

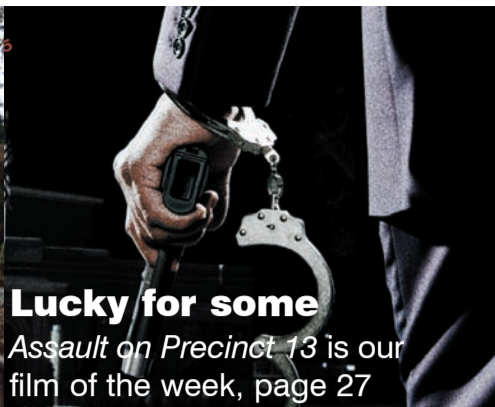
RAG Week is here

Seven days of insanity for charity start on Monday, page 19



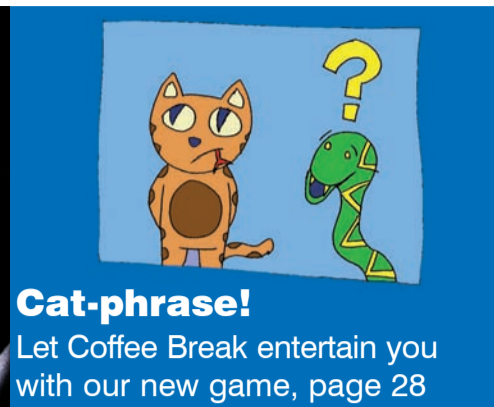
It's gripped, it's sorted

Let's paintball! Military style fun with ICU-PAIN, page 17



Lucky for some

Assault on Precinct 13 is our film of the week, page 27



Cat-phrase!

Let Coffee Break entertain you with our new game, page 28



Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1314 ● Thursday 3 February 2005 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

Face to face

Felix looks back at the Rector's meeting with students last week, focusing on the environmental issues raised.

► **COMMENT** page 7

New columns

Putting a bit more fun into *Felix*, Tristan Lane and Stormy Woods start new columns this week.

► **COLUMNS** page 8

Play and get paid

How your passion for video games could blossom into a promising career.

► **CAREERS** page 14

International Night

All you need to know about tomorrow's big event.

► **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES** page 18

Sport

Reports on football, rugby, hockey and netball, plus all the week's results.

► **SPORT** page 27



The football Thirds

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Five in the running for President

By Dave Edwards
Editor

The 2005 Imperial College Union sabbatical elections have begun in earnest, with five candidates standing for the post of President, the largest number since 2000.

In all, six students will take a year out from their studies to occupy full time roles within the students' union. The President and three Deputy Presidents lead the Union, while the *Felix* Editor is entirely responsible for the editing and management of this newspaper. The President of the Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union is also a sabbatical position, with an election due to be held later this term.

The candidates for President, the most high profile position but probably also the most demanding, are James Devine, Sameena Misbahuddin, Morten Olesen, Simon Rawson and Colin Smith.

Mr Smith is the current Welfare Campaigns Officer. In his manifesto, highlighting the Union's "pitiful" response to major issues such as top-up fees and the war in Iraq, he argues that "for all these reasons and more, it is time for change".

Mr Rawson points to his "four years' involvement with ICU at every level" and says he has "strong beliefs" of what he would deliver as President, listing his four main priorities as identities, student activities, value from services, and representation.

Mr Olesen, Vice Chair of the Athletics Clubs Committee, says he believes he is "the

best person for the job" and promises in his manifesto "to make the Union a venue that caters for everyone regardless of their ethnicity, religion or other beliefs".

Ms Misbahuddin, the current Deputy President (Finance and Services), points to the need for "a President with experience", claiming to be "the only candidate who's guaranteed to hit the ground running and deliver results".

Mr Devine, an "experienced and active member of the Union", pledges to "introduce a smoke free bar area", facilitate direct communication between sabbaticals and students, and spend more money on clubs and societies.

Last year's sabbatical elections were dogged by controversy surrounding the new online voting system. At one stage, the Elections Committee announced that the whole election would be re-balloted, but this decision was reversed and the results were eventually counted and announced, albeit weeks behind schedule. An issue of this newspaper was impounded because due to allegations that its content may have jeopardised the election process, but *Felix* was subsequently completely exonerated in a report by one of the Vice Presidents of the University of London Union.

Voters will have several chances to meet the candidates and ask questions at hustings next week (see What's On, page 20, for more details). Voting takes place online between Friday 11 and Tuesday 15 February.

► **Candidate manifestos, page 10**

On your bike, it's a bargain!



Over £1000 was raised towards a fund to support cyclists on campus at an auction of unclaimed bicycles last week. Buyers, like the student above with his new purchase, gathered in Beit Quad, where the most expensive lot was sold for £140

Felix

Issue 1314

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Registered newspaper

ISSN 1040-0711

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Printed by Sharman and
Company, Peterborough

NEWS

Bike auction raises over £1000

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Last Friday in Beit Quad, an auction of "second hand and nearly new" bicycles raised over £1000 towards facilities for cyclists on campus.

The bicycles sold were originally left unclaimed when old racks were removed last year. The event was held in front of a 50-strong crowd, with guest auctioneer Edward Lord presiding.

The pick of the bicycles on offer was a Trek 7200FX mountain bike, which attracted a large amount of interest from buyers and was eventually sold for £140.

Anyone interested in issues affecting cyclists on campus should contact benjamin.jefferys@ic.ac.uk.



Clockwise from top left: a crowd gathers to inspect the bikes; auctioneer Edward Lord finalises a sale; Union Deputy President Sam Rorke proudly displays one of the lots; and yes, someone even bought these

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Business

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Gillette succumbs to P&G bid

As P&G bids for Gillette to make it the largest consumer products manufacturer, **Kabir Merali** analyses the deal with a fine-tooth comb

On Friday 28 January, the American firm Procter and Gamble made a \$57bn (£30bn) bid to buy Gillette, a move that would create the world's largest consumer products firm, overtaking the Anglo-Dutch firm Unilever. The combined firm could have revenues of over \$60bn a year. "We believe we can bring these companies together and create a juggernaut," Gillette chief executive James Kilts said.

The two firms have 21 products worth over \$1bn a year and own some of the best known consumer brands in the world. From Mach 3 shaving products to Head and Shoulders shampoo, from Duracell batteries to Pringles crisps, the new firm will have it covered.

The two firms' product ranges complement each other - P&G's brands include many products appealing to women with its wide range of beauty and hair care products, while Gillette is a leader in the male grooming products sector.

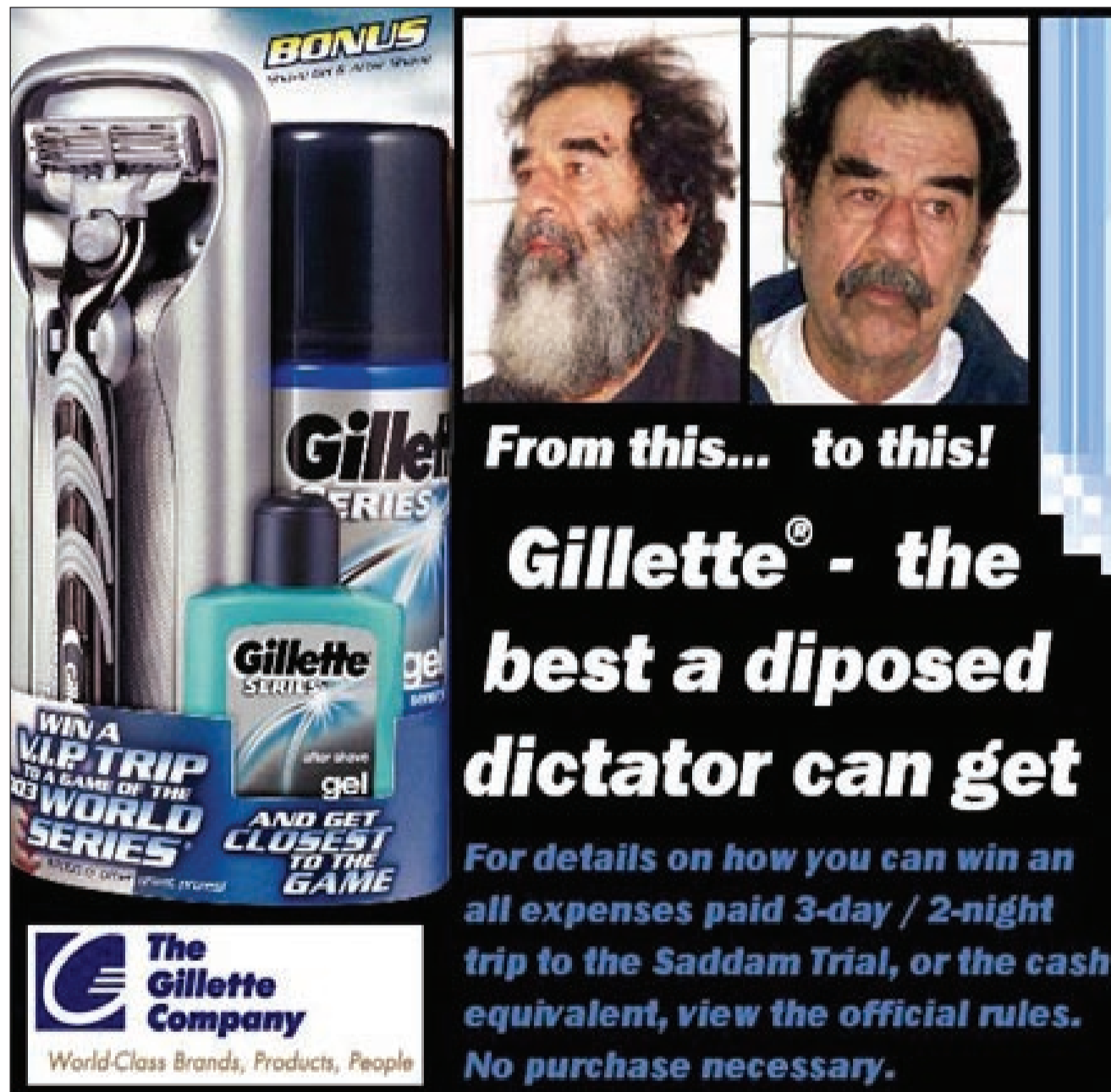
By combining the two firms' product ranges, they will have a much higher combined marketing budget and so will be able to get better deals from media and advertising companies.

In recent times, supermarket chains have grown much larger and have pushed their suppliers to give them discounts on many products. Wal-Mart, with 8% of the US retail market, and Tesco, with 12% of the British retail market, have been very aggressive in driving down prices from their suppliers.

P&G and Gillette hope to be able to use their combined power to shift the balance of power with supermarkets, and use their combined size to get better prices and better supermarket shelf space.

The two firms also hope to make the most of globalisation by combining their strengths. P&G has a strong presence in emerging economies such as China and Russia and will use this to promote Gillette's products. With the Chinese consumer products market looking to grow at 5-6% a year, P&G hope to increase revenue by over \$350m just by selling Gillette's brands there.

All in all, P&G hopes to cut costs by \$16bn a year, mainly by getting rid of 6,000 staff, which represents 4% of the new company's workforce. They also hope to raise operating margins from 19% to



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Gillette: another brand for Procter & Gamble to put under their belt, alongside dozens of other household names*

25% by the end of the decade.

Warren Buffet, who owns 9% of Gillette, has called it a dream deal. He plans to buy further into the new merged company.

While the deal looks like a match made in heaven, especially since the two firms are located so close to each other and thus will avoid the cultural issues of integrating a cross border workforce, there are a few potential pitfalls. By growing through acquisition to such a large size, there may be problems managing a company of this size. This merger is much bigger than the purchase of Wella and Clairol, other recent acquisitions that P&G have made.

Some have also suggested that there is not much room for extra profits from Gillette's brands - consumers are unlikely to pay more

money for more blades on their razor, and Gillette's Duracell is under pressure from lower cost rivals.

By making a \$57bn offer for Gillette, P&G are paying an 18% premium over the stock market valuation of the firm. While this is generous, it is less than the 21% average premium offered in takeover deals since 2001.

Many analysts predict that this will be the start of a merger frenzy in the consumer products sector.

By creating such a large combined firm, competitors are going to worry about their own future. They will look to merge just to keep up with the new firm. Speculation has driven up the share price of the French lighter, razor and pen manufacturer Bic and the British cleaning products firm Reckitt Benckiser.

Mr Kilts, who will become the vice-president of the new firm, has said that he would rather lead this round of mergers than "get stuck with

the leftovers".

**Needless to say, this image, which we found in several places on the internet, is completely unofficial.*

Their product ranges

P&G

Old Spice
Head & Shoulders
Always
Crest
Max Factor
Herbal Essences
Lacoste
Pringles

Gillette

Duracell
Sensor Excel
Oral B
Complete Skincare
Braun
M3 Power
Venus Divine
Right Guard

Latest from the Square Mile

By Numaan Chaudhry
Business Editor

European equities fly

Following the 'successful' elections in Iraq, European equities reached two year highs. The FTSE 100 closed at 4868, a 0.7% increase from the last weekend. Despite negative sentiments over quota limitations set by OPEC, the committee of 11 oil-supplying nations, in its recent meeting, most major global indices rose.

\$1.7bn contract stolen

Last Friday, the US navy ditched United Technology, a US-based helicopter manufacturing firm, for Lockheed Martin to build a new presidential helicopter fleet in a deal valued at over \$1.7bn. Lockheed Martin stole the deal despite United Technology serving the president since 1957. Lockheed will build a US-101 helicopter made by a Somerset-based firm employing 4,000 people.

Citigroup insurance

Citigroup has pinpointed its insurance arm as a hindrance rather than a help and sold it for \$11.5bn to MetLife, now the largest individual life insurer in America. As a result of the sale, MetLife's retirement and general savings account has grown by almost two thirds. The deal will be financed using a combination of equity and convertible securities, cash, debt and sales of assets.

Spitzer sues skanks

Elliot Spitzer's investigation into the world's largest insurance broker, Marsh & McLennan, has yielded fruitful results as Marsh has agreed to pay out \$850m to settle charges of conspiring with insurers to rig bids. Now it will pay a hefty fine to settle the charges and introduce governance changes firmwide.

And finally...

The Philippine economy is steaming ahead as it reported a 16% increase in its GDP in 2004 as compared to 2003.

Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

Towards an ethical research policy

A report by Scientists for Global Responsibility was launched at a meeting in Parliament last week. **Kate Wighton** was there and reports for *Felix*

Science may hold the solutions to the world's problems, or it may perpetuate them. A report published two weeks ago has found that even if science could help in relieving global poverty or slowing climate change, it is much more likely that scientific expertise will focus on developing the next high-technology weapons.

The *Soldiers in the Laboratory* report published by Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) was launched in a meeting at the Houses of Parliament, which *Felix* attended.

The report states that the military has too large an influence on UK research and development, with a third of all public research funding coming from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and 40% of government R&D personnel employed by the MoD.

According to the report, this has created a defence-centred global climate, marginalising the social causes and consequences of conflict and contributing to a global arms proliferation and refugee crisis.

As a solution, the report calls for money to be redirected into peace-building and sustainable developments.

Dr Chris Langley, the report's author, argued: "The main points of this report can be grouped into three main headings: the disproportionate and powerful influence of the military sector on the research agenda of areas of

"...hi-technology weapon-focused solutions will not solve the international terrorism issue"

DR CHRIS LANGLEY

science, technology and engineering; the lack of funds for other endeavours, which address peace issues, security issues and those related to social responsibility; and the third is the closing up of accessibility for whole areas of science, particularly the emerging technologies, when the military is involved."

Speakers at the meeting argued that the military are seeking high-technology solutions to complex problems, when in fact technology alone does not hold the answers to world conflict.

The current strategy of military spending was claimed to be outdated and harks back to the Cold War. As Dr Ian Gibson, MP and Chair of the House of Commons select



Parliament: the venue for scientists gathering to take on political issues

committee for science and technology, explained at the meeting:

"There is a long history of battles of nation against nation and better weapons mean that you win the battle. So when that is the underlying political force in a nation, and it's gone on for centuries, then we're just continuing so that all the creativity that we have goes into making better weapons."

Dr Langley proposes that high-technology, weapon-focused solutions will not solve the international terrorism issue. Diplomacy, policing and border control may prove to be more effective.

Dr Langley also said that the common argument that military spending produces spin-offs into the public sector is fundamentally flawed. The process of adapting a technology from a military to a civilian context is long and expensive and does not yield the benefits that some claim, he said.

Another key point of the report was the involvement of universities in military research. Through military-academia collaborations (of which Imperial has nine – one of the highest in the country), the report argues that the next wave of researchers are being sucked into an environment of how to win conflict rather than how to prevent it.

But the funding incentives these collaborations may offer may take precedence over the moral and ethical issues.

Dr Langley said: "Many universities are strapped for

cash, so they are very susceptible to the campaigns waged by the military corporation. For a lot of people the excitement of science may take over from a concern about where the money is coming from."

Dr Gibson believe students should be proactive and question the ethical issues surrounding military-sponsored research. "[Students] ought to talk about this. They ought to insist they have courses on it."

Dr Gibson argued that universities have portrayed science as being neutral when, in fact, it is deeply political.

Ellin Barklund is one Imperial student who agrees that students should be proactive about ethical and moral issues. Ms Barklund, a third year electrical and electronic engineering student, is a member of Scientists

"Imperial could be a flagship for this issue by starting the first SGR student group"

ELLIN BARKLUND, EE 3

for Global Responsibility and intends to set-up the first student SGR group at Imperial: "Imperial could be a flagship for this issue by starting the first SGR student group. As a science and technology university, there is definitely a place for this. I do not want to start telling people that they should think about the ethical implications of research; I simply think that there should be information provided about the issues

and dilemmas that students may face when deciding upon their careers."

She would like to create a version of the SGR booklet, *An Ethical Career in Science and Technology?*, that would be tailored more to Imperial students with sections on particular areas of research such as biology, physics and chemistry.

Career fairs that deal with ethical careers in science have been held at Imperial in the past; however, it was decided that there was not enough interest – possibly due to the large number of volunteer organisations featured – to organise another.

The University of London Union had planned to hold a fair this year, although that too looks uncertain.

Both Cambridge and Oxford offer alternative careers fairs and Tim Foxon, secretary of SGR, believes that through active involvement with groups like the Imperial Careers office, another Imperial ethical careers fair may be possible.

The issue of openness is also being discussed. Barklund thinks that students should look at the kind of research that is going on at Imperial. As this is military work there will obviously be sensitivity issues; however, Dr Langley argues that a lack of openness stunts discussion about military-funded research, and that this should be more open to public scrutiny, especially since research may have implications for society.

Although the report's findings and proposals are ethi-

cally sound, they are nothing new to people working in research and development. The problem is not raising the issues; it is how to deal with them. This prompts the question: Will this report have any impact?

"...universities have for too long portrayed the image of science as being neutral, when it is in fact deeply political"

DR IAN GIBSON

Military-funded science is a complex issue with many factors involved, a major one being the link between weapons development and revenue generated from UK arms sales.

Although Dr Langley does not believe this report will change things overnight (even though the report has had quite a healthy take-up with 2000 copies being downloaded so far), he hopes it may make people at least consider the issue:

"[This report] is asking people to consider the amount of money that's going into military research and development and asking us to consider if this is the most cost effective way that we can make the world a more just and peaceful one. Clearly, to defend a country we'll need military investment of some sort. It's just the amount and pervasiveness and the lack of any voice questioning that investment that concerns us."

