber theme, the show was a barrel of laughs - just the way MNight traditionally is. It certainly wouldn't be an ICU MSoc production without the customary political jibes, inclusion of Manglish (Malaysian pidgin/slang) or pop culture references, and this year didn't disappoint. Cheeky homages were paid to prior Malaysian political gaffes (like the Sharifah Jahbeen "Listen Listen Listen" debacle) and neighbouring Singapore's quirks, plus an unexpected Doge reference had everyone in stitches. With a great mix of slapstick humor and cleverly subtle

double entendres (like a noteworthy "gun-polishing" moment between Fitz and Ed), the audience's funny bones got their fair share of attention.

The whole cast's acting was highly natural and a delight to watch, though special mention has to be given to the princes' assistants - Kieran (Dustin Chung) and Lyra (Sonali Nardkani.) These supporting characters served as effective comic relief and the perfect foils to the more-serious characters in the plot, with stellar slapstick-acting that stole the show. The Narrator (Wui Shen Ng) also deserves kudos for his clear, perfect diction and highly expressive "radio-friendly" voice throughout the play - even if we didn't see him acting onstage until his monologue at the very end.

Scene transitions involved a wide variety of cultural dances, ranging from Broadway to hip-hop to even

Chinese Lion dance and traditional Silat (Malay martial arts.) The choreography was top notch, with flawless execution from the dancers. At one point during the post-intermission Dikir Barat (a traditional Malay musical dance form), the audience got to enjoy a parody of Blurred Lines, where the lyrics included some cheeky bashing of rival universities - much to everyone's delight, non-Imperialites included. The music team provided the perfect cherry on top; live instrumentals peppered throughout the play ably emphasized the relevant moods.

At the end, with the two kings having been assassinated, the deceptively-sanguine (now Queen) Seraphina was revealed to have masterminded the deaths. This disturbing penny-drop moment came with the revelation that she had struggled for ages knowing that Kingthik had killed her war-loving father, and was merely fighting for the same ideals (two united countries) as the princes - giving the audience a chance to empathize with her actions. In a cruel twist of fate both lovers ended up dead - one at the hands of the other, denying the audience a happy ending and leaving them shell-shocked.

Given the nature of such a production - where most of the cast (all freshers!) and crew have minimal (or even no) stage experience, there were a few snags to be expected. Some scene changes were not as fluid and snappy as hoped, and there were certain times where the acting was slightly contrived, or the pacing felt rather draggy.

Despite that, it was fabulous overall. Imperial's MNight is unique in that it also has to cater to more non-Malaysians than other MNights in the country (it's 2 nights as opposed to just 1.) It's not an easy task given the cultural differences; Malaysians tend to approach/appreciate stage productions very differently to the British - but the cast and crew managed, taking care of both fellow countrymen and the non-Malaysians very well in the process. As an MNight alumnus, I was proud of what the younger generation pulled off that night, and how hard they worked for it. As that uninvolved audience member? I'll quote what Princess/Queen Seraphina herself said: "Wow, much deep. So amaze."



DANIEL SAW/ MALAYSIAN SOCIETY



Chubby Bunny - Chess edition

DANIEL SAW/ MALAYSIAN SOCIETY



DANIEL SAW/ MALAYSIAN SOCIETY



Editor: Carol Ann Cheah,
Michael Yat Kit Chung
food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FOOD

I can't see what I'm eating...

Plabon Saha went for a dining experience in the dark

I have previously heard of a restaurant where people dine in the dark and are served by visually impaired waiters. I never really thought much of it, until the film *About Time* when I decided this is something I should try at least once. So, I decided to take my girlfriend out there on a date last month for what turned out to be a truly unique experience.

Unlike the well-lit areas of west London that we are all used to, EC1 is not lit up just as well. Five minutes from the tube station, there lay a dimly lit restaurant off the main road. Once you enter, you are told to put away mobile phones and any other object that produces any form of light. A tab is opened up in your name and you are shown to the upstairs bar to have a drink and choose your menu.

The menu consists of four options: 'Red' for meat, 'Blue' for fish, 'Green' for veggie and 'White' is the chef's surprise. You don't really know what you are about to eat and those are the only choices you have. For the price of £51 for a three-course meal it's pretty steep, even by London standards. The tab opened for you at the start lulls you into a false sense of security and it's easy to lose track of how much you are spending.

After waiting a few more minutes, we are informed that our table is ready and are shown downstairs and through some heavy curtains to find a corridor. The corridor is lit only by a couple of dim red lights. We, alongside another

couple are told to wait in line with our right arm on the shoulder of the person in front. We met our waitress for the night who would be guiding us into the dining area and looking after us throughout the night. We went through a couple more sets of heavy curtains and voilà! Pitch black. All I could hear was the deafening sound of conversations and laughter that made me feel like I was in the middle of a bustling market.

I stumbled across the darkness, moving slowly and holding on to the waitress for dear life until my hand was placed on a chair. I was told this was my seat and once I sat down, I realised that I had lost my bearings and had no idea where the table was. Some shuffling followed before I realised that I was facing the side of the table and had been feeling up the arm of the person sitting next to me. As I turned towards my table, the first thing I realised was the strain on my eyes as they got used to the darkness. I can't recall the last time I was in the dark like this. I put my hand in front of my face and I was unable to make out its shape – there was not a speck of light in the near vicinity.

With sight diminished, your other senses are heightened. You are more in tune with the noise around you, trying to make sense of it all. I tried to put a face to the voices I heard, but it's very hard to tell much about a person from just hearing them speak. The atmosphere is also a lot friendlier than usual. You find yourself easily

involved in conversations around you as the barrier between strangers is suddenly lifted. There is no way for you to judge their reaction or read their body language, and you don't have to behave in a certain way either. It also paves the way for people being slightly more rude than usual, as the woman sitting next to me cracked a crude joke for the whole table.

Once the food arrived, eating was a lot more complicated than usual. At times, it's hard to find the food on the plate and you are often left wondering whether you have finished your meal. Someone from our table actually gave up cutlery and resorted to eating with their hands. Taste-wise, the meal was as good as any. A lot of guesswork is involved trying to figure out what exactly you are eating. I am told things such as vegetables often taste delicious if you don't know you are eating them; while the duck pieces I ate hardly tasted like duck. When we looked at the menu after we had finished eating, the only thing it seems I successfully guessed was the beef steak. But then again, I thought I was having beef all the way through.

Once we had finished eating and were led out from the dark room, the dimly lit red corridor seemed so much brighter than I remembered. I had to stay in the corridor for a good five minutes before I dared to venture into the lounge. I have never appreciated the power of sight more than that moment.

The bill was slightly steep for the



The exterior of the restaurant, in broad daylight

DANSLENOIR.COM

meal, I must admit. However, it should not be seen as just a meal in a restaurant. It is more of an experience – much like theme parks. Once you take that into account, and you know that this is something to do once in a while, things are not as bad as it seems. There are also information points in the restaurant which seek to explain the high cost. The company gets no subsidy from any government for hiring the visually impaired and a small portion of the cost of your meal

goes to charity. Furthermore, they require a lot more staff than a normal restaurant due to health and safety issues. It is great that they are able to give the disabled jobs, and the unique experience offered is certainly worth being a talking point for many.

Dans Le Noir. 30-31 Clerkenwell Green EC1R 0DU. 020 7253 1100. <http://london.danslenoir.com/> £42 for 2-course meal and £51 for 3 courses. Student discounts available.

How to make cakes on the pan



#FelixFood MICHAEL YAT KIT CHUNG

Well, okay, by that we meant pancakes. It was Shrove Tuesday this week and if you missed out, here is a quick and simple recipe to make one over the weekend and it would be a great social occasion for the house/flat/your friends!

To make around 12-14 pancakes, you will need: 110g plain flour; 2 eggs; 200ml milk; 75ml water and 50g of butter.

