



Felix

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issue 1599

February 27th 2015



Arts: the journey issue

Exploring the narrative of change

Pages 23 to 26



The government crackdown on international students staying in the UK

Felix investigates the future for international students and their rights to stay in the UK after they graduate

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Imperial students crash the BRIT awards



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Robin McGhee: the next Kensington MP?



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Celebrating the brightest and whitest



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IC Athletics takes mascotry to a new level



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This week's issue...

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Felix Editor || Philippa Skett

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What's on this week:

Nominations close for the Big Elections

Feb 29th, 23:59, Online

Do you like student politics, hack talk, complaining over policies and stalking Chris Kaye? Run in the BIG ELECTIONS, and join the trend that is sweeping campus: running for pointless roles to simply make your CV look great.

IT'S FREE TO DO TOO!

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

In last week's issue, an article, entitled "Why did no-one tell us College wants to shut our halls?" we stated that Tom Wheeler, Imperial College Union President, knew about the hall closure in October, and cited minutes of the Community and Welfare Board, available online on the Imperial Union website, as evidence of this. However,

the minutes actually stated that questions were being raised as to what is happening to the hall, and did not explicitly state they were closing. We would like to offer apologies to Wheeler for this inaccuracy.

Get into student politics to legitimise moaning about College

This week we've gone all political; we've covered the resignation of the Kensington MP over the "cash for access" scandal, the government tug of war over international students and their right to stay in the UK after graduation, and we've thrown in an interview with Liberal Democrat MP Robin McGhee for good measure.

This is very apt considering that student elections are due to kick off on Monday too. Student politics will be very much back on the agenda next week as the campus is covered in posters, the JCR is littered with fliers and free sweets are everywhere in between.

There will be badly made t-shirts, there will be buzzword filled manifestos and let's hope there will be at least one candidate that thinks it's a good idea to storm across campus with a megaphone.

These students will be running for full-time and part-time roles, including those that make up the Imperial College Union sabbatical team (Can we stop trying to make Officer Trustee happen, it's never

THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL

going to happen).

These are the roles that represent students to College, and although whether College actually listens is another story altogether, these are still the only people that give us the best chance of getting our point across to the big kids in the Blue Cube.

With lots of stories this year highlighting how infrequently College listens to us, consider choosing a candidate that may finally get our point across. We need student representatives that are happy to go into meetings and not pussyfoot around all the jargon and buzzwords that college staff has a tendency to throw about. We need student representatives that know enough about the systems in place to then challenge them, and make sure there is change. We also need student representatives that understand what issues affect students, and how they

should be addressed.

Although to be fair, as long as our sabbaticals don't take cash in hand to bring papers to Union Council, they are still doing better than the adults that represent us in government.

Saying that, the role of *Felix* Editor is also up for grabs too. Do you think you could improve this stellar publication? Do you like challenging College, the Union and the rugby boys over their email content? Can you read and write? You might be the perfect candidate for next year's *Felix* Editor.

Nominations close on Sunday evening, so if you want to get stuck in, you've only got two more days to decide. If you've got pissed at any of the stories we've ran this year, whether it was the closure of Weeks, the amenities fund cuts, medic money struggles or smashed coach windows, get involved with the Union, have your say and make a difference.

Alternatively, if you get involved and still nothing changes, at least you have a legitimate excuse to then bitch about it all.



Issue 1600 is hitting campus next week...

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Printed by Iliffee Print Cambridge, Winship
Road, Cambridge.

Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711
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Front page picture: Wiki commons



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News

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Misogynistic emails sent out to Rugby Club mailing list

PHILIPPA SKETT
FELIX EDITOR

Emails sent to the ICU Rugby Football Club (ICURFC) mailing list recently have contained misogynistic content, despite previously being warned by Imperial College Union to moderate their “inappropriate” language.

One was sent earlier this month, describing players on the IC Netball team as “too loose,” whilst another described the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) netballers as “easy pickings.”

The emails, sent to the entire ICURFC mailing list, were sent by the social secretaries of the club.

The team took part in the Netball pub-crawl, back in the beginning of February. One of the emails informed the team that they were planning to leave the Union bars later than expected however, “due to the netballers being too loose.”

The team also planned a social with at the RVC, which took place this Wednesday. The email sent to the team by the social secretaries described how, due to the high number of women at RVC, their netball team is starved of “male contact,” and how last time they attended, the team saw a “86% success rate, and certain individuals claimed to have necked 31 different ladies.”

Felix contacted the team, and were told that the “The comments were written by [the social secretary] and

do not represent opinions held by any members of the club.”

Felix was also asked not to reveal the identities of those who sent the emails, after one of them contacted *Felix* directly and told us how they were in the process of applying for internships, and didn’t want their name printed online.

The club captain has since revoked the mailing list privileges from the social secretaries, and has warned the rest of the committee that such content is inappropriate.

They also told *Felix* that they were sorry the emails were released in the first place.

The club captain said: “These messages were not the approved by the club. For years the mailing list has always been accessible by all members of the committee, however as the committee grew these rules were not changed and with recent events we now made it so all emails must be approved by somebody of the Exec committee.”

“We are very sorry that it took us this long to update our system and that it took someone to have to send out these emails for us to notice it needed updating.”

Felix also spoke to RVC, who told us: “The RVC Student Union does not condone the use of sexist or derogative language used in the email, and we would not allow any RVC teams to act in such a manner.”

The RVC Rugby Football Club (RVC RFC) stated that, considering the “university rugby scene”, the email could be “far worse.”



Despite that, they also added: “The RVC RFC does not endorse the sexist language used in the email, nor does the club like the women of the RVC Netball Club being objectified in the way that they have.”

“The email suggests a lack of modern thinking and thoughtlessness.”

The RVC Netball Captain appeared

slightly more forgiving, telling *Felix* that: “We understand that the email was aimed at a specific audience and that the boys would not speak in this manner to any of our girls.”

“They were charming and polite throughout the social and no girls felt there were any sexist or derogatory remarks made that evening- Perhaps the language was a crude attempt to

tempt more boys to attend the social.

“I have had no complaints or comments of any kind and it seems a shame that one member’s moment of stupidity could ruin the reputation of the whole rugby club.”

“I am sure this will not happen again and that our relationship with the IC rugby club with not be affected.”

ArtsFest fills the campus with free art and culture

PHILIP KENT
DEPUTY EDITOR

Last week, the Arts and Entertainments Board of Imperial College Union put on ArtsFest, a week-long celebration of the arts in association with Arts Imperial.

The week featured performances and events by all manner of Arts and Entertainments Board clubs, including the various musical groups, LeoSoc, and A Cappella, amongst others.

The week kicked off with

the “Fantasia Film Night”, a collaboration between Sinfonietta, FilmSoc, and Imperial Cinema where scenes from Disney masterpiece *Fantasia* to live music. ICTV also played a number of short films.

The scheduled Big Band performance from Queen’s Tower was delayed until Tuesday due to poor weather.

The Imperial Fringe, an offshoot from the annual Imperial Festival also had one of its regular events on the Thursday of ArtsFest, looking once again at the interface of the sciences and the arts.

Various musical groups also put on

concerts, including Chamber Music, Chamber Choir, IC Choir, Wind Band, and String Ensemble.

A Cappella and MTSoc also held “A Very Vocal Evening 3.0”.

One new event during this year’s ArtsFest was a writing workshop run jointly by Writer’s Society and Science Fiction and Fantasy. Chair of Writers’, Megan Lalla-Hamblin told *Felix* how one of the tasks was to write based on words found on the front of a “blind book date” from SciFi.

Finally, Dr Bob MacCallum (Life Sciences) gave a lecture on the role of audiences in the development of music.



Imperial College String Ensemble play a lunchtime concert in the College Main Entrance Photo: Imperial College London

News

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News Editors ||| Carol Ann Cheah, Kunal Wagle

What's going on with student visas?

With anger and uncertainty over the Government's immigration policy, **Philip Kent** finds out what's going on.

An influential group of MPs has criticised the Government's student visa policy this week. In a report published by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration, the MPs argued for re-opening of the "post-study work route" following graduation.

Up until 2012, international students could remain in the UK for up to two years while searching for another educational course (for example, a Masters) or employment. Following the change, students have only four months, meaning an Imperial undergraduate whose course ends in late June may remain in the UK until late October.

The group of MPs argued for this period to be extended to twelve months, in order to "[maximise] the attractiveness of UK higher education in the face of an increasingly competitive international marketplace".

A decrease in the number of international students was felt to be due to this change in how student visas work, dropping by near 5,000 between the years 11-12 and 12-13, although the numbers are now again on the increase. There are currently in the region of 300,000 students from outside the EU in UK universities.

Former vice-chancellor at the University of East Anglia, Prof. Edward Acton, said that the Home Office's policies have "butchered" relationships with India. Statistics from the Higher Education Statistics Agency found a 25% reduction in the number of Indian students during the year 2012-13.

Imperial College Union's International Officer, Katherine Chio, supported the proposal by the parliamentary group, telling *Felix*, "By extending the visa expiry date from four months after graduation to one year, this could attract the most qualified international students to further study and work in the UK after graduation, hence contributing to the UK's job market and economy."

The current government has a policy to reduce the number of net migrants into the UK below 100,000, thus motivating changes to the visa

"The Home Office's policies have 'butchered' relationships with India."

system. A motion was raised in the House of Commons by Labour MP Paul Blomfield, with backing by Conservative MP Mark Field, and Lib Dem MP Sir Andrew Stunell, calling for students to be exempted from such a cap.

Mr. Blomfield said, "Five parliamentary select committees have urged the government to stop attacking students in its immigration policy and handing the advantage to our international competitors".

This motion was backed by Universities UK, the umbrella group for UK higher education organisations, and the Institute of Directors. The University of Sheffield has also publicly supported the early day motion on its website. This motion is yet to be voted on by the House of Commons.

Meanwhile, a group of business leaders including Baroness Lane-Fox (CEO of Lastminute.com) and Simon Collins (UK Chairman of professional services firm KPMG) have written a letter to the Financial Times, similarly calling on students to be removed from immigration quotas.

In this letter, the businessmen and women say, "We do not want to lose these talented people to our competitor economies as a result of ill-thought-out immigration policies." The letter also notes a poll by ICM for Universities UK and think-tank British Future, which found that 75% of respondents think that international students should be able to stay and work in the UK following the completion of their studies.

Meanwhile, near 60% of respondents think that international student numbers should not be cut, and around 80% think that international students do not count as immigrants at all.

The rhetoric against foreign students has worsened over the past few years. In 2013, the Government announced proposals to charge non-EU migrants a 'surcharge' upon entry to access the NHS, including students. The charge, to be £150 for students, will be brought into effect later this year (see box).

"We do not want to lose these talented people to our competitor economies as a result of ill-thought-out immigration policies."



Meanwhile, last year Home Secretary Theresa May announced plans to completely ban international students from remaining in the UK immediately following completion of their studies, unless the student has work lined up. This proposal was raised because of fears of abuse of the current system, whilst international student numbers were expected to increase to around 600,000 by 2020.

The proposal has been criticised by the Labour Party, university bosses, as well as business leaders including Sir James Dyson who warns of "dire consequences for businesses".

May said there are no limits on the number of students who can come to the UK to study in a genuine academic institution, and would not change the policy for welcoming the "brightest and the best" into the UK. She indicated that the policy would appear in the Conservative Party's manifesto for this May's election.

However, shortly afterwards Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne was reported to have killed off Ms. May's policy, according to the Financial Times. A Government source told the FT that it remains policy to allow any foreign student in a graduate-level job leave to remain

in the UK.

Former Universities minister, David Willets, told Radio 4 that May's proposal was never party policy, saying about the plan: "I don't think it was a good idea".

Overall, Business Secretary Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat) has warned that the public debate regarding immigration may damage the "economically valuable" recruitment of international students.

Whilst the exact policy on student visas is yet to be clarified, and will depend quite significantly on what Government is formed following this May's General Election, people still have concern over the rhetoric concerning international student visas.

Chio was concerned that the UK's policies may affect Imperial's global reputation. She told *Felix*, "Imperial is privileged to have the brightest students from all over the world to study here, in which the International students make up 1/3 of Imperial's student population. As the policies on student visas will discourage international students from studying in the UK and hence in Imperial, it may affect Imperial's global reputation."

News

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ional



£150 NHS student visa charge starts in April

PHILIP KENT
DEPUTY EDITOR

Despite complaints from many quarters, the Government will be implementing its previously announced plans to charge non-EU nationals (including students) for access to NHS services.

The proposals were initially announced as part of the Immigration Bill in October 2013.

Imperial College Union last year passed a paper officially opposing this proposal in the Immigration Bill. The paper, as voted on by Council, also instructed the Union to lobby College to “ensure measures are in place to mitigate the effect of this Bill”.

Starting in April, foreign nationals applying for, or extending, a visa

for longer than 6 months will be required to pay a surcharge of £200 for NHS access, on top of existing visa charges. However a discount of £50 is available to students, and access is also included for dependents of visa applicants.

In addition to the surcharge, the Government has also instructed NHS trusts to reclaim up to 150% of the cost of a hospital procedure from patients outside the EU, with NHS trusts liable for a fine if they do not take measures to retrieve these charges from patients.

EU nationals will also be charged 125% of the cost of NHS hospital procedures, although patients will not be liable for these charges as such treatment is covered under the European healthcare insurance scheme, using an EHIC (European

Health Insurance Card).

However, under this new policy, GP appointments will remain free of charge.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has introduced these premiums over the normal cost of the hospital procedure in order to incentivise NHS trusts to recoup the money. In a speech at a lunch last year, Hunt said, “I have no problem [...] with foreigners using our NHS, as long as they contribute to it either through taxes or through paying charges. We need to be much better at collecting that revenue.”

British Medical Association Council chairman, Dr. Mark Porter, said on the policy: “Anyone accessing NHS services should be eligible to do so but a doctor’s duty is to treat the patient that’s in front on them, not to act as border guard.”

Visa expiry causes Commemoration Day to move

PHILIP KENT
DEPUTY EDITOR

In an email sent out earlier this month to undergraduate students expecting to graduate this year, the College announced a change from usual procedures for the annual ceremony.

The graduation day, known as Commemoration Day to commemorate the visit of Queen Victoria to the Royal College of Chemistry in 1845, is usually held on a Wednesday in October.

However, this year the ceremony will take place on Monday 19th.

In its email, the College described the change as necessary in order to “enable all graduating students to

attend”. It goes on to say, “A fifth of graduating students have visas with an expiry date in advance of the date previously considered.”

A separate email sent out to all College staff advised lecturers that mitigation would be put in place to cater for the disruption to teaching, since more classes take place on a Monday than a Wednesday, as all students have Wednesday afternoons off for sports practices.

Whilst students usually have a free day during Commemoration Day, likely as staff are busy taking part in the ceremonies or in the various receptions for graduating students, some students last year still had some academic commitments during the day.

So you want to get a Tier 4 (General) Visa...

Just what hoops do our international peers have to jump through in order to obtain entry clearance - after meeting their offer conditions, that is?

Depending on your field of study, and whether you're a PG/UG student on a course leading to a PG qualification (MEng/MSci), you may have to fill out an additional application for an ATAS certificate – and get that approved – before even applying for your visa. This takes approximately 20 working days to process, so that's at least one month towards the process.

Whether UG or PG, all student visa apps start with two forms: the actual VAF9, required by every UK visa applicant; and the Appendix 8 form, which only applies to Tier 4 applicants. The former collects the applicant's personal information and travel history, and is usually first filled out online. You also pay the £310 application fee (+ £150/yr NHS surcharge from Apr 2015) at this time.

Appendix 8 is where you delve into the nitty-gritty about your course and institution, proof of English language ability, and how you're funding your studies. That “CAS number” you hear us waxing lyrical about a lot? It comes into play here: by looking up that number, it's easier for the Home Office will be able to see if you've already paid anything towards tuition and/or accommodation,

plus any other important info.

That declaration isn't enough, as you then need a bunch of original documents as proof. It's these that are finicky to collate – these documents include your pre-university (A2, IB etc) and English language proficiency (IELTS/TOEFL) exam results, ATAS certificate if needed, recent medical certification proving you're free from tuberculosis (more money for the exam there!) and – most importantly – supporting financial documentation. Minor oversights by applicants in this part are a major cause for visa refusal; if English isn't your country's official language, painstakingly-certified translations cost time and money.

Financially sponsored students need detailed affidavits, which will take time to obtain depending on your sponsor's efficiency.

As for self-sponsored students, they have to prepare detailed bank statements, along with a signed letter from a bank official proving that the amount of money needed has been present in said account for at least 28 consecutive days. Further documentation is needed to prove the student has permission to access these funds.

Applicants from countries considered low-risk do not necessarily have to submit all the financial proof needed, which in essence should speed things

up; however, as the Home Office reserves the right to request for these at random, you're often required to collate those documents anyway.

After all that, you have to make an appointment with the relevant visa office in their country to hand these (and your passport) in person. As you're not allowed to apply more than 3 months before your course start date, visa offices get stretched to beyond capacity between June and September (one could consider it early training in British queuing culture!)...which means even with appointments, queues often last a few hours.

After submission, you have to wait for at least 3 weeks (in peak season) until you're contacted with the news that your app has been processed. You then have to return to pick up your passport and check if you've been approved or not. If you've somehow been rejected, appeals and re-submissions will cost you more time (and potentially money) to process.

The red tape and costs don't just stop there. Certain students have to register with the police and pay £34 pounds within 7 days of arrival, and let's not forget other costs of setting up your new life abroad: long-haul flights, clothes, kitchen equipment...that's just the tip of the iceberg!

CAROL ANN CHEAH

Tory MP for Kensington will step down at election

Sir Malcolm Rifkind also resigns immediately as Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee. **Joshua Renken** reports on the latest scandal to erupt from Westminster. Rifkind speaks to Policy Exchange in

Sir Malcolm Rifkind has resigned as Chairman of the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee and will step down as Kensington's MP at the upcoming election. Sir Rifkind had hoped to continue as MP for Kensington, which is one of the most desirable Tory seats in the UK, but resigned after becoming embroiled in fresh "cash-for-access" allegations.

Rifkind, a former Conservative foreign secretary, has denied any wrong doing with regards to the Dispatches investigation responsible for his resignation, where he was secretly filmed offering to sell his political contacts and influence to a Chinese firm in return for thousands of pounds at a daily rate. The fake Hong Kong based company, created by Dispatches and Daily Telegraph reporters, claimed to be seeking people with business and political experience to become members on the company's advisory board.

In the undercover footage Rifkind remarked, "You'd be surprised how much free time I have. I spend a lot of time reading, I spend a lot of time walking. Because I'm not a minister or full-time working for one person. I can sort out my day. I am self-employed so nobody pays my salary. I have to earn my income but when I'm not doing something I can do what I like." Rifkind is not self-employed, due to his £67k salary as a member of parliament for Kensington.

Dispatches also met with former Labour minister and foreign secretary Jack Straw with a similar offer. In the meeting, Straw, who is standing down at the upcoming election, said "The best way of dealing with these things is under the radar." In the undercover investigation he was filmed asking what the organisation would want from him and what the time commitments would be, before explaining that "Normally, if I'm doing a speech or something it's £5000 a day, that's what I charge."

In a subsequent BBC news interview, Mr Straw remarked that "This was a very sophisticated, skillful deceit and like Malcolm Rifkind I fell into it."

In Sir Malcolm Rifkind's Today interview, the MP said the claims are "unfounded and I am going to

fight them with all my strength." He declared that "I've got nothing to be embarrassed about. Every single thing I said to these people, I would have been willing to say on television or to you if you'd put the same questions to me at the time." The senior politician went on to contend that it is perfectly acceptable for MPs to have outside interests.