News in brief

Human stem cells become nerve cells in study

Stem cells taken from human embryos were coaxed into becoming motor neurons in an experiment that might help scientists repair damaged nervous systems. The study supports claims by stem cell researchers that they can train embryonic stem cells to develop into any type of tissue in the body. They hope this technology will allow cures for a range of nervous system injuries.

'New Manhattan project' to fight bioterror

The world needs an effort similar to that behind the creation of the atomic bomb to tackle the threat of bio-warfare, US Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said. "We need to do something that even dwarfs the Manhattan project," Frist told the World Economic Forum in Davos. He predicted that the world would experience another bioweapon attack within the next decade.

Scientists grapple with climate as crisis grows

Scientists will step into a feud between Washington and its allies over global warming at a British-sponsored meeting this week. The conference comes just days after an international report described the climate crisis as a time bomb. Scientists from 30 nations will meet in Exeter to try to define what constitutes "dangerous" levels of warming, but will not make any recommendations to policy-makers.

Meteorite hits Cambodia

A ten pound meteorite which landed in a former Khmer Rouge zone of northwest Cambodia started fires across rice fields, while villagers, who saw it as a divine omen of peace, prayed. The black lump of celestial rock sent the villagers scurrying for cover when it thumped into the ground in the war-scarred southeast-Asian nation last week. The item itself has been carried away by police pending scientific analysis.

It's what's inside that counts

Anatomy for Beginners shocked and amazed viewers, with some describing it as 'dehumanising' and others 'fascinating'. **Amber Jenkins** reports on its place in the history of anatomy

For the past two hundred years, the opportunity to view human corpses and their inner workings has been confined to the circles of the medical elite. That is, until Dr Gunther von Hagens came along.

Von Hagens, the pathologist at the heart of the *Anatomy for Beginners* TV series aired last week, is a man on a mission. His goal is to reveal, in minute and gory detail, the art of human dissection, and, in so doing, to share with the general public what he calls the "poetry of anatomy."

The study of human anatomy is by no means a modern invention. As early as 275BC, anatomy was being taught by Herophilus in Alexandria, Egypt through the use of human dissections. By the second century AD, the Greeks had produced a number of anatomical works which were translated into Arabic and later into Latin. In 1235, the first European medical school was founded at Salerno, Italy where bodies were publicly dissected. In 1510 Leonardo da Vinci turned his hand to the study of anatomy and, in 1543, Andreas Vesalius, arguably the pioneer of modern anatomy, created the first precise anatomical drawings.

By the 16th century, ana-

tomical theatres were cropping up all over Europe and public autopsies were commonplace. From 1600 to 1900 anatomy played an increasingly important role in medical education and research. But with the establishment of medical schools, human corpses slowly drifted out of public sight. A new taboo had emerged.

In 1977, von Hagens invented a mummification technique known as 'plastination' which paved the way for break-

"Clever science it may be, but is *Anatomy for Beginners* taking it too far?"

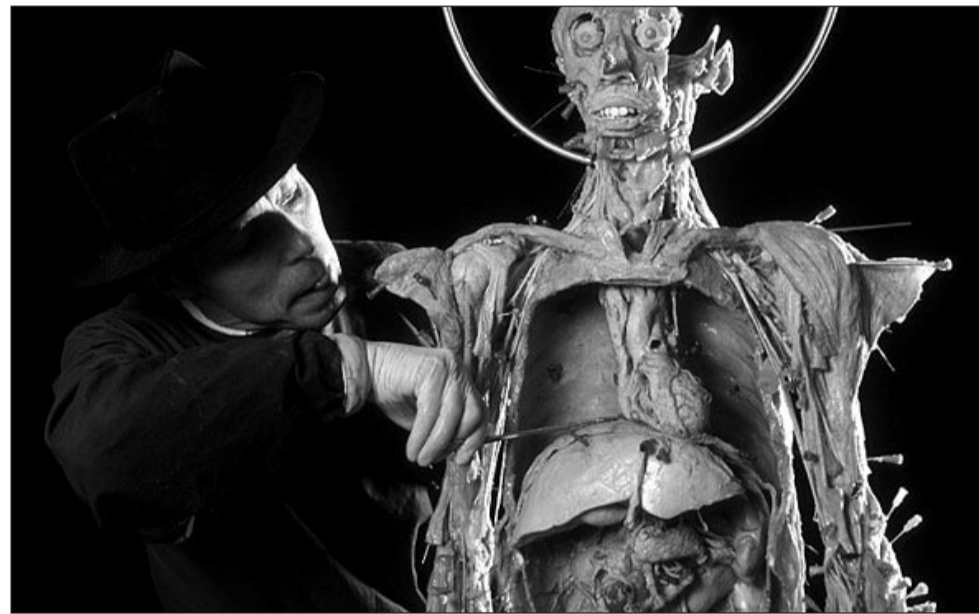
ing that taboo. This process replaces bodily fluids and fat with synthetic polymers which solidify and preserve tissue down to the microscopic level. At first sight, the bodies look like anatomical models. Muscles, organs, the nervous system, and blood vessels are all frozen in time. Plastinated body parts have proved to be invaluable in cross-sectional anatomy, pathology and scientific research and can be used in conjunction with conventional imaging methods.

Clever science it may be, but is *Anatomy for Beginners*

taking it too far? Before tuning in, I was very sceptical; I imagined von Hagens to be some sort of modern-day Frankenstein, a macabre showman vying for the attention of the masses. The man behind the 'Body Worlds' exhibitions, von Hagens is no stranger to controversy. His work has been described by some as "ghoulish and degrading" and has sparked fierce ethical debate worldwide.

But what I saw was a series of well-presented, thought-provoking public lectures that make for great scientific education. Dr von Hagens and fellow-pathologist, Professor John Lee, take us on a fascinating tour of the human body, making use of live, dead and plastinated models. The series was filmed in front of a studio audience of medical students and body donors and follows four themes: movement, circulation, digestion and reproduction. Cadavers' faces were covered in order to preserve anonymity. While von Hagens displays his dissecting skills with fervour, Lee does a marvellous job of describing the part of the body we are seeing and how it works.

Admittedly, it was at times stomach-churning stuff.



Gunther von Hagens: dissected a human corpse for television and a live studio audience

When von Hagens removes a man's entire skin in one piece, we are simultaneously impressed and repulsed. The penis dissection and skull-chiselling make for pretty uncomfortable viewing. At one point, von Hagens demonstrates the consistency of the brain by dropping a blancmange from a great height. In another lecture he stretches seven metres of someone's gut across the studio.

One could argue that such

spectacles are dehumanising and degrading, but I would have to disagree. In a culture that televises plastic surgery for our entertainment, *Anatomy for Beginners* provides a fresh insight into the fascinating world of the human body. I found myself amazed by many of the sights I saw.

Yes, Dr von Hagens is a performer who cuts up corpses with relish, but, in his own words, he "breaks with the

tradition of Frankenstein." Von Hagens emerges as an artist and educator, who takes pride in his work and whose goal is to share the wonder of human anatomy with professionals and laypeople alike. Programmes like this allow us to marvel at the diversity and beauty of human nature. It's an opportunity to think about our attitudes towards health, life and death. In von Hagens' own words, it's a chance to see our "face within."

Pundit on science



Reginald Pundit, witty tabloid columnist and professional after-dinner raconteur, gives his exclusive uncensored views on science.

Pokemon causes cancer Can you believe it?

Apparently, and this is a fact, a gene associated with watching Pokemon causes cancer.

Forget passive smoking, it's Pikachu you should be worried about.

Shock

My kids, Reggie and Regina, (aged 34, 41 respectively) are avid fans of Pokemon, but this is the last time I'll expose them to the carcinogenic nightmare.

New Synthetic Enzyme

Researchers report this week that they have created a synthetic catalyst that works the same way as enzymes do. This is a new fact.

It shows that a synthetic catalyst can be made like enzymes.

A discovery that will have massive implications in the science of enzymes.

Great! I don't know what that means but I'm lovin' it.

New shocking evidence on Global Warming

I am as skeptical as a Sunni voting in the Iraqi elections about global warming.

So much so that I conducted an experiment to find out whether global warming is actually happening or not.

By placing a thermometer in my garden for a month the temperature of the earth was measured (by me).

The results showed a significant rise in temperature of 4 centigrade.

Significant

Amazingly, if the temperatures carry on like this, by 2015, Camden is going to be hotter than the Earth's core.

However, by averaging with data from a colleague in Australia - it was found (by me) that the global temperature rise will be sweet FA.

So there you have it: global warming is poppycock.

● Do you have some science humour in you? Then contact science.felix@ic.ac.uk with your comedy

Events: Evolution Week at the Darwin Centre

The Darwin Centre is located next to the Natural History Museum on Queens Gate.

From this Saturday, they will be hosting a series of free events to mark Evolution Week.

Saturday 5 February

12:00 and 14:30
What is evolution?
An exploration of the theory of evolution by natural selection.

Sunday 6 February

12:00 and 14:30
Are we still evolving?
With medical developments

from in-vitro fertilisation to long-term care, and a social jungle different from our ancestral habitat, have we moved beyond evolution?

Monday 7 February

14:30
Darwin's pigeons
Looking at the real role of Darwin's finches in his evolutionary work.

Tuesday 8 February

14:30
Evolution in the Virtual World
How computer simulations of natural selection are helping scientists and designer rec-

reate living organisms and what they may be able to tell us about how life began.

Wednesday 8 February

14:30
Designer dogs
Darwin may never have discovered natural selection without an example of artificial selection.

Thursday 10 February

14:30
Modern Birds
Is it possible to observe evolution in action?

Friday 11 February

14:30
The Hobbit Man of Indonesia
The recent discovery of a three foot primate is one of the most surprising developments in our study of our species. Discover what the findings tell us about ourselves.

● Darwin Centre:
<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/darwincentre/live/>

Finally... an Imperial spinout that works.

I, science

A science magazine for Imperial students

To get involved, contact us now at
science.felix@ic.ac.uk

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

How will Southside affect your health?

As you may have heard recently, the College's plans to redevelop Southside have been granted consent by Westminster Council, subject to several pages worth of 'conditions'. These are not overly onerous but basically require the College to pay greater attention to things like the landscaping of the gardens. This will, of course, be for the benefit of the wealthy residents of Knightsbridge, to be funded from the rents of hard-pressed future students...

In addition, the College has to further develop its 'student management plan' ie show it has the balls to discipline students who misbehave. With a bit of luck, this means that demolition work should now start, on time, the week after students move out at the end of the summer term.

Inevitably, people will ask about where all the student facilities currently in the Southside building will move to, and this is what I want to (sort of) focus on.

The fitness gym and the sports hall are due to be replaced by the new sports centre. However, that will not be ready until late November, leaving a gap over the summer vacation and at the start of next academic year. The Union is still involved in discussions with the College as to where the student clubs' activities will move to both in the short and long term. Whilst we would like to try to move as much as possible into the new sports centre, competing priorities mean the College may require us to move some to the St Mary's campus. Similarly, there is an outstanding disagreement as to

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

whether the Union free weights gym needs to be replicated.

The future of the bar/catering provision at Southside is, inevitably, up for discussion, though with less students living in Princes Gardens (and with both Linstead and Weeks having their own bars) there is less of a need for them in the short term.

The College Counsellors will move to Sherfield, to be closer to the other student-facing services there.

Medical madness

That leaves the NHS facilities (Health Centre and Dentists' Practice), which will move out of Southside into a temporary medical centre next term. This will be located on the tennis courts next to Linstead Hall. (Yes, we shall be losing our tennis courts.)

Which brings me on to what I really want to talk about: campus

medical facilities. As President I am a member of the College's Medical And Dental Services Advisory Committee (MADSAC) which oversees the College's contract with its NHS service providers. I've actually never attended a meeting. I've always sent my Deputy President (Education and Welfare) along instead since, until a few weeks ago, I wasn't even registered at the Health Centre and had never used the Dentist.

With the long-term future of the medical services now under consideration I'd just like to invite comment from readers as to what they think of the services. Clearly the Health Centre and Dentist are necessary, but do they deliver what you expect? Please do write in to *Felix* so we can begin the discussion!

To pay or not to pay

Council tax is an issue that comes up from time to time in this line of work. There is often some confusion from some students around whether they should pay it or not, which in many cases is just down to the students not being aware of the official line. Hopefully the rest of this article will help to set the record straight.

Students are not automatically exempt from council tax, though in certain circumstances the property may be. Your liability for council tax depends on whether you are deemed to be a full-time student, where you live and with whom you live.

The definition of a student for exemption purposes is: "You are studying full time at a UK institution if you are enrolled on a course for the 'relevant period' which lasts for at least one academic year; you are attending at least 24 weeks per year; the course requires at least 21 hours of term time study per week; and you are studying at a prescribed educational establishment."

The 'relevant period' starts on the day you begin your course and ends on the day you officially finish, and

includes holidays which fall in that time. If you permanently leave your course, the relevant period will be until the last day you study.

University halls of residence

Halls of residence are automatically exempt from council tax and therefore you will not receive a bill. 'Halls of residence' is taken to mean any accommodation that is 'owned or managed by an educational establishment' and predominantly for the accommodation of students. If you have any difficulty with this, please contact the Information and Advice Centre.

House occupied solely by students

Where all the residents of a house are full time students (according to definition), the property is classified exempt from council tax. In this situation, all residents in the house will need to get a council tax exemption certificate from the College Registry.

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
STUDENT ADVISER

Houses in multiple occupation

These are houses where each room is let out separately under different letting agreements (for example, a house converted into bedsits where some facilities are shared).

The landlord is liable to pay the council tax on the whole property and cannot pass the bill directly to

the tenants. The landlord can, however, include this cost as a proportion of the rent.

You will need to look at your tenancy agreement to see how the landlord has distributed liability and if necessary seek advice on your tenancy agreement from the Information and Advice Centre.

Resident landlords

Where you lodge with your landlord, it is (s)he who is liable to pay council tax. Your landlord cannot ask you to pay any of the bill directly, but (s)he may have included some of the cost in your rent.

Houses with student and non-student residents (aged 18+)

In cases where there is only one resident who is not a full time student, a 25% single person discount applies. Where there is more than one non-student resident, the property becomes liable for the full council tax bill. Once this is ascertained, it is then up to the house as a whole

how they want to pay the bill.

If the bill is not paid, the council can pursue any resident in the house for the full bill. This includes any one of the student residents.

Where one of the residents is receiving state benefits, (s)he may be able to claim council tax benefit.

Exemption certificates

It is important to remember that in order to get any exemption the local authority will require evidence that you are a student. Exemption certificates are available from Imperial College Registry.

The Information and Advice Centre

If you have any queries regarding this article or would like to make an appointment, don't let your concern turn into a crisis. Make the Information and Advice Centre your one-stop shop for all your welfare issues. Telephone: 020 7594 8067. Email: advice@ic.ac.uk. Open: Monday-Friday 10am-6pm.

Paint the College green

By Rebecca Slack

Universities are being 'urged to go green' by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), and about time too. However, for universities offering courses in environmental studies, the urge to be green should come from within and not have to be foisted upon them from outside.

According to a report in *The Guardian* (11 January 2005), there are a number of universities already taking steps to reduce their impact on the environment, but Imperial does not seem to make this list. Does this mean that the College

is not making any attempt to promote environmental and sustainable development?

There have been some small attempts at Imperial towards this end. From a South Kensington campus point of view, these are most visible through the construction and operation of photovoltaic cells on Imperial College Road, which look good as well as serving a very useful purpose, and the eclectic waste recycling schemes offered by the many different departments.

One waste collection and recycling scheme, being operated in the Department of Environmental Sciences, could be expanded to the

wider college. The response from both students and staff in the DES scheme, which is itself run by a committee of students and staff, has been amazing and has resulted in the collection of a wide range of recyclables.

A separate battery collection scheme, implemented by the Estates Department, has already led to the collection of hundreds of batteries which will be sent for reprocessing. Over 30,000 tonnes of batteries are used in the UK every year but only 200 tonnes are collected - the rest are disposed of at landfill sites. And these are products considered to have hazardous contents! Through

separate collection, batteries are therefore diverted from landfill, contributing to a reduction in the risks posed by such disposal.

So there have been some attempts to turn the college 'green', but despite the success of these schemes, they are small scale. More needs to be done by all. For Imperial to develop a reputation as a university with a commitment to sustainability, various measures need to be adopted and adhered to, from an ethical/environmental purchasing policy to waste minimisation strategies and renewable energy purchasing.

The day may come when a university's environmental and ethi-

cal impact becomes one of the factors that determines its position in the higher education league tables and affects funding opportunities. However, if these green measures are to work, students and staff must be willing to actively participate. After all, Imperial does have a big impact upon the environment and society as a whole, particularly as students move on to future roles as managers and leaders (to quote from HEFCE's strategy!)

Start a (green) revolution at Imperial - put pressure on the powers that be to change Imperial College into the most sustainable university in England, nay, the world.

COMMENT

Sir Richard and the environment

What does the Rector really think about green issues at Imperial, asks **Joseph Bull**

A number of articles have appeared in *Felix* devoted to an issue that is presently at the forefront of world politics: the issue of environmental concern. I would also like to reveal that a number of students have been carrying out a small and simple survey this year, asking Imperial students and staff whether or not they agree that the College should reduce its environmental impact and implement an environmental management system. Almost without exception, they do. What, then, does our venerable Rector, Imperial's figurehead, have to say on the matter?

Last Thursday, there was an opportunity to find out, as the Rector held his annual open 'face to face'. During his initial presentation, Sir Richard mentioned the possibility of an amalgamation of all of

Imperial's strands of environmental research and the possibility of a heavier emphasis on this particular subject. Consequently, he was asked what environmental policies and initiatives accompanied this research and how they applied to the running of Imperial. More specifically, had any environmental measures come to fruition?

Long and genial answers were duly supplied; however, not a single specific example was given, at odds with the request. This is the Rector when he speaks publicly to students. He is friendly and calm, sharp and intelligent; however, his answers can be exceptionally indirect and even avoid the thrust of the question completely. He is the quintessential politician.

Later on, following similar questioning, he finally gave an exam-

ple of a way in which Imperial has attempted to improve its environmental image and culture: through a series of lectures on green topics that were run recently in conjunction with LSE.

Now first of all, this seems an odd choice of a shining example of Imperial's commitment to the environment (what other groundbreaking initiatives have we spearheaded, you may well ask?) But, more importantly, it is interesting to note that upon further investigation, it seems the College had little to do with the organisation of these lectures, rather, they were chiefly orchestrated by the humble student Environmental Society! If I am wrong, I apologise in advance, but the only evidence of lectures like these was to be found on the ESoc website. Now either the Rector was unaware of this, and

thus perhaps unaware of, and disinterested in, the college's environmental actions in general, or he was trying to mislead and appease the environmentalists who were asking the questions. It was thus only natural that it was asked, directly, what it is he personally feels about these environmental concerns: "I think they are very important." That, at least, is encouraging to know.

The environment is something a number of students and staff have demonstrated feeling over, and the College is responding. Those in attendance were assured that an energy policy is forthcoming in February and an environmental policy by the end of the year. This, incidentally, will bring us up to the level of other top universities (we appear to be the only one in the top ten without either policy), and I

have to agree with the Rector that, in general, "...we cannot allow ourselves to be outflanked by Oxford and Cambridge."

Imperial College has also just had a 'preliminary environmental review', which has clearly laid out areas of substantial environmental impact and made recommendations for improvement.

To conclude, while the College is still at present known for its lack of environmental concern, and there is much that could be done, action is promised in the near future. As for our Rector, he is genial enough and no fool, and he apparently considers the environment (and student welfare in general) important, but still seems to cloak his true feelings and intentions in rhetoric, giving students little chance to know, understand, or, crucially, trust him.