Sift the flour into a large mixing bowl and add a pinch of salt. Then, make a well in the centre of the flour and break the eggs into it. Whisk the eggs until it is all mixed and make sure you do not leave any lumps of flour in the mix.

Add a small amount of milk and water mixture, gradually, whilst whisking to ensure the batter is smooth.

Melt the butter in the pan, then spoon 2 tbsp of it into the batter and whisk. Pour the rest of the butter

into a bowl and use it to lubricate the pan with some kitchen towels.

Get the pan really hot, then turn the heat down to medium and do a tester for size. Normally a ladle is just right for a normal sized pan. Pour the batter in and it only takes around a minute to cook, then use your ninja skills to flip the pancake, or use a spatula if you are feeling less brave. The other side should only need a few seconds and it is ready to eat!

Traditionally you would have the pancake with lemon juice and a sprinkle of sugar, but, to be honest, you can put whatever you want on them. From cheese and bacon to bolognese; from ice cream to nutella! Perhaps you could try banana, crispy bacon and syrup!

We would love to hear what toppings you have with your pancakes – let us know by email or social networks!

**We are talking
food rut solutions
next week.**

**We would love
to hear your
creative ideas!**

Email

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

**Tweet or
Instagram:
#FelixFood**

Union Page

Take the Union Survey and you could win a prize!

Every day Imperial College Union is working for our 16,000+ members ensuring that their time at Imperial is the best it can be. We are the voice for all students at the College and represent the views of students in College committees, in departments and in the services we run. As a not-for-profit charity we measure our success in the impact we have on our members' lives.

The Union Survey is your chance to let us know what you think about the many services that we run and provide. The survey doesn't take long to complete and helps us understand how to make your Union better for you. Changes we have made over the last few years have helped us become one of the most improved Students' Unions in the UK. In the recent Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey we became the fourth most improved Union over the last two years.

For just a few minutes of your time, you could win one of the following prizes:

- ▲ 2 x iPad Minis with Retina Display
- ▲ 2 x £20 Union Shop vouchers
- ▲ 2 pairs of Summer Ball 2014 tickets
- ▲ 10 x Nando's Combo Meal vouchers!

imperialcollegeunion.org/union-survey

We want to know
what you
think
about



Pick a Pizza (or an ale!)

Every month we hold polls to pick which guest pizza we should sell in FiveSixEight and which guest ales we should sell in both the Postgraduate h-bar and Union Bar.

Pick a Pizza is back! You can vote for a guest pizza to be on our menu in March, alongside the regulars on our menu. This month's choices are:

- ▲ **Pizza Wild Wild West:** Pepperoni, Baked Beans, Onion, Tomato & Mozzarella
- ▲ **Pizza Mexican:** Spicy Beef, Mixed Peppers, Onion, Tomato & Mozzarella
- ▲ **Pizza Tropicana:** Pineapple, Ham, Tomato & Mozzarella
- ▲ **Pizza Caribbean:** Tuna, Mixed Peppers, Onions, Jalapeño Chillies, Tomato & Mozzarella

The poll will close at 17:00 on Friday 14 March and the winning pizza will be on sale the following week.

imperialcollegeunion.org/food-drink

Elections Results Party



The Elections Results Party on Friday 14 March is a chance for everyone to come and celebrate the end of campaign week - whether you are successful in your campaign or not, you deserve to enjoy yourself after two weeks of frantic canvassing!

The end of the voting period can often be overwhelming and exhausting. We are holding an Elections Results Party for every candidate, campaigner, voter and student to attend and celebrate the end of the Big Elections 2014 together.

With a candidates' drinks reception from 19:00 - 20:00, the party starts at 20:00 for everyone else. With results being announced until 22:00, the atmosphere will be electric! The results will be followed by our resident iPop DJ until 02:00 and entry to the party is completely free.

With a photo booth, student presenters, Big Elections themed decoration and confetti canons, this is an evening not to be missed!

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Ask Annie, your friendly Agony Aunt

Agony Aunt Annie Whiteley is the woman who fought for women's cloakroom facilities at Imperial, and thus is qualified to solve all your problems.



Help! I accidentally sent a dick pic to my ex-girlfriend. The only problem is that we ended on really bad terms and we have a lot of mutual friends, and I'm worried about what she might do. How can I deal with this?

Embarrassed in Euston

You need to get on damage control straight away if you're worried. The first thing you do should be send her a message and apologise. Don't try and justify it by saying that it was an accident and you meant to send it to someone else, just apologise for causing any offense. You have to be prepared for the possibility that she'll tell people, but sending dick pics is pretty normal these days, you don't need to be very embarrassed. Try and downplay it, apologise, and hopefully it'll blow over.

Help! I recently came out to my friends as bisexual, but no one believes me, and says that it's just a stepping stone on the way to coming out as gay. I shouldn't have to justify my attraction to both genders, how do I stop people questioning my sexuality?

Not confused in North Greenwich

Pretty much, just tell them to fuck off. Your sexuality is none of anyone's business, and you definitely shouldn't have to justify it. Once you've told them, no one has any right to question it, and no good friends would. Of course, it's alright for people to be curious about this new thing that you've told them, and they may have questions, but if they're questioning the validity of your orientation, they're not the sort of people you want to associate with.

Help! The girl I'm seeing has suddenly started ignoring me. We used to be in constant contact, texting all the time, but recently she's just stopped replying. I can see that she's read my messages, but she doesn't reply, and only contacts me when she wants something. Is she just stringing me along?

Strung along in Shoreditch

Honestly, she probably is. She's probably trying to keep her options open with you, but doesn't actually want to date you. You should make an offer to meet up, something very open that she won't refuse if she's interested. If she says no, she probably isn't looking to stay with you, and you should act accordingly.

Help! I can't stop gaming, and I realise that I haven't done any work this term, I've even stopped going to lectures. I don't know how to stop, and I don't know how to get back into working again, even if I manage to. Where do I start?

Addicted in Acton Central

The first thing you should do is prioritise getting back into lectures. Even if you're behind and confused, as soon as you get back and start taking notes, other bits will follow. Try and limit the amount you're gaming; make sure you're not letting it encroach on uni life (this does still allow plenty of time for gaming!). Once you've managed that, ask your friends for their notes that you've missed, and try to start going through them a bit at a time. Don't try and do everything at once, or you'll get overwhelmed, but there's still plenty of time to pull this back. Just set yourself limits on gaming and stick to them – have your flatmates enforce it if they have to! Good luck!

Help! I really want my girlfriend to stick a finger up my arse when she goes down on me. How do I bring this up?!

Curious in Camden Town

If you're in a stable and healthy relationship, you should be able to ask for something that you enjoy without making them feel like they're forced into doing something they're uncomfortable with. If you feel like this is something that you can't ask your significant other, you might want to re-evaluate your relationship. On a side note, in the interest of safety, make sure that you use a condom (which might encourage your girlfriend too!)

Annie's editorial

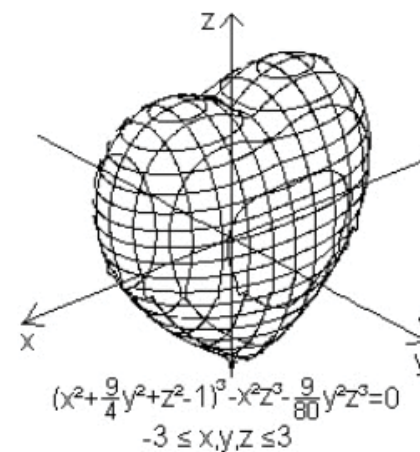
The V and her date: How did it go?

On Sunday, the first of (hopefully) many Lonely Hearts couples went on their first ever date. Our lovely lady (to be identified by her red coat) met our extremely generous respondent just ahead of a showing of *The Lego Movie*, who not only bought the tickets, but also bought the popcorn as he initially promised. What a gentleman!