Rifkind argued that it is unrealistic for MPs to live on £67k, because "the vast majority of people of a business or professional background earn far, far more than that", going onto say that if prospective MP candidates cannot earn money on the side through 'second jobs' then "they just won't come to the House of Commons at all, and parliament will lose their skills."

It is believed that hundreds of MPs and peers have taken on similar agreements to those offered by Sir Malcolm and Mr Straw, and the concept of politicians being for hire was discussed in this week's Prime Minister's Question Time. There are calls to reform the parliamentary regulations that currently allow MPs to make multiple times what they earn as MPs so long as it is reported in the register for member's interests, which is public information. This fresh 'cash for access' touches on the wider issues of transparency in Westminster, the buying of political influence from private firms and MP salaries.

Sir Malcolm had represented the Kensington constituency since 2005 and had already been suspended as a member of the Conservative party before his resignation. He has held various high positions and cabinet positions under the Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major, including Secretary of State for Scotland, Defence Secretary and Foreign Secretary. Malcolm Rifkind is a member of the Queen's Privy Counsel and received a knighthood in John Major's resignation honours, becoming a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG). This is an honour appointed on individuals in recognition of their important services to Commonwealth or foreign nations. Throughout this time he was the MP for Edinburgh Pentlands, a position he held from

"Rifkind [...] has denied any wrong doing with regards to the Dispatches investigation responsible for his resignation"



Rifkind speaks to Policy Exchange in 2012. Photo: Wikimedia Commons; SE7

1974 to 1997. He took a break from politics until his return to parliament in 2005. After the Conservative defeat that took place in that year's general election Sir Malcolm was a potential contender for leader of the party.

In a statement Sir Malcolm explained that, "I had intended to seek one further term as MP for Kensington, before retiring from the House of Commons. I have concluded that to end the uncertainty it would be preferable, instead, to step down at the end of this parliament."

"This is entirely my personal decision. I have had no such requests from my constituency association but I believe that it is the right and proper action to take."

"As regards the allegations of Channel 4 and the Daily Telegraph I find them contemptible and will not comment further at this time."

In a separate statement made

"Together with former Labour foreign secretary Jack Straw, Sir Malcolm has referred himself to Parliament's standards watchdog"

about his resignation as Chairman of the Security and Intelligence Committee, Rifkind said, "None of the current controversy with which I am associated is relevant to my work as chairman of the intelligence and security committee of parliament. However, I have today informed my colleagues that while I will remain a member of the committee, I will step down from the chairmanship."

Together with former Labour foreign secretary Jack Straw, Sir Malcolm has referred himself to Parliament's standards watchdog and denies breaching House of Commons rules. Many MPs earn considerable amounts of money through their 'second jobs'.

A spokesman for the Conservative Party said: "Sir Malcolm has had a long career of distinguished service both to the Conservative Party and the country. We respect and support his decision to stand down."

News

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News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah, Kunal Wagle

Imperial students sneak backstage at this year's BRIT awards

Students use fake press pass to bypass security staff. **Philippa Skett** reports.

Two Imperial College Television (ICTV) reporters managed to sneak past security and get backstage at the BRIT awards on Wednesday, and even managed to interview some celebrities before leaving undetected.

The two students turned up at the star-studded event based at the O2 arena brandishing poorly made press passes, and were able to pass by security and enter the backstage area.

A video made of the evening by the students shows two different security guards direct them towards the press entrance. Later, one of the reporters remarks how "Five Security guards just walked past us, and said nothing!"

After bypassing security, they ran into Lionel Richie, who they then proceeded to interview about how relevant the Brit Awards are. "Relevance is what it is all about!" he told the students, before escorted away to his seat within the arena.

The students then loitered around for around 30 minutes, and ran into numerous celebrities as they were shepherded into their seats. Those

they encountered included two members of the Spice Girls, members of the pop group Little Mix, comedian Jimmy Carr, female musician St. Vincent and Caroline Flack, the esteemed presenter of hit TV Show the Xtra Factor.

The pair approached Jade Thirlwall, one of the members of the girl group Little Mix, and asked Jade if they thought another X-Factor contestant could win an award.

Jade, looking confused, was unable to answer, but the woman accompanying her didn't mince her words, telling the students: "Fuck off we don't want to talk about X Factor." Jade then remarked about how it was a bit of a "shitty question."

The two students also managed to snag an impromptu interview with Damon Albarn, 46, the frontman of the bands Blur and the Gorillaz, who was also nominated for the British Male Solo artist award.

When asked whether he stood a good chance of winning he replied sadly: "I'm in a category where everyone else nominated is twenty-

five years younger than me, so I don't stand a chance in hell."

"I'm here so my teenage daughter and her friend can meet Taylor Swift."

They also asked him if he had any favourites to win, to which he replied "Nah, not really." He then sadly slunk away to take his place in the audience.

He later lost the award to Ed Sheeran, aged 24.

One of the intrepid reporters told *Felix*: "We actually saw a lot more famous people, but we literally had no idea who they all were."

"I guess there are worst ways to spend a Wednesday evening."

The pair hung around backstage for a further two hours, interviewing random bystanders as the show took place, before leaving and telling the security "Good job lads!"

They then grabbed a cheeky Wagamamas before heading home. Said one of the reporters: "All in all, a fantastic night out!"

The BRIT awards are held annually, and celebrate the previous year's achievements in pop music.



Above: One of the ICTV reporters at the O2 Arena for the BRIT awards. Below: The "press pass" used by the ICTV crew. Photo: ICTV



Clockwise from top left: Jade from Little Mix, who was asked a "shitty question" by ICTV; Blur frontman Damon Albarn; and Lionel Richie, who told ICTV, "Relevance is what it [the Brits] is all about!" Photo: ICTV

News

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Jihadi John identified as Westminster graduate

STEPHEN BALL
NEWS REPORTER

Sources at the US Government have confirmed the identity of 'Jihadi John' to be Mohammed Emwazi, a computing graduate of the University of Westminster. 'Jihadi John' is featured in videos and pictures showing the beheading of a number of Western hostages.

Following the announcement by the press of the identification, Westminster's Students' Union has postponed last night [Thursday]'s "Who is Mohammed?" event due to "increased sensitivity and security concerns".

The Union had previously issued a statement supporting the running of the event despite criticisms from students.

Mr Emwazi, from West London, completed studies in computer programming at the University of Westminster, graduating six years ago.

The University has released a statement expressing their shock at

the revelation of the identity.

They also highlighted that they "are working to implement the Government's Prevent strategy to tackle extremism".

Imperial College Union has condemned Prevent as it discourages the free expression and analysis of ideas and impinges on a basic function of universities: introducing students to a variety of opinions and encouraging them to analyse and debate them.

Mr Emwazi has been a person of interest to the British Security Services for some time: his name appears in a list of individuals connected to an extremist network in UK Court Proceedings from 2010, and was detained by counter-terrorism officials in 2010 when he visited London.

The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation said it believes the identification to be accurate, saying that the naming of Emwazi shows that "whatever efforts are made, the ability to mask one's identity is limited or in fact impossible".

"'Jihadi John' is featured in videos and pictures showing the beheading of a number of Western hostages."

Imperial team prepares for mission to the Sun

CECILY JOHNSON
NEWS REPORTER

A team of researchers from the Space and Atmospheric Physics group has reached a new milestone in their mission to study the sun's magnetic field.

Solar Orbiter is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission that hopes to improve our understanding of the solar wind, a stream of plasma that is released from the atmosphere of the sun. The spacecraft, which will be launched from Cape Canaveral in October 2018, will travel closer to the sun than any mission ever before.

The seven year mission will carry several instruments to analyse and measure the solar wind, including a magnetometer designed and built by the Imperial team, lead by Principal Investigator Professor Tim Horbury.

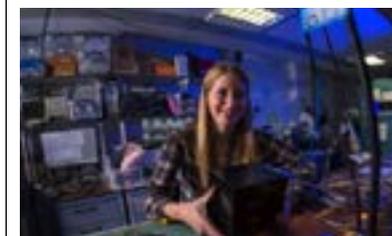
A test model of the magnetometer was recently sent to Airbus Defence and Space in Stevenage, where the Solar Orbiter spacecraft is being constructed.

The spacecraft must be capable of

withstanding both scorching heat on the surface that faces the sun and the coldness of space on the opposite side, which will always be shaded from the star. The magnetometer must also cope with the strong vibrations during the launch of the NASA rocket which will carry Solar Orbiter into space.

Once in orbit around the sun, the project team will be able to make precise measurements of the heliospheric magnetic field, which is key to understanding the origins of the solar wind. Ultimately the Solar Orbiter mission aims to provide insight into the sun's effects on the rest of the solar system.

"Ultimately the Solar Orbiter mission aims to provide insight into the sun's effects on the rest of the solar system."



The prototype sensor, held by the project's lead engineer Helen O'Brien. Photo: Thomas Angus

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Limpet teeth are strongest natural material

Emma Lisle on the new substance's potential in engineering

Engineers believe they may have found the strongest natural material on Earth – limpet teeth. Research conducted at the University of Portsmouth has revealed that the teeth of these small aquatic creatures are so strong they could be copied to make the cars, planes and boats of the future.

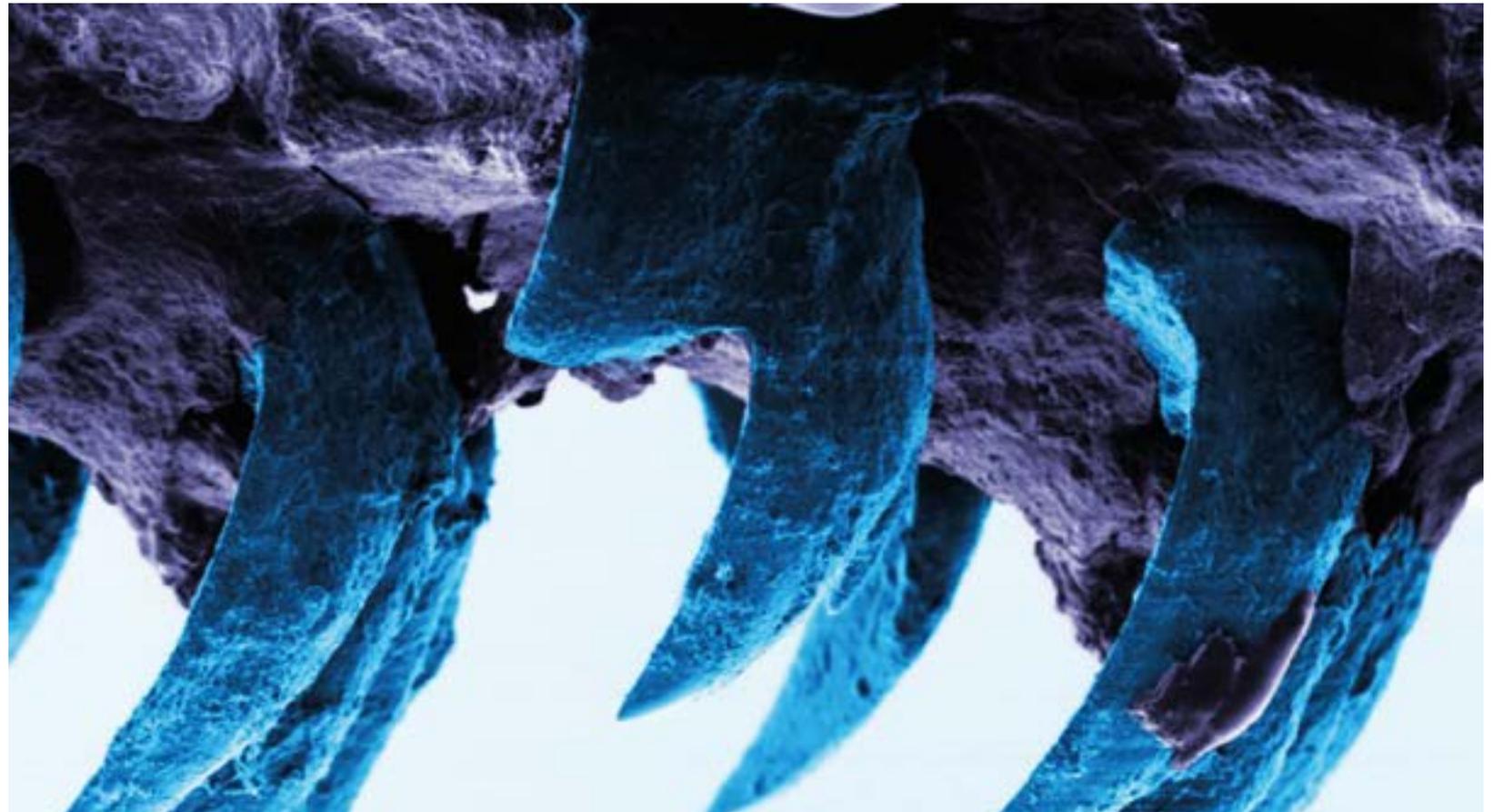
A team of researchers at the University's School of Engineering discovered that limpet teeth contain Goethite, a hard mineral made up of fibrous structures. Together these fibres create a material that rivals the strength of even the toughest man-made fibres. Limpets rely on their high strength teeth for scraping rock surfaces to collect algae to feed on.

Designing materials based on what we see in nature is known as 'bioinspiration'. Until now, spider silk was thought to be the strongest biological material, with a variety of potential applications from bulletproof vests to computer electronics.

Professor Asa Barber, who led the research, said: "Nature is a wonderful source of inspiration for structures that have excellent mechanical properties. All the things we observe around us, such as trees, the shells of sea creatures and the limpet teeth studied in this work, have evolved to be effective at what they do."

Replications of limpet teeth may be used in the future for high performance engineering of Formula 1 cars, boat hulls and aircraft structures.

"Engineers are always interested in making these structures stronger to improve their performance or lighter so they use less material...but



Limpet teeth under an electron microscope. The new research could lead to a wide variety of applications including better bulletproof vests, computer electronics and aircraft components. Photo: University of Portsmouth

"Spider silk was thought to be the strongest biological material."

with so many biological structures to consider, it can take time to discover which may be useful."

Barber's team tested a piece of limpet tooth almost 100 times thinner than the diameter of a human hair. A technique called atomic force microscopy was used to pull apart the material down to the level of the atom and examine its mechanical behaviour.

"The research could be used in future dental restorations."

The research also revealed that limpet teeth are just as strong no matter what their size.

"Generally a bigger structure has lots of flaws and can break more easily than a smaller structure, which has fewer flaws and is stronger. The problem is that most structures have to be fairly big so they're weaker than we would like. Limpet teeth break this rule as their strength is the same

no matter what the size."

The findings of the study, published in the Royal Society journal *Interface*, even have the potential to be used for future dental restorations. The next challenge for researchers is to work out how limpet teeth can be replicated in the lab to allow the material to be used in engineering.

DOI: 0.1146/annurev.matsci.28.1.271

Sound field around recorder identified

JAMES BEZER
SCIENCE EDITOR

Anyone who's ever been to a primary school music recital may well have got the impression that the recorder is a rather simple instrument.

The physics behind it, however, is incredibly complicated.

Using a powerful supercomputer running for two weeks, a group led by Hiroshi Yokoyama from Toyohashi University of Technology in Japan have determined the complex nature of the sound field around a recorder and other air reed instruments for the

very first time.

When the musician bows into an air reed instrument, standing waves are created within the tube, causing it to resonate.

Covering and uncovering holes changes the wavelengths the instrument will resonate at, producing different pitched notes.

A recorder contains a small slit just below the mouthpiece called the knife edge, which splits the airflow going in and out of the recorder.

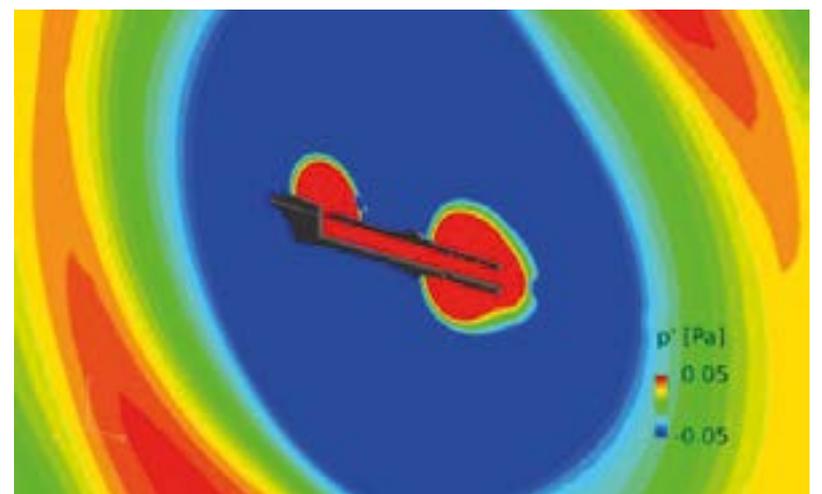
This creates highly nonlinear effects, forming turbulent vortices, which are extremely chaotic, and require huge computing power to model accurately.

Using computational fluid dynamics techniques, the team determined how this behaviour creates pressure waves that emanate from the instrument.

Importantly, they also predicted how the sound propagates through the air, forming a far-field pattern that is heard by the audience.

The work was presented at an annual conference on noise control engineering in Melbourne, Australia.

The research was done in collaboration with instrument makers Yamaha, who hope this new understanding could help them to design instruments with a better sound quality.



Sound waves propagating from a recorder. Photo: Hiroshi Yokoyama

An interview with Robin McGhee

Joshua Renken interviews the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Kensington

At 23 years old, Robin McGhee has already been involved with the Liberal Democrats for over a decade. While reading History at Oxford University, Robin affirmed his interest in politics and stood for a local council seat. Since graduating, he has been involved in television, journalism, research, and has worked for Lib Dem MPs. In November of last year Robin was selected to be the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Kensington. I spoke with him to discuss constituency matters and national politics.

Joshua Renken: What was it that inspired you to get into politics?

Robin McGhee: It's just the best way possible of actually helping people and achieving anything, and it's incredibly interesting. I've never encountered a person who doesn't have some kind of interest in politics, because politics is everything. Politics encompasses all aspects of... well not to sound pretentious, but human behaviour. So I just don't understand how people couldn't be interested in it. It's fascinating and the best way of changing people's lives, often for the better, often for the worse.

JR: What do you think you would bring to Kensington, if elected as MP?

RMG: The first thing I'd bring is I'd be the youngest MP elected, because I'm 23. I would bring someone who is genuinely interested in everyone in the borough, unlike the current Tory incumbent who is only interested in the hyper wealthy.

I would be someone who is interested in solving the housing crisis that we currently have in the capital, especially in Kensington. Somebody who is interested in looking seriously, nationally at how we can change the way our democracy works to bring about proper political reform. Somebody who's going to stand up for all residents of Kensington. You know Kensington has lots of very poor areas and lots of very rich areas.

I would be somebody who's genuinely interested in social mobility and creating a more equal society. And somebody also who is willing to speak their mind. I

would want to be a very strong, independently minded backbench MP who is entirely interested in getting stuff done. And getting stuff done in an imaginative way, not in a boring way of going along with what the system likes, which is what I think too many MPs like.

JR: What are the key issues you feel need to be addressed in the local area, and what could you do better than the current Tory incumbent Malcolm Rifkind MP?

RMG: Pretty much anything because Rifkind is completely hopeless. In Kensington I think the really important issues are basically housing, and the closely related issue of small businesses; which sound kind of boring, but actually small businesses rely entirely on an effective community. In Kensington at the moment we have a very worrying situation where large parts of the borough are bought by foreign property investors, and abandoned and nobody actually goes there. So it's a terrible buy-to-leave situation. This is ignoring the extraordinary disaster of extreme property price increases. So that's obviously a very big issue.