Letters to the Editor

Leaflet litter

Dear all,

I would like to make an appeal to Club and Society Event Officers and students alike concerning the increasing problem of 'leafletting' and the damage it does to the environment and our college premises.

Walking along the walkway this week I have been appalled to see so much litter besmirching it; much of this litter is club and society related, usually pamphlets advertising events etc, yet for the most part all they seem to do is litter the floor. Can I ask all clubs and societies to think more carefully about their advertising methods - blanketing the walkway with posters and thrusting leaflets into uninviting hands does not get more people to come to your events, indeed the irritation caused is likely to have the reverse affect.

Smaller, more personal, focused campaigns have a much greater success rate. Perhaps a table on the walkway, in the JCR or the Union entrance with relevant posters around it, a few information leaflets and some friendly people using their skills of perception to target likely individuals would have much more success. Not all clubs and societies are to blame I have seen some using these 'more focused' techniques with great success.

Again for general campus wide advertising perhaps approaching Felix (or any of the other smaller campus and department newsletters) with an interesting article about something you have done would be a more suitable technique or approaching specific departmental societies or even other clubs, which you think maybe interested - and obviously at our college do not forget the power of the website!

If this situation is not curtailed, I call for fellow students to campaign to the union to enforce rules on its clubs and societies about litter creation, those clubs found to be printing leaflets and due to over-forceful advertising causing the littering of our building should be punished - perhaps by fining them or reduc-

ing the part of their budget relating to printing which is clearly not being used effectively.

Finally it is also not only clubs and societies to blame but students as well, upon being given these leaflets many of us just drop them without a care, can you please drop them in the next bin instead, even if you're not interested - there are several bins on the walkway and in the Union, this is about the easiest way to do your bit for the environment and to make college a more aesthetically pleasing place to study.

Thank you
The Disgruntled Geologist

'Atheism' posters

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter sent to Felix (published in issue 1313 on 27th January) on the Atheism posters, I would like to give my response as a Christian and also as a scientist/engineer on the campus.

As the author of that letter has noted, this is primarily a science college. To this end I believe that we possess the ability to have discussions and debates about any subject, regardless of how sensitive, in a calm and rational manner.

While it is unfortunate that the 'Life' poster and flyers had an assertive statement on them as opposed to a question for debate, it still raises a valid point for debate and discussion. There are two mutually exclusive views here: the Christians who put up the poster, along with me, who believe that Atheism cannot deliver, and the atheists who would certainly believe that Christianity cannot deliver.

We could all sit in our respective camps and keep issuing insults and derogatory statements about each other, but I'm sure a dialogue would be far more beneficial for all. To that end, I believe the course that the Christian Union makes an excel-

lent forum for such discussions as it is meant to allow a no holds barred discussion.

Also, I would also like to raise the question of why religion makes this college look farcical? There are many scientists out there who are Christians, and many more who believe in the existence of 'a god'. I have, to date, seen no proof that atheists make better scientists than Christians or any other person who believes in the existence of 'a god'.

Regards,
Edric Margono
PhD Student
Dept of Chemical Engineering

To publish or not to publish?

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to read in your reply to the letter 'Fun in Felix' two weeks ago that anyone is welcome to write for Felix and that the lack of funny articles appearing at present was due to all the comedy writers having stopped writing. This came as a great relief to me because I had gained the impression that you had simply stopped publishing some writers' work. A little bird told me that recently you refused to publish any more articles from a Mr Rupert Neate, a name that will not be that familiar to your readers as he has only written one article for Felix so far, however that was the front page article about the knifing in Chelsea. Your reason for refusing him a regular, humorous column (I have read the first one he did and it was very funny) about student life was, apparently, that you learnt that he was intending to run for Felix editor. You, I believe, claimed that it would be unfair to other candidates to allow him a column so that he could publicise himself before the elections.

Mr Neate, feeling hard done by (justifiably so in my opinion), went to the returning officer, a certain Mr Arif, to ask about this situation. Mr

Arif informed him that though he could have a very good case to take to the elections committee ultimately you could still simply say that you would not put his articles in as they were not good enough.

In fact Mr Neate did have an article which would have fitted nicely into your business/politics/science paper; it was an interview with the Liberal Democrat candidate for Kensington & Chelsea in which she discussed her defection from the Tory party and her views on students and the demolition of Southside but apparently you rejected this as it wasn't relevant till the elections, and there was I thinking that politics went on all year round, silly, silly me!

If any of the facts I have stated in this letter are wrong please feel free to correct me in a nice long answer on the Felix letters page. Now I must stop because there is a fascinating article about construction projects on page 12 of Felix that I simply must read, oh wait a minute, actually it's not that interesting!

Yours Sincerely
Iain Heaton
3rd year Biologist

Dave Edwards, Editor, replies:

I am pleased to take this opportunity to explain my position and correct many of the so-called 'facts' in the above letter.

Firstly, I am addressing the "lack of funny articles" this week by publishing two new columns on page 8.

As for Mr Neate, he told me that he was standing for Felix Editor, and then asked for a regular column. Because the elections had just opened, and Mr Neate had only ever written one piece for Felix, I interpreted this as blatant electioneering and refused his request.

It would be impossible to allow candidates to have regular columns at this stage - they could all ask for one in order to raise their profile, even if they did not specifically

mention elections. Also, it would be very unfair to give the impression that someone is a regular contributor to Felix when in fact they are not. I have discussed this with two former Felix Editors, both of whom completely agree with my decision.

The Returning Officer, Mustafa Arif, said on reading the above letter: "I never told him [Mr Neate] he would have a good case. I said he could take it to Elections Committee if he wanted, but my opinion was that he would not have enough evidence."

The Editor of Felix is totally responsible for all content and has the right to rule out any submission. However, I have never "refused to publish any more articles" from anyone. I have told Mr Neate that he is welcome to contribute in several different ways. In fact, he has written an article on page 26 of this week's issue. He is welcome to write a regular column as soon as the election is over; if he so wishes.

I very much look forward to reading Mr Neate's interview with the Liberal Democrat candidate for Kensington and Chelsea, which will of course be printed in Felix if I receive it.

Mr Neate offered me "interviews with prospective parliamentary candidates". Of course politics goes on all year round, but it is a question of when the issues are most relevant to our readers. I believe the interviews will be at their most useful and interesting when the general election is at the forefront of people's minds and when our readers are making their final decisions on who to vote for. I hope that the interviews will form an integral and interesting part of our general election coverage in late April and early May.

Finally, I sincerely hope that Mr Heaton enjoyed last week's article on construction projects. Sadly, we have no plans to print any similar articles in the near future.

● The full list of candidates for Felix Editor in the forthcoming election is as follows: Simon Clark, Rupert Neate, Darius Nikbin, Martin Smith

Send your letters to felix@ic.ac.uk by 10pm Monday. This is the page where you can make your voice heard on just about any topic. Letters may be edited for length but not for spelling or grammar, and are printed at the Editor's discretion

Columns

felix@ic.ac.uk

In response to suggestions from readers and contributors, a couple of light-hearted, 'fun' columns make their debuts this week. Let us know what you think at felix@ic.ac.uk

Taking back the streets



by TRISTAN LANE

What's uni supposed to be about? It's about exams, studying and learning become a useful member

of the workforce, right? My bottom. It's about having fun for the last time in your life.

Remember, once you get a job, you won't be free until you're old. Very old in most cases. You should treasure the time you've spent loafing at home/watching movies/eating rubbish. Uni is the place to have 'Good Times' to treasure when you're older. When else is it acceptable to be eating a kebab at 3am having just finished a marathon of three series of 24?

The difference between a student and a member of the workforce SHOULD be distinct. If you

have a job as a student, that's fine, but it's not what defines you. It's a part-time effort to scrape together some money. Your life as a student does define you, and quite possibly the rest of your life. You learn to operate free of safety nets. Or at least you should do. You make mistakes, and you learn from them. These mistakes should include, ideally, social life mistakes. You don't have to drink, but if you do, you learn not to spend all your loan in the first week on booze before resorting to whoring out your sorry ass to many jobs, whilst missing lectures. Or at least hopefully you do.

But the fun is in the trying.

The point of university is that it teaches you to live. It teaches you how to organise your time so that you can work and play. There's no point in just working, because then you miss out on the bigger picture. That's why clubs and societies are put forward as being important – no-one wants automatons who do nothing but work. Even in job interviews, extra-curricular activities are major things – flexibility and juggling are crucial to employers. And frankly, if you have only one string to your bow, how much can you possibly add to the job? You

need to be able to think outside the box quite frequently nowadays (if only to get through stupid questionnaires for application forms), and that requires a life full of diverse experience.

So, the moral? Get out, do stuff, put something back into the university and its social life. Remember, for every effort you put in, you get eight times that amount back. That's guaranteed*, and also remember you get paid for most fun stuff*. But seriously, just get out there and do stuff. Be more than a candidate number.

* *May not be true.*

The girl about town



by STORMY WOODS

With the girl about town's monthly bible (aka *Glamour* magazine) quoting that there are 50,000 more single women aged 20-34 than men in London, at least the pulling ratios at Imperial College should still be working in an attractive medic lady's favour. Such a girl should be spoken for, having taken the pick of the men, considering the lack of competition, and quality competition at that.

Alas, it turns out that fate and logic are both cruel, and my extremely attractive friends and I have realised we are the single survivors of the fourth year.

I'm sure you'd sympathise that moving back to London after a hectic Christmas on reception in

an incestuous country hospital can only be a good thing. Youthful, overweight rural fogs, and their older, blithering Barbour-wearing counterparts don't count among my wide and wonderful array of fetishes – and a Saturday hunt is not my idea of a date!

I had barely unpacked my bags, when flatmate one (I have two, one of whom is sensibly taken by a worthy guy and doesn't partake in the hormonally crazed madness) spotted victim number one for me: hot Australian dreadlock boy, best known as the tradesman from the flat upstairs. I have a well-publicised weakness for the laid back surfer look, which stopped me from wasting this golden opportunity for the perfect fling of convenience (he lives upstairs for goodness sakes!)

I spoke to the previous occupant – a good friend of mine, also out on the pull – and she mentioned he was an Aussie called Dan who lived on the top floor, in flat 21... and that I wouldn't find him especially fit. I chose to go for the conventional approach: waiting to cross paths unexpectedly in a sedate but friendly manner.

Unfortunately, flatmate number

one had other ideas. She kept bumping into Dan repeatedly within the hallways throughout the week. Seven days passed, and I'd seen absolutely everyone in the building, their children and au pairs (*still* no fitness, with the inhabitants mostly female and prissy) but no Dan! Drunkenly giggly, desperately horny and tarted up after a raucous bitching session that evening, I found my way to the top floor and knocked on one of the doors, ready to introduce myself with the ultimate punchline: "Hey, I've just moved into the building and thought I'd pop by and say 'hi'. I'm also mates with Helen who used to live here too, and she told me Dan was worth introducing myself to. Is he in?"

Unprepared for the inevitable "who's Dan?" I ended up describing him using the precious little I knew, which was blurted out as "sexy dreadlock guy".

I was helpfully directed to Dan's flat, and so, on my third deep breath, amidst a lot of giggling, I introduced myself to a portly, defensive, slightly bovine female with Jerry Springer BBQ Supernoodle hair. I had difficulty keeping a straight face, bearing in mind this introduction was followed by the Spanish inquisition

into how I knew Dan, where I knew him from and what I wanted to do with him! Incidentally, he wasn't home that night.

I broke into more giggles and ended up mentioning Helen, my extremely fit friend who'd just left the flat. This left the sex-starved munter further perplexed, and I beat a hasty, drunken, not-so gracious retreat, collapsing in laughter as I slid down the carpet of four sets of stairs. Bumpy rides are fun, aren't they?

This particular bumpy ride continued when Dan continued to bump into flatmate number one, and stare longingly into her eyes, three times a day for the next week. Matters weren't helped when his flatmate told him a giggly little Asian girl was on the lookout for him, and that all our flatmates fitted that description. Flatmate one's descriptions of Dan got progressively less appealing on a daily basis, and by the time day ten rolled round after another drunken bitching session, curiosity killed the cat – he couldn't be ugly and intriguing, could he?

A new friend had arrived to join us for the evening, and so, dressed in her winter coat with umbrella and wrongly written address in tow, we

sent her upstairs to ask for directions to number 23 (we have 22 flats in our building). She was instructed (amidst peals of laughter) to miss-call us if Dan answered, and on doing so, we'd ring her and tell her we were coming to pick her up, whilst legging it up the stairs double-time! Since she struck it lucky there, and Dan himself answered the door, weeks of anticipation came to a head. But within this mighty rush, I'd forgotten to do up my trousers and fallen over my very own doorstep.

Dan ended up showing my friend the way to ours, leading to the biggest disappointment and most uncontrollable giggling session of my entire life! How could a non-homeless Australian surfer guy not be fit? How could a dead ringer for Daniel 'porky' God-fearing ballad-singer Bedingfield have dreadlocks? I didn't want to wait for the answers this time around!

I beat a hasty retreat, and Dan thankfully hasn't seen me since. Computer room guy, victim number two, is a different story – he's been the new object of lust (I don't chase, I replace). I think I'll let him have his five minutes of fame next week.

Entertain Charity Night, Saturday 26 February

What's this all about then?

It's a charity ball organised by medics and engineers. It's to raise money for the tsunami relief operation. It only costs a tenner, and every penny of that goes to charity.

Every penny?

That's right. They can afford to send every penny because they've got two big production companies behind them doing all the expensive stuff. And the acts are playing for free.

They can't be very good then.

Nonsense. They've got a cracking line-up. There'll be live bands including the world famous Imperial College Big Band, funk and soul from Our Souls, rock from Cartel, and more to be confirmed over the next few weeks. Then there are the DJ's. Top London superclub resident MacPherson is already confirmed, as is Mark Rivkin, and there'll be a huge number of other upbeat, chill-out and cheese DJs on the bill as well. Not to mention magic from the award-winning Adam Keisner.

Well that's all very impressive, but why are

we still raising money for the tsunami appeal?

Imperial students have already raised a shedload, but this will raise tens of thousands of pounds. And it's going on redevelopment, now that the immediate relief operation is over. It'll all be donated to Oxfam and Action Aid, who work with local people to get communities back on their feet.

I assume it'll all take place in some broom cupboard in the Union as it's run by students and only costs a tenner...

Nope. It's in Sheffield, 7 'til late.

What does 'late' mean?

It means it'll be so good you won't want to leave. And no-one will throw you out 'til 2am.

Ok, I'm excited. Are you on commission?

No – every penny to charity, remember.

So where do I get my ticket?

They're already on sale at the

Union Reception, Southside and the Reynolds bar. Only £10, remember.

Got it.

And look at the website at www.entertain-event.co.uk to keep up with progress. See you there?

Heck yeah. It's making me moist just thinking about it.

Really?

Yep.

Alex Rathmell



HELP WIN THE WAR AGAINST ANTHRAX.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN A CLINICAL TRIAL TO DEVELOP A NEW VACCINE TO COUNTER THE THREAT OF AN ANTHRAX OUTBREAK. PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT BE EXPOSED TO ANTHRAX AS PART OF THIS STUDY. IF YOU ARE AGED FROM 18 TO 55 AND IN GOOD HEALTH, YOU COULD BE THE PERSON WE ARE LOOKING FOR. YOU WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR THE TIME YOU SPEND WITH US. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SEE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE PART.

FREE PHONE 0800 169 8514.

HELP US TO HELP YOU.

ADVANCE ANSWERS AGAINST ANTHRAX



This study has been approved by an independent NHS research ethics committee. Guy's Drug Research Unit is independent of The Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust.

Elections

elections@ic.ac.uk

Vote 2005

As reported on the front page, elections to Imperial College Union's five sabbatical positions are underway.

The candidates' manifestos appear on these four pages. Interviews with

all the candidates will appear in *Felix* next week.

The President and three deputies will take a year out from their studies to lead the Union next year. The

Felix Editor is responsible for editing and distributing this newspaper, managing *Felix* as a club and raising funds through advertising.

Voting takes place online between

Friday 11 and Tuesday 15 February. All registered students of Imperial College can vote.

You can hear speeches from the candidates and ask them questions

between Monday 7 and Thursday 10 February at South Kensington, Wye and Silwood Park. For more information, visit www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections.

PRESIDENT

- The President is the figurehead of Imperial College Union, with ultimate responsibility for all its activities
- There are **5** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

JAMES DEVINE



The Union is an organisation which exists to provide for you as a student and to speak up for you in College. Union clubs and societies are an integral part of student life at Imperial. I am an experienced and active member of the Union. I've been a club chair and a club treasurer. I edited *Guildsheet*, the engineering students' newspaper, and I've written for *Felix* and Live!

College must put students first. It's the little things, like having a lunch hour, being consulted about changes to our university, or at least being given adequate notice. I'm committed to supporting faculty unions to build better student representation across college so that all students, including MSc and Post grads, get a say in how things are done.

The Union needs a new website, an intranet and a new finance system, I'll make sure we get these within a year. We can do more to save the environment and save money at the same time, by doing things like running the union minibus fleet on bio-diesel. I support the idea of a Fairtrade university.

I'll make the time to listen and answer emails personally.

My pledges...

- 1) A smoke free bar area in the Union.
- 2) Direct communication between sabbaticals and students.
- 3) Less money on full time union staff, more money for clubs and societies

Sure we'd all like more coffee bars and better catering, but anywhere can serve a double mocha-chocolate. The Union is the only place providing your representation.

SAMEENA MISBAHUDDIN



It's at the start of term that so many of the Union's important services are delivered, so we need a President with experience and the ability to make changes immediately.

As current Deputy President (Finance and Services) I've achieved results already, taking leading roles in the Strategic Review – the Union's biggest ever student feedback exercise – restructuring the club budgeting system, and the Union refurbishment project. I've fulfilled manifesto promises including reinstating nightbuses, improving feedback and working towards a Union Coffee Bar.

Having helped get these started, I'm most qualified to see them through; a newcomer would take time to learn the ropes and gain my knowledge and experience.

The Student Activity Centre needs overhauling so we must implement this over the summer, starting by eliminating the excessive paperwork involved in running clubs/societies and replacing them with simpler online systems.

Improving communication between the Union and students needs to be a priority, with every student knowing what we do, how to get involved and who's there to help. We can achieve this via *Felix* articles, a more comprehensive and user-friendly Union Website, adopting a more approachable style and having a campus-wide presence.

I'm committed to extending library hours year-round, improving integration for outlying campuses, and better representation for Postgraduate and International Students

Everyone benefits from a better union – with a President committed to the needs of all students. With my experience and track record, I'm the only candidate who's guaranteed to hit the ground running and deliver results.

MORTEN OLESEN



I'm running for President because I believe I'm the best person for the job. I will not make loads of promises I won't be able to keep, but I do promise that I will listen carefully to the students, represent them to the best of my ability and broker the best deal possible. Also, I promise to provide better resources and administrative support for clubs and societies. Lastly, I promise to make the Union a venue that caters for everyone regardless of their ethnicity, religion or other beliefs.

My main aim as President will be to gain the trust of the students; I believe I can do this. I have leadership experiences both from various clubs as well as the Union, where I worked for almost three years. I sit on Union Council as well as the Executive Committee and I'm the ACC Vice Chair this year. I hope these experiences have put my finger on the pulse of students' opinion of how the Union should be run.

We must elect a candidate representing the broadest student opinion. Whether you believe I'm the best candidate or not, the important thing is for the majority of the students to elect who they believe to be the best person to represent them. I therefore strongly urge all students to vote so we can truly claim to have a Union run by students for students.