Upon meeting, conversation between them immediately flowed, with plenty of laughter from both sides. During the film, conversation was restricted, but immediately picked up again as the credits rolled. Our enchanting couple found plenty to talk about, encouraged the other to try new things, and found good company in one another.

Ultimately, however, despite enjoying the date, there was no romance, with both sides deciding that they were very different people. Both found it a really enjoyable experience and would happily go on other dates in hope of finding the right person, so anyone who thinks these sound like the sort of people who you think you could get on with, send Annie an email and she'll set you up.

We've had a lull in Lonely Hearts, so if you're interested in going on a blind date, please send in a message, nothing makes Annie happier than matchmaking. These are real, this isn't a troll!



Send Annie your problems and suggestions at catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Annie's Lonely Hearts

Feeling lonely? We all know that it's hard to meet people at Imperial, so Aunt Annie wants to make it a bit easier for you. If you're looking for a special someone, missed a connection, or want to let someone know how you feel, send a message to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk and maybe you'll find a match here.

Responses to the lonely

Our lucky PhD student has received a message offering her some sort of free food! Hopefully this will go ahead next week and we'll have a success story to tell you!

"Denizen of a landlocked country, why won't you notice me? I would love you to (check)mate with me, but you spurn me every week. When will this end?"

Single sporty guy looks for someone to share Wednesday Sports Night with, who understands the need to wear ties and get very drunk. Girls outside sports teams will be happily considered, but can't judge any aspect of the lifestyle ;)

Forlorn fresher got his first low mark in a lab report, and is looking for someone to cheer him up. Anyone who knows this feeling, join me for a drink to share my pain?

Editorial candidate looks for partner to pass out flyers, accompany to lecture shout outs, and toss something other than sweets. If you're interested, give me one, then put a 1 next to my name on the union website. Come find me on results night when I'll be in the Union, too drunk to care.

See something you like? Send us an email and we'll pass it on. Let Annie help you get lucky in love.



 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

HANGMAN

This Week In The Past

The Historian
Hangman Contributor



1907-2013 – Anonymous automatons voted into varying roles for Imperial College Union.

2002 – Switzerland narrowly votes to join the UN. Most who voted against were concerned that joining any sort of organisation would contravene their sacred vows of neutrality.

1999 – Paul Okalik was elected the first Premier of Nunavut. Despite being elected to an essentially dead-end backwater of Canada, it is widely accepted that he was one of the greatest leaders Canada had ever seen.

1945 – In a move that is thought my most historians to have ultimately swung the war, Finland declares war on Germany.

1665 – King Charles II declares war on the Netherlands. To be fair though, those Dutch bastards had it coming.

1519 – In what was probably a Bad Thing, Hernan Cortes arrives in Mexico.

1493 – Christopher Columbus arrives back from his moronic trip in which he consistently and stupidly mistook the West Indies for the Far East. Hangman cannot emphasise enough how much we feel Columbus was a fucking idiot.

ELECTORIAL

The Hangman
Hangman Editor



Due to an unfortunate set of circumstances that took this editor out of the country for 48 crucial hours, Hangman was unable to cover the beginning of the 'Big' 'Elections' '2014'. However, do not fear, because this week we give the full scoop in our Election Special.

We bring you in depth analysis of where the power at Imperial really lies. On top of that we have the inside scoop on how you'll be voting as well as a insightful and fascinating editorial piece.

Of course, first and foremost Hangman must encourage you to take the only noble course during these elections is not to vote.

All the candidates are, frankly, terrible. They are completely and utterly incapable of even slightly fulfilling the roles they've naively applied to.

By voting, you would achieve nothing more than to show to the world what an ignorant, gullible person you are.

This editor also urges you to fight the hegemonic stranglehold of Rector Sir Keith O'Nions. The man's unrelenting grasp on power can and must be stopped. The only reasonable way to do so is not to participate in these so-called Big Elections (see below for more details).

So, throw away the campaign leaflets, take up arms and storm the Queen's Tower, because the revolution's just beginning.

Puppet Government Undergoes Sham Elections

Timothy McSweeney
Hangman Contributor

A puppet government, nominally led by 'President' David Goldsmith has this week called elections that amount to little more than a PR sham. Whilst power is technically supposed to reside with the 'elected' President and Deputy Presidents, it is a well-known that de facto power really lies with the evil Rector, Sir Keith O'Nions AKA the Onion Knight.

Whilst it is thought that the day-to-day running of the Democratic Student's Republic of ICU is left in the hands of the puppets, it is well known that all key decisions are dictated by the Onion Knight. From his office atop the Queen's Tower, the all-seeing Rector misses nothing. Despite the UNs attempts to supervise free and fair elections, it assumed by most that the current crop of candidates will represent little more than new mouthpieces for the despotic leadership residing at the heart of the University.

"Want to vote but are too lazy to find out how Email hangman. felix@imperial.ac.uk and let us vote for you."

"HAD ENOUGH?!? Email hangman. felix@imperial.ac.uk."

Felix In The Past.



Student Carefully Considers All Candidates Before Voting For Friend

The Hangman
Hangman Editor

Following the release this week of the candidates' manifestos, an Imperial second year spent several hours carefully analysing the philosophies and stratagems of the various nominees.

Looking over the promises and ideas of those standing for all the major roles, the student painstakingly

tabulated all the pros and cons before ultimately deciding that his friend would get his vote.

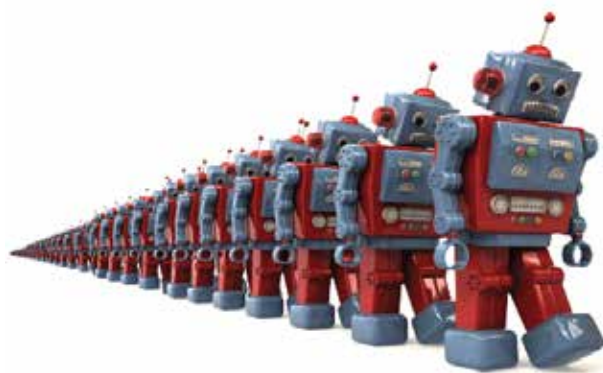
In an interview with Hangman, the student stated that whilst "there were many worthy candidates" he felt that "in the end, the person I know is probably the best possible person for the job".

"I mean, sure, the other people standing all look great and some of them have some really good ideas"

"But to be honest, I was always



going to vote for my friend, I mean, he's the only one I know". At press time, many students were bypassing reading the manifesto in order to vote for the only person they've heard of.



These could be any one of the previous ICU presidents or Deputy Presidents. Seriously, even the weird skiing machine from Wallace and Gromit's 'A Grand Day Out' had more original and free thought than these guys.

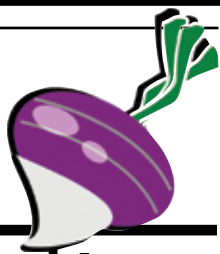
HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



"War Will Not Descend Into War" Claims War-Mongering Man

Putin Assures World

The crises in the Ukraine reached a peak this week with the invasion of the Crimea by Russian forces, however, Russian President, Vladimir Putin has moved to assure the World that the war would not degrade further into war.



© RIA Novosti. Aleksei Nikolskiy

"No one wants this conflict to develop into less than me" stated the President from an unnamed Russia Air Base near Volgograd.

a round of ammo across his shoulder and reached for his crash helmet.

"In fact, it would be an international disaster if this invasion of foreign territory was to become a full-scale invasion" continued the President as he pulled on his camo gear and slipped a pistol into the holster on his belt.

"Anyway I wish you would stop pestering me on the purpose and activity of our troops in the Crimea" the President said as he climbed into the cockpit of his Sukhoi PAK FA fighter jet.