Education is also extremely important because the borough's schools are very divided. You have a huge number of extremely elite schools, you know... good, but you also have a very large number of schools with overwhelmingly working class and ethnic minority students which is not good because it indicates a social and indeed cultural divide. Which is obviously a very bad thing. So it would be quite useful if we could not have that.

JR: How would you go about solving the housing problem?

RMG: Well the problem is so giant that no single MP could solve it. But one thing that I'd want to do in particular is work as an MP for the rights of the people who have possibly been subject to bad landlords which we have a lot of, unfortunately, in the borough. And also be an active voice for introducing some kind of sanity in the housing market. For example abolishing buy to leave property laws altogether which is extremely damaging to literally everybody in



Robin is one of the youngest Lib Dem candidates in the country. Photo: Liberal Democrats

the entire country. Also working to introduce some sort of national discussion and organisation for serious analysis for what the property market is actually doing to our entire society.

We need to think about the next generation, which you and I are part of. We need to think about what this is going to do to our society. I'm pretty concerned that we are currently moving to a feudal situation where basically people are going to have to inherit property from their parents like it's the 13th century or something, in order to own property outright. But I'd like to emphasise that in Kensington and Chelsea specifically, I'm more concerned about buy to leave because that is a totally extreme manifestation of investing in property. So I think it's important to emphasise that I'd want to tackle that as an MP rather than move onto the enormous, all-consuming question of what we are going to do about the housing crisis. I'd want to concentrate on what I can do in the borough specifically.

JR: What could you do for Imperial students who live in the Kensington constituency?

RMG: Well, I am actually roughly their age, which is quite useful. All the other candidates are certainly not in their early twenties. First of all I want to abolish tuition fees, and be a strong voice in that area of policy. I'd want to make sure that we

increase investment in science and engineering education in Britain. I'm also genuinely personally interested in mathematics and astrophysics in particular, and evolutionary biology. I think that, like again, it sounds very pretentious but, I want to defend the fact that we need knowledge and understanding for its own sake, which not enough politicians do. Including in my own party.

I want to be somebody who actually defends what it is to be a student, in addition to championing British universities internationally and in parliament.

I should add the Lib Dems have introduced a postgraduate loan system for the first time, which I want to spend quite a lot of time working on how we expand that when it's introduced in 2016. I think Imperial would really benefit from that. One more thing, I'm also very interested in the legalisation of cannabis, which is obviously something that students are interested in.

JR: Do you feel that the coalition has been a success?

RMG: Yes. Because, bearing in mind nobody thought it would be a success at all, the Liberal Democrats have achieved a huge amount that we would obviously never have achieved otherwise. We've introduced the pupil premium for schools that have particularly large numbers of pupils who aren't very well off. We've abolished income tax for everyone earning under £10,000 which the

"Rifkind is completely hopeless."

"We need to think about the next generation, which you and I are part of."

Tories and Labour ridiculed and condemned before the election but we've actually been able to do this. We really emphasised the environment by introducing for example the green investment bank. We've provided also a huge break on numerous Conservative policies. The most extreme are things like abolishing basically all employment rights, allowing companies to fire people at will. Basically totally privatising the NHS. So really it's pretty remarkable what we've prevented the Tories from doing and also what we've managed to achieve given that we have a fifth as many MPs as the Tories and no governing experience before the coalition.

Generally speaking when people discover how much we've achieved they are willing to give us a lot of credit. We've done this in the face of an almost unanimously hostile media, a very hostile Labour Party and generally in bad circumstances. There are however a couple of things where we haven't been successful.

JR: How can students trust your party again after the broken promise on university tuition fees?

RMG: First of all many Lib Dem MPs abstained and secondly the change in tuition fees is not actually the kind of atrocity that it was depicted as.

Let's look at what the other two parties were saying; The Tories wanted to take the cap off tuition fees. Basically privatise the whole thing. If you look at what Labour actually said before the election, they said at minimum they would want to be having at minimum a much, much larger cap than £9000. Lib Dems

"The change in tuition fees is not actually the kind of atrocity that it was depicted as."

changed the amount you have to earn before you pay it back so that it's not very much at all. I know this because I've done it. So frankly the deal that we actually got was really very good. But most MPs were going after even more generous loans. And like I said we've introduced postgraduate loans in the most recent budget.

Labour had the opportunity for thirteen years and they didn't even care. The Tories certainly don't care. This is very much what we're doing so I think our record on student issues has been pretty positive.

And by the way I certainly wouldn't have voted for the change in tuition fees because I think that higher education should be free.

JR: Why do you think the Lib Dems are doing so poorly in the opinion polls?

RMG: Very simple. The simple fact of being in government. It literally doesn't matter who with. That is easily enough to lose us a huge chunk of our support.

Basically a lot of people voted for before the coalition us just because we were the default opposition party. And I think the simple fact of losing that is responsible of two thirds of the support that we've lost at least. I mean I'm not denying we've made mistakes, or that the party leadership has made mistakes. But I mean, come on. We were considered a protest party. And we don't want to be.

JR: What do you think of our position in the EU?

RMG: The Lib Dems ran very strong pro-EU campaign in the European

elections and we were the only party to do so at all. And I'm very pleased with that because the EU is basically a very good thing. It gives us vast influence across the world, which we otherwise wouldn't have, and it allows favourable trading systems to be developed. My problem with the Lib Dem election campaign was that we didn't talk about reforming the EU because it is deeply undemocratic. It's not that there's no democracy there but we should be electing the commission as well as parliament. Really I would say the EU is a good thing but we need to reform it.

JR: And our immigration policy?

RMG: On immigration, I want to change the system so that we are thinking about who is coming in not what country they are from. And that means that Imperial students can come in easily.

JR: If you could scrap any law or policy which one would you go for?

RMG: I would just say we're not going to support countries such as Saudi Arabia, which is a flat out theocratic terror state that kills its own people. If we scrapped these sorts of foreign alliances I think this would send a strong sort of message to the world.

JR: Do you think age matters when you become a member of parliament?

RMG: I think it's important to have as broad a range as possible in parliament. That also means having more old people in parliament.

JR: Favourite columnist?

RMG: Peter Osborne.

JR: Favourite newspaper?

RMG: The Guardian.

JR: What was the last work of fiction you read?

RMG: 'The Gun Seller' by Hugh Laurie

JR: Favourite Book?

RMG: Probably 'The Road To Wigan Pier' by George Orwell

JR: Are you religious?

RMG: No. Complete atheist.

JR: House of Cards or West Wing?

RMG: House of Cards

JR: Favourite current Lib Dem MP?

RMG: Julian Huppert

JR: Favourite MP who isn't a Lib Dem?

RMG: William Hague

JR: In the latest QS world university rankings Imperial College was joint second with Cambridge, while Oxford was a frankly abysmal fifth place. That said, do you prefer the term 'Impbridge' or 'Camperial'?

RMG: Good question. I think 'Camperial' sounds better.

"Worst party leader interview ever"

The "excruciating" interview with Green Party Leader Natalie Bennett

JOSHUA RENKEN
SECTION EDITOR

The leader of the Green Party Natalie Bennett has apologised to party members after an "excruciating" radio interview on LBC concerning one of its policies on housing.

In part of the Greens' election campaign launch, Ms Bennett failed to explain how the party would be able to fund their pledge to create half a million new council homes.

She told Nick Ferrari that the policy would cost just £2.7 billion, which prompted the LBC presenter to ask: "Five hundred thousand homes – £2.7bn? What are they made of – plywood?" Ms Bennett insisted the policy was "fully costed" but struggled

to explain where the money would come from or provide the figures to back up her claims.

Natalie Bennett, who was elected to her position as the leader of the Green Party of England and Wales in September 2012, could not respond to Nick Ferrari's questions surrounding the costs of the policy.

The party, which currently has one MP in the House of Commons (Caroline Lucas), has several striking policies including the introduction of a "citizen's income" of £72 a week for all adults.

The Green Party has enjoyed a membership surge to 55,000 in recent months (more than the Lib Dems or Ukip) and is currently polling on around 8% of the vote. The success of this left wing party has been much to

the detriment of Labour's chances of winning a majority at the upcoming general election.

Labour has publicly questioned Ms Bennett's grasp of policy but in response to the recent criticism over her poor interview she explained "I'm very sorry to Green Party members that I didn't do a good job at representing our policies. That happens, I'm human. One can have a mental brain fade on these things."

In a subsequent Sky News interview, the leader of the Greens said: "I've spent the last two and a half years talking about our policies and the answer is to face up to one's mistakes and move on."

Perhaps Natalie, next time just go for "I'm sorry I don't have the figures?"



Natalie Bennett has had a rough few days. Photo: Independent

Birdman soars as Neil Patrick Harris falls flat

Jack Steadman reports on the events of Hollywood's annual back-slapping party

“Tonight we celebrate Hollywood’s best and whitest... sorry, brightest.” So began the 87th Academy Awards, with this year’s ceremony hosted in the Dolby Theatre by Neil Patrick Harris. A newcomer to the role of host, Harris’ first zinger was widely considered his best of the night – once the joy of his opening musical number faded, the laughs were a case of diminishing returns.

It wasn’t for a lack of trying, either – Harris was bold enough to re-enact one of the central scenes from *Birdman* (the night’s biggest winner), appearing on stage in his tightsy-whiteys for one skit.

There was a tame (and slightly nonsensical) jab at Harvey Weinstein based off *American Sniper*, as well as the oh-so-predictable ‘Reese Witherspoon is “so lovely you could eat her up with a spoon” quip.

There was nothing quite on the level of Ellen DeGeneres’ super-selfie last year, or as acerbic as Seth MacFarlane the year before. It was a weird halfway-house, floating between showtunes, snark, and sympathy, and it never quite worked. It was more than a little odd to see such an unsteady performance from a man whose hosting of the Tony Awards is always a delight to see. Such is the way of the Oscars, it seems.

The uneven tone carried over to the rest of the night as well, further cementing this as one of the weirdest Oscar ceremonies for years.

Harris’ “best and whitest” jibe was right on the money, acknowledging one of the furores surrounding this year’s nominations: the complete snubbing of not only *Selma*, the film of the 1965 Civil Rights march (and ostensibly a Martin Luther King biopic, although describing it thus does the film a disservice), but any actor of colour. All twenty of the acting nominees were white.

In the year after *12 Years a Slave*, the searing criticism of America’s past, won Best Picture (and Best Supporting Actress, with a Best Actor nomination), a similarly important

examination of the country’s sordid, more recent history was almost entirely overlooked, bar a token Best Picture nod, in addition to one for Best Original Song.

The awards themselves continue to tiptoe that line between appearing progressive and respectful, and exposing a darker, less appealing side to Hollywood. *Selma* did take home the Best Original Song award, with the artists responsible for the song (Common and John Legend) seizing the opportunity – with both their performance and their acceptance speech – to turn the song into a real protest.

“*Selma* is now,” said Legend. “We live in the most incarcerated country in the world. There are more black men incarcerated today than were in slavery in 1850.” The references to the current protests in Ferguson were a powerful statement, and didn’t go unnoticed by the outside world – one of the main protest organisers in Ferguson, Deray McKesson, described Legend’s words as “a one-person protest.”

There was another win for diversity in the shape of *Birdman*’s repeated victories. The Hispanic team behind the film took home several of the big awards, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Cinematography, making this the second consecutive year a Mexican director has taken home the biggest prize in the profession (after Alfonso Cuarón took home Best Director for *Gravity* last year).

All in all, a positive step forwards for the Academy, but one that was almost immediately stomped on by a self-proclaimed liberal, Sean Penn. Presenting the award, Penn quipped “who gave this sonofabitch his green card?”

A joke among old friends, perhaps, with Penn having appeared in a 2003 film by Inarritu, but still undeniably racist. It was an uncomfortable line to hear, and one that managed the unfortunate trick of immediately undercutting the success of non-whites.

Inarritu shrugged the line off, making his own joke on Mexicans winning Best Director two years in a row, before taking the chance to turn political.

He championed the rights of Mexicans, both those resident in Mexico and those who have immigrated to the US, proclaiming that “I hope that they can be treated with respect of the ones who came before and built this incredible immigrant nation.”

It was a common theme on the night, the use of acceptance speeches to make powerful points. J. K. Simmons was the first, urging everyone in the theatre and at home to call their parents – “don’t text, don’t email” – and to “listen to them for as long as they want to talk to you.” It was a simple point, but a strong one. And they only got better from there.

Patricia Arquette used her speech for Best Supporting Actress – the only award Boyhood took home on the night, to everyone’s mild surprise – to promote equality, proclaiming “to every woman who gave birth... it’s our time to have wage equality once and for all, and equal rights for women of the United States of America!” The audience were on their feet, and rightly so.

The most notable speech to round off the night was Graham Moore’s as he collected the prize for Best Adapted Screenplay. “When I was 16 years old I tried to kill myself because I felt different and that I didn’t belong,” he revealed. “Now I’m standing here, and I want this moment to be for that kid who feels weird or different... Stay weird, and then when it’s your turn, and you’re the one standing on this stage, please pass this message on.” Opinions about the film aside, it was another strong message in a night that was full of them.

The acceptance speech for *CitizenFour*, which took home Best Documentary, was no exception, as director Laura Poitras thanked Edward Snowden, the documentary’s



Brig Whi

Some of the big winners from this year’s Academy Awards

subject, for his “disclosures [that] aren’t only a threat to privacy, but to democracy,” going on to credit all “journalists who are exposing truth.” Harris’ quip that Snowden “couldn’t be here for some treason” sank like a particularly wet balloon.

Other award winners proved less dramatic or controversial in their speeches – Eddie Redmayne’s speech after winning Best Actor was adorable, but nothing special beyond his dedication of the award to “all of those people around the world battling ALS.”

Julianne Moore’s Best Actress speech was equally gracious, replete with a quip about how, if winning an Oscar means “you live five years

**“Harris’
“best and
whitest”
jibe was
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on the
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**“Birdman’s
repeated
victories
were a big
win for
diversity.”**



Whitest and test

Academy Awards Photo: Getty Images

longer,” she wanted to “thank the Academy, because my husband is younger than me.”

Tom Cross used his speech for Best Editing to thank Damien Chazelle, the director responsible for Whiplash, much as Milenan Canonero thanked Wes Anderson for her Best Costume Design Oscar for her work on The Grand Budapest Hotel.

Pawel Pawlikowski, the director of Best Foreign Language Film winner *Ida*, took the sentimental route, remarking that after make a film “about the need for silence and withdrawal,” he and his team were now at “the epicentre of noise and excitement. Life is full of surprises.”

There were other highlights beyond

“Life is full of surprises.”

the acceptance speeches, not least a callback to John Travolta’s infamous butchering of Idina Menzel’s name. Menzel and Travolta presented the award for Best Original Song (which, of course, Menzel won last year with *Frozen*’s ‘Let It Go’).

After being introduced as “Glom Glazingo” by Menzel, Travolta admitted “I deserve that,” before going on to carress Menzel’s face, describing her as “the wickedly talented Idina Menzel,” to cheers from the crowd.

It was simultaneously amusing and uncomfortable, and Menzel’s expression definitely suggested the latter. Travolta’s publicist later claimed the face-touching had been

rehearsed, but that remains dubious.

Throw in his borderline sexual harassment of Scarlett Johansson on the red carpet before the event, as he appeared behind her shoulder to plant a kiss on her cheek, and Travolta didn’t exactly do himself any favours. It was all a bit creepy, but it seemed to go unremarked – even encouraged – by those at the ceremony.

The Academy are still very far away from being the progressive, liberal organisation they occasionally try to be, but at least some of their members – or at least, the people their members chose to honour – have strong opinions on the world, and aren’t afraid to broadcast them.

“At least some members aren’t afraid to broadcast strong opinions.”

(Most of) The Winners

Best Picture: *Birdman* or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*)

Actor in a Leading Role: Eddie Redmayne (*The Theory of Everything*)

Actress in a Leading Role: Julianne Moore (*Still Alice*)

Actor in a Supporting Role: J. K. Simmons (*Whiplash*)

Actress in a Supporting Role: Patricia Arquette (*Boyhood*)

Animated Feature Film: *Big Hero 6*

Cinematography: Emmanuel Lubezki (*Birdman*)

Costume Design: Milena Canonero (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*)

Directing: Alejandro G. Iñárritu (*Birdman*)

Documentary Feature: *CitizenFour*

Film Editing: Tom Cross (*Whiplash*)

Foreign Language Film: *Ida*, directed by Pawel Pawlikowski

Makeup and Hairstyling: Frances Hannon & Mark Coulier (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*)

Original Score: Alexandre Desplat (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*)

Original Song: *Glory* (*Selma*)

Production Design: Adam Stockhausen and Anna Pinnock (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*)

Sound Editing: Alan Robert Murray and Bub Asman (*American Sniper*)

Sound Mixing: Craig Mann, Ben Wilkins & Thomas Curley (*Whiplash*)

Visual Effects: Paul Franklin, Andrew Lockley, Ian Hunter & Scott Fisher (*Interstellar*)

Adapted Screenplay: Graham Moore (*The Imitation Game*)

Original Screenplay: Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Nicolas Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris, Jr. & Armando Bo

Don't call me maybe



Photo: Rob Cohen, Universal Pictures

JOHN PARK
SECTION EDITOR

THE BOY NEXT DOOR

Director: Rob Cohen
Screenplay: Barbara Curry
Cast: Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman, Kristin Chenoweth, John Corbett



Sleeping with the wrong person can have all sorts of bad consequences. The best example of this is what Dan Gallagher (Michael Douglas) had to go through for a one-night stand with cinema's most chilling woman scorned, Alex Forrest (Glenn Close) aka the "bunny boiler" in *Fatal Attraction*. Jennifer Lopez's new film, *The Boy Next Door* essentially tells the same story, but this time the gender roles have been reversed. Jenny from the Block is Claire, the recently separated high-school English literature teacher who eyes, plays with, and then tosses aside her hunky new neighbour, Noah (Ryan Guzman), who also happens to be a student at her school.

They first meet when she struggles to open her garage door. Enter Noah, or more specifically, a close-up shot of his toned arm, giving her support.

He befriends her, her son Kevin (Ian Nelson), and a few days later, Claire has her very own Carly Rae Jepsen's 'Call Me Maybe' moment, staring out her window seeing her eye candy hard at work with gritty manual labour. And good news for her is that unlike the hit music video, Noah is straight and is eyeing her back. It does not take long for the two to spend a steamy night together, and for Claire to realise that she has in fact made a mistake.

There is a fair amount of cringe-worthy moments to be had in what are supposed to be the sweet and tender scenes of the two characters initially falling for each other. It all comes across as painfully awkward that in the end you start wondering where things will start going wrong for the couple. The lingering stares, all the uncomfortable touching, and disjointed conversations all contribute to unintentional hilarity, with the prize-winning moment going to the scene in which Noah gives Claire the first edition of Homer's 'The Iliad', which basically cannot actually exist in such an intact form. Way to ruin a moment, writers.

But then the obsessive behaviour begins. It turns violent and overtly sexual, with Noah truly revealing his colours as a complete psychopath relentlessly stalking and harassing Claire, both at her home and her workplace. Kudos to Lopez who plays the victim role well, but the film

struggles to find a convincing villain in Noah with Guzman. He is helped by the occasionally explicit nature of his dialogue, (him facing off against Claire's best friend, the high-school's vice principle (Kristin Chenoweth), is particularly amusing) but Guzman himself cannot seem to come across as a menacing figure. The scorned man talks the talk and finds creative new ways to torment the woman who will not reciprocate his feelings, including the threat of a secretly filmed sex video, revenge porn laws be damned. But threatening is something he does not even come close to achieving; not even a tenth of how Glenn Close chilled an entire generation with her volatile villainess.