SIMON RAWSON



After four year's involvement with ICU, at every level, I have strong beliefs of what I would deliver as President:

Identities

Studying in a vast, anonymous city, at a large intensive university, everyone needs something to identify with. Making this possible is one of ICU's most important roles. I recognise the importance of all the constituent groups which make up ICU, everywhere. Crucially, ICU must be in the background supporting these groups, not placing hurdles in their path or trying to force them to agglomerate under one 'brand'.

Student Activities

Although student activities at ICU are already amongst the best in the country, I will work to strengthen this situation, ensuring that resources, both financial and practical, are in place to support activities. I support the current moves to modernise Beit Quad, but will ensure that student activities are not jeopardised in any way – in terms of finance or facilities.

Value from Services

In South Kensington, some of the Union services (e.g. Catering, Shop) are underused. I believe that we should seek to more fiercely challenge our commercial competitors (e.g. WHSmith) in terms of both offering and value for money. I'm committed to this at all of our campuses, so that services really do what you want.

Representation

Arguably the most important role of the Students' Union is Representation. I see the role of the President as your ultimate representative, responsible for actually making your voice heard to College and, if need be, on wider issues which affect you too.

COLIN SMITH



It's time for radical change in the way our students' union is run.

The illegal war and continued occupation of Iraq have left over 100,000 dead, whilst our so-called representatives sat back and did nothing. Top-up fees were forced through against the biggest ever rebellion in the Labour party, with the full support of our rector, and again our union's response was pitiful. Time and again the threat and implementation of increased hall rents is allowed to pass almost without challenge from our sabbaticals. Our equal opportunities policies are, at best, weak. For all these reasons and more, it is time for change.

Over the last few years I have become increasingly involved, and frustrated, with the union bureaucracy, first getting involved with student council and now as the union's Welfare Campaigns Officer. This has made me even more determined to help take our union out of the hands of the hacks, and turn it into a fighting, democratic, representative organisation.

I have also been heavily involved with the mobilisations against top-up fees, George Bush's visit to London last November, and the ongoing conflict in Iraq. Recently, I have been proud to be part of the coalition in college fighting for justice for Babar Ahmad. The union's somewhat reluctant support for this campaign is an important, but small step forward. Elect me as President, and we can make giant leaps.

It's time for change.

FOR AN ANTI-WAR, ANTI-FEES, FIGHTING STUDENTS' UNION... VOTE COLIN SMITH for PRESIDENT.

ELECTIONS

elections@ic.ac.uk

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)

- The DP(F&S) is responsible for all the Union's finances and commercial services
- There are **3** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

TIM APLIN



What does a student union want? Its students to be satisfied. So then we ask: how can that be achieved? There is no simple answer; the needs are limitless: cheap food & drink, lively student bars, well funded & active clubs & societies, the list continues for as many students as you can find.

Many people want many different things and as DPFS I would strive to help everyone get better value from our outlets (bars, catering and retail); make sure clubs and societies get funded more competently; and draw on the practices of other universities and see what they do well and how we can emulate that. Our Wednesday and Fridays have recently fallen below par and I would give my support in trying new things to attract different student groups into the building throughout the days and nights.

Nobody can promise miracles, but with a 'career' history that has had me doing everything from participating in a club to financially overseeing over 45 of them (representing over 20% of the total) as ACC Treasurer – which encompasses the majority of competitive and graded sport in Imperial College Union; both drinking in and working behind our bars for the better part of four years and being involved in the Union's recent Club & Society Finance Review, I believe I have the knowledge, experience and working relationships over all the other candidates to get the job done best.

ROBIN AVERY



Hello all, as I know you're all busy I'll keep this short and to the point. Fundamentally I stand for three things that form a catchy slogan: responsibility, accountability and approachability.

Responsibility is because I was treasurer of ICU Sinfonietta during their most successful and expensive tour to date, with a budget in excess of £25k and many challenges along the way (anyone who's tried to pay Russians in advance will know about this). Secondly I am currently the treasurer of ICU RAG which will hopefully donate in excess of £10k themselves, counted and banked by me and my team.

Accountability represents my view that all sabbatical officers should be able to be held to account by the members of the institution that is ICU. If you had an issue with the way I did something, I'd strongly encourage you to question me about it.

Approachability is for all you budding treasurers out there. I know how hard it can be to run a club and budget for it. I also know that your job is the most thankless in any society and think that there should be more support out there for all 300 of you. I would like to provide that support.

So, I think you should vote for me because I have the ability to do the job, are willing to be questioned on my methods (and justify them) and the enthusiastic nature to get the job done and help people.

EDWARD PIGGOTT



More Money for C&S!

I will prioritise the Union's Money better, allowing for a larger chunk to go towards the Clubs & Societies. I will also lobby for an increase in our overall funding, to give Clubs and Societies, rather than just admin, more.

More Fun Less Forms!

I will move most, if not all, the day-to-day financial administration for Clubs & Societies online. I will also campaign to move the rest of the C&S administration online.

Less Fiction More Fact!

I believe very passionately that students should know what is happening when it is. Thus, whenever I am doing something, be assured that I will let the people who matter, the Students, know.

For Students By Students!

I will open the financial sections of the Union to greater student involvement, and scrutiny. Thus, if they want something done, they'll be able to see whether it's happening or not.

Real Action Not Gimmicks!

I have a proven track record of delivering the promises I make, both the very small ones to the very large ones. So be assured, when I say I'm going to do something, I actually mean it!

A New Union Is Possible!

I passionately believe that all students, irrespective of their beliefs, should be entitled to help within the Union. I feel that we should all work together to make a better Union for all.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

- The DP(C&S) is responsible for all the Union's clubs, societies and student activities
- There are **2** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

SIMON MATTHEWS



Why should you vote for me as DP (C&S)? Simply put, you'd be getting someone who is experienced, competent and who has a track record of openness and improving communication. Having spent the last couple of years on the SCC exec; firstly as treasurer and now as chair I am aware of many of the current issues facing clubs and societies in the union and have been working hard trying to improve matters. I have been an active member of a wide range of clubs, including sports and recreational ones, giving me knowledge of some of the challenges that they face.

As DP(C&S) I would continue the war on bureaucracy. Some paperwork is a necessary evil, but I would continue the trend of moving to online forms, reducing the work that club

officers have to do.

The recent strategic review highlighted a number of issues. The proposed redevelopment of the Beit building would allow us to make better use of the available space. There is also the matter of room bookings. Some rooms stand empty for most of the year, while others are fought over tooth and nail: I would plan to enable these less-popular rooms to be used more effectively. One of my ultimate goals would be to see every club have a 'home', whether it's an extra gym for the martial arts clubs, or customised room for social clubs.

Remember, a vote for Simon is a vote for competence and experience.

JAMES THATCHER



I believe that Imperial's greatest asset is its clubs and societies; we currently have over 250 clubs with thousands of student members and hundreds of dedicated officers. My aim as DPCS would be simply to perform my duties in an organised and efficient manner; it sounds obvious, but having been a club officer I know how vital those two things are.

Club officers have to be well organised in order to hand in forms on time, and should expect them to be handled efficiently once they have. In order to aid this I will continue to push for more online documentation, a service which should have been implemented many years ago.

The year ahead will be both very exciting and very challenging for many clubs. Most

obviously for the indoor sports clubs with the opening of the new sports centre, but also for many others with the closure of Southside and its gym, and the potential restructuring of the union building. I will continue all the hard work of the previous DPCS and CSC chairs in ensuring that the best deal is reached for everyone involved.

I could promise all sorts of outrageous things that I couldn't possibly achieve, but I won't. All I promise is to give every person who votes for me a planet of their choice when I'm ruler of the Universe*, and to do my best to represent all the clubs and societies so they can achieve what they want.

*Except Uranus. First come first served.

ELECTIONS

elections@ic.ac.uk

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE)

- The DP(E&W) is responsible for promoting important welfare issues and safe-guarding the education of students
- There are **2** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

ALEKS CORR



Having been at Imperial for 4 years, I have met and talked to many people about their views on Imperial College and the Union. I have also had first hand experience in using the welfare facilities, and feel that I can represent these views.

I will strengthen the relationships between personal tutors and students by ensuring that through regular meetings (not just with first years) a tutor can build up a relationship that will allow the student to ask freely about education and welfare issues, and allow feedback

for work/exams. New tutors may need help in providing them the right information.

Postgraduates and taught postgraduates do not have a huge active role in the Union. Many postgraduates do not realise that there is a Union. I can increase awareness by providing information at the start of the year for all postgraduates, including the ones originating from Imperial College.

I feel that a disinterest in Imperial is due to lack of communication. I aim to work alongside student representatives to pass on information through class representatives and create a feedback system.

I will investigate whether there are enough resources to facilitate disabled students, and those with learning difficulties, and to provide necessary changes, by working alongside the Disabilities Officer.

I would like to see more subject areas introducing reading weeks, or more time for preparation round exam times. I feel that this will decrease the stress that student's feel, especially as preparation time has decreased in certain times of the year.

SARAH KHATIB



I am Sarah Khatib, a final year Biochemistry student.

I have been a Year Representative for the past 2 years and I have enjoyed it because, at heart, I like to assist students with their academic issues, and convey their ideas and complaints to faculty members.

I strongly believe that you should have the power to change things in your university and in order to achieve this I will guarantee you competent representation. I intend to galvanize the departmental representation system

so that you have more faith in your Year Reps.

How often do you meet with your personal tutor? Seldom, I bet. I will ensure this scheme is more effective, with tutors as your first point of reference.

Unrealistic deadlines, very little time? I want to develop a more manageable exam and coursework timetable for all departments.

I intend to work hard to protect your interests, ensuring that The Union provides you with welfare support specific to your needs.

In my position as DPEW, I will address the issue of accommodation rents. I support an even distribution of rent increases across the spectrum of halls and I feel that freshers have the right to indicate what price range is affordable for them. Above all, I am seeking to advocate a fair accommodation system.

Do you want to see it all done?
Speak Out.

Vote Sarah Khatib for DPEW.

FELIX EDITOR

- There are **4** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

SIMON CLARK



I have been involved with *Felix* since I've been at Imperial and been a regular contributor, initially as a music reviewer.

This year I have been editor of the Nightlife section, which has involved writing, as well as organisation of reviewers. This summer I was assistant editor on a newspaper for an international Scout camp of 8,000 people, producing a full newsprint edition every day for a week, from the comfort of a field.

Felix is the best it has ever been. I want to build upon this success and make it even more professional, with more and better content from around the college. As editor I would repeat the survey of last summer, in order to get a better idea of what readers want and improve our publication.

Subject to the survey results I would also like to work directly with clubs & societies on ways to work together for more contributions about, by and for them. *Felix* needs to improve its representation of the variety of the Imperial community, with more content on college life, The Union and its events, and personal opinions of students.

As a computing student, I'm in a prime position to improve the use of ICT facilities both inside and outside the *Felix* office, including an improved website and online contributions system.

I would also endeavour to create a more enjoyable working environment for contributors in *Felix*, and so encourage more people to contribute and provide readers with a more humorous and entertaining paper.

RUPERT NEATE



Vote Rupert Neate for *Felix* Editor

Felix is out of touch with you, the students. *Felix* isn't fun anymore, and doesn't attempt to cover any serious news stories. *Felix* should concentrate on its core principles of relevant news, funny columns, opinion on major issues & College sport.

● More fun, more comedy (bring back page 3?)

● More real news ● More opinion
● More sport ● More relevance

Felix should be full of stuff you want to read! *Felix* shouldn't just be something you flip through when you're bored in lectures, it should be something you look forward to, something that sparks debate, or at least conversation. The current bland *Felix* only provokes the question "What's 7 across?"

We spend all our time learning about science in lectures, *Felix* should be a reprieve from this, do we really want to read about only Science and Business? I'm not suggesting *Felix* should be dumbed-down; I will introduce humour and serious hard-hitting articles. I'll include an agony aunt (everyone loves reading them!) and a London sport column.

Felix is very un-opinionated, there is no leader column, all papers need this to express the paper's views. I have secured interviews with prominent politicians such Westminster MP, Mark Fields, and will regularly interview a figure relevant to students.

I have been published in *The Reading Evening Post* and *The Southampton Daily Echo*, and had work experience on *The Guardian*.

Vote Rupert for a *Felix* you want to read

DARIUS NIKBIN



Felix is your forum. We are there to entertain, inform, and to publish your views. Most importantly *Felix* must be relevant and it is the Editor's responsibility to print what you find interesting and entertaining.

During my three years on *Felix* I have edited the Film section, written news articles, relaunched the Science section, and been involved in unearthing the biggest front-page scoop *Felix's* history. Currently, I am the science editor and am working to launch a new *Felix* spinout magazine in March. I also have experience on the advertising and financial aspects of producing the newspaper.

Throughout my time on the paper I have placed emphasis on two aspects of *Felix*: content and humour. The two are not mutually exclusive, but are essential. *Felix* needs an editorial team who are familiar with the collective student Zeitgeist and who can tap into your sense of banter. Today's *Felix* Editor also needs the experience and technical professionalism to safeguard your freedom of speech, motivate a competent editorial team, and ensure that *Felix* is printed on time, and not on bog-roll.

As *Felix's* most experienced section editor, I believe I can deliver on all these fronts.

Vote for me and I will ensure the professional running of *Felix*, support clubs and Union events, publish a once-a-term science and culture magazine, revamp the website, and guarantee your freedom of speech. *Felix* will reach its potential, but we need to be relevant in our content and more irreverent in our humour.

MARTIN SMITH



When it comes to editing *Felix*, you need someone with both vision and experience. As your *Felix* editor, I would build on the professionalism already present and introduce a new 'feel' to *Felix*: one that is interesting, informative and amusing. I will:

● Extend the already excellent sports coverage to every club and society by offering 'feature' sections on the interesting social, recreational, overseas and athletic aspects of student life. I'll continue to print any sports report that I receive.

● Encourage comment and lively debate on college, student and world news, giving every reader the chance to make their voice heard

● Produce well designed, entertaining issues of *Felix* incorporating many aspects of talent available at Imperial, be it photography, political cartoons or the written word.

● Reward and encourage the many talented contributors to *Felix* with bar nights and other social events.

I'm honoured to have served you as the current Books editor of *Felix* and have tackled both interviews and page layout in this capacity, alongside writing some of the cryptic crosswords you enjoyed last year. Some of you may already know me as the editor of 'Broadsheet', the Faculty of Physical Sciences student newspaper. I'm proud to have had that opportunity to offer entertainment and amusement to Physical Scientists and to produce thought provoking articles on a variety of subjects.

If you want to see features, comment, debate and other entertaining articles then vote Martin Smith for *Felix* Editor
www.martin2005.co.uk

Re-Open Nominations

- In each of the five elections, you can vote to Re-Open Nominations (RON)
- If you don't think any of the candidates for a particular post are good enough, vote RON
- If RON wins, there will be a new election for that post

RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS



By Sanjeev Sarda
RON Campaign Manager

For too long now we have let mediocre sabbaticals run our union. It is time for the voters to step forwards and show that we will no longer accept this. By voting RON you will be sending a message that as voters we are no longer content to accept vague promises of more money for clubs and societies, reduced paper work and coffee bars. Every candidate may promise to listen, but none of them seem to be able to act. We don't need revolution, we don't need to go out and protest – we need to go out between the 11th and 15th and vote RON. Vote Ron – it's easy.

WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CHECKING YOUR LUNGS ?

We are looking for people willing to take part in clinical studies in respiratory medicine

We need healthy volunteers, mild asthmatics and smokers.

You will be compensated for the time spent and travelling expenses.

Patients will be also benefit from a comprehensive review of their lungs.

INTERESTED?

If you are interested or require further information, please contact:

Dr Alfonso Torrego
Mrs Sally Meah / Ms Mun Lim
Asthma lab: 0207-3518051
a.torrego@imperial.ac.uk
Imperial College & Royal Brompton Hospital

All studies have received ethical approval

Careers

felix@ic.ac.uk

Passionate about video games?



GABRIELLA SILVESTRI & CASSANDRA ALDRICH
CAREERS EDITORS

If video games are your thing, have you ever thought of making a career out of them? Sophia Smith is an Imperial graduate who now works as a games developer. She tells us about her experiences.

What did you do after you left Imperial?

"I took a year out to earn some money and decide what I wanted to do. I soon decided that I wanted to get a Masters degree, so the following year I took an MSc in Intelligent Systems at Brunel University. After that, I started a full-time job."

How did you get into developing video games? Did you have any jobs in between?

"My first job was as a C programmer at Citibank in Hammersmith. This was a contract position which, although lucrative, wouldn't

have taken me anywhere in terms of career progression. After 18 months I got a graduate job with EDS in their defence division where I worked for over four years. This was really interesting work, and I got on to varied projects and learned a lot. Eventually, there came a time when I felt the need to move on and only then did it occur to me to combine my passion for video games with my skills as a programmer! I managed to get into ECTS in Earls Court that year and check out the company that made my favourite games (BioWare). They seemed like a really nice bunch of people, so I sent them my CV and it progressed from there!"

Do you think being at Imperial has equipped you well for your future?

"I do. I got a good grounding in the subjects that I needed for my Masters degree and also took the opportunity to learn some Japanese along the way, which has been useful to me. Also, coming from a girls' school, it was a big change for me purely in terms of gender ratio – a ratio that has persisted throughout my working life."

Can you give us more detailed information on



Video gamers like these could find their dream job in the field

what your work involves and the projects you have worked on?

"I am on a game engine programming team. This means that we deal with game rules and objects. For instance, the first thing I worked on was the Encounter System, which detects when the player has entered a specific area and spawns one or more monsters of a level appropriate for the player to fight. The monsters are either a short distance away, so that the player even-

tually comes across them, or hidden around a corner so that they can ambush the player. I also collaborated with game designers to work on the scripting system that controls the behaviour of the monsters in the game.

Last year, I did some work on the graphical user interface, and I'm currently implementing combat rules. I've worked on *Neverwinter Nights*, *Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic* and a tiny bit on *Jade Empire*, which is coming out soon. I'm current-

ly on a project called *Dragon Age*, which is a roleplaying game in a fantasy setting."

Do you have any advice for students wishing to get into this field or advice resulting from your experiences?

"You have to be passionate about games to work in this industry, and you have to be able to analyse why you like a game, what frustrates you about it, and how you would do it better. It always helps to

have a knockout demo accompanying your application."

What can you tell us about the games industry and the opportunities there are within it?

"It's a really fun industry to be in. Creating a game requires a team possessing a very wide range of skills: artists, writers, rules designers, animators, programmers, sound engineers... there's something for everyone!"

Careers for Physicists in the NHS

By Gabriella Silvestri and Cassandra Aldrich

As a physics student you may never have thought of the NHS as a future employer, but, as Imperial graduate and medical physicist Rebecca Day explains, the profession may be worth a look.

Did you always want to go into medical research?

"The job I do is not primarily medical research, although it does involve some research. I didn't always want to go into this job. I only decided on this career in my final year when I found out about the excellent medical physics training scheme."

What did you do after you left Imperial? Did you go straight into the NHS?

"Yes, after a summer of travelling I went straight into my job in Edinburgh. In order to qualify for the grade A trainee scheme you need a degree in physics or engineering. They

do not necessarily require a first; a 2:1 is fine. They are looking for people who are enthusiastic and will be able to work with a whole host of different people, including patients, medics and technicians. I got some experience first by shadowing a medical physicist at the Charing Cross hospital for two days. There is tough competition for the grade A training posts, so some medical physics experience (even just two days) will stand you in good stead."

Do you think being at Imperial has equipped you well for your future?