"And whilst certainly the political situation in Kiev is not ideal for us right now, we would never move more troops and military equipment into the lands of our valued friends and neighbours" Added Putin as he slung

"I mean history quite clearly shows that neither Russia, nor any other European countries have any interest whatsoever in the Crimea" the former Prime Minister concluded before closing up the cockpit, sliding down his helmet and getting cleared for take-off.

Union Advertises for Nominees - Clearly unhappy with first nominees...

Sponsored Create Ad

It's Your Time to Lead
imperialcollegeunion.org



Imperial students, it's time to lead your Union. Nominations close on Sunday night.



Imperial College Union
Imperial students, it's time to lead your Union. Nominations close on Sunday night.



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CREDIT: YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE...

Teams To Play Other Teams

Sport To Happen.



Sport. Photo Credit: bbc.co.uk/sport

Hangman can confirm that this week, as with all weeks of the year, there will be several forms of team sports occurring.

It has been generally assumed that the superior teams with better players will win, however it's entirely possible this may not occur at all for a variety of reasons.

Sources confirm that there is a strong chance that, as well as the huge amount of team sport being played, there should be a significant amount of individuals sports to be played. Again, it is highly suspected that the better individuals will win, though this is far from certain.



ARIES

This week it's election week. As you steel yourself for a week of being harassed by people who normally blank you in the library, you're accosted by a desperate candidate - your money or your vote? Well what's money worth these days?



TAURUS

This week it's still election week, you haven't voted and you've started to receive stalkery messages from the Union. "Please vote!" they cry, "we're still desperate to beat St. Andrews!"



GEMINI

This week life continues as normal, you escape the election fever and manage to hide in your research group, or so you think... as you walk out for your Fuel lunchtime snack, you're accosted by an armed, orange t-shirt wearing Sabbatical officer. You die an honourable death.



CANCER

This week you are an incumbent in a elected position. As you read the manifestos of next year's victims you laugh, for all they say they claim to make things better, you know they're only in it for a tankard!



LEO

This week you decide to actually emerge from the library, only to be accosted by orange t-shirt wearing lunatics with big smiles and carrying a ipad. As you prepare your escape plan you trip over a loose book and smash your head on your keyboard. You voted RON for everything.



VIRGO

This week you wish it was last year, when RON was a Klingon. Never before have you been so fatally attracted to RON's crested eyebrows or his penchant for gothic fashion. This week you're forced to do horoscopes because the Editor thinks you have a sense of humour. Wasn't that a mistake? You decided to use



LIBRA

This week you're forced to do horoscopes because the Editor thinks you have a sense of humour. Wasn't that a mistake? You choose to use the time to ask people to send in horoscopes to hangman instead, let the people decide!



SCORPIO

This week you decide to run for Union President. Except it's too late, nominations have already begun. You resign yourself to wait until next year, besides, it will be easier the right?



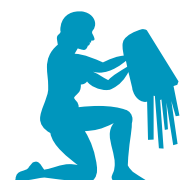
SAGITTARIUS

This week you experience some shameless self promotion. As you accept the flyers and sweet from the strangers your parents warned you about you find yourself plotting to take over the Union by force and reinstate pitchers at the bar! Huzzah!



CAPRICORN

This week you stay up until 6am doing a pullout for Felix. You send the paper off to the printers, only to find that you've printed the pages in the wrong order. Still it makes for a rather amusing read.



AQUARIUS

This week you take exception to the front page story. On principle you take a proposal to the New Clubs Committee asking to form a new club actually called "GineSoc". However, due to your illegible handwriting they reject you and tell you they already have a cinematic society.



PISCES

This week, you just wanna live. In desperation you turn to twitter to try to feel feel as though you're a apart of the cool crowd. Mistakenly you follow the #voteicu hastag and degenerate into a useless dribble of memery. At least you can slowly become more of a Union hack than you already are!

 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

SPORT

Premier League Predictions

James White

Football Columnist

West Brom vs. Man United (Saturday 12:45pm, BT Sport 1):

West Brom recorded their first win at Old Trafford for 44 years in the reverse fixture back in September. A lot has changed at the Hawthorns since then, and Pepe Mel is still searching for his first win as Baggies boss. Now would be a good time with the threat of relegation looming but he has come from behind to draw all four of his home games 1-1 and with United as unpredictable as a bag of revels of late, that's a result that would probably just about satisfy both managers. **1-1**

Cardiff vs. Fulham:

What a colossal relegation six-pointer this is. For what it's worth, I don't think either of these sides has the stomach for the battle they face and expect both to be playing Championship football next year. But whereas Felix Magath's Cottagers showed character in holding West Brom in their last away match, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Bluebirds were hapless at home a fortnight ago, losing 4-0 to Hull. Cardiff do not look like beating anyone in their current form, so I think this is Fulham's game to lose, and they have not lost on the road since January. **0-1**

Crystal Palace vs. Southampton:

There will be a major conflict of interests and clash of styles at Selhurst Park on Saturday. Tony Pulis's abrasive style of play suits the relegation scrap Palace find themselves in. Saints, meanwhile, has nothing to play for but the chance to showcase the free-flowing football for which Mauricio Pochettino has made his name since taking over. Both sides are on form and I cannot pick a winner. **1-1**

Norwich vs. Stoke:

Norwich's position seems to have scarcely ever changed since they returned to the top flight of English football two and a half years ago. They have managed to survive every season without ever looking in major jeopardy, and are on course to do the same this year. You might say the same for Stoke, who have experienced mid-table mediocrity for five or six years on the trot. As a result, I can see this being a dead rubber – the Potters seldom threaten on their travels and the Canaries struggle terribly for goals themselves. **0-0**

Chelsea vs. Tottenham (Saturday 5:30pm, Sky Sports 1):

With the competition for a European finish as fierce as ever, rather ironically Tim Sherwood could probably do without the distractions of the Europa League at the moment. One thing is for sure – he absolutely has to win this if Spurs are to stand any chance of a top four finish. But Jose Mourinho is the master of getting a result in big matches and the manner in which the Blues grinded out their last home victory over Everton epitomised his style. I expect a similar scoreline again here. **1-0**

Polo Nationals 2014

Olivia Szepietowski
IC Polo Captain

While the rest of the world was waking up to roses and chocolates on Valentine's Day, the Imperial College Polo Team was making the journey up to Rugby to compete in this year's National Universities Arena Polo Championships. Tim Wright (2nd year maths) and Olivia Szepietowski (3rd year medicine) were joined by James Faulkner (1st year engineering) who studies at Brunel University but trains with Imperial.

As the ball was thrown in on our first match against Edinburgh we all had a hairy few seconds where our enthusiasm and the quick reactions of our ponies nearly threw the entire team off! Luckily we all caught our balance and set about sending the ball towards goal. With only six minutes per match (called a 'chukka') we had very little time to get into the swing of it, it's a race to get as many goals as possible whilst committing as few fouls as possible. Within the first two minutes, we had a penalty in our favour when I was hitting the ball towards the goal and was slammed into the boards by one of Edinburgh's ponies. Thankfully I managed to score a goal despite this, so we suddenly had two goals to none and Edinburgh was beginning to

sweat. From that point our confidence was soaring and we managed to score another goal before the whistle blew, giving us a 3-0 win over Edinburgh; a great start to the tournament!

We had a few hours to kill before our second chukka of the day (and polo time is notoriously slower than normal time) so we headed to the only place where the floor wasn't two inches below water: the bar. After a few mulled wines, the team were feeling much warmer and extremely confident about our chances in the N2 division this year, especially after Imperial won the trophy last year in the division above. 52 Universities were taking part this year, some with multiple teams, so it was fantastic to meet so many polo enthusiasts and watch some excellent matches.