It all comes together to a ridiculous climax surrounded by flames in which our heroine fights for her dear life, whilst trying to save her son, as well as her estranged, cheating husband. If there is ever an epi-pen lying around to be used as a weapon, it will be sure to use it in the most effective way possible, as shown in the film's rather gratifying end. *The Boy Next Door* delivers exactly what it promises to do on the surface. It is a trashy thriller, sometimes with little logic involved, but in that there is simple, laid-back fun to be had for the film's relatively short running time. Along with some gratuitous nudity and thrusting for anyone who wishes to see it.



Photo: BBC

JOHN PARK
SECTION EDITOR

SAVAGE GRACE

Director: Tom Kalin
Screenplay: Howard A. Rodman
Cast: Julianne Moore, Eddie Redmayne, Hugh Dancy



Congratulations are in order for Eddie Redmayne and Julianne Moore for their very deserving Oscar wins last Sunday night. But did you know that back in the day, when Redmayne was starting out in the film industry, and when Moore was getting snubbed by the Academy on multiple occasions, they the two of them starred in a film together?

Released all the way back in 2008, Moore plays Barbara Daly Baekeland, a New York socialite who gets up to no good with her schizophrenic son Antony (Redmayne). And by "no good", we are talking about some seriously twisted psychological issues here.

Moore and Redmayne, as can be expected, give committed performances, and make the odd, uncomfortable subject matter somewhat bearable, and the film is no short on delivering shocks. The film is bold in venturing to explore the chilling nature of their relationship, and you begin to wonder just how this sordid tale will end.

And yet the film rarely succeeds in connecting all the dots. The plot barely skims through the many years shared between the two characters in frantic time-jumps, and to call the story a superficial glance would be an understatement. This could have worked as a TV mini-series. But as a film? Barely scrapes the surface.



Photo: Tom Kalin, IFC Films



Photo: Telegraph

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

IMPULSE

Friday 27 February
20:00 - 02:00
Metric & FiveSixEight
Featuring DJ

BASHER

Entry

£1.50 if on facebook guestlist

£2.00 with flyer

£2.00 on the door

h Wine tasting

27 FEBRUARY
19:30, H-BAR
ACTIVITIES SPACES
£7.50

Join us for a wine tasting from our supplier Matthew Clarke. For just £7.50, you can try eight different wines, some of which will then be sold in the h-bar. Open to Postgraduates and staff, this month's event will be comparing wines from the Americas - it's North vs South! You can register or confirm your place on our website at imperialcollegeunion.org/winetasting.

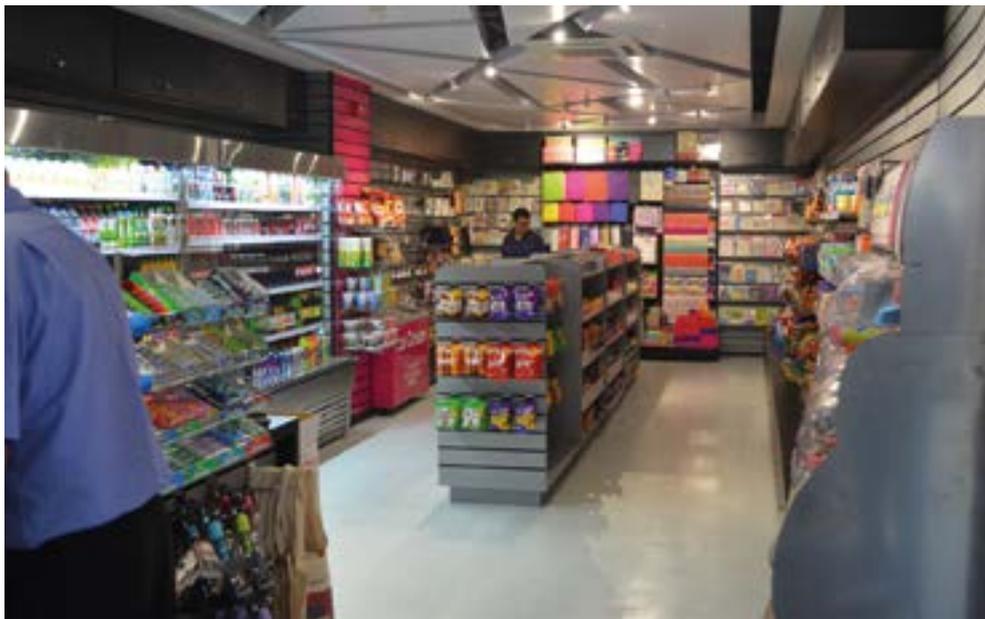


COMING UP!

Date	Event	Time	Location
Friday 27	h-bar Wine Tasting, North America vs South America	19:30 - 22:00	h-bar
Friday 27	Impulse	20:00 - 02:00	FiveSixEight & Metric
Every Tuesday	Super Quiz	20:00 - 22:00	FiveSixEight
Every Wednesday	CSP Wednesday	19:00 - 01:00	FiveSixEight & Metric
Every Wednesday	Sports Night	19:00 - 00:00	Reynolds

Union Page

Student campaigning gains discounts for students - start 1 March



As of 1 March, we will be discounting our range of feminine hygiene products in our shops, a request that was raised at our most recent Union Council meeting.

A student approached Chris Kaye, our Deputy President (Welfare), about the lack of access to, and price of, feminine hygiene products on campus. Following this, he then brought a paper to council to discuss the issue, and consulted with the Union's Management Team about how to bring about change to address this issue. It was suggested that these products were sold at cost price, and after agreement with the Management Team and Council members, this will come into effect next month.

You can turn advocacy into action and evoke change such as this to make the student experience at Imperial even better. Visit the new Campaigns section on our website for more information about campaigning through the Union, or visit our Union Council pages to find out how to submit a paper to Council.

imperialcollegeunion.org/news

Check out our Impact so far this academic year



Our latest Impact Report is out, detailing the work that Imperial College Union and its members have done so far this academic year and the impact it has had at the College. We started the year with Welcome Week, welcoming over 5,500 new students to our student community, and there have been a number of highlights since then including:

- ▲ Launching new events such as International Imperial
- ▲ 20% more volunteering hours recorded through Imperial Plus than the same time last year
- ▲ 4,600 students voting in Your Rep & Council Elections in October
- ▲ £83,401.70 raised by the Islamic Society during Charity Week
- ▲ Our 56-strong #helloICU crew that were on hand during Welcome Week
- ▲ £100,000 of Union funds invested our new Media Centre

You can read the full report on our website at

imperialcollegeunion.org/impact

We want to know what you think about us

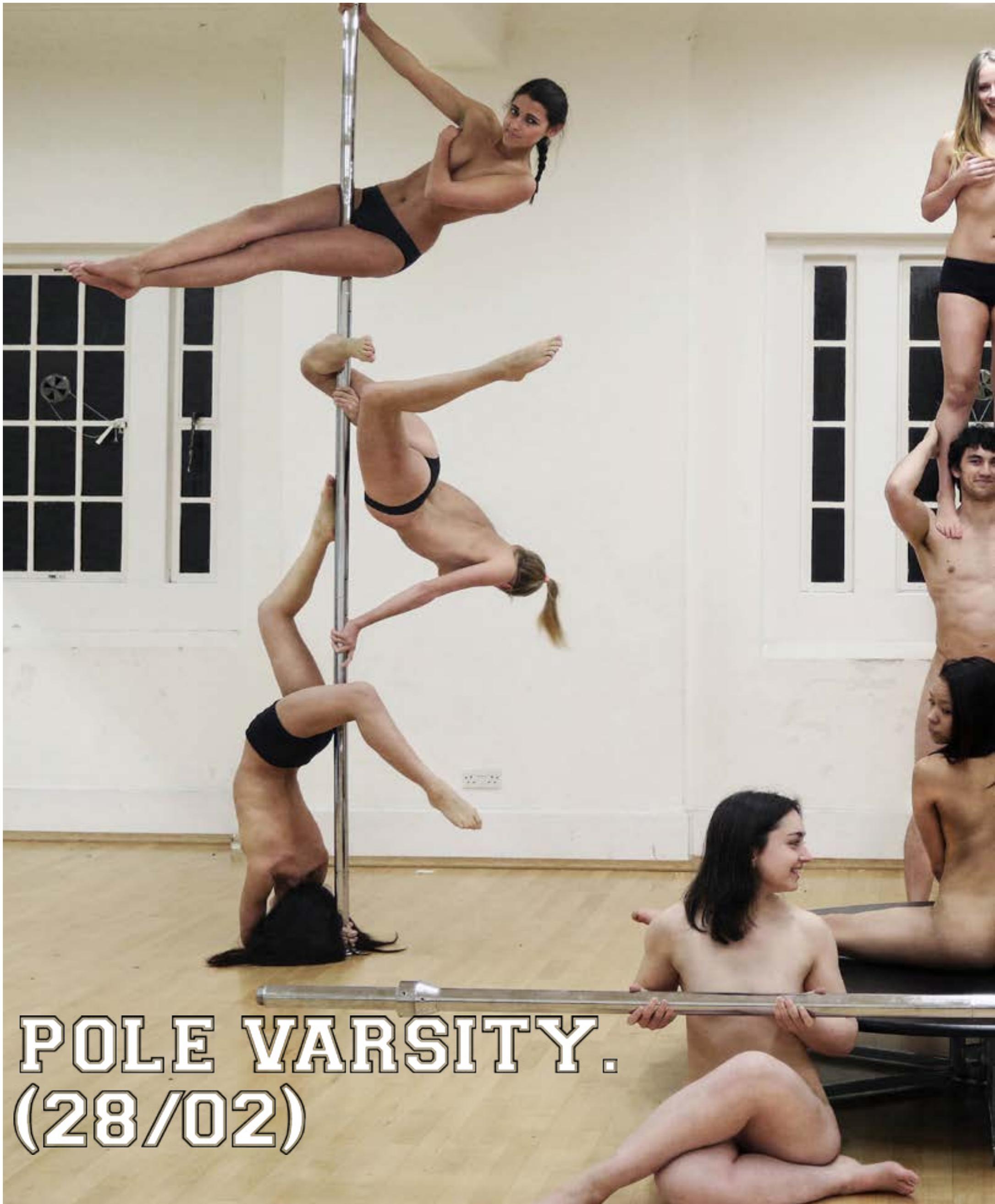


Our annual Union Survey opens this week, and it's your chance to tell us what you think about us. We want to get your feedback on the many services that we run and provide. Changes we have made over the last few years as a result of survey feedback have included introducing great monthly food and drink offers our bars, working to improve the speed and functionality of eActivities for our Club, Societies & Projects, and increased volunteering opportunities and launching Imperial Plus, our volunteer accreditation scheme.

The survey won't take long to complete, and you could win a prize for just a few minutes of your time! Prizes include one of two iPad Minis with retina display and 2 x pairs of Summer Ball tickets.

Look out for more information and the survey link online at imperialcollegeunion.org!





POLE VARSITY.
(28/02)



POLE AND AERIAL SOCIETY



William Shakespeare's The Tempest

Union Concert Hall, 4th-7th March

Doors 19:00, curtain 19:30

Tickets £5 student/£7 non-student



Television

television.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Television Editors || Guila Gabrielli & John Park

Two Lawyers. One Degree. And some great television.

Joshua Renken reviews *Suits*, currently on its fourth season.

Now in its fourth series, *Suits* is an American legal drama that premiered in June of 2011. Created by Aaron Korsh, the first episode is one of the best pilots in recent television history.

Here's the set up: Mike Ross (Parick J. Adams) is a bright college dropout with a photographic memory but no real future as a bike messenger. Living in New York, he makes money on the side by sitting the Law School Admission Test for strangers.

After getting pressured into paying \$25,000 to keep his grandmother in a private nursing home, Mike agrees to deliver a briefcase of marijuana to a Hotel room for his close friend Trevor (Tom Lipinski).

The drug deal turns out to be a sting operation that Mike cleverly figures out before making the drop. In his efforts to escape the task force, Mike stumbles into a job interview with Harvey Specter (Gabriel Macht), a Harvard educated lawyer at Pearson Hardman who is deemed to be the "best closer in New York City."

In his recent promotion to senior partner at the firm, Harvey is expected to hire a fellow Harvard Law graduate as an associate.

Harvey starts talking to Mike, who uses his photographic memory and encyclopedic knowledge of the law to convince Harvey to employ him, despite never attending Harvard or even completing a degree.

Mike explains that he had always dreamt of being a lawyer, but lost his College scholarship after getting

caught cheating on a maths exam. His friend Trevor had convinced him to memorise a maths test, but the pair unknowingly sold the answers to the Dean's daughter. Mike had been admitted as a transfer student to Harvard for the next academic year, but the Dean's final act before resigning was to expel Mike and tell Harvard what he did.

Mike recognizes the opportunity he has been gifted and promises Harvey that "I'll help you school those Harvard douches, and I'll be the best god-damn lawyer you've ever seen."

Harvey decides to hire Mike and cover up the fact that he never went to Harvard Law. Shenanigans ensue.

With the job, the money, the looks and the lifestyle, Harvey is portrayed as a man's man; the American dream realised. However, Harvey is somewhat emotionally stunted and his alpha-male bravado prevents him from having meaningful relationships with other people.

Mike's compassionate streak and genius intellect compliment Harvey's cold but perceptive nature to create a compelling dynamic that the series exploits throughout.

Obsessed with getting his "name on the door", Harvey is the protégé of managing partner Jessica Pearson (Gina Torres), a strong woman in a man's world of top tier law.

The rest of the main cast includes Louis Litt (Rick Hoffman), a hard working and pedantic junior partner who takes great pride in his work



Two men and their suits Photo: Comicsonline

but is unpopular with the associates he trains, Rachel Zane (Meghan Markle), a paralegal at the firm and Mike's love interest, and Donna Paulsen (Sarah Rafferty), Harvey's loyal private secretary and close confidant who listens in on all the conversations in his office.

The first series is primarily concerned with how Mike and Harvey form an unlikely partnership while keeping the big secret.

Subsequent series deal with internal problems at the firm, including allegations of malpractice, fending off mergers, winning big cases and quashing takeover bids. With clear and distinct plot arcs, *Suits* is heavily serialised.

"With the job, the money, the looks and the lifestyle, Harvey is a man's man."

"This is a show where manwy asses are threatened to be kicked."

Suits is a fast paced and witty series, with great characters that you believe in. Slick in its presentation, the series manages to retain a sense of humour even as the plot gets more serious.

The series thrives off conflict between intelligent people. Well-reasoned, heated arguments are packed into the scripts and this is what keeps you watching.

This is a show where an awful lot of things are 'goddamn right' and many asses are threatened to be kicked. It's a fun show that is essential viewing for anyone with time to kill and a suit and tie fetish.

The first two series of *Suits* are on Netflix. The fourth series is currently airing on Dave.



Photo: Channel 4

Remarkably uncatastrophic

I am not sure how high Channel 4's ambitions for the show *Catastrophe* were. Writers and main actors Rob Delauney and Sharon Horgan sure seemed like a weird couple: Delauney a likeable, tall, American dude and Horgan a dead-pan and sarcastic Irish woman. Together they created a baby-script funny enough to impress the masterminds being what goes on telly, and suddenly it was on. As they appeared on talk-show after talk-show before the release of the series this January, they too seemed surprised to be there, slightly uneasy maybe, because their little story appears far from glamorous enough to make it in the competitive and cruel world of entertainment.

How could we all have doubted this little gem would become a hit? Now we've got to know Rob and Sharon (played by Rob and Sharon), it is impossible not to love them. The humour is subtle and modern. Think of the funniest person you know on Facebook: ironic and self-

deprecating but also sweet and relatable. This is pretty much the style in which *Catastrophe* is delivered.

The chemistry between the characters is also great, mostly because Sharon is the grumpy woman all women think they are and Rob is the adorable man we'd all want to have close to us. Plus it's set in lovely London Fields, with Sharon and Rob often sitting at the Market Café, in Broadway Market, overlooking Regents Canal and sipping cappuccinos. This made me as excited as visiting the Central Perk.

A little bit of drama is thrown into the mix as Sharon discovers some pregnancy complications and the couple gradually learn to love and support each other. The plot seems simple, but the strong leading performances give it enough depth and personality to support the whole show.

GIULIA GABRIELLI

A journey into the sea's depths

Jingjie Cheng takes to the ocean in the ROH's opera

A strip of water runs across the stage, which itself slopes upstage, with vague impressions of a ship's windows in the distance. Daland's crew shuffles around, clearing up after a storm as Daland announces that they will be heading home soon, and Senta, his daughter, will be waiting for him. This opening scene heralds the well-known tale of the Dutchman, who is bound to sail the seas for eternity unless a maiden swears to be true to him; Senta, deeply moved by his fate, swears to follow him unto death.

This is a stormy story of love and obsession, fate and tragedy, and Tim Albery's second revival of Wagner's masterpiece fleshes it all out. Running at two and a half hours with no interval, the production doesn't let up. However, I did not notice the time, captivated as I was by Andris Nelsons' conducting of the beautiful music, that rises and falls like waves at sea.

Adrienne Pieczonka's Senta was magnificent, with a rounded, strong voice that carried both the girl's devotion and desperation to escape. Having seen many favourable reviews of Bryn Terfel's Dutchman, I had been looking forward to seeing him live but unfortunately, the Welsh bass-baritone was down with a cold on the night I went and was replaced by Egils Silins who debuted with the Royal Opera House as the Dutchman in 2011. Given that he apparently flew over to London at short notice, his delivery was impressively smooth.

From the beginning, right through to the last charged confrontation between the Dutchman and Senta, the set is sensitive and mature – some ropes here, a bridge there, a ladder in the corner – always sketching a scene without being too literal. That, and the masterful lighting were greatly helpful in fleshing out the passions and the Dutchman's dark struggle against his fate. For Silins' Dutchman, the desperation is clear, but it is a measured desperation laced with resignation to his fate.

A delightfully energetic chorus also supported the production; the factory scene where the women's chorus sang in response to Senta's obsession with the ballad of the Dutchman was a visual treat, while one of the most gripping scenes was the exchange between the crew of the ghost ship and Daland's own crew. Daland's raucous, cheerful crew tried to be friendly with the dark, brooding ghost crew, and what ensued was an impressive coordinated choreography with strong singing, highlighting the ghost crew's anguish, as if the

"This is a stormy story of love and obsession, fate and tragedy"



Adrienne Pieczonka as Senta in the ROH's production of *Der fliegende Holländer* Photo: Clive Barda

Dutchman's tragedy had a physical manifestation in his crew.

The last scene was somewhat perplexing, however, with Senta clutching a model ship and careering across the stage, sobbing. In the original story, she throws herself into the sea after the Dutchman as he sails away, thinking he was sparing her a terrible fate. That is the final act of devotion and her word was proven true; the Dutchman is thus released from his curse and the two ascend into the sky. Such a conclusion is the only suitably dramatic end to such a

story, where despair is redeemed by a final act of devotion. A hapless and miserable Senta mourning her love at a model ship just does not quite cut it.

At times brooding, at times light-hearted and at times heart-wrenching, the **Royal Opera House's** *Der Fliegende Holländer* is an epic journey across both rough and calm seas, with passionate voices drifting in the wind, carried along by majestic orchestral music.

Der Fliegende Holländer was on at the Royal Opera House 5th - 24th February

"The ROH's Der Fliegende Holländer is an epic journey across both rough and calm seas"

Editorial: The Journey Issue

FRED FYLES & KAMIL MCCLELLAND
SECTION EDITORS

This week's edition of *Felix Arts* is full of journeys: journeys across the seas, journeys into the future, journeys into the past, the narrative of change.