"Yes. Degrees from Imperial are well respected by employers. Employers want to be sure that trainees have a good grounding in the basics of physics before they give you more specialist training."

Can you give us more detailed info on what your day to day work involves and the projects you work on?

"I am currently doing a train-

ing placement in the radiotherapy department at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh. This week I have completed the following: Monday morning: CT scanner fortnightly quality assurance testing. Monday afternoon: As part of my training placement, I assisted with the CT scanning of patients in preparation for their radiotherapy treatments. Tuesday: This is my MSc day. I commute to Glasgow where I have MSc lectures. Wednesday morning: Planning of radiotherapy treatments for patients with head and neck cancer. Wednesday Afternoon: Placement in the mould room where moulds are taken of patients heads so that masks can be made for their treatments. Thursday morning: Head and neck treatment planning. Thursday afternoon: As part of my training I went to observe the radiotherapy treatments of patients with lung cancer. Friday: More quality assurance testing on one of the x-ray units plus some experiments concerned with patient doses."

Can you tell us more about the training scheme that the NHS runs for physics graduates?

"For the first two years, trainees study part-time for an MSc in clinical physics, and they will complete three placements in different medical physics departments. (For example I will be doing radiotherapy, diagnostic x-ray and nuclear medicine). The training scheme is known as the 'Grade A Training Scheme,' and there are about 80 training places in hospitals throughout the UK. Trainees receive a salary and MSc fees are paid on their behalf. After the initial two years, on successful completion of exams, trainees progress to grade B jobs and hopefully obtain state registration after another two years.

Medical physics is concerned with the application and development of the principles and techniques of physics to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of human disease. Medical physicists have very diverse roles that

can include commissioning new medical equipment, routine quality assurance of equipment or the development of new treatment and diagnosis techniques. There is a huge shortage of medical physicists meaning that a trained medical physicist will never be out of work! You can find out more at www.ipem.ac.uk or at www.nhsclinicalscientists.info."

Do you have any advice for students who want a career in research or advice resulting from your experiences?

"Make sure you get some hands on experience in a hospital before you apply. Just ring up a medical physics department and ask them for a couple of days experience.

Take copies of your final year project report along to the interview (even if they don't request a copy), and make sure you give all the interviewers a copy; it will impress them. Do lots of research on the subject area you are applying for."

Careers events

Employer Drop-In Session

Deloitte
Wed 9 Feb 2005, 12 – 5pm
Sign-up begins Mon 17 Jan 2005

Employer Skills Led Workshops

KPMG - Interview Skills
Wed 9 Feb, 1.30 - 3.30pm
Venue: SAF 121
Sign-up begins 24 Jan 2005

Commercial Awareness

Ernst & Young
Wed 9 Feb, 1.30 - 3.30pm
Venue: SAF 121
Sign up begins: Monday 24 January

Interested in development work?

Alex McCredie explains how you can help developing communities across the world

Why would anyone want to go to the back of beyond, to a disease-ridden, high crime, corrupt country to work?

We are all well aware of the awful tsunami aftermath, and many of us may wonder whether we could possibly help out some way. You may think it is beyond your ability to help in any way except financially, but you might be wrong there. I don't know much about the specific situation, or what it is like out there; I only observed the drastic news from the comfort of the lovely new sofa in my father's sitting room on Boxing Day. But it did get me thinking about relief and aid in general, and I do have a few things to say about engineers' role in such disasters and also development work. I am also going to tell you about Engineers Without Borders UK, a student organisation, of which there is a branch at Imperial.

Disaster relief is very different to continual development aid. There are special contingency funds for disaster relief. They need the money desperately before whole sections of countries suffer. RedR stands for Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief—they are a charity which provides engineers to aid agencies in the event of a disaster and they have of course been very busy recently. Good engineers are also essential to the development of a country. Continual development aid is different and given for a variety of different reasons.

There is so much controversy around delivering aid. What is our responsibility as rich educated engineers to the developing world? Should they be encouraged to develop with some help, or should we be freely handing out donations because they are poor and cannot manage? Should we just give money, or provide human resources to sort out their problems

as well?

People sometimes associate aid with colonialism and the power of the rich donor countries over the poverty ridden ones, including third world debt, sweatshops and the industrialisation that brought the need for development. Is it our governments' fault? Is it pure human brotherly love that wills us to help out these countries, or is there an element of guilt and responsibility involved?

There is, of course, the abundant humane will to help the poor and starving, and we recognise our social responsibility, but not enough. I think quite a lot of people are very concerned about the third world when they are young, but when they grow up and run their own businesses and governments, self preservation and profits surpass caring for poor countries.

However, we are living in a wealthy aid-giving country, and therefore we can afford to give aid without denting ourselves at all. Hence the real reason we give aid is probably shielded. The reason we give aid is presented as goodwill and pure generosity. But, logically and economically, self preservation of our country is more important. Do we (as a country) give aid because we have some kind of interest in these countries, or some guilt from the past? Why don't we completely wipe out their debt? Giving aid may make a particular political party appear generous and caring, but their real ambition, as it should be, is to make Britain a better place, not Tanzania.

I am being quite cynical. I just think that more aid should be given and it easily could be. Many governments signed up to the millennium development goals. These are an ambitious set of environmental, health and education targets that include halving the proportion of people with-

out access to safe drinking water by 2015. It is already 2005 and we are nowhere near these targets.

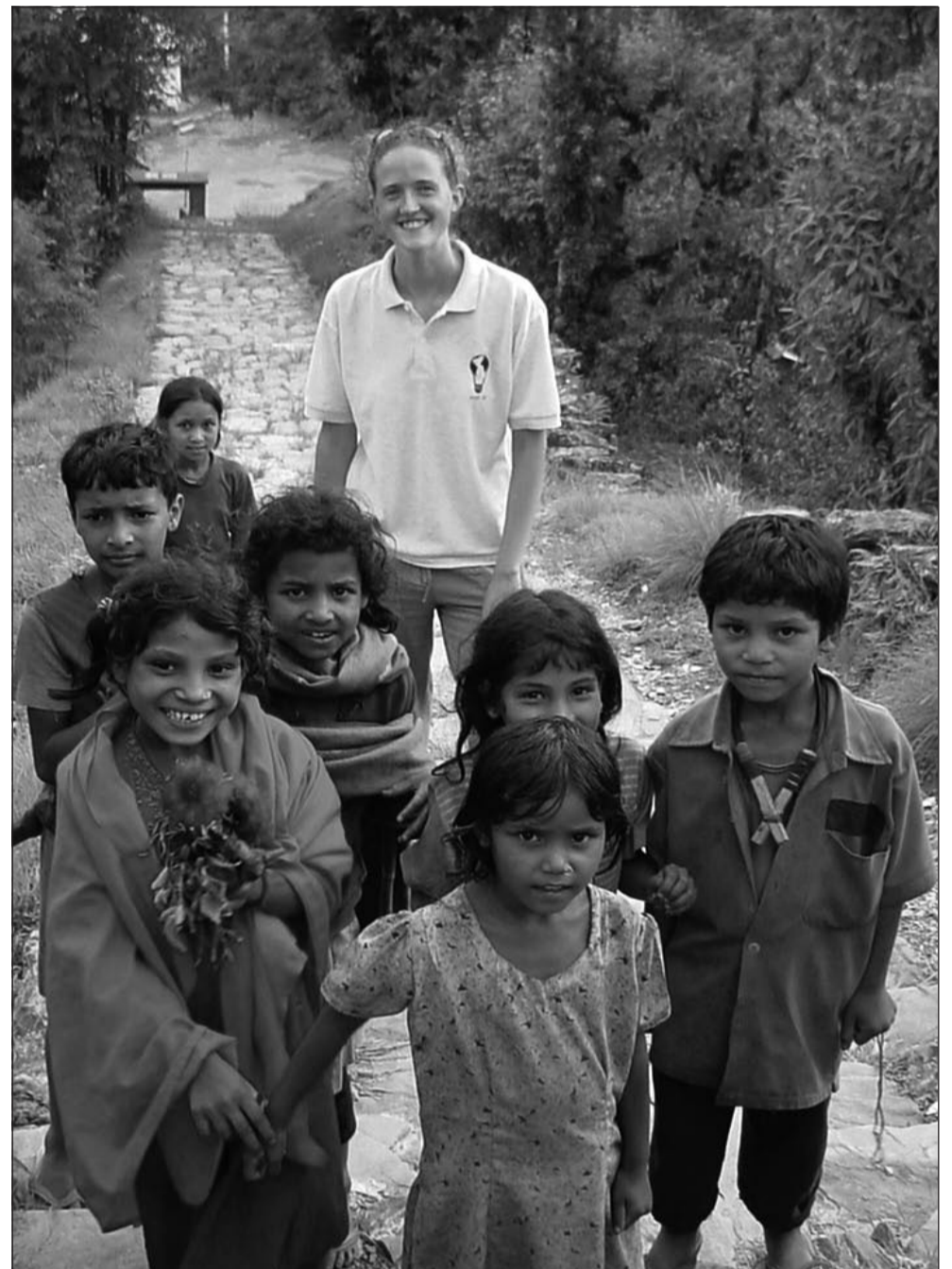
Of course, there are many people who care and understand the responsibility we have for the developing world. Some people act on this responsibility and want to take charge of how aid is delivered. They are using their skills to design refugee tents, predict earthquakes, make available their structural engineering skills to build houses, find water in the desert, design emergency timber bridges, teach, provide medical care, design websites for charities, etc. They are not blighted by the bad pay or poor working conditions; they even find it exciting. Of course, no-one is going to change the world, or even aim to. They just want to do their bit and make a small difference.

Delivering aid is also a very difficult task. Making sure it ends up in the right place for a start is difficult enough, but whether it is successful is another issue. We can see that the relief aid efforts in Indonesia are proving to be a huge logistical problem.

Mistakes have been made in the past concerning the delivery of aid. In India, for example, charity fitted toilets and running water were installed in some slum houses, but as soon as it was done, the occupants sold their houses and went back to living in the slums. The general policy now is that one does not just give out aid; the recipients are made to work for it, or pay for some of it. This instils ownership, pride and responsibility over the donation. It is imperative that these suffering people also know that we rich, educated westerners care. This was demonstrated to me last summer when I went with an Imperial College group to El Salvador to help construct houses in an earthquake-damaged village. It wasn't the physical work we were doing that was important to them, it was our mere presence and mucking in, which showed that we care and meant so much to them. It spurred them on to build their own houses.

It must be known that these places exist and that we do have a responsibility to these poor people. It can be argued that their government should be responsible, but in many of these places, getting money for a water supply for their village from their government is like getting blood out of a stone.

"The answer is not more charity or NGO projects. Water and sanitation is not a matter for charity. They are essential for human health and development." (Clare Short, 2003).



Engineers Without Borders, an Imperial club/society, sends students on development projects throughout the world. This volunteer worked on a placement in Nepal

Well-intentioned projects funded by short-term aid recipes often fail. Ms Short was right in saying that it is a matter for major investment by publicly owned companies, but it doesn't always work out that way either. She was more realistic when she said we need to concentrate on sharing expertise and using aid to speed up investment in sustainable systems that allow reasonable charges and ensure that services are provided to the poor.

Development work is extremely interesting and challenging, and can take you all over the world. High levels of enthusiasm, experience and knowledge are normally required. This is normally very difficult. It is a bit of a catch 22 situation – you can't get experience unless you have it. But why shouldn't younger, inexperienced people be able to help if they want to? Surely younger people would be ideal, as they have more energy, less fear, more enthusiasm, and are

not yet bothered about settling down in one place and starting a family.

Engineers Without Borders UK (EWB) is a student-run charity that aims to make available the engineering skills and knowledge of university students to developing communities. It achieves this by working with partner NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and sending students on placements with them over the summer holidays. EWB coordinates research projects for technologies that will benefit developing world communities and provides bursaries to students taking up their own projects that are appropriate to EWB's aims.

Secondly, our aim is to raise awareness and satiate curiosity about international development. EWB UK operates by having a core branch in Cambridge and branches at other universities. The EWB Imperial College Branch was founded last year. EWB organises talks on international

development and appropriate technologies every other week at Imperial College.

EWB has 36 engineering related placements available this summer (but not just for engineers) in countries ranging from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Nigeria to the UK and Spain.

EWB Imperial College Branch is organising a training weekend from Friday 4 March to Sunday 6 March, for students who are interested in going on a placement or interested in development work. The training weekend will include talks and activities aiming to equip students going on placements with some extra skills and knowledge that will help them in a developing world environment. It will also raise awareness of some of the issues involved such as health and safety, and will ensure that the student is more prepared for the work and what to expect.

Visit www.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/ewb for more details.



Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Girls just wanna have fun!



"What did you say about Imperial women?" Three of the Pinks Social Club at their 'Girls Night In'

PINKS

By The Pinks and Joe

What squeals, wears little clothing and loves to give money to charity? A 'Girls Night In' of course!

Just to keep your faith in Imperial College, some people really do have fun here – the girls! The event was organised by the Pinks Social Club (Pinks for short), which raised money for Breast Cancer Care. The night was a huge success, raising over £1000. Aleks Corr, the hostess with the most-est of the night, was ecstatic with the result and claims that a bigger and better 'Girls Night In' is planned for next year!

The night started off with an insightful talk by Marcia, a volunteer from the Breast

Cancer Care Charity, about her past experience of the disease and how the charity helps to support everyone affected by breast cancer. It was a very thought provoking talk, and I'm sure everyone learnt something.

The fun and games came along when Ann Summers hit the stage. The first game proved what many of us already knew, that a certain Pink lady was donned 'Slapper of the Night' in an 'I have never' style game (but a lot more fun and without the dirty pintage). Sexy models Alex, Sam and Kitty strutted their funky stuff on the stage with gorgeous lingerie – a brave thing to do, with so many girls in the room.

Next came what guys know as their enemies – sex toys (and plenty were sold) – before another entertain-

ing game that accompanied this with lots of volunteers. I'd like to say thank you to Henrietta (Ann Summers lady) for putting on a fantastic show, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

As the hostess proceeded to obtain more Dutch courage, the male auction took off. The Pinks would like to thank these brave, brave men who were willing to sell themselves in skimpy thongs to the rabble: Steve Barham, Mike Hicks, Tom Nieto and Ben Anstiss made a total of £280. Well done boys, we hope you enjoy your time with your buyers!

Next was the raffle, with superb prizes. The Pinks would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous donations: Odeon, Wagamama, Lush, NYNC, Casa Art, and of course, Ann

Summers. Well done to those who won the prizes – I'm so jealous!

The last of the entertainment came in the form of Blind Date – Cilla style! Yet again, thank you to the members of the opposite sex who volunteered their time with such courage: Andy Easter, Tim Praill, Gary Flanagan and Serge Lioutyi. Also, a big thank you to Vicky Arbabzadah who was brave enough to ask the question "If you were a sex toy, what would you be and why?" Well done girl!

The two lucky couples (Libby and Andy, Vicky and Tim) will be enjoying meals with wine in the Giraffe and Sopranos restaurants down on High Street Kensington. We hope that the blind dates go well – keep us posted!

The party moved on to The



"Who'll start me at 20 pence?" This male student looks as though he's thoroughly enjoying being auctioned off..

Prospect on Fulham Road. If you know anything about that bit of the night, please contact us, as we do not have a clue!

There was one low point to the evening. One out of two white pin boxes went missing at about 9-10.30pm. If anyone knows of its whereabouts, the Pinks would be ever so grateful for its return, as it had quite a bit of money in, which we would like to donate to Breast Cancer Care.

All in all, an absolutely fabulous time was had by everyone – I haven't seen a room full of so many giggly girls since secondary school! Remember girls, if you purchased anything from Ann Summers, you can collect it from us now – just email us at pinks_imperial@yahoo.co.uk.

If any girls would like to join the Pinks Social Club, please feel free to come along to any of our events – we're usually found in the Union in South Kensington on a Thursday night. You don't have to be a drinker at all, just a girl who

knows how to have fun! We also love organising charity events, so if you want to help out or have some ideas, give us a bell!

Lastly, thank you to all those who came to the 'Girls Night In'. This event wouldn't have been anything without your support or enthusiasm (yes guys, there are girls at Imperial!)

Go Girl Power!



Climbing through the clouds

FELLWANDERERS

By Elizabeth Sawyer

Loading rucksacks into the back of a minibus, making the obligatory stops in Egham and Warwick, and some crazy roundabout experiences en-route – it had to be another Fellwanderers trip, destination: Snowdonia!

We arrived (eventually) at St Mary's hut and tried to sleep, but downstairs there was some serious wood chopping going on. Still, revenge came on Saturday morning, when we got up at six to start walking. The mad midnight axemen didn't find things so funny then...

On Saturday, we walked up Snowdon, starting on the miners' track, then swapping

to a nameless (not a good sign) path, before eventually meeting Watkin near the top. Tom proved his navigational excellence by guiding us through the inside of a cloud all the way up and down the mountain – no easy task when you can't see more than five metres in any direction.

Cold and damp, we finished the day in Pete's Eats

in Llanberris, before heading back to the hut for some Outdoor Club strength chilli, some cooling banoffee pie, and some near-traumas involving buses, farmers and sheep (OK, I lied about the sheep).

Sunday was another wet day. We split the group, and half did Snowdon again (via a different route) whilst the other half decided it might

be more interesting to see some lower level stuff: disused slate mines, an old fortress, each other (something that had not been possible the previous day due to the enveloping cloud).

Jutta put up an especially brave fight against the conditions, which had even the driest of us uncomfortable and necessitated that Chris purchase some trousers. Anyone

at the Union on Thursday 20th will recognise how desperately cold and wet we must have been – what else could have driven Chris to this moment of insanity?

Anyway, back to Imperial via the pub and Staines (a pleasant change from Egham) and that was our trip over. I think it's fair to say that, despite the weather, a good time was had by all.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@ic.ac.uk

Paintball team storm Birmingham

ICU-PAIN

By Alex Jermstad

One of Imperial's newest and fastest growing clubs and societies is ICU-PAIN, which aptly stands for Paintball Association, Imperial Nutcases. Their first main event as a club was to compete in the first Inter-University paintball tournament to be held in England for over two years.

On an extremely cold, dark morning back in November, a ten-strong team piled into numerous cars and mini-vans to begin the joyous two hour trek up to Birmingham for a fun-filled day of paint, sweat and mud! I, in my infinite wisdom, decided to travel up the previous night and sleep a mere 20 minutes away from the site... only to receive a 'wake-up call' from the club president at 5.30am! That guaranteed him a little friendly fire later in the day.

Upon arrival, we were greeted with the site of hundreds of other obviously quite sick people looking for a day of running around in the woods and getting shot at. The team were all issued with some very fashionable overalls, a standard Tippmann 98 paintball marker (we don't use guns, for all you PC people out there) and a rather hefty bag of 500 paintballs to get us started.

After a comprehensive introduction to paintball for those who had never played before, and a safety briefing, the marshals led us deep into the wood, where the games began. Now, the object of the

game is, of course, to eliminate the opposition. One hit anywhere on your person or equipment and you're out there. If a paintball bounces, however, you're still in the game. Each team is awarded five points for capturing the opposition's flag and returning it to their home base within the ten minute time limit. You get one point for a draw (when no-one captures either flag), and no points for a loss.

Our first match was up against the hosts of the tournament, Birmingham University. The field was called 'Beeches', with a great decommissioned helicopter as a large centrepiece. As we were playing on their home ground and we had a scratch team, we naturally had to show Birmingham what we were made of.

Our opponents put up an admirable fight until the last minute, when a key Imperial player flanked all the way around the left to surprise them, taking out the remains of their defence and returning the flag (Imperial 5, Birmingham 0). Oh yeah!