Our second chukka was against Portsmouth, a deceptively innocent looking team whose true colours were soon shown when the ball was thrown in. The first thing I felt was sharp elbows in my side trying to push me off my pony and they didn't relent for the next six minutes. Tim badly hurt his shoulder a minute in which caused problems throughout the chukka, while James and his pony were arguing over speed and direction. That is to say that we were having problems! Portsmouth scored the first goal, putting pressure on our team to keep up. As we rushed to take the ball, we fouled the other team and so they were rewarded a penalty shot at our goal, which they scored. This upped the ante so we responded by driving the ball hard up the arena and scoring our first goal. Perhaps the elation made us impetuous, because we went on to commit another foul against Portsmouth and so handed them an-

other goal, leaving the final score 3-1 to them. Disappointed as we were, it was a fantastically fast paced chukka that we all enjoyed and found both challenging and tiring, a good end to the first day.

That evening we headed to a nearby pub for dinner and had a romantic, candlelit Valentine's dinner for three before retiring absolutely shattered. Unfortunately for James, his bed was a sleeping bag in the arena so when the first rider entered the arena at 8:30am the next morning and saw him sleeping there they did what anyone in that position would do: blow a klaxon in his ear. So with that start to the morning we prepared for another day of polo.

With a few hours until our third chukka we went to support team GB playing against the USA and were blown away by the speed and agility of these young players. It was a hugely exciting, four chukka game, with a goal being scored every minute. It was tense at times, and the screams from the crowd were deafening but sadly not enough to bring GB to victory, and they suffered a 15-11 defeat.

With visions of the international teams in our heads, we headed into our first chukka of the day against the Defence Academy. Our tactics were good and we worked fantastically as a team but the match was tricky, especially with Tim injured. Elbows were back out and ride-offs were vicious, leading to a final score of 2-2. This led to an exciting, sudden death, penalty shoot-out with the Defence Academy scoring their goal by a hairsbreadth. Unfortunately we missed our penalty shot so lost the chukka but agreed that it was another exhilarating match that we thoroughly enjoyed. As we brought



IC POLO



IC POLO



IC POLO

the ponies back to the pony-lines I noticed my hand covered in blood and was almost relieved that I had a minor injury to show for the weekend, proof that I played hard! After getting my thumb bandaged up, we had a team talk over a few more mulled wines and prepared for our final match. Tim went to play a match for Oxford Brooks who didn't have enough players and managed to fall off his pony but not before shouting "getting off!" With three injuries in the bag now and us all relying on James' health we headed into the arena with high spirits, determined to enjoy (and survive) the final chukka against Bristol. From the moment the ball entered the line-up, we were in control and headed straight up towards the goal, scoring immediately. We threw our ponies round and galloped up to steal the ball from Bristol and send it back down to their end again: another goal. We were

on fantastic form, working brilliantly as a team and buoyed by the cheers and encouragement from our supporters. We ended our final chukka of Nationals with a 3-0 win, placing us 7th out of 16 universities (with Warwick taking 1st). That evening we celebrated in style with all of the other universities at a fancy dress party, consuming many bottles of champagne and even the odd champägerbomb (it's exactly what it sounds like, try it at your own risk!). We partied until the early hours and weren't surprised on Sunday morning to see many players with dark sunglasses on and popping Berocca. As we didn't have any matches on Sunday we got to enjoy the brilliant sunshine and watch some spectacular polo with friends, a perfect way to end such an exciting and challenging weekend. Congratulations Imperial Polo Team, now for Summer Nationals!



Imperial Eagles cruise to final of National Championships

Stefan Bauer
IC Handball

With the ever growing interest in Handball across the country, the National University Handball Championships have become a rather large event in recent years. This year saw the introduction of regional qualification rounds for the first time in the history of the tournament. Stefan Bauer, who has been representing Imperial at national and international tournaments since 2007, was excited to be part of the team once more. "I remember the first Nationals we played. There were less than 10 men's teams entered in the competition, but I knew the sport would grow. Now there are over 60 University teams in the country and in London we have managed to set up a LUS League. The sport has come a long way."

Imperial men's finished 3rd in the last two tournaments and are ranked amongst the favourites again this year. The women's team has joined forces with Kings College London and looked to cause an upset in the early stages of the tournament.

The men's team received a rather ungrateful draw with three of the top

four teams from last year's event featured in the same qualification group. Royal Holloway, who are the Eagles' closest rival in the league, were their first opponents in the opening game of the competition. Fully aware of the opponents' strengths and weaknesses, Imperial controlled the north Londoners fierce left-handed back player and focussed on fast transitional play. Their match plan worked beautifully and helped the Eagles to cruise to an opening 11:7 victory.

Meanwhile, the women's team faced arch rivals UCL on the other court, but was outplayed by their swift ball movement and great vision by the opponents' centre player. Southampton University was a much more equal adversary, but despite leading for most of the game, Imperial were robbed of their victory by a last minute goal. Margherita Ciano, who was unable to attend the first day of fixtures was positive despite the 2 opening defeats. "We only have to win one game to make it to the knock out game. If we manage that, we can keep our hopes of qualification alive!"

The men's team continued their winning streak with a straight forward win over Brunel 1st team. Lucas Carstens had to face his Super 8 team mate Oliver Barton, who played on the right wing for the Uxbridge based

team, but the Eagles came out trumps once more. "Brunel is strong on the wing and on the line, but we were able to minimize passes to either of these positions. That forced turn-overs that we converted in attack. This was a great team effort". Only an hour after their second game, the IC men had to face UCL and were given a chance to avenge the women's team. Recent encounters between those two sides have had the potential to be very heated, but the results were in favour of the Eagles. This game was no exception and ended 12:7 after 20 minutes. Sheng Hong Chai scored his first goal of the competition and was delighted with his first taste of University Championship action. "It was a great day and I am happy to have my name on the score sheet. Let's hope we can keep going like this".

The second day of competition saw the women face Brunel women's team. With a much more confident display, the Eagles ladies were leading for large parts of the game, but due to some rather questionable refereeing by an official who is also coaching Brunel, Imperial were robbed of their deserved victory in the last minute of the game. This meant that not even beating group leaders AECC would save the ladies team, which had performed admirably throughout.

The Men's team was set to face AECC in the early hours of Sunday morning in the repeat of the game for 3rd place in last year's competition. The entirely Norwegian team from a European Chiropractic College won the competition 3 years ago and has fielded strong teams on a yearly basis. Neither squad had lost a game at that time and the clash lived up to the spectators high expectations. Both teams were defending to an extremely high level and tried to keep their opponents out as much as they could. In the dying minutes of the encounter, a courageous wing shot from Tigau Daniel-Horja ended the match at 2:2 after 20 minutes. Despite the low score line, it was widely regarded as the toughest and most tense game of the weekend. Ruben Freytag was rather displeased with the result. "We defended extremely well. Our analysis of their previous games was spot on and we managed to control them for large parts of the game. But we rarely managed to put pressure on them in the second wave and from the wing positions; we were just too wasteful in attack."

Having dropped points in a Championship game for only the third time in 3 years, the Eagles were keen to put things right against the Essex Blades (2nd in last year's competition) in

their final group game. A win would guarantee top spot in the table and progression to the final stages of the competition. The Blades, who, on their facebook page, threatened to "destroy heavily every other team", had to win to avoid a knock-out game. An expectedly heated fixture ensued, but some impressive displays by Stefan Bauer in goal and Marios Papamichail as playmaker, 'destroyed heavily' the Blades from Essex and secured the top spot for the Imperial Eagles.

Club President Rishi De-Kayne, who was unable to attend the second day of the tournament due to romantic involvements, was very excited about the team's success. His girlfriend later stated, that he asked her "make a baby and call it Eagle" the same night.