We start with Jingjie Cheng's review of the **Royal Opera House's** production of Wagner's masterpiece *Die fliegende Holländer*. This opera is the true meaning of a journey, a production with no interval, simply one single narrative that ebbs and flows across the waves like the Dutchman's own vessel. In Tim Albery's second revival of this work, he has managed to harness all of the turmoil, anguish and majesty of Wagner's work, in what seems to be a production well worth seeing.

Next, we are transported to the near future in *The Nether*, **Duke of York Theatre's** new production, reviewed by Fred Fyles. The piece takes us into the future of the Information Age, where its sinister side quietly emerges and the deepest depths of human nature are allowed to emerge from their abyss.

Palestine. The early 21st Century. Once again under bombardment. *Fireworks* examines the daily realities of these besieged peoples, particularly in how children, some 60% of Gaza's population, rationalise this distorted world. And as madness envelopes their parents, they are left to understand the world in the only way they know, as if it is all a fantasy.

Finally, Fred Fyles visits the **Tate Britain** to review a duo of new shows that take us on a journey into the past, to the advent of photography in Britain in *Salt and Silver 1840-1860* and to the advent of the industrialisation of art in *Sculpture Victorious*, the story of sculpture in Victorian Britain. Both are more historical reports than anything else, exploring the impact the tumultuous 19th Century had on British art.

Tune in next week for the 1600th issue of *Felix*, where the Arts section shall feature as part of a larger Culture section alongside other sections such as Film, Food, Fashion and Music. It's going to be big! I hope you're as excited as I am.

Arts

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Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

A harrowing vision of a dark future

Fred Fyles questions what's real at the Duke of York's *The Nether*

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic"
– Arthur C. Clarke

While the advent of the Internet Age has brought with it a multitude of wondrous things (the information overload that is Wikipedia; an ability to connect with people around the globe in a matter of seconds; an unending supply of cat videos), it has also done something much more sinister, allowing people to explore their deepest, darkest desires. It is this duality that playwright Jennifer Haley explores in her groundbreaking play *The Nether*, which, following a sell-out run at the **Royal Court** last year, has returned to London's **Duke of York Theatre**. Set in 2050, a year that manages to be simultaneously distant and imminent, the premise of the play is that the internet has evolved into 'The Nether', a vast network of individuals interacting in an artificially generated cyberspace; over time, more and more aspects of life have passed over into *The Nether*: schooling, industry, and even humans, allowed to permanently

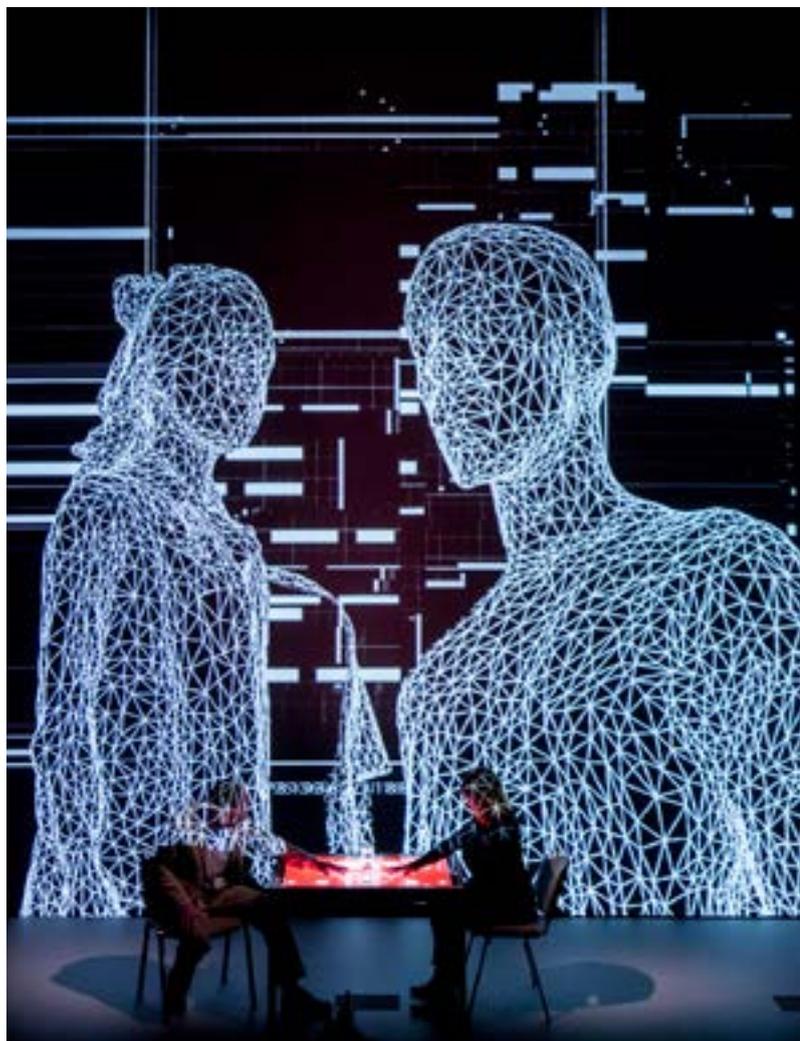
reside in this alternative universe thanks to the use of complex life-support machines in the 'real world'.

Sadly, *The Nether* has also allowed the base instincts of humanity to flourish, and we follow law-enforcement agent Morris (Amanda Hale), as she tracks down the mysterious 'Poppa', aka Sims (Stanley Townsend), a programmer who has created an electronic idyll called 'The Hideaway'. In this grotesque vision of Victoriana, Poppa's clients can anonymously come and go, stopping by to do unspeakable things to the little girls who reside in the house. Of course, none of the children involved are real (although the creepily charming Iris was played on this occasion by gifted child actor Zoe Borough, in a superb London debut), they are simply pixels, complex renderings of crinoline, silk, and flesh; but Haley asks whether this really matters, and whether indulging in such fantasies, even within the confines of the imagination, is beyond the pale of the law.

Amanda Hale is excellent in the role of Morris, turning what could be a mere collection of tropes (icy and brittle high-flyer; dressed all



Isabella Pappas (Iris) and Stanley Townsend (Sims) in *The Nether*. Photo: Johan Persson



Amanda Hale (Morris) and David Calder (Doyle) in *The Nether*. Photo: Johan Persson

"Jeremy Herrin directs this simmering production with a steady hand"

in black and sporting a facelift-giving bun; emotionally distant with daddy issues) into a three-dimensional character, thanks to a nuanced performance that perfectly highlights the play's subtleties. But particular credit must go to David Calder's perverted Doyle and Stanley Townsend's blood-chilling Sims: it is one thing to play a predator on stage, quite another to make them seem simultaneously sympathetic and sickening. The cast work well together, creating a multi-layered character study in the middle of a vortex of moral turpitude.

Jeremy Herrin, fresh from producing Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up The Bodies*, directs this simmering production with a steady hand, helped immensely by the talents of set designer Es Devlin, whose technical trickery helps pull off the juggling act of simultaneously showing two locations. From the harshly strip-lit interrogation office, intimidating in its blankness, we are thrown into the Arcadia of *The Hideaway*, a beautiful gothic house, whose lush surroundings blur and bend in a series of mirrors like a mirage, emphasising the ephemeral nature of the online world.

The Nether is one of those special plays that occupies a space in your mind long after the curtain has gone down. The destructive power of cyberspace has always appealed to speculative fiction authors, from William Gibson, the originator of the term, to Margaret Atwood, whose

"The Nether is pertinent, exploring an issue that is already becoming a problem"

Oryx and Crake sees people surfing the web for live videos of suicides and torture; however, as our technology has progressed, the question of what limits we can place on the internet's collective imagination has shifted from speculation to reality. Haley has created this play at a critical time, raising questions about the regulation of technology, the freedom internet anonymity can bring, and even the very nature of human relationships. There is a duality between human and avatar in *The Nether*, meaning that everything we are presented with is slightly askew; you can't trust everything you see, least of all on the Internet.

Unlike other recent examples of speculative fiction - such as Charlie Brooker's *Black Mirror*, which writer Mallory Ortberg succinctly describes as "what if phones, but too much" - *The Nether* doesn't act as some kind of high-brow thought experiment designed to highlight the perils of Tinder, or Facebook; it is much more pertinent than that, exploring an issue that is already becoming a problem. As Haley herself says, "it's happening", citing the much-feted Oculus Rift technology, and the fact that in online roleplaying game *Second Life* areas for child and adult avatars have to be separated. In those respects *The Nether* acts as both an ominous prediction of the future, and a timely warning for the present.

The Nether runs at the Duke of York's Theatre until 25th April. Tickets from £10

Arts

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Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

Fireworks – A carnival of horror

Kamil McClelland examines the Royal Court's new piece of Palestinian theatre

Death. Darkness. Claustrophobia. Darkness. Madness. Darkness. Dalia Taha's new play *Fireworks* is not the celebration that the title suggests. Telling the story of two families battling for sanity in a besieged Palestine, *Fireworks* examines how children rationalise and interact with war and death, a jolting and twisted dichotomy.

I was apprehensive before going to see *Fireworks*. I had read about it, about the subjects it covered. I knew it was not going to be an easy watch. But it was definitely going to be a fascinating new take on the impact of warfare. The play is a product of a nearly two decade partnership the **Royal Court** has had with Palestinian writers, developing their untapped talent and unique life experience to create some wonderful pieces of theatre.

And what a way it started. The set: a single concrete room, suffocating in its rigidity, faded azure walls, minimal belongings, a crypt for the living. Dramatic lighting plunged us between total blackness and glimpses of their life, snapshots of a daily scene that photographed the surreal scene for us. We are constantly cut between these very short scenes throughout the whole play, highlighting the fleeting nature of the moments and lives we were witnessing.

We are presented with two families: Khalid (Saleh Bakri), his wife Nahla (Sirine Saba) and their daughter Lubna (Shakira Riddell-Morales) and Ahmad (Nabil Elouahabi), Samar (Shereen Martin) and their son Khalil (Yusuf Hofri). They are linked by their shared tower block and shared misery. Through them, two starkly different stories are played out, yet they are inherently intertwined by this shared experience, their behaviours completely understandable given the situation despite being unexplainable when viewed without context. It is a wonderful yet scarily poignant insight into this inhuman situation we find these individuals, each coping and rationalising in their own way.

Coping. That and how different coping methods interact in such a stressful situation is what the piece is about. Whether it be revenge, religion, insurmountable grief, distraction, violence or escapism, each character has their own way of tackling this reality. Rockets become fireworks, dreams become reality, everything melts into an amalgam of fantasy and misery.

Lubna's story plays out on the background of her brother Ali, "martyred" by crossfire in a horrifying accident. Her mother



Shakira Riddell-Morales (Lubna) and Yusuf Hofri (Khalil) in *Fireworks* at the Royal Court Theatre. Photo: Helen Maybanks

"The set: a single concrete room, suffocating in its rigidity, a crypt for the living."

Nahla is utterly broken, completely grief-stricken that she wants to take her own life just so she can return to him. Khalid, her husband, copes by distracting himself with broken radios. Lubna, jealous of her brother's attention, does anything to win her parents back.

Khalil on the other hand has been deeply disturbed by the war around him, moulded by its perversion into a violent individual that his father describes as a "punishment". His mother uses him as a way to escape reality, preserving him in an eternal childhood so they can escape away together to a distant planet in the games. But he has no interest in that. His world is one of guns, spies and death. His father, disturbed by his wife's psychological castration of their son is determined to turn him into a man. He teaches him how to shave. He teaches him about martyrdom. It is a twisted reality.

What I think is good about this

"This is not a political play. This is a play about how unhappiness can twist all the humanity we take for granted."

play is that it does not at any time explicitly mention Israel, making the story applicable to any war zone in which children or in fact any civilians are caught up. This is not a political play. This is a play about people and about how unhappiness and an unnatural situation can twist all the humanity we take for granted. Adults escape reality by turning life into a fantasy, a game. Children age much too young, with games filled with the death and violence that they see around them, as if that is normality.

Child actors are troublesome for me. Call me biased but I find it difficult to engage with them like I can with adults, perhaps due to their inherent lack of experience, their inelastic emotional range or their grating voice! There is little that can be done in a play that is ultimately about child psychology but I found the performances of Hofri and Riddell-Morales fell slightly short. I guess I'm the bad guy now!

However, overall the acting was not too bad and you did find yourself utterly engrossed in their suffering as the story crescendoed to its bitter climax. "I want to tell you a story". Lubna, dressed in her Eid clothes, concludes the play, the story of her and her family's life not as reality but as a mere story, as if it didn't exist, as if the whole story of their life was just a dream. It is chilling, the perfect ending to a play that leaves you feeling deeply uncomfortable, provoking you to react to a drama that is much too real just to be a story. It must still be happening throughout Palestine to this day and throughout any war zone across the world where innocents are forced to face realities that they never chose. I look forward to Taha's future productions. She shows plenty of promise and sheds on a new light on this age-old story.

Fireworks is at the Royal Court until 14th March. Tickets are £20, £10 on Mondays

Arts

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Arts Editors || Fred Fyles & Kamil McClelland

The sculptural legacy of an empire

Fred Fyles explores the Victorians' love for statues at Tate Britain

An empire can be measured not by the length of its borders, or by the riches of its lands, but by the quality of its sculptures. At least, this is what the **Tate Britain** is trying to argue, with its newest exhibition *Sculpture Victorious*, an ode to the golden age of British sculpture. Actually, perhaps that first sentence should be amended to read “the quantity of its sculptures”, since it was during the Victorian era that the country experienced a surge in sculpture production, unprecedented in its history, which culminated in the reconstruction of the Palace of Westminster, destroyed in a fire a couple of years before Victoria came to the throne.

We start with the lady herself: two busts of Victoria, done 48 years apart. In the first, by sculptor Sir Francis Chantrey, the young monarch looks out with a confrontational stare, her dress exposing one shoulder; in the second, Alfred Gilbert, who wasn't even born when Victoria came to the throne, portrays her as the matriarch of an empire, her eyes heavy and tired, trussed up in lace like a swaddled infant.

The works displayed in the exhibition are often beautiful, particularly in the last room, where the output of the Arts and Crafts Movement is given the opportunity to shine, but the show works best as a history lesson, showing us how sculpture was used as a tool to both further the empire's power and



Thomas Longmore and John Hénk, *Elephant*, 1889 Photo: Thomas Goode & Co. Ltd., London

reinforce the dominance of British industry. The face of Victoria appears not only in public statues, but also across a number of coins; Canadian cents, Indian rupees, Hong Kong dollars, they all bear her visage, allowing her to act as a literal overseer of her realm. Her personage also graced the living rooms of innumerable middle-class households, thanks to the invention of the reducing machine by Benjamin Cheverton, which allowed multiple smaller copies of a single statue to be made, thus allowing miniatures of the Queen to be distributed cheaply around the country.

This link, between industry and art, is one that recurs throughout the exhibition. The statues designed for the new Palace of Westminster made use of the innovative electroplating techniques, meaning that numerous metals could be applied, giving them a multitude of tones and hues. There was also an increasing collaboration between artists and manufacturers, as sculptors worked with industrialists to produce their wares more and more cheaply; in some ways, this was the start of artistic capitalism, allowing the lines between creativity and commerce to blur, a process that has continued to this day.

This rise of industrialisation contrasts with the fetishisation of the past; with the arrival of the Elgin Marbles kick-starting an obsession with classical art, the Victorians compared themselves to another

great civilization: the Greeks. This reached a peak with Raffaele Monti's *Veiled Vestal* sculpture; Monti's ability with stone is apparent, as he conjures up a veil made from marble in an illusionistic *tour de force* of statuary.

The most interesting part of the exhibition, however, is how the Victorian's love of sculpture pales only to their other great passion: colonising and oppressing other people. While this colonial habit is referenced in the opening room's collection of coins, it is not until later that it is properly explored; multicoloured elephants and porcelain peacocks showed how foreign lands promised a wealth of riches and amusements for the well-heeled Victorians. The most affecting piece in the whole exhibition is *A Daughter of Eve or The American Slave*, by John Bell; making use of electroplating technology, the statue's dark bronze skin contrasts with the classical marble whiteness of other sculptures. The woman looks to one side, her hands bound in chains, in an agonising display of humanity that directly challenges the hypocrisy of the British Empire's attitude to American slavery. It is this piece that forms the emotional centrepiece of the exhibition, helping it become much more engaging than just a musty history lesson through British sculpture.

Sculpture Victorious is on at the Tate Britain until 25th May. Tickets £12; £9.50 Students.



Auguste Salzmann, *Statuette en Calcaire; Type Chypriot* 1858-1865 Photo: Wilson Centre for Photography

A History Lesson Too Far

From one history lesson to another, this week also sees the opening of **Tate Britain's** *Salt and Silver 1840-1860*, the first major exhibition devoted to salt prints, an early form of paper photography. Invented by Henry Fox Talbot, and set up as a competitor to the French *daguerreotype*, salt prints had a sharp focus but also a softness, which made them appear somewhat like charcoal rubbings.

The photographs on display show how the subjects that enticed the photographer have remained somewhat constant over the last 150 years; the earliest photographers were concerned with documenting their surroundings, as in David Hill's photographs of fishermen, which set a precedent for social photographers such as Diane Arbus and Brassai.

There is also a clear obsession with sightseeing, such as in Henri Le Secq's photograph of *Palais de la Bourse*: the staid, immensity of the Paris stock exchange contrasts beautifully against the unfettered rush of city life, which zooms past the lens in a photographic blur. While the relation between social photography and sightseeing may not seem obvious, the link is closer than you might think; as Susan Sontag says “The camera makes

everyone a tourist in other people's reality”.

The salt prints' time in the sun was bright, but brief; 1850 saw the introduction of the albumen print, which was the first time such photography could be commercially viable. This was in contrast to the salt print, which was technically more complex. During the time that salt prints were in vogue, there were several artists who managed to produce beautifully abstract photographs, such as John Beasle Greene's images of Egyptian statues. Sadly they were few and far between.

While most of the photographs included in the exhibition are interesting, they essentially amount to little more than historical curios; the Tate makes the importance of the early technology clear, but unless you have a particular historical interest, there may not be much here to catch your eye. It is not until the last room that we get a proper glimpse of human life, as the focus shifts from landscape and architecture to portraiture. As Talbot says, “the photographer's eye is arrested where ordinary people see nothing remarkable”. I feel this is true here; as a member of the ordinary people, I fail to see anything remarkable in this exhibition.

FRED FYLES

Travel

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Travel Editor || Yung Nam Cheah

Discover new places through your friends

Yung Nam Cheah had a chat with Imperial graduate Krishnan Patel, who founded the travelling tips phone app, Kites

Have you ever heard a cool place from a friend that's just around the corner from where you pass by every day and thought, wow, how come I never see that?

Or have you ever found an amazing place tucked away in a city that you think you know everything about and wanted to share it to the world?

Whether the answers to both questions are correct, then Kites is the app for you. It allows users to view and write short recommendations anywhere in the world.

Most interesting of all to us, however, is that the founder Krishnan Patel started the app during his underground Computing course as his final year project in Imperial.

Yung Nam Cheah: Give us a brief history of the app!

Krishnan Patel: I started the app as my final year project and it was something that I enjoyed a lot. I spent more time than I should have on it and continued working on it part-time even after graduation. Before I started working on Kites full time in 2014 though I also worked on another start-up project which unfortunately didn't work out.

YNC: Why did you start Kites?

KP: It might sound strange to some people, but I am not a fan of trying out new things in the real world without 'knowing' that they are going to be good. However, I am open to checking out new places if they are recommended to me by a friend.