Our morale-boosting start was followed up by a much swifter victory on the 'Swamp' field against Coventry, then another astounding win against the extremely sneaky Southampton team on 'Rolling Rock'. I think it's fair to say we were definitely on a roll by this time.

At lunch, we replenished all our spent energy with a few delicious burgers and hot dogs washed down with some soda - the true paintball athlete's diet. After maxing every match so far, the talk around the water cooler was



War has never been so much fun: Imperial's paintballers pose for the camera pre-battle

that we were indestructible. Either way, we had already secured our place in the final, no matter what the outcome of the post-lunch Warwick match was.

So as not to taint our perfect record, we felt obliged to kick some more ass when taking on Warwick in the extremely atmospheric 'Temple' field, complete with 30ft Aztec temple and thick brush! It was close, but no cigar for Warwick. The standings after the heats were as follows, with every team getting an extra five points for a 'bye' game:

Imperial	25
Birmingham	16

Southampton	16
Coventry	10
Warwick	5

Following all of the heats, Southampton and Coventry battled it out for third and fourth place, with Southampton coming out on top. Then came the final decider, Imperial versus Birmingham (cue atmospheric fight scene music). We unknowingly chose 'Bridges' as the field to play, not realising that Birmingham had already stormed Warwick on that same field earlier in the day! It was a very close match, with members of both teams being taken out left right and centre. However,

just as our left flank was about to break through to grab Birmingham's flag and claim victory, the whistle blew and it was all over. Birmingham had made a strong flanking manoeuvre down the opposite side, breaking through our defence and snatching our flag without us even realising it. Imperial 0, Birmingham 5.

All in all, an awesome day was had by all, and it was a great start to the year for ICU-PAIN.

The event was proudly sponsored by Just Paintball, who provided a new pair of goggles to each of the players in the first placed team! The second placed team

(Imperial) received over £100 in vouchers for the Just Paintball shop (we have some new team jerseys on the way!)

A big thank you goes out to all the teams, particularly Birmingham for arranging the great day. Thanks also to the Birmingham lads and Portsmouth dude who helped us to make up numbers.

If you'd like to try your hand at paintball then we will hopefully be organising monthly events from now on, the first being on Wednesday 9 February. Please see www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/PAIN for more information or email alexanderjermstad@ic.ac.uk.

Turn on, tune in... free beer!

IC RADIO

By James Robinson

Hopefully you already know that IC Radio is Imperial's very own student-run radio station. We broadcast 24 hours a day from our studios in the showbiz hub that is the Beit Quad Media Centre, also home to *Felix* (apparently it's a newspaper) and alleged television station STOIC.

So why are we suddenly wanting to talk to you? Well, it's that time of year when everyone is fed up with their degrees (or is that just me?), and we noticed a few gaps in our schedule just waiting to be filled by good folks like you. Within a matter of weeks you could be presenting your very own radio show.

We don't mind what it's about or what kind of music you play. The beauty of student radio is that we're not constrained to a particular genre like 'real' stations are - we have shows

ranging from mainstream pop and R'n'B to hard rock and dance, with everything in between. If talk is more your thing, we've got that too, including a wide range of science programming for those of you that can't get enough!

Behind the scenes, IC Radio is constantly expanding and improving its facilities. Soon you will be able to hear us in the Union and JCR, and we'll be able to record live band sessions in our refurbished production studio.

With so many big changes around the corner, not least the imminent destruction of Southside, we're holding a development meeting TONIGHT (Thursday) to discuss the direction the station will be taking over the next few years. Where will we broadcast? What kind of shiny things should we be buying? Should we change the logo? You know, earth shattering stuff!

Plus it will soon be time to decide who is going to run the

station next year, so if that appeals to you, now is the time to get involved.

As an extra enticement, after our meeting we'll retire to the Union for the evening and free beer will be available for all paid-up members. IC Radio membership costs just £8 for the year - and you could easily recoup that in free beer!

So join us at 6pm tonight in the Media Centre Common Room (Beit Quad, West Wing basement - swipe through the doors, down the stairs, left and left again).

Starting next week, we'll introduce you to some of the shows currently on IC Radio, and explain why they deserve your attention. In the meantime, don't forget to turn up tonight, or to tune in - we're on 999AM in Southside and Linstead halls and on 1134AM across the Wye campus (thanks to the IC Trust). You can also listen online and download shows from the archive at www.icradio.com.



Soon all this could be yours (hat not included)

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@ic.ac.uk

International Night 2005

OVERSEAS STUDENTS COMMITTEE

By Zhi Lim
OSC Chair

2005. A new year. Another chance for the world to start afresh.

The past year has seen needless death and destruction in many parts of the world. From the continually increasing superfluous death tolls in Iraq to the worst humanitarian crisis in the world caused by the civil war in Darfur, Western Sudan, we seem to enjoy the battering of our own human race. As if this was not enough, nature has taken a hand in the reduction of our head count with the

devastating tsunamis in the Indian Ocean. If only people would stop fighting around the world, then nature might not need to remind us of our frail existence.

On a lighter note, the world's economy seems to be improving (before the tsunamis, that is). Many developing economies have been experiencing growth and rapid expansion. China is, no doubt, the leader in terms of massive economic expansion.

In the midst of these worldly affairs, it is reassuring to note that certain less important but joyous occasions do occur in some parts of the world: International Night 2005 is the silver lining in the dark, heavy clouds.

This year's International

Night (I-Nite) will prove to be one of the better ones that the world has seen so far. At the top of the list, the food fair promises a variety of international delicacies. With more than ten amazing stalls (Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Spanish, etc) to delight the famished crowd for the night, patrons will be spoiled for choice. Each ticket holder will be given three free coupons to enjoy the spread of food. To complete the fabulous dining atmosphere for the evening, a jazz and rock band will provide musical accompaniment.

The performance itself is an awesome showcase of a variety of international cultures. With a huge range of dances, sketches and songs,

the show promises to live up to its reputation from previous year and seeks to outdo itself. Favourites include a sketch by the Japanese Society, dances by the Afro-Caribbean Society and even a musical by the Singapore Society!

Saving the best for the last, no performance night is complete without an after-show party. Presenting a unique venue for this year, the party will blow your mind. With a critically acclaimed DJ for the night and a huge hall for everybody's dancing needs, it is time for everybody to do a little performance of their own. In all, International Night 2005 promises to be the landmark event of the year!

International Night: always a highlight in the Imperial College calendar

Ten things I can do that you can't

EPISODE TWO: Nunchucka

JUGGLING CLUB

By Chris Rowlands

Welcome one again to *Felix's* little corner of impressive feats, clever tricks and cunning stunts. The topic for this week is a little controversial I am afraid, so here comes a disclaimer:

By reading this article, you hereby consent to the following terms:

1. You won't be a muppet and hurt yourself while attempting anything you learn in these pages, and if you do, no-one but you is to blame.

2) If you are a world-renowned martial artist, skilled in many deadly arts and a master of the Nunchuka, you won't try to correct any of this, or try to threaten me, because I scare easily.

Right, now that's over, I would like to introduce our topic for the week:

Nunchucka! You don't have to do kung fu to play with these seriously cool sticks-on-string. The poetic movements associated with battering an opponent into bloody submission lend themselves equally well to showing off in front of friends, relatives and (crucially) members of the opposite sex. Borrowing movements more traditionally seen in the Maori art of Poi swinging or the ever-popular fire staff, the lightning-fast swings, stops and strikes are both delicate and awe inspiring.

First, start off with both 'sticks' in one hand, with the chain (or string) hanging down [see picture 1, right].

Allow the front grip to fall. As it does, it will swing

down, then swing backwards, at which point you drop the other grip [see picture 2]. This will probably end in painful tears the first time you try, and from personal experience I know the grips tend to gravitate towards the more tender parts of your anatomy. If you get it right, however, the grip you dropped first will continue its arc around the back of your hand, ending up back in your palm, your hand remaining in contact with the chain (but not holding it) until it lands [see picture 3].

Simply reverse the motion of the nunchuck to end up back where you started.

Once you have achieved this, you can pass them across your body – drop the nunchuck as before, and when the first grip reaches your palm again, swing the entire thing across your body so that the chain wraps around the back of your other hand, and the other grip ends up in your other palm. Repeat ad infinitum [see pictures 4, 5 and 6].

You will notice that we have no idea how to hurt people with these things, short of hitting them with a grip randomly during a pattern. If you intend to get attacked frequently with only two sticks and a chain between you and a good kicking, Imperial has no shortage of martial arts societies, and one will certainly take your membership money. Alternatively, for £3 we can teach you how to look cool with these, and let's face it, that's the more important aspect, right? Email juggling@ic.ac.uk, come along to juggling on any Tuesday of term after 6pm (email for details) and I'll see you next week for something else that I can do but you can't.



1. Start off with both 'sticks' in one hand, with the chain hanging down; 2. Allow the front grip to fall and swing backwards, at which point drop the other grip; 3. The first grip will continue its arc around the back of your hand, ending up back in your palm; 4-6. Do the same thing again, but this time swing the entire thing across your body...

RAG Week cometh!

RAG

By Chris Jackson
RAG Chair

Rumours abound that Imperial's annual insanity fest is just around the corner. Unusually for this College, the rumours are true. From 7 to 12 February is Imperial College Union RAG Week, led, coordinated and occasionally even organised by your beloved RAG Committee.

RAG stands for Raising and Giving, and this year's nominated charities are Cancer Research UK and the Mercury Phoenix Trust.

Just to clear up one thing, that dalliance the medics have just engaged in is not ICU RAG Week. For some reason, they like to do their own thing, and not even we dare to stop them.

Below is a detailed rundown of the events on the agenda:

Monday 7 February

A quiet start to the week by collecting around campus.

Tuesday 8 February

This is Shrove Tuesday, so come along to Beit Quad at lunchtime and join in a pancake race. The first half is a traditional egg and spoon race, but upon completion of that you will have to add the egg to the batter and cook your pancake before completing the race tossing it. Sounds tricky? It probably is!

In the evening, the filthy miners amongst you can congregate for a bar night organised by your esteemed RSM committee.

Wednesday 9 February

In line with tradition, Wednesday afternoon brings the London Raid. Anything goes here really. Go around London collecting cash and trying to complete crazy challenges like floating around fountains in a dinghy or tiddly-winking the length of Oxford Street. Join us at the Union in South Ken afterwards, where prizes will be awarded for the best teams and the craziest stunts!

Thursday 10 February

Thursday evening brings a City and Guilds Bar Night and a slave auction into the ring. Got someone in the Union you can't stand? Mustafa's hat irritating you? Then buy them and make them do what you want! And if you can't afford to buy anyone, enjoy the free beer instead!

Friday 11 February

Dave's Distance Dash. In honour of Dave Willey turning 21 during RAG Week, you are all invited to attend an evening of drinking at The Goose, North End Road. Shortly after 11pm, Marvin the friendly bouncer will ask us to leave, at which point you have 36 hours to get as far away as you can for free.

Saturday 12 February

To finish off the week, we have a Circle Line pub crawl. Some of you will already know that the Circle Line is shut that weekend, but do not

fear! The committee are out researching ways to complete the Circle Line without ever using a Circle Line train! Will we manage it? You'll have to come along and find out for yourself!

Sunday 13 February

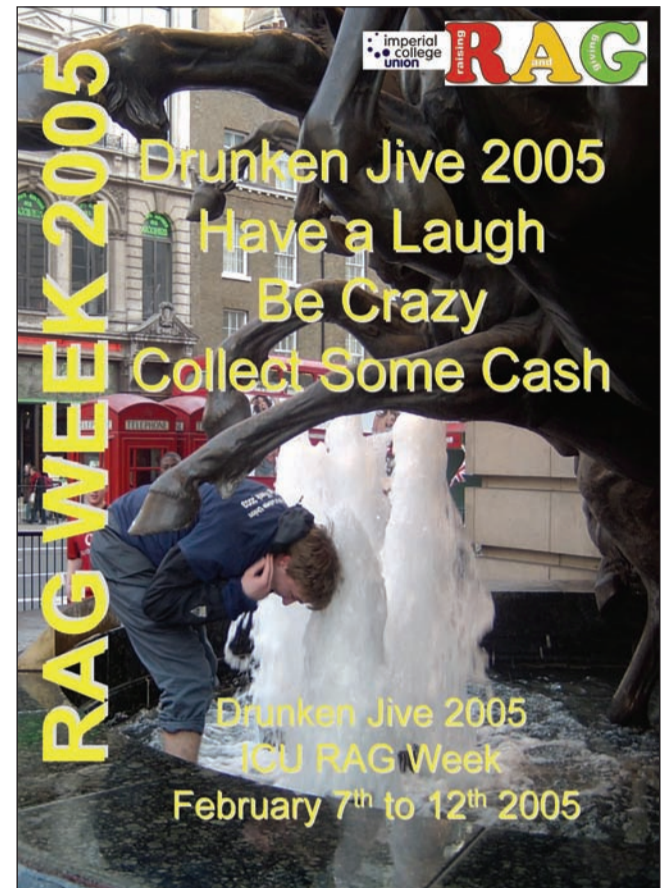
I will be sleeping or rescuing what's left of my degree!

Monday 14 February

Got someone you want to serenade? A partner who needs to know how much you love them? (I know this is Imperial, but you never know!) Get the Barbershop Quartet to sing to them in any lecture and then present them with your message and a rose.

All week

City and Guilds Hit Squad. Is someone irritating you? Well get them pied! The Hit Squad can infiltrate anywhere at any time. To make a booking, just go the City and Guilds office in mechanical engineering and ask!



New digital effects and animation society

MIND'S EYE

By Ghassan Ghaleb

Many of Hollywood's latest blockbusters rely heavily on Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) to create vibrant and imaginative film sequences which are difficult, if not impossible, to create otherwise. While such technology is often very sophisticated and expensive, it is becoming more widely accessible to normal consumers and enthusiasts. This is where Mind's Eye, Imperial's new CGI society, comes in.

As part of a sponsorship agreement with Alias, the world's leading innovator of 3D graphics technology, and with help from Escape Studios, one of Europe's leading CGI schools, the society will be able to use the Academy Award winning software Maya® 6. The unlimited version of the software includes Maya Fluid Effects™, Maya Cloth, Maya Hair, Maya Fur and Maya Live, allowing the creation of superior digital content!

At the moment, the society will not be providing formal training for its members, but the idea is that members will

be able to learn from more experienced ones through discussions and the exchange of techniques and ideas. Furthermore, the society will provide a number of training DVDs and books to allow everyone to learn at their own pace.

In addition to learning the world's most powerful 3D software, members can work on their own projects individually or in teams. Maybe you've always wanted to work on a game or create an animated short? Or maybe you wanted to create some 3D graphics to use on your website? Perhaps you are into the programming side of Maya using MEL and C++? The possibilities are endless.

According to the student union's rules, in order to make this society become a reality, at least 20 members are needed. If you have previous experience with Maya or any other 3D software and are interested, then you are welcome to join. Also, if you have no experience with this sort of thing, don't be discouraged to join - everyone is welcome.

The society is also in need of people to be part of its committee. While this is a good thing to have on a CV, it also allows you to be part of the society's decision-making process and its future.

If you are interested, then send an email to gg104@doc.ic.ac.uk, stating your name and CID number.

To find out more about Maya 6, go to www.alias.com.



With digital technology, you can even create *Shrek*-style characters such as this awkward-looking gentleman



In your Mind's Eye: Imperial's new CGI society could set you on your way to designing images like this. Pictures from www.cgtalk.com

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY

UNION EVENTS INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

From 6pm
Sherfield Building
£15

Truly a spectacular event. East meets West, North meets South, in fact the whole world comes together for one night only to celebrate! There's food, dance, drama, comedy, battle raps, breakdancing, and a phenomenal DJ set at the aftershow party. Food fair 6-8pm MDH, show 8-11pm Great Hall, aftershow party 11pm-2am MDH. Tickets £15, including three dishes of your choice from the food fair. Contact: zhi.lim@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION

7pm-2am
Silwood Park campus
Tickets £22 students, £26 staff
Traditional meal and ceilidh. Parking and accommodation also available. Contact: k.houston@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS COMEDY NIGHT AND DISCO

8pm-2am
Beit Quad
£2-£5
Comedy from Colin & Fergus and Russel Howard. £1 a pint Carlsberg and Tetley. Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY

UNION EVENTS PHYSICAL SCIENCES DOUGHNUT SALE

12-2pm
Doughnuts cost 60p, 30p of which goes to the Mercury Phoenix Aids trust. Contact: derek.wan@ic.ac.uk

ELECTIONS HUSTINGS

7pm
Da Vinci's Bar, Beit Quad
Your chance to quiz the candidates in the Union Sabbatical Elections. Contact: elections@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY

RAG WEEK PANCAKE RACE

12noon
Beit Quad
This is Shrove Tuesday, so

come along and join in a pancake race. The first half is a traditional egg and spoon race, but upon completion of that you will have to add the egg to the batter and cook your pancake before completing the race tossing it. Sounds tricky? It probably is! Contact: rag@ic.ac.uk

ELECTIONS MEET THE CANDIDATES

5.30pm
Manor House Lecture Theatre, Silwood Park campus
Your chance to meet the candidates in the Sabbatical Elections, after the Silwood Union's General Meeting. Contact: elections@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS JAM NIGHT

7pm
Beit Quad
FREE
A night of inpromptu live music provided free to all by Jazz and Rock. Open stage from 7pm, bring an instrument, turn up and play.

UNION EVENTS STA TRAVEL QUIZ NIGHT

8-10.30pm
Beit Quad
FREE
The quiz is a bit of a tradition at the Union, with cash and beer prizes on offer. Get a team together and see how much you really know. Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY

RAG WEEK LONDON RAID

Anything goes here really. Go around London collecting cash and trying to complete crazy challenges like floating around fountains in a dinghy or tiddlywinking the length of Oxford Street. Join us at the Union in South Ken afterwards, where prizes will be awarded for the best teams and the craziest stunts! Contact: rag@ic.ac.uk

ELECTIONS HUSTINGS

6pm
JCR, Wye campus
Your chance to quiz the candidates in the Union Sabbatical Elections. Contact: elections@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS SPORTS NIGHT

8pm-12midnight
Beit Quad
£1
Carlsberg and Tetley £1 a pint all night in all bars. Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY

VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

10am onwards
Pick up the last issue of term from your department or the Union building. Contact: felix@ic.ac.uk

RAG WEEK SLAVE AUCTION

Thursday evening brings a City and Guilds Bar Night and a slave auction into the ring. Got someone in the Union you can't stand? Mustafa's hat irritating you? Then buy them and make them do what you want! And if you can't afford to buy anyone, enjoy the free beer instead! Contact: rag@ic.ac.uk

ALL WEEK

FILMS: VUE CINEMA, FULHAM BROADWAY

Student discount ALL WEEK
OCEANS TWELVE (12A)
Daily: 2pm, 3pm, 5pm, 6pm, 8pm, 9pm. Fri and Sat only: 11pm. Sat and Sun only: 11am, 12noon.

RACING STRIPES (U)
Daily: 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm. Sat and Sun only: 10.45am.

MEET THE FOCKERS (12A)
Daily: 2.30pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.20pm. Sat and Sun only: 11.30pm. Sat only: 10.10am.

ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 (15)
Daily: 7.15pm, 9.45pm. Mon to Fri: 2.20pm, 4.45pm.

CLOSER (15)
Daily: 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm. Fri and Sat only: 10.45pm.

MILLION DOLLAR BABY (12A)
Daily: 6.15pm, 9.15pm. Mon to Fri only: 3.30pm.