Overall, the weekend was a giant success for handball and should strengthen the bid for a new BUCS application. As the only Olympic sport to not yet feature in Britain's highest university sports competition, the pressure is high to produce events like these and showcase the level and enthusiasm of the sport and the clubs alike. The final is set to take place on the weekend of the 8th/9th of March and the Imperial Eagles Men's team will be hoping to improve on their performances from last year and finally bring the trophy to London.

IC 1s thump UCL 5-1

Jack Robinson
IC Football

Heading into this match, IC were comfortably in 2nd position, four points ahead of our opponents, UCL 1s. A win would secure 2nd place, and IC went to Shenley looking to exact a sweet revenge. Having beaten UCL in the reverse BUCS home fixture 3-0 in the first half of the season, we lost 0-1 to them a few days later in LUSL due to a combination of an injury ravaged squad and a lacklustre performance.

The warm up consisted mainly of Imperial trying their best not to fall over. The pitches, although appearing smooth and nicely trimmed at first were, in fact, mostly waterlogged. Even Omar Amjad, on a brisk walk in his world renowned first gear, would have chopped up the grass to unplayable levels. In fact, Amjad apparently couldn't even shift from neutral into first as he didn't even turn up to play that day. Some crap about exams... Five minutes in, Paul Nugnet and Jim Beam Murphy combined well down the left before The Nug (#FearTheNugnet - Linstead is the first official victim) squared the ball to Crawford before he released Robinson into some space with a through ball. After running into one of their centre backs, he played a devilish back heel to Murphy behind him who smashed

a very well hit first time curler towards goal. It curled so much in fact that the keeper, originally diving to his left, had to then outstretch his right hand the other way to get a palm to the shot. It was all in vain however, as the parry just rolled into the back of the net. 1-0 with five minutes played.

Another 15 minutes of IC domination followed, with the only consolation for UCL being how politely they were relieved of possession time and time again. In particular Private Lawson (Keane) and Andy Pavvvv (White Viera) were doing well as holding midfielders, mopping up the mess and distributing the ball forward well. However, what then happened was a defensive implosion. A UCL ball over the top released their winger, who put in a good cross to the back post. Their other winger arrived, hitting the ball on the half volley and forcing a diving save out of Casas Bofarull, which he accomplished for the 135th time without misplacing a single thread of hair. The resulting spillage was lapped up by Jonty H 3 yards out who, possibly a bit peeved at being played at centre back due to Amjad at home warming up the oil in his idle engine, decided to look up, eye up the top corner, and find it without hesitation. Rumour has it Kolo Toure, wherever he was at that exact moment, spontaneously burst into tears and was inconsolable. Rumour also has it that Jonty in fact tried to clear the ball across the face of

goal but it instead ricocheted off Covers who was standing no more than 1m away from him. However, from a view from the other side of the pitch, the former is a more than adequate description of the events. 1-1.

IC were not pleased with this setback at all, and proceeded to apply the after-burners and immediately put UCL on the back foot again. Winger on a mission, Cravin'Dale was actually Cravin' the scalp of his opposition full back, Inglorious Basterds style, and effortlessly relieved him of his head-top before squaring a low cross to Crawford who found himself unmarked to fire a first time finish under the keeper. To reach the ball Crawford had quite possibly never run so fast in his life. When asked about this, he replied "I thought I heard the bells of an after school Ice Cream Truck. Sorry".

The first half finished 2-1, an uncomfortable score line for IC, and so Captain Robinson made the message clear at half time that at least two more goals without reply were needed to be in any sort of comfort. Luckily, that's exactly what happened.

The second half began well as the game was more open with UCL throwing men forward in their vain attempt to actually score a goal with one of their own players. About 10 minutes in, Private Lawson decided to grab the game by the scruff of the neck. Sporting the finest buzz cut Her Majesty's armed forces have ever seen (0-1-0), he delivered. Having just returned from a heavily weighted march to Blackpool and back, the team were forced to

listen to his tales of the 'unparalleled' and 'magnificent' Big Dipper. Teary eyed and emotional from having the privilege of seeing one of the Seven Wonders of the World up close, he produced his own Big Dipper. Controlling a ball on his battle-hardened knee he thrashed a volley over the despairing keeper into the back of the net from all of 35 yards. A 21 gun salute later and the game resumed.

Cravin'Dale was still as thirsty for milk as he has ever been (So good, Dale wants it back. And he will get it back.), and continued to give his opposite man nightmares. I'm not sure if you readers are aware, but #TheThirst is indeed Real and Dale has been diagnosed terminally ill with it. He was involved more than twice in a slick, one touch pass move down the right involving the dangerous triumvirate of Jim Beam Murphy, Ice Cream Man Crawford and Cravin'Dale. Jim arrived perfectly late just inside the box, a la Fat Frank, and finished with aplomb smashing the ball into the left corner. 4-1.

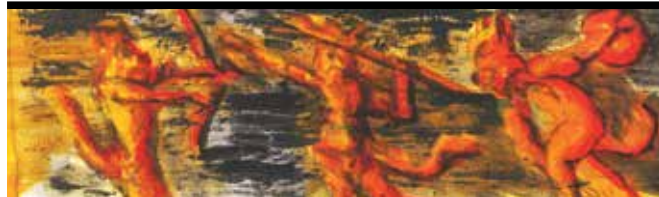
UCL were now in bits and pieces and were repeatedly sliced open on the counter attack. Murphy drove forward through the middle from a defensive corner before releasing Robinson straight ahead of him on the half way line with a through ball which left the centre back with no hope of catching him. Taking a couple of touches to steady himself, Robinson then calmly curled the ball round the keeper into the bottom right corner while still a good distance outside the box. 93

goals now for him in an Imperial shirt. With a minimum of 3 games left, the century looks a challenge, but definitely not impossible. 5-1, with 6 goals scored by an IC player. The match was well and truly over. Man of the Match was Cravin'Dale - #TheThirstIsSoReal in him that the award could never have been given to any other man.

This convincing win not only cemented the team's 2nd place position in the league, but also leaves them 2 points behind the leaders Hertfordshire, who they play the following week away in the final match of their BUCS campaign. Beating them would then put IC at the top of the table, with the ball being in Hertfordshire's court to get a result from a tricky away trip to Canterbury on the 19th March for the last match of the season.

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How to dismantle an “a-Tomek” bomb

Rob Hughes

IC Snooker and Pool

This year’s renaissance of pool at Imperial continued from within the icy grip of the Vauxhall holiday camp of Great Yarmouth. From the ashes of the once booming tourist area, rose the phoenix of Imperial Pool first’s season, with an exceptional mid-February display.

Preparation for the tournament had been far from ideal, with eleven players pulling out of the running within a week of the opening Thursday and the resulting loss of the second team halving the club’s chances of promotion. Worse still, Tomek ‘the aTomek bomb’ Szymaniec and Cheng ‘so good they named him twice’ Cheng looked set to miss their individual ties having been delayed by coursework assignments. Things were looking bleak as club president Max ‘Chalm down dear’ Chalmers, took on Connor ‘the postman’ in his first individual match, but a quick look at the drawsheet by Ben ‘not Sean Dyche’ Harvey revealed that both Tomek and Cheng would make their (fortuitously) late matches. This allowed Max, who with this tournament became the most capped pool player in the club’s history (since records began), to concentrate on what turned out to be an excellent game of pool.

‘The postman’ was a classy operator but like a dog in the front yard Max made his work extremely difficult with great tactical play and street-wise pool. This, however, was a very tough draw for Max (as always seems to be the case) and eventually he succumbed 3-1, with the postman delivering.

It was decided that going out might be a good idea and the team gorged themselves on fish and chips in preparation for their upcoming fixtures.