One example would be this Italian restaurant around the corner from Imperial (Da Mario's) that I never knew existed until these guys from my group projects took me there. At first only my friends used it and we sent private messages to each other, but then it gained traction and I opened it to the public.

YNC: What was the idea behind it?

KP: The idea is to allow people to find interesting things and learn new stuff about their city, or discover trivia that they would otherwise not know in a city they visited. It's the little things like this is Princess Diana's favourite restaurant. I have lived in London for 16 years and I love that there are still so many new places to discover.

I love twitter so I based the format of Kites on it, with a word limit (140) to keep the information concise. People can follow each other and favourite Kites and comment on it. Recently I have added a collection feature that can link Kites together to form a mini tour and I plan to expand on that!

YNC: Why is it called Kites?

KP: Originally when the app was still private, you would not be able to see the message until you are close by, kind of like a kite. I am also a fan of the letter K and the colour green, that's how the name and logo came about. However I am open to changing the logo in the future.

"The idea is to allow people to find interesting things and learn new stuff about their city."



The logo and slogan of Kites Photo: kites/google

YNC: What are the weirdest Kites you ever came across?

KP: There's one in Taiwan which marks out a suicide hotspot; in London there's this guy who marks a bunch of kites around his house. There's also a lot of random messages of people saying hi and it takes some time to sort through them everyday.

YNC: Do you have any favourites?

KP: There is this guy who left a Kite for where you can see the best view

There is this guy who left a Kite for where you can see the best view of Seattle

of Seattle Monument which is a great insider tip and I love it.

YNC: Where in the world has the most Kites?

KP: For now London is taking the lead, but Kites is spreading all over the world and I am excited to see more.

Kites is available on both Android and Apple – why not check it out and find out what's around the corner from you!



Travel felix twitter page food Photo: screenshot

Follow @Felix_Travel on twitter!

There are countless travel stories and tips out there in the world than stories we publish fortnightly on the felix travel section. There are abundant amazing competitions and inspiring articles floating around on the internet and travel felix wants to share them all with you!

We know how hard you all work for your degree, and how horrible British weather can be; why not start planning the summer of a life time or at least, a weekend getaway? Even if you are not a keen traveller, reading stories from globe trotters might just brighten up your day.

To get in on the travel felix love-fest, #travelfelix and we will retweet!

Travel

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Travel Editor || Yung Nam Cheah

The Unforgettable, amazing Oaxaca...

Lost yourself in paradise alongside Aditya Narayanan in this paradise

Holidays in Mexico are stereotypically presented as being all about that beach. From Cancun to Tijuana (and Acapulco), the golden sands and azure seas are well trodden by the average foreign tourist. With glorious sunshine all year and relatively calm and clear water, it is the perfect place to laze about aimlessly for a week or five. As it happens, this is a rather mainstream opinion, and all have become the epitome of the term tourist trap; a deluge of retirees looking for a lazy getaway and 20-somethings looking for a bacchanalian experience.

The counterpoint to this idea is Oaxaca, the capital city of the eponymous state located in the middle of the Valles Centrales, a low mountain range forming a vertebral ridge down the south of Mexico. For a city that is not even in the largest 50 in the country, it has had a surprising political influence, producing two of the most notable presidents in the history of Mexico: Benito Juarez and Porfirio Diaz.

The former was without doubt the most influential president of modern Mexico. Apart from being the first president of indigenous heritage, he achieved the separation of church from state affairs and was a champion of equality for the indigenous people of Mexico. As

you can imagine, he is considered a hero. That the city also produced the controversial, authoritarian president Diaz (whose signature catchphrase was “pan o palo”: bread or a beating), however, receives much less coverage. Nevertheless, politics is not the reason Mexicans flood here – for one, it is a heaven for foodies.

It all starts with the mole.

Mole itself just means sauce in the Nahuatl language, its most famous incarnation being the chocolate based mole poblano from the city of Puebla. But Oaxaca is not content with just one mole. To it, seven (yes, seven!) is a much more suitable number. And these sauces come in a tantalising variety of colour and flavour. The mole amarillo is a light, sweet sauce made using tomatillo, and resembles a more flavourful tomato soup.

While my personal favourite is the thick, dark brown mole negro, with the bitter hints of chocolate complementing a chilli kick and a smoky aftertaste. The whole gamut is available in the Mercado 20 de Noviembre, a complex similar in concept to the hawker centres in Singapore and Malaysia.

Unfortunately a limited timeframe means I do not get to taste more than two moles, at least partly because Oaxaca has far more to offer than just mole, as I find out to my delight an hour before taking the night



View of a pool formed by spring at Hierve el Agua. Photo: Aditya Narayanan

bus out of the city. In the same aforementioned food market, tucked away in a corner so nondescript that I only found it while looking for the exit, is an isolated hall, tinged a gloomy yellow from lighting overhead. Vendors line up to offer fresh meat and vegetables sold by weight and grilled before your eyes. Smoke and steam swirls around the room, obscuring most of the action and adding to the air of seclusion and mystery. It is as if only those who are able to find this section are worthy of sampling what it has to offer, allowing the few lucky ones to leave with the feeling of having found their own secret treasure.

It ends with chapulines.

Small, red and seemingly oblong, they lie in mounds on carts at the roadside, having the appearance of dried red chillies. These are very popular amongst Mexicans, not to mention Oaxaceños: grasshoppers fried in a mix of chilli, salt and lime. It takes me two days to muster the courage to try

one, and the savoury crunchiness brings to mind savoury trail mix. For an instant I can see the appeal; the popcorn-esque quality that allows one to absentmindedly munch on for hours without concept of quantity. And then aftertaste hits me like a sledgehammer; an indescribable flavour I have never experienced before, and still have trouble wrapping my head round which requires several gulps of water to wash out. Although worth trying once, I won't be going for a repeat any time soon.

Fans of alcohol might also find it

interesting to know that the state of Oaxaca is the largest producer of mezcal in the country. Although much maligned as the poor cousin of tequila (a myth, for tequila is just a specific kind of mezcal from the state of Jalisco), mezcal distilling culture has experienced a huge upsurge over the large few decades and is subject to the same rigour in its processing. Now, mezcalerias and production houses are a frequent sight on side of the highways, and show a refinement of flavour to rival a whisky or brandy distillery. A stop in a distillery, many of which are family run enterprises around nearby Matatlan, can see you sample as many as ten flavours ranging including coffee cream, mint and the mysterious ‘aphrodisiac’.

Leaving aside all the culinary pleasures and intoxicants, Oaxaca itself is a picturesque, colonial town, arranged in the square grid layout typical of most North American towns. Buildings are simple cuboids in Lego-brick colours of red, yellow, blue and green, with few elaborate touches short of the occasional wrought iron window rail.

The main square (or Zocalo, as it is called here) is abuzz with the sound of buskers crooning Mexican folk songs or participating in street theatre and young lovers taking advantage of the shaded areas to watch the world go by, seemingly oblivious to the forest of white tents marking the territory of yet another Occupy-style protest happening in Mexico.

Winding through the narrow, crowded yet immaculate side streets brings light to an area teeming with contradictions. The rustic, simple

facades of the store fronts disguise plush boutiques and hipster cafes, where artisanal gelato and luxury handbags being sold either side of hole-in-the-wall Mexican street food!

Trips to the surrounding region offer jaw dropping vistas and hikes into the mountainous terrain are popular. Some indication of what to expect is available at the nearby ruins Monte Alban, perched atop a hill overlooking Oaxaca city, where the multi-coloured mat of the town buildings offers a nice contrast to the bottle green and dusty orange of the mountains. The jewel of the landscape however, is Hierve el Agua.

Looking at it feels like time has come to a standstill, with a foaming, convulsing body of water pouring over a cliff without actually moving. It is thousand years of work of a heavily mineralised natural spring flowing gently over the wall of rock, making regular deposits to form structures similar to stalactites. Above the cliffs, small pools formed by the spring gleam a blue so bright it looks like a Pixar animation, while happy tourists take a dip in its ‘healing waters’.

In truth, I could have written four or five separate articles about Oaxaca at least, focusing on each of its fine cultural heritage, exquisite local cuisine, spectacular geography and general ambience.

I still feel a small tinge of regret I did not spend longer than three days there and I suspect even two weeks may not have been enough to satisfy me. In hindsight though, perhaps this is a good thing, for now I have the perfect excuse to return.



Just one of the many alternative stores in the city. Photo: Aditya Narayanan



Meet the Candidates

Wednesday 4 March
Live from 19:00

Your chance to see the candidates in
The Big Elections battle it out for your vote.

Watch it live at:

imperialcollegeunion.org/meet-the-candidates

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections



Welfare

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Welfare Editor || Diba Esbati & Chanon Wongsatayanont

Let's clear up some Myth-conceptions

Diba Esbati attempts to debunk some common myths associated with Eating Disorders

As some of you might already know, this week was Eating Disorder Awareness Week, and I have decided what better opportunity to talk about eating disorders than in a mythbuster-esque article debunking some of the most prominent false facts that surround these serious conditions. I think we have all heard something about eating disorders, it's one of those conditions that unfortunately often gets poked fun at in the media with really tactless jabs and often insensitive cheap jokes that just reinforce harmful stereotypes. So without further ado, let's bust some myths.

Myth: Only white rich teenage girls get eating disorders

I can't even fathom how this one came about other than sheer ignorance. Let's deconstruct and debunk this with stats: eating disorders affect up to 24 million people of all races, cultures, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. It is estimated that around 10-15% of all the people with anorexia or bulimia are male, and this is only on the lower end because much fewer men seek treatment for eating disorders. This stereotype tends to cause people who don't fit into the 'rich caucasian girl' mould to think they can't really be suffering from what they so clearly are, and it is so damaging because fewer and fewer people feel like they have a valid reason to seek treatment and instead suffering in silence.

Myth: It's just about food

This one I understand. When something is called an eating disorder, your first thought is going to be that as soon as someone just gets their eating in order, everything will be fine, but that's not true. Yes, developing and maintaining healthy eating habits are essential to recovery, but they're not the only factor involved. Eating disorders are all about compulsive behaviours and thinking patterns; a person with an eating disorder can't just 'fix their eating habits' and suddenly be okay, it's the underlying thought patterns that control the eating in the first place, and those need to be addressed so that the eating itself can be improved. So please, think before you tell someone to 'just eat something'.

Myth: You can totally tell if



Photo credit: Discovery Network

someone is suffering from an eating disorder by just looking at them.

False. The first thing to remember is that there are several types of eating disorders, and all of them result in different body types. What's more is that not even the same type of eating disorder cause the same type of differences in body types. In fact, many people who suffer from eating disorders are of normal (medical) weight, yet suffer from things like bulimia.

Myth: People with eating disorders are just shallow and have chosen to behave the way they do.

As with all mental illnesses, you don't just wake up one day and choose to have them. It is a gradual process, often influenced by countless different factors. It usually arises from several different life events which are in some way associated with eating and body image. Eating disorders are a result of societal influence, personal stress and triggers, and sometimes even genetics. There is no one reason why someone develops an eating disorder, and it certainly isn't out of a lifestyle choice.

Myth: Eating disorders are just a cry for attention, or a phase, and they'll go away on their own.

I cannot stress enough how much this isn't true! As I mentioned before, eating disorders are serious mental health issues and need to be treated as soon as they're detected and by medical intervention. Eating disorders have the highest mortality rates out of all mental illnesses because of the severe adverse physical effects that accompany them, making them the most dangerous. They can result in heart and organ failure, osteoporosis, and malnutrition

among a cornucopia of other conditions. Because of this myth, only 1 in 10 people suffering from eating disorders seek treatment, and only 35% of those receive treatment specially catered towards their condition.

Myth: Eating disorders are for life and cannot be treated.

If you take one thing away from this article, it should be this: Although recovering from an eating disorder takes time and effort, it is far from impossible. There are various facilities available to help people with eating disorders through their recovery process, and when given proper treatment, over 80% of people make at least a partial recovery. Yes, it's difficult, and yes, it takes a long time, but it is definitely curable!

So please if you know someone who might be suffering from an eating disorder, or if you yourself are going through it, remember that recovery is possible. Be kind, gentle, and understanding. Don't judge others for things they have no control over and just be there to provide the support they want and need.

IC Mentality's Jess has posted a wonderful guide on how to support someone with an eating disorder on their facebook page which I highly suggest you check out! While you're at it, make sure to support their campaign on the Union website, they're trying to do a wonderful thing and deserve all the support we can give them.

All the statistics given in this article were either taken from the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders website or the National Institute of Mental Health's website and fact checked by checking the appropriate journal articles referenced.

Mental health helplines and resources

If you are concerned about your own mental health, or that of a loved one, there are people out there you can talk to who can give you advice, or will be there to listen.

Helplines

If you are distressed and need someone to talk to:
[Samaritans \(24 hr helpline\)](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)
 Phone: 08457 90 90 90
 Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

Anxiety Help : Anxiety UK

Phone: 08444 775 774 (Mon-Fri 9:30 - 17:30)
 Website: www.anxietyuk.org.uk

No Panic

Phone: 0808 800 2222 (daily, 10am - 10pm)
 Website: www.nopanic.org.uk

Eating Disorders: Beat

Phone: 0845 634 1414 (Mon - Thurs, 1.30pm - 4:30pm)

Addiction: Alcoholics Anonymous

Phone: 0845 769 7555 (24 hour helpline)
 Website: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

[Narcotics Anonymous](http://www.ukna.org)
 Phone: 0300 999 1212
 Website: www.ukna.org

College Resources Student Counselling Service

Phone: 020 7594 9637
 e-mail: counselling@ic.ac.uk
[Imperial College Health Centre](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/healthcentre)
 Telephone: 020 7584 6301
 e-mail: healthcentre@ic.ac.uk

You can also go to your academic or personal tutor regarding pastoral issues, especially if you think your mental health might be affecting your academic performance.

"Eating disorders affect around 24 million people around the world."

"Over 80% of people who seek treatment make at least a partial recovery"

HANGMAN



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Lionel Richie sneaks into Imperial College Union



An artists impression of how the night panned out. Photo: made using our bare photoshopping skills

Hangman and Lionel Richie managed to sneak through into Imperial College Union this week, after pretending they were going to the *Felix* office but instead heading straight for FiveSixEight.

They managed to get away without paying the entry fee, and, microphone and fake membership card in hand, they approached the bar to talk to some of the pundits present.

Richie approached Wom Theeler, Union President, and asked him just how relevant he thought the Union really is. He replied jovially, "Let me tell you something, it better be

relevant with the business I'm in! Relevance is the word."

However, when Richie asked him if he thought if there is hope for someone who isn't a white tory male to win Union President next year, the mood went decidedly sour. "That's a bit of a shitty question, you're trying to ruin it for me," he said, before storming away.

Richie then approached Kiss Craye, the Deputy President (Welfare Lad) as he was swigging WKDs at the bar, and asked him how his night was going. "Yeah it's a big night tonight," he hiccupped, before following with a

shot of whiskey. "It's the biggest night in Imperial College; Wednesdays are huge."

Craye then muttered something in coherently about tampons, before slumping off towards the South Kensington casino.

Richie also spotted a couple of rugby players sitting alone at a table, half pint in hand, internship applications screwed up around them. Richie approached him and asked what he was up to at the Union tonight. "We're all about the girls!" they cheered, before downing their drinks.

However, when Richie asked them if they could get him in with the ladies too, they shock their heads sadly, explaining they were permanently banned from the Royal Veterinary College. "We're big fans, but they don't want to hang out with us."

They then got up, smashed a few windows and left for a coach waiting outside.

Finally Richie approached a computing student putting up campaign posters, and asked if he was hopeful about winning. Said the student sadly, "I am running, but I'll

be in a category with some hot girls, so I don't stand a chance."

"I'm only really here with my two friends because they want to meet Kiss Craye."

Richie hung around for another hour or two, although no-one recognised that he wasn't a student, so simply left a bit later, undetected. He went to Wagamamas afterwards, and recapped the evening.

"Well, I walked into the bar where all the sabbs drink without the security saying anything to me.

"Wom Theeler swore at me, but all in all, it was a fantastic success!"

Hangman exclusive: students running for sabbatical roles have selfish motives

As the run up to the student elections continues, Hangman decided to investigate why students are running for the highly coveted sabbatical positions. Hangman managed to hack into the Union server, and chased down those who had already nominated themselves to find out why they were so desperate for that golden year working for Imperial College Union.

"Well, I'm coming to the end of my biology degree, and I don't see it getting any better once I graduate," said one third year student, who is currently running for the role of Deputy President (Education).

Hangman interviewed them as they were photocopying hundreds of black and white flyers, unaware of the obvious typo in her manifesto points.

"I'm not a big fan of learning or podcasts or anything like that, but the 19k wage is really tempting."

Hangman met up with a fourth year Chemistry student, who was struggling desperately with Photoshop trying to remove some spots from their chosen photo. "I thought it would be a great opportunity to do something worthwhile and really make a difference at my Union," she pauses before cracking up. "I can't believe I

kept a straight face whilst saying that!

"Nah, I'm staying around mostly for the free accommodation; since the hall rent prices went up, living in South Ken for another year without spending a penny is immense."

Hangman also spoke to a physics first year student, who was deciding between two different themes for their campaign. Whilst toggling between movie posters for *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *Fight Club*, he explained why he was going for the role of Deputy President (Welfare): "Man, the rumours I've heard about Chris Kaye [the current DP(W)].

"Did you know that he once

convinced a whole subwarden team to let this student keep swords in his room? That sort of power must be mental."

Finally, hangman caught up with a fourth year medical student, who is considering running for Union President. Whilst talking to Hangman, she was planning her social media campaign, complete with a twitter profile, a Facebook page and a website too. All boasted a stark purple and yellow colour scheme.

"Yeah, I think I can win, I mean, anyone could be President, so why not me? I know this year's President is a white male, and I know last year's

was too, and the year before, and, well, the year before that...and, what? The year before that too?"

She pauses, before continuing: "Nah, I'm sure the students always vote for the most competent and qualified candidate,

"I don't think being a woman will hold me back! Imperial is a really open minded and supportive community."

She shut her laptop, collected her bag and told us she was off to drink with the rugby team. "They're nice lads really, they never have a sleazy word to say about women, not as far as I am aware anyway."

HANGMAN



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Diary of A Fresher aged 18 3/4

Friday 20th of February

Finally finished my potato haul, thank God. I am so glad I can now consume carbs that I don't have to peel first.

Ran into Kiss Krave today in the SCR, which I like to sneak into as they have really nice hot chocolate. The only thing is I'm not meant to be there as an undergrad, and once I saw my personal tutor there so I just turned around and left straight away.

Kriss was pretty awkward, but he bought me a drink and told me about how work was getting more and more stressful. He told me how he'll have to spend every weekend marking down all the sanitary products in the union Shop, and he's not been told if he should label every single tampon or just the box, so is going to label them all individually just in case.

He also told me his Tinder success stories. Although some of them sounded a bit dodge (one girl refused to eat squid whilst out for dinner due to the time it was in the lunar cycle) he seems to be going out every night.

Saturday 21st February

Have decided to get Tinder, as American Girl is a lost cause, Dorothy is never going to take me back.

Sunday 22nd February

Today I sat in the library and just sat swiping every girl right for about three hours. I had to extend my distance range twice as I kept running out of girls.

Have been speaking to one girl though quite a lot now, she's an older lady but seems really cool. She's like on her fifth year at Imperial but told me that she's still not completed her fourth year, so in reality she's basically a third year and I could have taken a gap year making her, if you think about it, only really in the year above.

Monday 23rd February

Have added Cougar Girl on whatsapp. She keeps turning the conversation sexual though, which is scary as I bet she's so experienced. Maybe I should watch 50 Shades of Grey just in case she wants to do bondage or something.