THE AVIATOR (12A)
Daily: 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm.

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE (15)
Fri and Sat only: 11.130pm. Sat and Sun only: 1.30pm, 4pm. Sat only: 11.10pm.

RAY (15)
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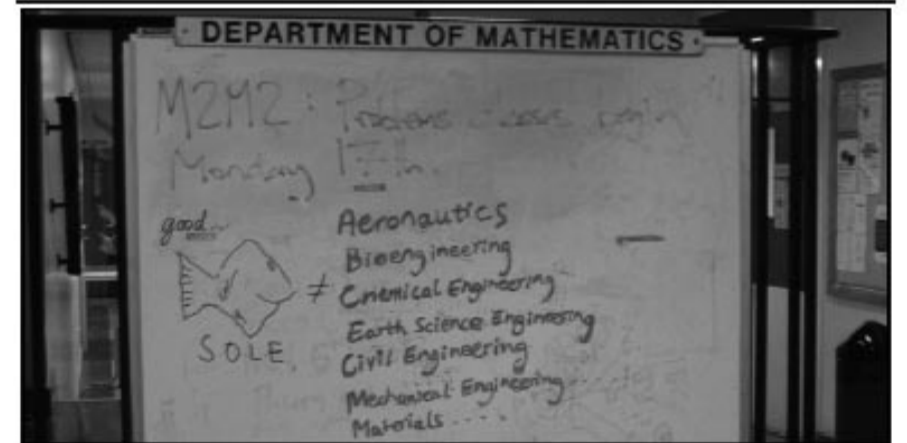
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GUILDSHEET

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

FEBRUARY 2005



Maths SOLE'd us out!!!

The SOLE results from last term have indicated that in general, most engineering students apart from EE think that Maths is crap! The problem with mathematics arose, when they moved from $1+1=2$ to Line Integrals and Conformal Mapping.

DoC already has its own faculty members teaching the mathematics course and these SOLE results may lead to others considering a similar line. Guildsheet has heard that the Bio. Eng. and Chem. Eng. departments seem particularly unimpressed with their Maths course. Elec. Eng. on the other hand liked their Maths course so much, that the 2nd year EE students invited their lecturer to the Christmas Dinner.

The issue of Maths and "teaching the damn thing" has been discussed in recent TSAC meetings of the academic representatives from

all engineering departments. The Academic Affairs Officer Ms. Ill Attitudin was quoted as saying: "I can count up to 10 on my fingers."

Reasons for the poor results are attributed to:

- the speed at which the material was being taught,
- material being too theoretical and not in context of the actual engineering principles,
- the lecturer was not connecting with the students.

Perhaps, the results also indicate that, quite simply some courses have more intelligent people than others.

The SOLE surveys are a very good way of gauging student opinion on their academic experience as long as you can get enough of them to participate. Again, Bio-Engineering topped the list with maximum participation, but

considering that there are only about half dozen students in their department, it comes as no surprise.

Other notable mentions include EE, who are the largest department in the City & Guilds with about 700 students still managed to pull in second and DoC, who after being bribed with free iPod Minis and web space managed a decent fourth. Mechanical Engineers came last in the engineering faculty. Apparently, the survey missed out most of their course information.

Head of departments now have a chance at gauging what the students think of their courses, as if it matters. At the moment departments are under no obligations to act on the results of the survey, which raises the question: Why bother with SOLE?

In this Issue...

RAG Week is coming...

so are Elections 2005

...Sh*t Squad hits the Blue Cube

OUT NOW

Music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

To the beat, y'all

The Kills tackle the difficult second album, Kevin Mark Trail (he of The Streets fame) releases his ragga-influenced debut, and Ciara blends crunk and R'n'B with interesting results

ALBUM REVIEWS

The Kills

No Wow
(Domino)

★★★★☆

Groups that can be associated with the garage rock revolution a couple of years back either changed their sound to move away from the spent medium, such as The Von Bondies, or changed their name hoping no-one would notice, like The Beat-Up (formerly known as The Beatings). Trust their luck that a U2-loving band from Las Vegas (The Kills, you ignorant scum) had to come along, so now this duo are stuck with plan A if they're to stay vital.

The Kills were an exciting prospect when stripped-down rock was welcome thanks to The White Stripes and The Black Keys. But The Stripes beefed up their sound (Jack overdubbed to a Queen-like excess and Meg hit the skins a bit harder) and the Black Keys faded into anonymity (or glowing Pitchfork reviews, same difference - Ed). So come 2003, when I last saw them live (at Leeds festival), they were just so tedious to watch, I put it on a par with an Embrace concert, and I think said whingers have more sex and drama in their show (they do have long hair, DAN-GER-OUS!). If The Kills don't want to fade into obscurity, then they need to roll up their thrift store sleeves and make their music essential.

Well, optimistically speaking, they won't disappoint fans, if they still have any fans. It resembles their debut album in a non-ashamed way, and they took as long to make this album as its predecessor. The drum machines are there still, but they've waned in excitement. Maybe the pressure of the follow-up got to their beat-making circuit boards; why is it that the technology has to suffer? I'm going to start up a fund for

misused machinery in music. It'll be called Eminem (I welcome any lawsuits). I already have support from the Strokes' effects pedals (suffering from neglect).

It is so difficult to talk about this album. The more I listen to it, the more laboured it feels. Of all eleven tracks I only seem to enjoy *No Wow*, *Love Is A Deserter* and *Murdermile*; the other tracks I ignore. The title track has a nice Kraftwerk-esque feel in the monotony of the kick drums. It shows that they have darkened their sound and sets the tone for the album with lyrics like, "you gonna have to step over my dead body before you walk out that door." It builds steadily and manages to excite me (commendable). *Love Is A Deserter* feels like a progression in sound incorporating some catchy new wave guitar licks via the delta blues. The last of the three decent tracks is propelled by a wonderful train-like stomp with the melodic line: "It's a train wreck, you got me on the wrong track honey" sung by Hotel (guitarist and vocalist).

Aside from those songs we have a boring, aimless and ideas-starved album. It's the musical equivalent of filling out a tax form: You don't want to do it, you can't see how it benefits you and you feel like you should've kept the money.

File under:

Dark nu-rock NME darlings

If you like this, try:

Bloc Party - *Silent Alarm*

Matty Hoban

Kevin Mark Trail

Just Living
(EMI)

★★★★☆

Kevin Mark Trail first came to the attention of the music world when he worked with The Streets, laying down the vocals for tracks such



The Kills: driving, churning riffs and sleazy vocals make for an above average band

as *Let's Push Things Forward* and *Same Old Thing*. Now he's decided to step out of the shadow of his good friend Mike Skinner and make a name for himself with this, his debut album.

This collection of songs, all written and co-produced by Trail, tries to bring the listener into the Wembley raised singer's world: life in London, relationships and family. Stylistically, he manages to incorporate aspects of soul, reggae and drum and bass.

Album opener and next single, *D Thames*, sets the tone with drum and piano loops, providing the backdrop to Trail's smooth, soulful voice. The next track, *Perspective*, was released as a single and describes Trail's earlier years, growing up in a single parent family, scribbling lyrics in school lessons and singing Boys II Men songs in the backroom while working. Trail's reggae influences are most prominent on this song, with its laid-back beat accom-

panied by requisite trumpet blasts.

Other highlights include the wonderfully uplifting *Full Moon*, with its strings and gospel choir-style backing vocals, and the beautiful *Breathless*. However, there are one or two songs where Trail fails quite badly. *Bread* is slightly too bouncy and preachy for its own good, sounding like a government advertisement for happy family living, and *Da Ragga* is just a mess of brass instruments and amateur rapping.

The NME described Kevin as "The UK's Next Big Thing in ragga-infused Brit soul," and other critics have been similarly full of praise. Based on this debut he's not quite the finished article, but he's certainly got more about him than Lemar or most other current British soul artists you care to mention. He has already supported some big names like Massive Attack, N*E*R*D and Beverly Knight. Hopefully he can use those experiences to develop and build from this solid debut.

File under:

Ragga-infused Brit soul

If you like this, try:

Lemar, et al

Dom Wong

Ciara

Goodies
(Jive)

★★★★☆

Dubbed as a new R&B sensation, Ciara has already been seen atop both US and UK charts. Exploiting a new sub-genre, *Goodies* blends established R&B with crunk, leading to varied results. Not only has Ciara rallied a host of guest vocalists, including the likes of Ludacris, R. Kelly and Missy Elliott, but she has also recruited some big names

behind the mixing desk, namely Lil Jon and Jazze Pha.

The title track, *Goodies*, was the first released single off the album. It's a collaboration with the deep voiced Petey Pablo, featuring stripped-down backing, thick synth bass and pseudo sirens over Ciara's raunchy whispers. Whipping up media hype as it rose to the top of the charts, it is soon to be followed by *1, 2 Step*, another collaboration (this time with Missy Elliott). *1, 2 Step* is similar to *Goodies*; it's a mixture of gritty bass, electro splurts and smooth melodies - a sure fire hit in and out of the club.

Unfortunately, past these two tracks the album falls short of expectations with Destiny's Child-esque slow ballads failing to impress, along with the adoption of Sean Paul's technique of announcing his name at the beginning of songs. Ciara tries hard, exploring a variety of vocal styles and demonstrating her undeniable talent. *Goodies* almost collapses in its attempt to be original; the repetitive electro sound effects become annoying by the third track and accumulate in a Super Mario-style ditty supporting R. Kelly's appearance producing on *Next To You*.

Beyond the obsession with phone calls (reminiscent of Blazing Squad's *Love On The Line*), Ciara delivers upbeat, chill-out R&B with a new twist. Packed with big names from the industry, *Goodies* has a fresh sound, with catchy lyrics and some hot tracks (notably *Oh*, featuring Ludacris, and *Lookin' At You*). A female Usher she isn't, but this is only the first album.

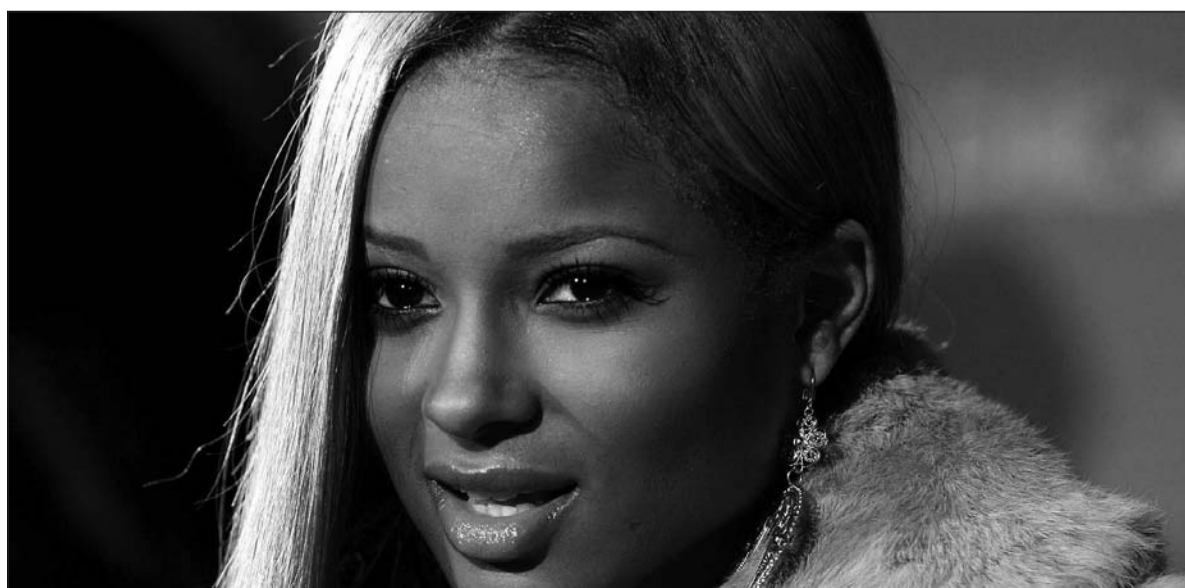
File under:

Upbeat, club-ready R'n'B

If you like this, try:

Kelis - *Tasty*

Nick Simpson



Ciara: she doesn't look crunk, does she?

MUSIC

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

Homeless
whores?

SINGLE REVIEW

The VacationDestitute Prostitutes
(Echo)

★★★★☆

The new generation of skinny pop rockers is currently flooding the charts. Loved by kids and adults alike for their catchy guitar hooks and melodic vocals, there seems to be an endless demand for bands such as The Killers, Franz Ferdinand and The Others.

Cue The Vacation, strutting straight out of LA with their debut single, already praised by the ever-popular Jet. *Destitute Prostitutes* may not have the universal appeal of its contemporaries, which is probably due to Ben Tegel's explicit description of Hollywood's illicit industry.

The single uses a standard formula: rhythm-heavy guitars, bluesy riffs and stripped down drums. Sounding like the plucky love child of Amen and The Von Bondies, *Destitute Prostitutes* is a strange mix, but it is thrashed out with charisma and superb vocals that transform what should be a run-of-the-mill track into a cocky display of rock'n'roll. Worth a second listen, the sounds of The Vacation are promising and have already wowed UK audiences at Leeds and Reading festivals. We eagerly await the follow-up album.

Nick Simpson**Brochion chan blwc**

Gruff chan Super Furry Animals gollwng eiddo hunawd albwm. Dydy bynciedig 'n gyfa i mewn Cymraeg

ALBUM REVIEW

Gruff RhysYr Atal Genhedlaeth
(Placid Casual)

★★★★★

I can tell what most of you are thinking after looking at the title. You're thinking: "Gruff Rhys, lead singer and songwriter of the Super Furry Animals, has just produced a solo album, but it's written entirely in Welsh." And since there are only about five people in the entire world who can fluently understand this Celtic language, you might think you won't be able to get it. Right?

Wrong! The genius of Gruff's work, as shown with the Super Furry's output, is his ability to make immediately catchy, and occasionally beautiful music, combining elements of the Beach Boys and other assorted 60's pop with the epic view of 70's prog bands like Pink Floyd, without dragging it out into pretentious drivel. Plus, a quick look on his website (www.placidcasual.com) will give you an overview on what he's singing about.

Here you'll learn that he's up to his usual tricks of writing songs which tackle modern issues in his own lopsided way, or creating his

own idealised world. Take *Epynt*, named after a Welsh mountain, but is cleverly twisted into a Pound vs. Euro song (His conclusion? "...it's better to get rid of money altogether"), which will lodge itself into your brain with its shouty chorus.

Further songs will reveal the knack he has for creating unique pop music. *Rhagluniaeth Ysgafn* (loosely translated at *May My Destiny Be Easily Digested*), with its cutting guitars, organ parts and random soft toy squeaking providing a backing to his confession. *Ni Yw Y Byd (We Are The World)*, which may seem like an innocent song about uniting the world, but hides references to revolution and confusing your enemies.

The areas that stand out from this album are the mini-stories that run through it, adding an extra depth to the album, which is not usually present elsewhere. *Pwddin y (Egg Pudding)* provides a two part tale about falling in love with a woman called Egg Pudding. The first part is a bouncy song reflecting the lust at the start of the relationship, whilst the morose second part reflects the crumbling relationship and the death of Ms. Pudding. It feels truly tragic with Gruff's off-key voice juxtaposed with the slow arpeggios – a testament to the strong musical craftsmanship on display.



Gruff: ag 'r Super Furry Animals

The other tale is about living in and leaving *Caerffosiaeth (Sewage City)*, starting off with a Kraftwerk-inspired electronic montage transforming into a beautiful conclusion complete with layered vocals and car noises as he's travelling away from and missing his home.

Even the weakest moments, such as the plodding conclusion, are strong enough not to dampen the enjoyment you can get from the

album. I've been playing this lo-fi gem constantly this week. I recommend you get yourself a copy and see for yourself what makes it so addictive.

File under:Charming lo-fi pop. In Welsh
If you like this, try:
Super Furry Animals – *Mwng***Matthew Hartfield**

Correction: in *Felix* 1312, the review of Morrissey at Earls Court was credited to Andrew Sykes. In fact, the piece was written by Tom Brodrick. We apologise for the mistake.

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Imperial Volunteer Centre



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Nightlife

clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

Extreme Euphoria

Cyber kids, thrashers and middle aged men. These are the kind of people you find at a night like Extreme Euphoria. Oh, and *Felix* reviewers too...

CLUB REVIEW

Extreme Euphoria
Turnmills
★★★★☆

Straight away I feel should say I am not usually a hardcore hard house fan, which is obvious just from looking at me. I like my house, funky or dirty. I am a hard house virgin as far as clubbing goes, and I do not take kindly to pilled up cyber kids screaming at me "Yeah, fucking yeah, this is... yeah!"

And that's on the bus on the way there. They really need to calm down, I think it's all that nylon in their fluffy boots. So, as you can imagine, I was dreading it just a bit, but my boyfriend was well up for it, so I had to at least pretend to be interested.

I've been to Turnmills before for City Loud, and as far as venues go it's alright, but nowhere near the league of Pacha or Café de Paris. The music played doesn't lend itself to a bit of class and clean carpets. Turnmills is like someone took Fabric, gave it a bath and sent it to school to learn how to work in McDonalds (as opposed to robbing cars). You go there expecting a bit of dirt, all in a good way. Extreme Euphoria is a very appropriate night to be held there - generally hard house fans aren't usually too worried about the cleanliness of a venue; they prefer the dark places as they hide all their pill taking.

Now the few of you out there that don't do pills, don't worry, I'm not referring to you. Chavs generally tend to go straight for the alcopops. I'm joking, of course - not everyone who goes to hard house nights is a chav or a pillhead. In fact, I got asked about my abilities to supply far less at Turnmills than I did when I went to Asda in Clapham at 2am.

Back in Turnmills, the mix of people was quite surprising. You had everything from your staple diet of



Clockwise from top left: BK, Anne Savage, and the Euphoria crowd

cybers, thrash-heads and the random middle aged men who just appear at these events. Everyone was really friendly and loved up. Wink-wink, nudge-nudge, need I say more?

When I was chatting to this girl in the queue, I was a bit surprised to find out that she was studying for

her bar exams and this other couple had kids and lived in Chiswick. It takes all sorts I guess, which is really what clubbing is all about - to get beyond all that bullshit of pigeon holing.

The guy to girl ratio did start to resemble an Imperial outing until I found the back room, the funky

room. This is one thing that tends not to change no matter where you go - generally girls (I do mean very generally) tend to prefer the funky room as it is far less mad and sweaty, so their make-up doesn't run. Overall the night was about 60% men, which isn't too bad, and the girls who were properly danc-

ing their tits off in the main room to Anne Savage were a right laugh. One girl even dared me to moon the DJ booth. I mean, I was tempted until she just decided I was taking too long and did it herself. Security arrived and told her to calm down.

Drinks in Turnmills are expensive - you're looking to pay about £2.50 for a bottle of water or a coke and about £4.50 for a beer. If you're going out in London to one of the big clubs you expect to pay a lot, so I wasn't too surprised. The bar staff aren't the friendliest of people either at Turnmills, but I think it's due to the fact that everyone kept hassling them for free glasses of water. Why clubs don't just hand them out freely I don't know, and what's even worse is that some bar staff will give it to you but some are very strict.

The high cost of drinks didn't seem to stop people having a good time, and the bar was packed three deep most of the night. Turnmills is most certainly very popular on Saturday, which is probably due to the success of the Extreme Euphoria CD range from Anne Savage.

I had a lot of negative expectations as you must have guessed by now about the whole night - it was everything I thought I didn't like about clubbing. I really had a good time, so for those who fancy something a bit hardcore, give it a go.