Tomek finally arrived at the holiday park at 5:55pm, and calmly strode off to play his match as the team dispersed to their respective tables. By 6:15 both Cheng and Rob ‘the Bank’ Hughes were out, with Rob having played mature student Mike Giles and been obliterated and Cheng suffering a similar 3-0 defeat. Everyone converged to watch Ben take on an Oxford undergrad with a striking resemblance to Jesus in a final frame which was painful to watch. Ben had been put in an impossible situation and after a series of excellent attempts to escape from it, lost.

It was at this point that Tomek happened to mention that he had won his match and was through to the next round. The newcomer was up again that evening and just kept on winning, with a beautiful 3-2 performance against Lorne McConnachie of Abertay. Make no mistake, his opponent could play, but Tomek responded to everything thrown at him, with a stunning double to wrap up the

first frame particularly sticking in the memory (similarly memorable was his opponent’s face after it). Next to feel the sting of Tomek’s cueing was an unsuspecting lad from the University of Hertfordshire’s recently formed pool club, with a comfortable 4-1 win capping a great three hours’ work for the ‘aTomek bomb’. His reward was a last 64 match against the 9th seed James Brill on the Friday afternoon.

That evening, the team slept about as well as possible in sub-zero conditions and everyone was well rested and ready for the next day’s play. You wouldn’t know that, however from the first team shield match though, with Warwick 3 running out 6-1 winners (predictably Tomek won the one frame) with no one really on their game. At this point the team were somewhat despondent, unaware of that fact that they had just played the best team in the group.

The resulting malaise followed the team into their next match until, when 3-1 down, Nottingham Trent 2nd’s captain frantically called over the organisers to look at Cheng’s shoes. Black shoes were a requirement for the tournament and Cheng’s were unfortunately a very dark brown. Despite having potted the black to win the frame Imperial were docked it and told that they must provide Cheng with black shoes.

The final score was 6-4 to Imperial, even with the team having to constantly swap footwear.

The team matches were over for another day and the squad assembled to watch Tomek play his last 64 match. He played fearlessly in the face of an opponent who was, as his name suggested, brilliant and even won the first frame to put him on the ropes. But James Brill wasn’t the 9th seed for no reason and responded with some great pool to win 4-1. Tomek could be very proud of his debut performance and gave an excellent player a lot of problems.

The Imperial five then decided to wind down by taking part in the evening speed pool team tournament, a version of the game with essentially no rules. The aim was to start from the break and pot every ball on the table as fast as possible, with each team member starting when the previous one finished. The first team to have all their players clear up won. The atmosphere at the event was something akin to that of a football match, with Strathclyde and Nottingham Trent in particular making it very lively and pushing the boundaries of the dress (or lack thereof) code. Imperial, having never played this form of the game before, were out in the first round, but plan to practise this great form of the game for next year’s event.

Saturday was Imperial’s busiest day in the team shield tournament with three group matches to play and more to follow if they finished 2nd or higher. First up were Strathclyde 2, who had one or two dangerous players in their ranks. A shaky start saw Impe-

rial briefly behind in this match, but Strathclyde’s loudness seemed to put their own players off more than ours and Imperial ran out 6-4 winners (although it should have been more).

The big London derby followed, with UCL 1 the pre-tournament favourites to take the group. They were, however, destroyed 6-1, with Max twice producing exceptional dishes and both Tomek and Ben winning both their frames. Disgruntled, their team captain mumbled something about having to arrange a ‘friendly’ to get revenge before the end of term, something which the team agreed they would look forward to.

That meant that, going into the final game against group whipping boys Salford 2nds, Imperial were guaranteed to progress with one more victory. To everyone’s surprise, the Salford players most of all, Imperial went 2-1 behind early on, with Rob missing the chance to win an easy frame and others losing unluckily. The remainder, however, of the frames went to Imperial, with Rob atoning for his earlier frame loss with the finish of his life to secure a 6-2 victory.

Due to several hold ups in play, Imperial went straight from the final group game into their first knockout match, which was against Salford’s first team. This was the tightest match of the tournament, with some nice play all round and Tomek dazzling on the big stage again. After a great match, Imperial were 5-4 up going into the last frame.

Cheng was playing Salford’s number five in a horrendously tactical frame, which neither player was enjoying. Shot after shot saw the frame get more and more difficult for both players until at one point it became impossible for Cheng. He clipped his opponent’s ball, but the Salford man didn’t seem to notice. A cry of foul came from the crowd (with coaching being against the rules!) and the referee was called over. Cheng’s opponent now claimed to have spotted the foul all along and was allowed two shots, with which he finished the frame.

With the result being a draw, it went to a three frame shoot-off between each team’s three best players. Max, Ben and Tomek were put forward, with Salford’s three all very able players. Max was given one very difficult chance in his frame before losing and Tomek played some excellent pool to take his frame to the black. A wonderful double from the Salford man sealed Imperial’s fate.

Overall the group can be immensely proud of its achievements over the four day event, with several firsts for an Imperial team and plenty of reasons to be optimistic for the future. Four of the five team members will return next year and two were only in their freshman year. This is a team which can, and will, improve for next year and will stand a good chance of promotion by the time next February rolls in. More importantly, we thrashed UCL.

Imperial Cross Country produce Strong Performance at the Hyde Park Relays

Chris Bannon gives his account

On 15 February, 2014, over 120 runners lined up alongside the Serpentine to start the 66th Hyde Park Relays, with each men’s/mixed or women’s team comprising of six and four members completing laps of roughly 5km and 3km respectively. In total over 600 people were warming up ready to complete their lap meaning the start/finish line was a hive of activity.

The men’s and mixed race went off at 2pm followed quickly by the women’s field five minutes later. Just before quarter past the lead group sprinted their way down the finishing funnel to pass over to their second runners. Leading the men’s pack home on the first leg was club captain Chris Bannon with a blistering time of 14:55, this proved to be the fastest leg of the day by over 10 seconds. He handed over to new club member Gil Machado who started his lap with a near 45 second lead.

Meanwhile Imo Simmonds brought the women’s A team home in amongst the leaders with the fastest IC time of the day on women’s course in 11:24. She passed the metaphorical baton onto Sophie Kirk who 12:48 later passed over to Antoinette Hardijzer; who set off on her A team debut (she would later run another two laps for other teams).

Meanwhile, in the men’s race ultramarathon specialist James Ellis led the race out on the third leg before losing two places in a slight detour before bringing the team home in third place to hand over to Matt Douthwaite, who continued a strong run of form to break 17mins for the lap.

Further back in the field, William Jones was roughly 15km through his solo ‘Milan’ effort to complete all six laps (30km) of the men’s course by himself. Alongside him the ICXC Boiz team were steadily picking their way through the field whilst some of their team were simultaneously recovering from a night out the evening before.

The other women’s IC teams were also lapping well with strong runs from social secretary Isobel Holding, triathletes Sian Morgan and Vicki Solly as well as new club member Lucinda Smart all breaking 14 minutes, showing good speed in preparation for the upcoming Silverstone Half Marathon.

In the last few legs the front few teams held their positions with Faron Hesse putting in a superb 15:42 lap before handing over to Liam Smith who led the men’s A team home with a 16:22 lap to 3rd overall in a time of

1:36:39 (and 2nd university team) closely behind 1st place Oxford University A (1:35:25) and external team Guac ‘n’ Rollers (1:36:06).

The women’s A team finished strongly with Kimberly Mason running the anchor leg in a time of 12:38 racing right to the line to give a total time of 50:10 and 9th place in a strong field led by Oxford A and B teams (1st in 45:01 & 2nd in 46:16) followed in 3rd by Bristol in 46:06.

The fastest legs of the day went to Kate Niehas (10:42), Hannah Kitchen (10:48) and Sarah McCuaig (11:06) in the women’s race with Christopher Bannon (14:55), Glen Watts (15:08) and Alex Muir (15:23) taking the fastest legs in the men’s race.