Tuesday 24th February

No-one will come to the cinema with me to see 50 Shades.

Wednesday 25th February

Cougar woman is getting increasingly frisky. One of her messages was about how she likes to have sex in this hidden staircase between the fourth and fifth floor of the library. What the hell, I am always on fourth floor and I have never seen this staircase.

Thursday 26th February

Maybe she once had sex on the main staircase, maybe that is what she meant. I am now too deep but am scared she may try to seduce me whilst I do my lab report. Spent all afternoon thinking about having sex in library, so had to go home with awkward hard on. Luckily roommate was out at some APACUS event so could relieve the pressure in the peace of my own room, instead of the shared showers.

Have bought 50 Shades of amazon and plan to read the book under the covers of my bed so no-one will know.

HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week in an attempt to reserve a computer in the library, you use the age-old technique of jamming a penny into the keyboard, and leave for five hours. Unfortunately you return to the library set ablaze due to an "electrical fault"; the library baked potatoes are still on sale and the taste roughly the same.



TAURUS

This week I know you are all positively gagging for the next step in the fishcake recipe: Pat away any liquid from the fish, then carefully lift the pieces into the pan with the mash. Then mix together until roughly combined. Dust hands and work surface with flour and Create patties about 2.5cm thick. Repeat to make 8 cakes.



GEMINI

This week you watch the Oscars in heavy anticipation having placed a large bet on the winner of the best film category; you lose the entirety of your maintenance loan betting on a film you assumed was about the DPW saving Britain from Nazi Germany – it turns out The Imitation Kaye wasn't even nominated.



CANCER

This week you travel up to Manchester to watch Question Time, with high hopes for Imperial's team; however you fail to anticipate the sexual tension between Fen Bernardo and Jeremy Paxman, leading to the most disturbing visual display of affection you have ever seen. You buy some bleach on the way home for your eyes.



LEO

This week after the library removes all wank tissue material, you opt to stay home and use socks as containers for your salty sadness. After leaving them for an extended period of time they become mouldable like plasticine, leading you to create a replica of Queens Tower, winning 1st prize in LeoSoc's competition.



VIRGO

This week, following the news that legislation has been passed allowing the creation of three-parent babies you go on the hunt for prospective fathers to create the perfect child; however you are stuck in an awful dilemma of how to attain said sperm. Looks like you'll be camping out in the library toilets for a long time...



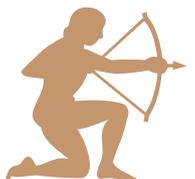
LIBRA

This week in order to secure a space in the library, you enlist the Russian society to help take possession of Wolfson as a separatist state; however the Model UN society take offense to this and send in their peace-keeping forces. Long story short, you're forced to spend all your revision time cleaning the blood off the walls.



SCORPIO

This week in order to combat the perpetual loneliness of being an Imperial student, you decide to get on the Tinder train and hope for the best. After days of swiping right and upgrading to premium you finally get a match, and after chatting you decide to meet. Unfortunately it turns out it was your lecturer all along.



SAGITTARIUS

This week, upon coming down with a seasonal cold, you decide to raid your foreign roommate's suspiciously large supply of tablets, and take a couple that seem to resemble lemsips; however they turn out to be incredibly strong opioids, and after getting caught hours later dry humping the warden's door you regret it.



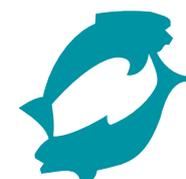
CAPRICORN

This week, five months into your Horizons course you decide that no amount of qualifications is worth the soul crushing boredom. You return home only to find your Level 2 German teacher has created a shrine to you and is lying naked on your bed, ready to receive your seed. It's not so easy to quit Horizons after all.



AQUARIUS

This week on hearing about Garden Hall being closed down years ago and left unused, you decide to investigate and see if anything interesting has been left behind; unfortunately you stumble upon the Vice Provost's secret sex dungeon, unravelling the entire Imperial conspiracy for closing down halls against student wishes.



PISCES

This week, you're a Biologist staring down the barrel of your final exams. We in the Felix office want you to know that everything is going to be alright in the end – after all, even Philippa Skett still got a 2:1, and look at her now, living the high life. She's got over 600 followers on Twitter and everything.

Puzzles

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Puzzles Editor || Michael Faggetter

Weekly Quiz

QuizSoc

This quiz has been brought to you by the fabulous **QuizSoc!** Want to find out more? quiz@imperial.ac.uk

1) Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll

Which drug was first synthesised by Albert Hoffman in 1938, although he would not discover its true properties until he accidentally ingested it 5 years later?

2) The Fine Arts

From which country did the painters Bronzino, Tintoretto and Reni come from?

3) TV and Cinema

What was the name of the Robin Williams' alien character in a 1978-82 sitcom?

4) Popular Misconceptions

What would you do in a Roman vomitorium?

5) Things That You Didn't Know Had a Name

What is the specific name of the infinity symbol?

6) Literature and Written Words

Which book tells of Christopher McCandless' attempt to live in the Alaskan wilderness, later turned into a movie directed by Sean Penn?

7) In the News

Natalie Bennett recently launched the campaign for the upcoming general election for which party?

8) Word Fun

Which word for an antihistamine medication is the only English-language word to contain the letters x, y and z in that order?

9) This Day in History

27th February 1932 was the date of birth of which legendary actress who played Cleopatra and had distinctive, quasi-violet eyes?

10) ...and if you got all the others right, their initials spell out...

What type of calcium oxide-based lighting equipment is no longer in use but still refers to its use in theatres?

3			5		
2			1		
	2	3		4	5
5			3		
6			4		
	1	5		3	6

6			1		
5			2		
		4			6
3					
2			6		
		1			3

	3	5		6	4
	5			4	
	1	3		5	6
	4			3	



By: L. A. Borfó



For more comics and animations visit FilbertCartoons.com



FUCWIT

Attention Puzzlers! There is only one page this week but the big 1600th issue is next week. Watch this space.

To keep this double-page spread going, we need your support! If you have any ideas for puzzles that you would like to see here, or want to get involved in any other way, then please just drop us an email!

As always, don't forget to send in your completed puzzles. Points are awarded for each correct solution, bonus points (in brackets) are awarded to the first correct answer!

Points available this week:

Weekly Quiz	4 points (+2)
Sudoku	1 point each

Leaderboard

Individuals:

1. Adam Stewart	106
2. Catmelon	39
3. Jem Ong	37
4. Kebab King	21
5. Angus	8
6. Gene H.	7
7. Sach Patel	4
8. Fengchu Zhang	3
9. Gabriel Quek	2

Teams:

1. Fully Erect	121
2. L3Gendary	71
3. Mindsuckers	48
4. WG	27
5. Dapper Giraffe	15
6. pintosRules	14
7. AnyonebutKofi	8
8. Ebolalala	7
9. Aerodoku	2
10. Guang <3 Le	1

Last Week's Solutions

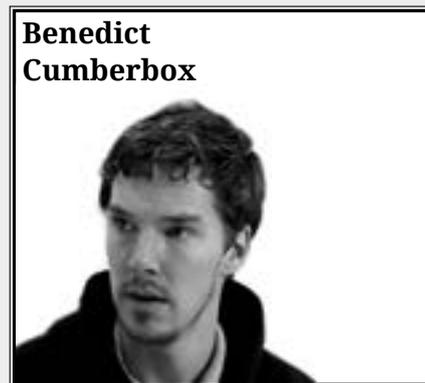
Weekly Quiz

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Azeroth | 6) Ethiopia |
| 2) Dakota | 7) Nice guys |
| 3) Just to watch him die | 8) Copenhagen |
| 4) American Sniper | 9) she's the Youngest ever |
| 5) Chirality | 10) Adjacency |

Word Search

The remaining letters spell out COCHINEAL, MAUVEINE

KHAKI	CHOCOLATE	MAROON	RED	MAGENTA	TITIAN
PITCH BLACK	AMBER	OCHRE	SEA GREEN	NAVY	TEAL
PERSE	AUBURN	VERMILION	EBONY	PINK	INDIGO
PURPLE	STEEL GREY	RUSSET	AZURE	MAGNOLIA	VIRIDIAN
PERIWINKLE	CHARTREUSE	CHARCOAL	YELLOW	DRAB	FAWN
CREAM	HELIOTROPE	ECRU	AVOCADO	CORAL	BICE
CHAMPAGNE	SEPIA	BLONDE	SABLE	AUBERGINE	BUFF
CHESTNUT	PEA GREEN	BRONZE	GOLD	LIME GREEN	SKY BLUE
EMERALD	LEMON	BROWN	GINGER	TAN	SILVER
GREEN	SLATE GREY	TANGERINE	APRICOT	CRIMSON	TURQUOISE
ULTRAM-	MAHOGANY	TERRACOTTA	LINCOLN	CINNAMON	
RINE	ROSE	LAVENDER	GREEN	SCARLET	
PUCE	PEACH	BURGUNDY	VIOLET	DUN	



Benedict Cumberbox



Clubs and Societies

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C & S Editor || Ben Howitt

Amersham overrun by pumpkins

Ellie Johnstone on this year's silliest orienteering competition

On Saturday 21st February 2015, the Recreational Clubs Committee held its annual Night Hike, a team orienteering-style competition held at night in the countryside around London, open to all students, staff and alumnus of Imperial. This year the competition returned to its original base of Amersham, Buckinghamshire and with a record 44 teams and 151 competitors, it was set to be a night to remember!

At 17:15, the RCC Exec set off from London with much moaning from Stephen about how the minibuses were so much worse to drive than a vintage fire engine...

The team arrived at the base in Amersham at around 6, to set up the registration and start desks and unload 150 people's worth of food for breakfast from the minibuses! The night was very cold, with a clear starry sky, which meant the added benefit of a bright moon. At 19:00 the first teams began to arrive at the hall, ready to venture out into the night...

The competition starts when the teams are given their map: they then have 6 hours to gain as many points as possible by visiting checkpoints worth varying numbers of points. The checkpoints take the form of questions, adding an extra difficulty of trying to find a specific answer in the dark! The first team out were The Nocturnals at 19.36. From then on there was a steady flow of teams arriving and leaving. At 11.30 the last team left and we were all able to grab an hour's sleep.

Despite a few mishaps with blisters and low blood sugar involving minibus pick-ups, all teams completed the 6 hours and arrived back at the hall between 01:00 and 05:15, a little cold and tired but all thoroughly enjoyed themselves! Most teams tried to settle down and sleep a little in the hall but by the time the last few times had arrived back



Top: the Spookies, winners of Best Fancy Dress. Bottom (left to right): Clive's Bicycle Repairs, 'You think you know it all, but you don't', winners of the walking and running categories. Photos: Ellie Johnstone

conditions were quite cramped!

At 05:00 the organising team began the mighty task of cooking breakfast for 150 people. This involved scrambling 300 eggs, cooking over 200 slices of bacon and trying not to burn 60 tins of beans to the bottom of the pan. Plus the added pressure of 150 people getting more and more impatient at the smell of food! And that's before the even more mighty task of the washing up.

After breakfast the last item on the agenda was the prizegiving, the most exciting part of the night!

First up was the best team name

and most checkpoints visited, which were won by Hike Milligan and The Perpetual Motion Squad respectively.

Next up was the best fancy dress. Runners up were Matt's Bitcheez but the prize of £20, trophy and chocolates went to The Spookies with 'spooky' pumpkin costumes including hats!

Next up was the prize for the winning team in the running category, which was taken by team 'You think you know it all, but you just don't' who beat Cunning Stunts to first place. They won the £40 prize and trophy with an impressive 2150

points, the highest score of the night!

Finally was the hotly contested prize for the winning walking team. In third place was 'Frolicking naked through a field' with 1200 points. Second place went to 'the Rangers' with 1690 points. But THE first place £40 and trophy went to Clive's Bicycle Repairs with a staggering 1860 points!

Overall all the teams had a great time!

Particular thanks must go to Richard, Stephen, Ellen and Jack who helped with the manned checkpoint, registration, driving and breakfast – thanks!

Chem Eng place sixth in Quidditch competition

4am on a weekday morning is rarely a time you see students trooping into College, far less seemingly excited about the prospect of doing so. Yet this was the scene on Tuesday 17th February, as 150 Chemical Engineering students set off to Birmingham to compete in their annual sports competition – Frank Morton's.

A competition like no other, this year it pitted 29 Chem Eng departments from across the UK against each other in a range of sporting challenges. As with most things, Imperial has a strong reputational pedigree, having won the competition seven times, most recently two years ago in Newcastle.

2015's edition involved nineteen different sports, ranging from conventional ones such as 5-a-side football, basketball and netball to non-conventional ones like laser quest, crazy golf and Quidditch which made its debut this year. The eventual winners were the hosts with 60 points, leaving runners-up Strathclyde in the dust with 24. Overall Imperial came a creditable sixth; gaining first place in dodgeball, second in tennis and third in rounders and the sports day event.

After the sporting activities and awards ceremony, held in the Barclaycard Arena, were concluded, the famous Frank Morton's afterparty celebrations began. The IC Crowd set about proving Imperial Chem Eng students can do more than just size pumps, belting out 90s classics from the likes of Spice Girls and S Club 7 with gusto.

As ever it was a fantastic event enjoyed by all who attended, proving that engineers really can operate on very little sleep! 2016's edition will certainly be an event to look forward to.

RICHARD GLOVER
C&S WRITER

Running a trip away? Is your club doing something exciting?
Take a leaf out of Erasmus' book and write for C&S!



Contact Ben at felix.clubsandsocieties@ic.ac.uk

Clubs and Societies

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C & S Editor || Ben Howitt

International Development in a Changing World

Marcus Bishop reviews the key themes and outcomes of the London International Development Conference



The London International Development conference took place on the 7th February, 2015. Images: imperialidc

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets, with a deadline of 2015, that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Now we've hit 2015, the London International Development Conference (IDC) asked what progress has been made, and more significantly, how can the global development agenda adapt to address a different set of challenges?

The world has changed greatly during the last 15 years. Dramatic events, including unprecedented natural disasters in part linked to climate change, the Great 2007 Recession and Arab Spring, have changed the course of global progress in unanticipated ways and

demonstrated the unreliability of established economic models and political assumptions. A new and more balanced global order is emerging. Divides between developed and developing countries are lessening, as many formerly underdeveloped countries move up the economic ladder. Global demand for natural resources is increasing, in some cases beyond the capacity of the environment to replenish itself or absorb the impacts of our anthropogenic activities.

It is clear that the 8 MDGs did actually galvanise action to support development. Global poverty has been halved five years ahead of the 2015 timeframe. Ninety per cent of children in developing regions now receive primary education, and disparities between boys and girls in enrolment have narrowed. Remarkable gains have also been made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis, along

with improvements in all health indicators. The likelihood of a child dying before age five has been nearly cut in half over the last two decades. That means that about 17,000 children are saved every day. We also met the target of halving the proportion of people who lack access to improved sources of water.

The MDG framework has however been criticised, mainly for what it has omitted. Critics argue that the goals do not place enough emphasis on sustainable development, and are a minimalist interpretation of the millennium declaration's spirit and ambition, leaving out crucial issues such as peace and security.

The London IDC kicked off with Hilary Stauffer, former Geneva Diplomat and Fellow at LSE, who examined the important intersections of Development and Human Rights. Hilary started by saying "Nobody can agree whether the 'right to development' is a reasonable request

from poor countries for a helping hand, or a naked money grab that allows them to put off real reform". Hilary framed a debate which identified two distinct schools of thought around this intersection.

The Human Rights Power Structure in Geneva is a much more natural home for the geo-political West, as they understand that language and sensibilities that go along with the idea of "human rights," and generally believe that if you have good governance, economic development will eventually come. In contrast, the Development Power Structure in New York is a much more natural home for the geo-political Global South, as they understand the language and sensibilities of "development" and generally believe that a baseline level of economic development is a pre-requisite for the "luxury" of good governance.

'Development' people tend to think that 'Human rights' people

are obsessed with the macro level of things (treaties, conventions, diplomacy), and get so caught up in the details they forget there are real people that are the subject of these international legal instruments. 'Human rights' people think that 'Development' people are only concerned with the micro level of things (poverty alleviation projects, clean water initiatives) and get so caught up in the details they forget governments move slowly and are generally tight-fisted.

So the question is, who is right? What is the point of having another treaty that doesn't solve anything? Why has ~70 year of aid in Africa failed to deliver proper clean water systems for millions? Essentially, we have a lot to learn from each camp, and we shouldn't think rigidly about the most effective means of achieving development goals. It is important to consider the benefits of international coalitions for delivering positive

Clubs and Societies

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C & S Editor || Ben Howitt

change and aid to the desperate, in combination with human rights laws and strong governance to maintain fair and efficient socioeconomic improvements at the local level.

The conference then invited Maurice Wren CEO of The Refugee Council, and Stephen Wordsworth of the Council for At Risk Academics to tackle the more-tangible human rights violations of Syria, and dangerous migration routes into Europe. The number of migrants landing on Italian shores quadrupled last year, as more than 170,000 people from the Middle East and Africa fled humanitarian crises, piling pressure on the EU to form a long-term migration strategy. Syrians fleeing civil war and Eritreans escaping forced conscription comprised nearly half of all Italian boat arrivals in 2014, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Refugees from Libya, Mali, Sudan, Nigeria and Gambia were also common. Many migrants brave a perilous journey across the Mediterranean to Italy before travelling overland to other European countries. More than 3,200 fatalities were recorded last year, and many more are expected as the EU controversially scales back its rescue operation.

Maurice described the daily struggle for existence of the migrants squatting in 'the Jungle' of Calais, and many find it shocking that such poor conditions can be found in one of the most developed countries in Europe. The apathy of EU members to take in migrants has frustrated many advocating the case of those suffering from the aftershocks of the Arab Spring. Stephen spearheaded the need for more commitment from the UK to support refugees, and "do away with the preconceptions that all migrants are unskilled and are a burden on society". Academics are often the most persecuted individuals, due to their exposure to knowledge and ability to enlighten others. Many of our research efforts around WWII would have been thwarted if we did not intervene to help academics in plight. So the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have some very immediate questions to address: why are



One of the breakout talks during the conference focussed on Healthcare models in developing countries. Photo: imperialidc

Western countries doing so little to support refugees and what plans do we have to mitigate not conflict and climate-related migration?

Although eliminating hunger is a requisite of development, it is now becoming important to take into account nutritional security through food research and development expenditures, and production methods. Advancements in agriculture were key to achieving the first Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme hunger and poverty, and over the last 15 years, a new concept has emerged: Sustainable Intensification. This is an agricultural development concept advanced by Imperial's Sir Gordon Conway, represented at the conference by Emily Alpert. Emily reasoned that climate change and economic poverty are highly entwined, and a step-change in agricultural productivity must be achieved through sustainable land use, tackling pests and diseases, better management of: soils, water and nutrient resource. Mike Warmington of One Acre Fund highlighted the capital deficiencies in rural economies, and that access to microfinance and business skills, can help farmers improve yields and their livelihoods. The key to many agricultural development programmes is proper engagement of female stakeholders, who must be given a voice, to improve their

access to agricultural and ecological knowledge to change a daily struggle for sustenance into a profitable business, capable of generating surplus product.

By lunch, many of Imperial's engineers were feeling a little lost. David Measures from CARLA International brought the technophiles back into touch, with a workshop on the role of Appropriate Technology in development. Many of the SDGs will rely on engineering for their implementation, particularly the ability of engineers to apply socio-centric, and sustainable design principals to address water security, Greenhouse Gas emissions and energy crises. Where best to start than looking at what has gone wrong with technology based development? Many failed projects are a result of poor understanding of stakeholder needs, and the inadequate robustness of systems, when taken into challenging environments.