As the day progressed, many more runners from universities across Europe, and from departments and halls within Imperial finished the course. William Jones finished his six legs in a total time of 2:04:06 averaging just under 21minutes for each 5km lap whilst finishing well into the top half and beating many university teams in the process! Xenia Hall led home the internal halls competition by nearly 5minutes, absolutely demolishing strong competition from Fisher, Beit, Wilkinson & Weeks and Southwell & Bernard Sunley. Following the end of the race, it was time for the celebrations to begin, with food and prize giving in the SCR leading onto an after party in the union with the other universities. I would say more but there seems to be group amnesia about the exact events of the night, potentially because everyone was so tired from racing; or maybe due to the gratuitous amounts of Jäger consumed and the boat racing! The next morning there was the obligatory hangover breakfast for those who slept over followed by long runs and a return to training or coursework for many within the club.

Special thanks must be given to all who helped out on the day: setting up, marshalling and taking down the course; timing and organising the results; preparing and serving the food; and sleeping at the union to host the other universities. This event wouldn’t have been possible without the three organisers: Johnny Li, Oliver Ashe, and Milan Misak, with the guidance and help of captain Chris Bannon and club secretary Matt Douthwaite.



Devils take Varsity Victory against UCL



IC ICE HOCKEY

Oli Clipsham describes the action as Devils take momentous victory in shootout

The Imperial Devils retain their London Ice Varsity crown in a thrilling 5-4 shootout victory over the UCL Yetis.

Spurred on by a rousing cheerleading performance from the IC Titans in front of a 600 strong crowd, the tone of the game was set only 50 seconds in, as Devils Gus Zimmerman rocked a UCL player bearing down on goal only for it to be deemed tripping. The Devils' penalty kill was set to work and was impressive throughout the game, valiantly denying the Yetis any powerplay goals throughout the game including a five on three advantage for UCL at one point during the third period.

The Devils opened the scoring only moments later when Ryan Ritchie latched onto a pass from Max Fink and leathered a shot past the hapless Yeti keeper. The Yetis were looking for an immediate response and the Devils found themselves under siege with goalie Stefan Nubert making several exceptional saves to keep the Devils in front. The Yetis did find their equaliser after picking up a rebound but the Devils responded in kind only a minute later with Ryan Heaton picking up a long pass and slotting home on the breakaway, giving the Devils a 2-1 lead after the first period.

After a cagey start to the second period, the Yetis restored parity as their star defenceman managed to find an extra gear and slip past a few checks to score. Tensions were notched up a scale as neither side wanted to give up any opportunities and several big hits from both sides riled up both teams. This culminated with the UCL Yetis captain challenging Ryan Ritchie to a fight, which was quickly settled with a single jab to the nose (check it out on Youtube!) sending the UCL player hitting the ice faster than Tim Runcorn can strap pedo beers at the AGM. Pushing to score late in the second period with a man advantage, an unfortunate break allowed the Yetis to capitalise and come into the final period with a 2-3 lead.

UCL quickly found themselves a man down after a Yetis player retaliated after being on the receiving end of a hit from Angus Coleman. The undisciplined Yetis were made to pay after Ryan Heaton banked in a rebound on the powerplay. With the Devils garnering momentum, the Yetis could only attempt to halt the constant waves of attack by illegally taking out Devils players. The Devils cashed in on the powerplay once again to take the lead as Ryan Heaton completed

his hat-trick after creating space with those nifty stick handling moves. With the game seemingly reaching its conclusion, agonisingly the Yetis mustered a response with 2 minutes left to take the game into overtime. Both sides exchanged chances but with no breakthrough, the game was to be decided in a shootout. Ryan Heaton converted to give the Devils the advantage only for the Yetis player to even the stakes with a slapshot. After two more attempts, Max Fink pulled an incredible move, sending the Yeti keeper to the ice with a fake shot before slotting in an open net. Stefan Nubert then cemented his credentials as man of the match as he stoned the Yeti shooter to crown Imperial as the London Ice Varsity 2014 champions.

If you missed out on the London Ice Varsity you can see the mighty Imperial Devils take on the Kent Knights in their penultimate game of the season on Saturday 8th March. Face off is at 7pm at Streatham Ice and Leisure Centre (a couple mins walk from Streatham rail) and it's completely free to watch. If you're interested in playing ice hockey, email ice-hockey@ic.ac.uk for more information – be sure to keep an eye out for our Fresher Fair stall next year!

IC stroll past LSE

Henry Garner
ICUAFC

It was a typically busy Saturday morning at South Kensington station as the 4th team gathered for their journey to #FortressBerrylands, eager to prove their worth against top-of-the-league LSE 4s. In one of the tightest LUSL Division 2 title races seen in decades – only two points separated the top 4 – this was a must win for both teams concerned. But it was particularly important for us, since we had played at least a game more than our main rivals, LSE 4s and LSE 2s (no offence QM 2s). Our plight wasn't helped by a certain Frenchman, Sofiane Hamadi, who decided to arrive 30 minutes late to the station, eating into precious warm up/banana consumption time. Despite this fashionably late attitude from Sofiane he would later repay his debts by scoring a fantastic early goal. After being slipped in by the on-form Fogo 'The Enigma' Adelowo with a sumptuous through ball behind their bewildered left back, Sofiane took one touch out of his feet before sweeping the ball emphatically into the bottom left corner. 1-0 IC 4s.

Despite our strong start, some nerves kicked in and the league leaders inevitably responded from their sluggish opening. Our faith in the world renowned ICUAFC tiki-taka style was coming back to bite us as the sticky Berrylands pitch and a couple of sloppy touches led to losing possession in dangerous areas and conceding silly fouls. A devilish delivery from a set piece led to an equaliser being bundled in by their '6+ centre half. 1-1.

The momentum appeared to have shifted in the game. But a scintillating breakaway only minutes after the equaliser, led by Canadian import Daniel Gregory's perfectly timed over the top through ball (LB+Y) to Alex Craving-Dale, who broke the opposition's frankly appalling and ill-judged offside trap to be clean through. Craving-Dale flicked the ball over the keeper and casually side-footed it into the back of the net.

Our front four continued to use their pace and intelligence to cause plenty of problems to the LSE backline, who resorted to dirty tactics such as blasting the ball into Gregory's stomach, winding him badly. In fact it was only a few minutes after his winding that the irrepressible Gregory managed to score our third to put us 3-1 up. Confidence was high and after some intricate play in the midfield

Craving-Dale was released down the flank, Gregory struck it with his weaker right foot on the volley, producing a stunning Van Basten-esque shot into the top right corner. 3-1, three quality goals. We went into half time on a high.

The second half produced a less frantic opening but exchanges were still tense. The next goal was all-important and both teams knew it. We continued to create openings and the ball somehow managed to not go in after a point blank header from Adelowo was saved on the line by their keeper. Despite many fierce claims that it had indeed crossed the line, Fogo was unable to add to his 19 goal tally. Vicious rumours are that Fogo is planning to write a letter to BUCS demanding goal-line technology be implemented into every game, such is his thirst for fantasy points.

The key goal finally came after an inspired double substitution by yours truly, bringing on Josh Parsi and Josep Melé for the last 15 minutes. The fresh legs made an immediate impact, as Josh lofted the ball towards Josep, who cushioned the ball with his instep before looping an acrobatic volley into the top corner. Game over.

Craving-Dale added one more to his tally, assisted by Josep, to put the game truly to bed. To their credit, they fought to the end and had a late penalty appeal turned down. Other than that, the game turned into more of a training match. Sam 'Edin Dzeko' Duffield went on a mesmerising run down the left wing, beating (according to him) 12 players before selflessly cutting the ball back but to no avail. Even I made my own burst from centre back, getting on the end of a Dale cross only to head just over. It could have been eight or nine, but we had to settle for five as the final whistle went. Only two more to go in our charge for promotion.

INSIDE: Imperial 1st XI thump UCL

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