David used the example of a UNICEF water tower in Kenya, which relied on solar panels for pumping. Local users simply left the tap on, over-abstracted the water supply, and then resided to harvesting water from fetid pools – many died as a consequence of poor design, and yes, the solar panels were stolen. It is crucial that if we choose to support overseas development through the SDGs, we must properly engage those interacting with technology, ideally to support local innovation, over the interventionist approaches of aid agencies and Governments.

Numerous models of global health programs have emerged over the years. They range from vertical programs focusing on solutions for specific diseases and conditions, to horizontal ones focusing on achieving universal health coverage by encouraging the establishment of community-based health services. Beverley Stringer, Health Policy and Practice Advisor at Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), walked delegates through some of these models. She presented ideas about what makes certain health models

better than others, and why they should be expanded in the future. MSF is a charity at the heart of the humanitarian response to the ongoing West African Ebola epidemic. The take-home message was that despite the fragility of developing countries' healthcare systems, and the interrelation of health and economic prosperity, the SDGs unfortunately leave behind many important global health issues.

Other afternoon talks addressed the importance of accountability, transparency and effectiveness of charities, prompting the question; where does my donation end up? The Against Malaria Foundation talk by Rob Mather (CEO), discussed the hampering effect of theft, and the value of measuring and reporting in improving aid supply chain efficiency. He also caused a stir by attacking MDG programmes for wasting funding on expensive projects such as the Millennium Village Project, which had limited impact.



Fighting Malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa was featured as a topic in one of the day's talks. Photo: imperialidc

Celeste Hicks, a freelance journalist, explored some of the effects of China's Imperialist agenda in Africa. Since 2009, it has been Africa's biggest trade partner, with bilateral trade of \$210bn in 2013. However, it is unknown whether China has been exploiting the rich soil of Africa at the expense of local African people for its own need of oil, copper, iron ore, cotton, coffee and other natural resources. China's influence on Africa has significantly increased in recent years, aided by the promise to Governments of economic development through infrastructure spending. Despite the efficiency with which Chinese businesses can establish schools, hospitals and roads, there remains a concern; what benefit does it all have without operational funding or sustainable legacy? "Just building stuff doesn't necessarily promote wider development".

Concluding the day, Andrew Lamb, former EWB-UK CEO and World Bank consultant, outlined

the concept of 'A Millennial's Development Goals'. He focussed on how Millennials, people born between 1980 and 2000 (yep that's us), have accelerated development efforts, and are highly aware of global issues. The importance of proper sanitation (good loos) was a key theme, and he said "there remain clear deficiencies in the ability of the MDGs to tackle basic sanitary issues, which stunt improvements to health in slums and areas where open defecation is practiced". Sewage systems have been important in building prosperous civilisations through the ages (the Romans managed this ages ago...), but it is evident that many countries are growing so fast, and unequally, that sanitation systems face severe barriers to deployment.

The MDGs created a division in responsibilities and contributions between developed and developing countries. The new SDGs must call on the actions and commitment to change of all countries and development actors. The post-2015

process also runs the risk of being another development fad or gimmick, soon to be replaced by new thinking. That danger can be limited if the goals form an ongoing global compact spanning private sector investment in addition to government involvement and the UN, whose aim is sustained, collaborative progress over the long term. Ultimately, the SDGs and their implementation strategies need to keep pace with development's ever-changing economic, political and social drivers and influences, from trade regimes to foreign investment patterns.

It's Imperial's Millennials – the scientists, engineers and future-business leaders – who are in the hot seat to deliver the SDGs, and manage the sustainable growth of our societies.

Any thoughts? Tweet: #LIDC2015 @ImperialHub.
More information is available on www.imperialidc.org



The Intersection Between Human Rights and Development: Unchartered Territory. Photo: imperialidc

SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

The Cricket World Cup so far Zain Rizvi reports on the first ten days down under

If someone had tried to sit down and write a script for this Cricket World Cup, it would have already been tossed into the bin. With one-day cricket's most coveted prize up for grabs, the unexpected tends to happen. Since Ireland's win over the West Indies on the 3rd day of the tournament, it was obvious that this World Cup would be full of surprises.

The cricketing Gods have shown us that they do indeed possess a keen sense of irony – there was talk at the start of the competition that the 2019 World Cup will be cut down from 14 teams to just 10, limiting the opportunities for associate members, but they soon showed us who's boss.

After Ireland's win, Scotland tried hard to spoil a World Cup favourite's best-laid plans when it met New Zealand in Dunedin, taking seven scalps to give New Zealand a scare before the Black Caps sealed victory.

Afghanistan also looked set to cause a major upset against Sri Lanka on Sunday after it had already ensured Bangladesh had to work hard for victory in Canberra. And this is only 10 days into the World Cup! Oh, the Excitement!

However, it must be noted that most World Cups tend to follow the career trajectory of the Rolling Stones: starting out with thrills, youth and vigour, peaking around the middle, then dragging on and on and on in an increasingly desperate attempt to excite an audience that long ago saw all it had to offer.

We've had our fair share of thrills already in India v Pakistan and



India thrashed South Africa in one of the biggest games so far this tournament. Photo: Getty Images

Australia v England. England lost, naturally, but they didn't emerge from their thrashing empty-handed. As Moeen Ali put it last Tuesday, they got a "wake up call", as well as nabbing a minor umpiring injustice which they can now whinge about for the next couple of months.

Pakistan again showed everyone how generous a nation they are by gifting India (more specifically, Shikhar Dhawan) runs, and then

staying true to tradition and collapsing faster than the Greek economy.

We even had 3 out of 3 wins for New Zealand, which must've pleased those pundits who had tipped New Zealand as favourites in the belief that this makes them stand out from the 99.9% of other pundits who also tipped New Zealand to win the World Cup.

Australia have played 1 and had 1

match abandoned due to rain & Sri Lanka have had a mediocre start with 1 win and 1 loss.

The other big gun in the tournament, South Africa, enjoyed opening success against Zimbabwe but couldn't quite stomach the spicy vindaloo that is the Indian Cricket team. Crushed by 130 runs, South Africa will need to bounce back quickly, as it seems we may have a new favourite on the cards...

IC Tempest takes Crystal Palace by storm

Last Sunday four athletes from Imperial College took second place at the Legacy Cheer and Dance championships at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Imperial College Tempest, consisting of Kayla (flyer), Ben (back spot), Fez and Daryl (both bases), have only been training together for three months, and this was the first time they'd all been on a competition mat at the same time. In fact, the first time that they had run the routine with music was the day before.

IC Tempest is a part of Imperial College Titans, the College's cheerleading programme. Competing separately to the team, they perform routines with a complete focus on stunting, avoiding jumps, tumbling and a dance routine. Tempest is one of two group stunts running with Imperial this year.

With Ben nursing a back injury, aggravated by competing earlier in the day, the group were only able to finish one full run through of the routine on the warm-up mat, but all of the stunts thankfully hit (more or less) and Tempest made their way gingerly towards the holding area for teams ready to compete.

Nerves overcame the group on the mat slightly, and they were unable to put in the twisting dismounts and pike basket, but the score still came in at 83.5 out of a possible 100.

Two of the team members competed again in the same day for Inferno Cheer Avengers, one of the London All Star teams. Inferno Cheer also plays host to two other students from Imperial, and three alumni.

Mariza and Nikki, having cheered for three years with Imperial, also competed their group stunt for the first time, taking second place within their category, and qualifying for the national competition, held at the Copper Box Arena in the Olympic Park. Imperial College Tempest will perform again in April at the British Cheer Association University competition, at which the full team, Imperial College Titans, will compete for the first time this year. They've taken on board the judge's comments, and are pumped to get up to Telford and bring home Grand Champs.

**BEN HOWITT
IC TEMPEST**

Immortals lose last game of season

**SAM HILL
IMPERIAL IMMORTALS**

Sunday 22nd February saw the Immortals play their last BUCS game of the season at Fortress Harlington against the Bath Killer Bees. Earlier in the season the Killer Bees beat the Immortals 13-6 at their swamp of a pitch at high altitude. However, we were keen to change things on our own glorious pitch. Bath kicked off to start the game and the Immortals offense took the pitch, where they started to pound the ball and run hard at the Bath defence. This set the tone for the game, which saw the hard-hitting, rapid and explosive Immortals run game drive down the pitch multiple times hindered only by mental errors. However, the first few drives had a sense of déjà vu as

the Immortals struggled to finish and score points. The defence were not playing at their usual level with so many people playing out of position and injuries to key players although some players certainly 'stepped up' (thank God for Angry Will's Facebook post).

Marin 'Wet Burp' Tuleu got himself an interception by grabbing the ball straight out of a receiver's hands and Markus 'Bobblehead' Mohr, playing out of position, got a tasty tackle for a loss. However, even through the efforts of the defence Bath scored twice in the first half meaning the Immortals were down 14-0 at half time. The defence came out after the half and played with all the physicality and fire we are used to seeing from them and it seemed that momentum had swung the

Immortals way. The offense came out and played hard, running strong and passing well to drive down the pitch. This culminated in a beautiful pass from Toby Sinclair to Noach Ben-Haim who made perhaps the catch of the season juggling it whilst getting illegally interfered with but never losing the ball to score the Immortals first touchdown. This gave the Immortals a boost that was short lived as Bath scored again twice. However, on the last play of the game Bami 'Twerkteam' Falana broke free for a 75 yard run after some great personal play and good blocking all round and scored perhaps the naughtiest rushing touchdown of the season.

The games Most Valuable Players were: Markus 'Bobblehead' Mohr (Line MVP for making plays on both

lines and playing out of position), Mad Dog Pecs (Offense MVP for playing well out of position, picking up yards and only biting off 3 ears on the day), Angry Will Nicholson (Defensive MVP for playing hard while injured and making hits all day) and Bami 'Twerkteam' Falana (Overall MVP for great play every down, running hard and fast and punishing the Bath defence). The team is un-flattered by the score line but a good game was had. Special thanks to the Imperial College Titans Cheerleaders for coming down and supporting the team throughout the horrible weather. The next time the team plays it will be in our own VARSITY MATCH against King's College Regents on the 8th March for the Londonbowl trophy at Honor Oak Park, come down and support ya bois.

SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

Imperial Falcons finish third in Loughborough

Chris Carter reports from the first ever M1 Series Tournament

The Imperial Falcons baseball team recorded a third place position in the first ever M1 Series Tournament at Loughborough on the 21st/22nd February, after some strong performances throughout the weekend and a dramatic walk-off hit secured a win in the final game.

On a brisk February morning, the Imperial Falcons made the long journey up to Loughborough University to compete in the inaugural M1 Series Tournament. The Falcons began their campaign batting first against the inexperienced Sheffield Hornets. Imperial made a bright start, going 2-0 up with no outs, after a hit from captain Ashley (the fastest man in Singapore), and a number of walks. Sheffield recovered to strike out the side, but were then held in the bottom of the innings thanks to some strong pitching from Zack.

The Falcons continued to pile on the pressure in the second innings, as left fielder and punmaster general Stephane led off the inning with a hit. Our top two batters eventually came round to score, and despite two quick outs, Sheffield were unable to shut down the Imperial offense, as

they tacked on another run in the inning. The Hornets fought back in the bottom of the inning, but could not sustain the pressure after some tight fielding and a bad call by their base coach.

After two of the first three Falcons batters were struck out, the Imperial offense came back strongly. Some wayward Sheffield pitching and some good hitting (particularly a double by second baseman Rhys) scored five runs for the Falcons, with the innings ending after the mercy rule kicked in. Once again, the Sheffield offense could not find its groove in the bottom of the inning, as Zack added two more strikeouts to his tally for the game.

After rookie right-fielder Hridayarth drew a walk and Stephane got on base with a hit, it looked like a final flourish was on the cards. Unfortunately, Imperial couldn't continue their good run of batting, although it wasn't necessary as the Falcons started the bottom of the last inning already up by nine runs. Some good pitching and a fantastic sliding catch by replacement catcher Marcel (either that or he'd had enough of standing up) meant that Sheffield couldn't even get on base, as Zack

struck out the last batter to end the game 10-1 to Imperial.

After a long break in the warm, dry students' union, Imperial returned to face the UEA Blue Sox, expecting a much tougher test than what we'd faced earlier. This proved to be the case as Imperial failed to score in the first inning, as our offense didn't fire, and our aggressive base-running didn't pay off. The Falcons kept UEA to only three runs in the bottom of the inning, however, as pitcher Edoardo struck out two Blue Sox batters.

The UEA defence was just as miserly in the first inning, as they brought on the same pitcher that had frustrated the Falcons so much during the Fall Cup. The next two batters struck out, followed by a fly-put to end the inning after Stephane was hit in the hand by a fastball (and now has one hand twice as big as the other). The Blue Sox then batted round in the bottom off the innings to go 7-0 up, after some strong hitting, despite some accurate pitching by Edoardo.

As in the Fall Cup, Imperial started to fight back in the third inning, as a hit from first-baseman Ben set up right-fielder Chris for an RBI single



The first two games yielded mixed results Photo: IC Baseball

to bring home the Falcons' first run. The Imperial defence tightened up in the bottom of the innings, holding the Blue Sox to a single run as Zayd made a fantastic catch in right field. The Falcons were tentatively hopeful going into the final inning, as the star pitcher from UEA was replaced. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be, as the

Imperial rally didn't quite come after two fly-outs ended the inning. The Falcons' fielding was tight in the bottom of the inning, although by this time we had turned to damage limitation as the game was over, with the Blue Sox running out 8-1 winners.

The remainder of the tournament will be in next week's sport section.

Silver medals for the Imperial Kendo Club

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Victory slipped through Imperial's grasp in the Kyu grade tournament finals against the first team from Kent University, losing in a tie-break match. Imperial team ended only with silver medals in the end. The match was nail-bitingly close and the hall was filled with the sound of cheering crowd and contestants' shouting with every hit as a part of Kendo's spirit. Imperial pulled ahead from Kent with a win after draws from the first two members of the team. Soon however, Kent managed to catch up with a win in the final pair, resulting in an overall draw. A daihyosen (a tie-breaker between representatives from each team) was called to decide a winner and Ed Ying was picked to fight for the Imperial team as he had beaten his opponent in his personal match. His opponent for the daihyosen, Ed Pollard, was

the gold medalist in the individuals tournament and Imperial's Ed unfortunately lost to a men (head) cut.

In addition to the medals from the team competition, Ed Ying also won a bronze medal for the Kyu grade individuals competition, losing to his rival, Ed Pollard, who had beaten him in the daihyosen. Jason Li won an award and a new shinai (kendo sword) for his display of fighting spirit, shouting down more than a few opponents.

The Imperial second team, on the other hand, didn't manage to go far into the tournament. The team grinded to a halt in the second round when they had to go against Imperial first team. In this battle of brothers, Imperial 2 was eliminated, paving the way for Imperial 1 to go further ahead.

"They were probably scared of Imperial teams. That's why the tournament structure pitched us against each other." This was the general sentiment among the club members.

The University Taikai (tournament) consisted of 12 teams from various universities and the competition itself was further divided into individuals and teams tournaments for Kyu (novice) and Dan (advanced) grade divisions. The team competition format was a sequence of five 1v1 fights where the results of each are combined for an overall score.

Yoshikawa-sensei, coach and teacher of the Imperial Kendo club, said that coming second was a bit sad, given that we were in the lead for the majority of the match. It was a combination of many mistakes that could have been avoided. Last year, Imperial came third in the University Taikai. As Imperial came second this year, Alan Su, the club captain, was confident that this is just a pit stop before reaching first place next year.

"The victory train is slow but inevitable," he said. The next year's competition will take place in the Ethos gym where Imperial is the host. Being on home



The moment Imperial hearts were broken in the tie-breaker Photo: IC Kendo

turf should help make the victory train reach its destination smoothly. In the week before the University Taikai, the club was visited by Shigakukan University who came from Japan to host training sessions for the Imperial club and the British Kendo team. The Japanese students

took the time to train with Imperial club members and their sensei imparted valuable lessons, which helped the club gain an edge in the University Taikai. The club would like to give thanks to the Shigakukan University and British Kendo team for their cooperation.



Calculated Performance by Athletics at BUCS Indoor Championship

IC Athletics looks at a weekend with hard fought running... and mascots

Once again, Imperial College Athletics and XC club travelled to Sheffield for the annual BUCS Indoor Champs. No-one quite expected the usually tame competition to turn quite so hilarious...

The weekend got under way early on Friday with a mix of youth and experience as 5th year Chris Chung and fresher Sydney Chan both ran 7.67s in the 60m heats unfortunately both missed out on the semis.

The bulk of the action took place on Saturday. First up on the track was fresher Alex Mundell swapping the mud and rain of cross country for the fast dry track. A strong performance saw her finish third in the strongest of the three heats bagging a fastest loser spot in the final on Sunday.

Next up was the mens' 400m with two Imperial athletes taking part. Luke Butler narrowly missed out on a semi-finals spot before the captain Gareth Holden set a new PB of 52.29s on his way to qualifying for the semi-finals on Sunday morning.

While all this was happening on the track Emma Watkins was putting in a solid performance in the long jump and Erik Tropp was again entertaining in the pole vault after an adventure getting his 14ft pole around Sheffield (many thanks to Judo for offering their minibus).

Unable to recreate his amazing SESSA form he still impressed with a leap of 3.60m. And last but by no means least in the field Shivam Patel mixed it with the big boys at the shot putt.

Then came the main event, the one we had all been waiting for: the mascot race. Imperial had two entries: the majestic Albert the Lion and the homemade and much loved Casper the Casio Calculator each contributing £25 to Marie Curie Cancer Care. Albert started with a stumble and never really recovered but a late burst from Casper saw him overtake Liverpool's Lenny the Liverbird in the home straight to finish 10th in what was by far the most hilariously entertaining race of the weekend.

The afternoon saw the 4x200m team of Gareth Holden, Sidney Chan, Edrea Pan and James Roughneen take to the track. Despite some impressive

"A late burst from Casper saw him overtake Liverpool's Lenny the Liverbird"



One of the relay teams from the Indoor Championships. It was a strong performance from the whole team. Photo: IC Athletics

running (albeit with an unnecessary detour via lane 6) the team was disqualified for a mystery changeover infringement.

The tiring and impressive results from the day meant only three were left standing for the "big night out" who found out that Northern clubs are decades behind London not only with their prices but their music choices too.

The next morning it was the turn of the 200m runners with Ines Kübler getting the team under way closely followed by James Roughneen and Edrea Pan all three of whom put in strong performances but were unable to make the semis.

Sunday afternoon brought the weekend's elite performances. Putting in a true captain's

"We managed to all reach London to keep on laughing at videos of the... race"

performance Gareth Holden ran a blisteringly quick 51.68s to smash his PB yet again, taking more than a second off his pre-BUCS time. Unfortunately it was not enough to progress in what was an outrageously strong 400m field but he can certainly be proud of his last indoor performance for the team and his time as Imperial athletic captain as a whole.

Finally came the other big race of the weekend: ICSM fresher Alex Mundell in the final of the 1500m. The race got off to a very slow start with no one looking like they wanted to take it out, but at the half way point the favourite turned up the heat, slashing the lap times to string out the field.

Alex reacted well giving it her all

and was chasing down third when she hit the wall in the final lap to slip back to eighth but still pick up the all important final BUCS point.

We hope she continues to shine in athletics during her next five years at Imperial.

Despite numerous cancelled trains and frantic train swapping under the command of our own public transport expert and calculator-costumed athlete, we managed to all reach London to keep on laughing at videos of the mascot race over and over and over again.

Want to get involved in more Athletics with the London College Athletics Series open to all abilities at the end of March?

Email run@ic.ac.uk or find us on Facebook.