Getting back home is a bit of an arse though, so the euphoria may wear off when you're stood at a bus stop with one of the few pilled up chavs who got in telling you how great the night was and how they've met Anne Savage, blah blah blah... Alright, I get it, I was there, I don't need to be told over and over and over again. Go do yourself a favour and steal a car.

File under:
Hard house, hard trance
If you like this, try:
Knowwhere @ The Fridge,
Peach Goes Hard @ Scala

Aaron Mason

Write for us

EDITORIAL

You may have noticed that, for a change, this page is not covered in ramblings from me about the clubs I like. Finally, some of you out there are getting some free clubbing in return for a few words about the night you've had. For those who don't know, here's the deal:

Clubs in London are all vying for your student buck, and they all like publicity. *Felix* reviewers get on the guestlist (plus a mate), and in return the club gets some column-inches, be they praise, disgust or bewilderment.

You might think the places we

review aren't your cup of tea. Fair enough, but then what is? You all like to go out, and we want to tell everyone about it.

I use the word club in a general sense - there's a smorgasbord of venues to choose from in London, offering all kinds of night time entertainment. I may personally prefer the dance music and DJ oriented clubs, but I want to hear about anywhere you go.

So if you want to save some cash on your nights out and tell everyone which hotspots are hot or not, drop me a line on clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk.

Simon Clark
Nightlife Editor

333: not the magic number

CLUB REVIEW

Monster
333
★★★★☆

A short review about a short visit. I don't recommend going out when you are ill - you make some of the worst decisions. Such an event happened to me on Sunday night.

My friend Mike and I decided we should try new and exciting pastures. This idea led us to 333 in Old Street, we think.

This is where some of the prob-

lems occur. We aren't too sure where we went as there were two entrances next to each other, but we think we went into 333. So, bearing this in mind if you do want to go to 333, make sure you check which entrance it is.

A quick rundown of the place: drinks were expensive considering there was no proper flooring in the place, and the basement room actually had whole chunks of the floor missing. It was an interesting experience, to say the least; I saw where heroin addicts go out and have sex in the toilets. Oh yes. I also saw one of the worst drag queens ever; she didn't even bother

to shave. I think this may well have been a 'look' but when combined with an eighties red leather skirt-suit I don't think 'look' quite covers it. I think 'frightening' is a better word.

The whole night was quite a laugh. I think it was more to do with the fact that Mike had decided to buy a little bottle of absinthe and drink it at a bus stop, but a fun night is still a fun night.

I wouldn't recommend Monster but I have heard high reviews of other nights at 333. It's worth mis-sioning over to east London just for something different.

Aaron Mason

Arts

arts.felix@ic.ac.uk

Mayhem, both planned and otherwise

Our intrepid editor **Dave Edwards** reports back on Dramsoc's latest venture

Dramsoc presents Jack and the Beanstalk

Having been 'encouraged' to attend by various friends and *Felix* contributors, I took my seat in an audience of around 100 for Dramsoc's first ever pantomime. On the basis of the confident acting, the frequent audience laughter and some superb comedy performances, I'm sure it won't be their last.

You can't have a pantomime without a dame, and Siegfried Hodgson gave a wonderfully funny performance as Widow English, Jack's mother. Towering above the rest of the cast, the Widow (of course) sent Jack away to sell a cow.

Jack, confidently played with much thigh-slapping by Charlotte Coales, returned with the obligato-

ry magic beans, climbed the beanstalk and returned with more than enough gold to pay the rent. But that's where the similarity with the 'traditional' storyline ended.

This production introduced a surprisingly normal-sized couple of

"Going by this production, Dramsoc's next pantomime comes highly recommended"

giants to the mix, together with their guards, a dysfunctional royal family and a completely useless servant called Stammers.

The prerequisite panto baddie,

Witch Whey (Brooke Milburn), was joined in most scenes by an unusual addition – the rapping Wizard Wheeze (Iain Heaton), whose comical delivery went down well with the audience.

For me, the real highlights were two unscripted moments in the second half. Firstly, a pyrotechnic at the front of the stage exploded and then failed to extinguish itself, so Simon (Jack's sister's boyfriend, played by Richard Jordan) walked over and calmly blew it out. Then, just after a set change, a cloud magically appeared at the bottom of the beanstalk. "That's a funny place for a cloud," said Simon, before throwing it (and a wayward bomb) off the stage.

The inclusion of a song near the end of the show, though traditional, was probably a mistake. But this

was a pantomime and fun was the aim, so any other shortcomings didn't really matter.

It's always good to see Imperial

students show off their more 'arty' talents. Going by this production, Dramsoc's next pantomime comes highly recommended.



Jack ponders life and the pursuit of happiness

The live sitcom

Tatum Fjerstad reviews the latest production to grace the Garrick Theatre

The Anniversary

Garrick Theatre,
Charring Cross Road, WC2
Booking to 16 April 2005
Tickets £15 - £40

In the school of journalism they stress it is important not to start an article with an obvious token of common knowledge. Forgive me, for I am to break this rule briefly to state that theatre is different for everyone. Everyone goes to the theatre to see and feel different sights and emotions. Passive and active audience members alike can rest assured that *The Anniversary* at the Garrick Theatre has something for you.

The Anniversary, set in the 1960s in South London, refers to the wedding anniversary of Mum and her late husband. The family is together to celebrate and disintegrate, for Mum is a destructive trickster who gets off at each horrifying stunt she inflicts on her children and in-laws.

Sheila Hancock, who plays Mum in this production that runs like one long mother-in-law joke, is delightful. She plays the audience like a fiddle, and her long-standing experience wafts into the audience.

Madeline Worrall, playing Shirley, Tom's new girlfriend, performs like a chalkboard. Her character is annoying and her wig is dreadful. I wanted terribly to feel sorry for her and like her, but it was impossible. She is a dramatic actor, not a comedy actor.

My favorite female was Rosie Cavaliero, playing Karen the daughter-in-law. She embodied what it feels like to be an in-law and how frustrating and comical it can be. She gave the play life and character, and brought it home to those of us who have experienced being the odd one out in a family full of nutters.



The Garrick Theatre as it once was. Opened in 1889 and originally seating 807, it now caters for about 700

The gentlemen in the production were fantastic. Each of them in their place, they made the play fun to watch and had a great stage presence. My favorite was Liam Garrington, who played Tom,

"The family is together to celebrate and disintegrate, for Mum is a destructive trickster"

Shirley's fiancé. He made an effort to connect with the audience and had a special relationship with each character on the stage. I wanted to take him and his cute sixties clothing home with me.

The set design, by Robin Don, must not go without mention. The set is very functional and the room they are in is without a doubt a

user-friendly sitting room. Lights and sound were spot on and did not detract or add to the play – they served their purpose, no more, no less.

This play runs like a sitcom, a very long sitcom, so if you're looking for a relaxing afternoon or evening of low intensity theatre viewing, get your tickets now. But if you are looking for a mind-bending and thought-provoking experience, stay at home and read a book.

● To book tickets for this play, you can call the Garrick Theatre Box Office on 0870 890 1104.

However, if *The Anniversary* does not sound like your cup of tea, remember that there is a good deal more in town. Have a look at the London Theatre Guide on www.londontheatre.co.uk for a comprehensive listing of what's on where, theatre information as well as the all-important ticket prices and booking details.

Some more theatre and a footnote



PAOLA SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

The theatre has never shied away from showcasing some of the worst and most disturbing facets of human nature. Some plays will be comical, while others will be of a somewhat less cheery disposition. While *The Anniversary* definitely falls into the first category, *Festen* most certainly does not.

Currently showing at the Lyric Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue, *Festen* is an interesting piece of theatre. The play is an adaptation of the recent Danish movie of the same name and tackles some really very unpleasant subject matter. Not being particularly well versed in Danish cinema (though I did see a rather funny Danish movie this summer, but I can't remember its name at all), I can't really say how well the adaptation has been carried out. However, from the general description of the movie that I got from a friend, the play did seem to capture the feel of the film appropriately.

The script was well acted out by the cast, and the staging worked well. The story focuses on some rather disturbing revelations made at a birthday party, hence the title *Festen*. We are at the 60th birthday celebrations of a respected gentle-

man, successful businessman and loving father; when his youngest son begins to toast to his father's health with some very unsettling stories. What ensues is a harrowing evening for the family as they try to silence the 'crazy' son and become increasingly inebriated. Eventually the truth is revealed by a posthumous letter.

While the subject matter may not be the most savoury in nature, the play is certainly enjoyable, not something that I could say about another play with similarly disturbing central theme, *The Goat*. Fortunately *The Goat* has now moved on, and *Festen* will continue to run until the start of April.

On an unrelated note, a new exhibition has opened at the Royal Academy. *Turks* has received rave reviews from the national press, and I hope also from myself as soon I get round to seeing it. The exhibition is housed in the Academy's main galleries and is accompanied by what sound like a good selection of lectures, courses and ancillary exhibits. Late opening has been extended now to encompass Saturday evenings too, and a selection of mezze are available to enhance the Turkish experience at the restaurant. And if you are feeling like you really want to get into the whole Turkish thing, the Royal Academy have made an arrangement with Sofra restaurants to offer a discount on a meal with an exhibition ticket.

To find out more details about this exhibition and the associated events, go to the Royal Academy's website www.royalacademy.org.uk. From this site you can follow a link to the special *Turks* website and get a sneak preview of the exhibition. Tickets are £8 for students, and yes, that is a lot, but it's a lot cheaper than going to Turkey.



Think Floyd: pick Mason

Martin Smith, Books Editor, takes a trip to the dark side to explore some Floydian theory

Inside Out: A Personal History of Pink Floyd

by Nick Mason
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson)
Hardcover
★★★★☆

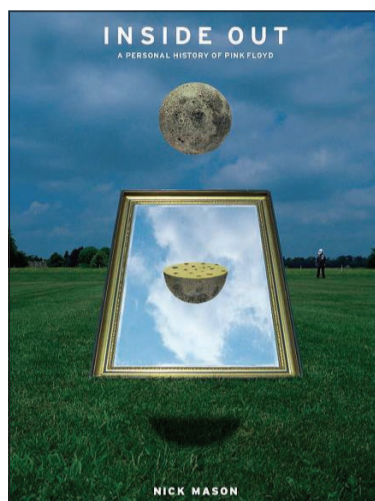
Christmas 2004 saw two different drummers from world famous prehistoric rock bands give their thoughts in book format. However, while Ringo Starr dug out his loft only to find some *Postcards from the Boys*, Nick Mason has managed to offload the entire story of Pink Floyd into one beautiful hardback book.

For those of you who skim-read the first paragraph, Pink Floyd are, or perhaps were, a very successful band that your Dad listened to while smoking dope in the sixties, seventies and beyond. Actually, my Dad wasn't much of a fan, but I'm making up for his philistine tendencies by becoming the greatest fan of Pink Floyd the world has ever known.

Pink Floyd are most famous for their 1973 album *Dark Side of the Moon*, which at one point was

claimed to exist in three out of four record collections. And rightly so: it's fantastic. Other things you may be aware of are their enigmatic album covers, which have included cows, light refraction and Battersea power station. It is for this reason in particular that, even being the die-hard fan that I am, I could still walk past Messrs Mason, Gilmour, Waters and Wright without even recognising them. I'm just proud I remember their names. Very few later albums featured pictures of the band, and even at the time Mason recalls gangs of photographers still poised with their fingers on the buttons well after they had got off the plane, unlike the Beatles and Ringo Starr. This makes this personal account all the more interesting, as tabloid newspapers haven't been gossiping about their rivalries and musical differences. They just weren't pretty enough.

Nick Mason had the pleasure of being part of the 'Pink Floyd Sound' from the very beginning and to the very end. Several key band members came and went in the 30 years or so that Pink Floyd performed, for musical or mental health reasons,



and Mason documents their comings and goings from the relative safety of his drum throne. One of the most interesting things about the Floyd is the way in which their music changes over time: musical 'phases' are certainly identifiable from one member leaving and another taking control. It's a heart-warming story of a group of failing architects who decide to pick up some musical instruments and

begin to hate each other.

I was quite surprised at the way this book was written. Mason, whilst observing the happenings of the sixties and seventies, appears to have avoided any of the mind-bending pharmaceuticals of the period, and so is presumably one of the few musicians of the era who can remember what happened. Whether or not this is to protect his children from seeing his naughty side, we still get a good account of the psychedelia but from a remarkably sober perspective. He also manages to answer the question 'Where did the band get its name' without making you feel as though he's explained a thousand times before. The answer, for use in pub quizzes, is that it's a mixture of two blues artists, Pink Anderson and Floyd Council, who were favoured by Syd Barrett at the time. I think that question even came up in Trivial Pursuit once.

Something else that you can't fail to pick up from this book is the fact that Nick is far more interested in music technology, cars and motor racing than he is in drums. He focuses on the technological improvements that allowed Pink

Floyd to continue to put on the best light shows of every period and produce the most refined sound in rock history.

The book is a delight to read. It's huge and weighs a ton (much like a Floyd tour) and is decorated with hundreds of photos, some of which make their first appearance here from his personal collection. Its glossy pages and Floydian cover, courtesy of Storm Thorgeron, are a joy to behold, and these alone would make it a fantastic coffee table book for anyone wanting to look musically cultured. However, if this is your thing, I can well recommend *Mind Over Matter*, an equally well presented and significantly cheaper book which documents the images of Pink Floyd, in particular album covers that were consistently provided by Storm over the band's lifetime.

If you're after the full story from the man holding the sticks/fourtrack/racing helmet then this is the book to buy. Start saving now: I was lucky enough to convince my Dad to spend the £30 to make it an excellent Christmas present. I take it all back.

Snow storm

Jon Snow, familiar to us all as an intrepid ITN news reporter, shares his life story with **Iain Taylor**, and indeed anyone else who reads *Shooting History*

Shooting History: A Personal Journey

by Jon Snow
(Harper Collins)
★★★★☆

Uganda in 1977, Afghanistan 1980, El Salvador 1981, Kosovo 1999 and Iraq 2003 were not popular tourist destinations, yet these are some of the places Jon Snow has visited during a remarkable news reporting career, and after reading his autobiography, you almost feel sorry for him stuck behind a desk fronting *Channel 4 News*.

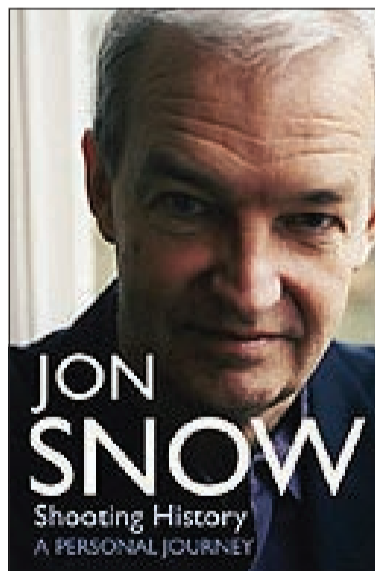
Shooting History is a fascinating, honest, and at times moving account of Snow's journalist life which adds up to more than just an autobiography. For anyone interested in foreign news reporting, it is – yes – a 'must read'. Rich with anecdotes of frontline bullet-dodging and being arrested in obscure corners of the world, it also informs us of what overseas news gathering was like before reliable telephone networks and the internet.

But this book is also an historical account of the Cold War and its consequences from a unique viewpoint. As a foreign news reporter who became Washington correspondent then diplomatic editor for ITN, Snow had a ring-side seat as the major events of the late 20th century unfolded. Throughout this autobiog-

raphy, he persuasively argues that the West helped create the Islamist terrorist threat that so preoccupies it today – from El Salvador, Iran and Afghanistan to 9/11, *Shooting History* describes how all the pieces moved together to create our current world disorder and the war on terror.

The son of an Anglican bishop, Snow begins his book at the large family residence before describing the choir-boy schooling that failed to get him the grades he needed for university. Instead, he travelled to Uganda on VSO, where he spent a year teaching in a remote Catholic school.

The book vividly describes Snow's life in rural Africa and how he settled into his teacher role in the community. Desperately sad to leave, the experience obviously had a great impact on him and appears to have sown the first seeds of a potential journalism career: a realisation of the injustice in the world made him determined to return to the country to report back on it. Interestingly, while serving VSO, he encountered an extremely large, ambitious Ugandan general fresh out of Sandhurst at a local boxing tournament. It was a few years before Snow got another chance to meet Idi Amin and interview him, by which time the Uganda he returned to was almost unrecognisable from the country he had fallen in love



with. Upon returning from Africa, Snow started a degree at Liverpool University. He makes no secret of the fact that it was his father's contacts that got him onto a course, but unfortunately they did not bear fruit. Snow remains degree-less to this day, his time at Liverpool having come to an abrupt end following his involvement with a student protest that culminated in a takeover of a university building. Although not responsible for raising the red flag on its roof, Snow was accused of being one of the ringleaders respon-

sible for the demonstration and was suspended.

Following a heart-breaking account of a stint at a London homeless charity, the book goes on to describe Snow's first media break at LBC radio, and from then on takes us on a journey of foreign news reporting across Central America, the Middle East and Africa. During this period, Snow gained first-hand experience of fighting amongst the Cold War's political pawns as he reported on El Salvador, Iran-Iraq and Somalia. Later, as ITN's Washington and then diplomatic correspondent, Snow reported on the Reagan-Gorbachov summits and the fall of the Berlin Wall from the unique position of having directly experienced the effects of cold war tensions on the ground.

Throughout his career, his list of interviewees is impressive and includes Gorbachov, Reagan and the Pope. But perhaps standing out most is Nelson Mandela, who, as the new president of South Africa, gave his first interview to Jon Snow. Obviously a proud moment, it also seems somehow fitting because Snow was arrested and charged following protests for Mandela's release at an England-South Africa rugby match during his student days years earlier.

Throughout *Shooting History*, Snow is candid – and not just in acknowledging his luck and the "I think your father taught me at

Eton" connections that served him well. We hear his genuine regret at the way the press ignored Rwanda until over a million people had been killed in its mass genocide. He, like the rest of the world's media, was scrambling after Monica Lewinsky. While the world was obsessed by a young White House intern and "the Dress", the hundreds of bodies washing up on the shores of Lake Victoria went largely unreported.

The book finishes with a passionate plea for the UN dream to be rekindled, and a heavy criticism of George Bush's foreign policies. Here, Snow's feeling of impotency as a newsreader becomes apparent as he grabs his chance to explicitly say what he thinks about the war on Iraq. This is not an anti-American rant: it is obvious from the book that when living there as Washington correspondent he loved America, its people and the ideologies on which the country was founded. Perhaps that is why he is so disturbed by the direction in which America is headed.

Shooting History is not only a fascinating autobiography, but also an insightful commentary on the latter half of the cold war and the challenges we face today. From his unique news reporting experiences, Jon Snow has attempted to put our current war on terror into the wider context of cold war history – and succeeded.

Film

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Listings: page 20

Focking repetitive

All hell breaks loose when the Byrnes family meets the Focker family for the first time. And you thought your parents were embarrassing...

Meet the Fockers

Director: Jay Roach

Starring: Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, Teri Polo

Length: 115 minutes

Certificate: 12A

★★★★☆

The follow up to the hit *Meet the Parents* (2000) is a light-hearted, pun-terrific comedy with a sitcom-style finishing cut. The comedy duo formed by Stiller and De Niro is back in an attempt to recreate the success from the previous film, perhaps falling a bit short of achieving the same levels of tear-jerking humour as its predecessor.

We rejoin Gaylord Focker (Stiller) and his fiancée Pam (Polo) as they arrange for their parents to meet before their wedding. Unfortunately this involves Pam's father, an uptight ex-CIA agent (suitably played by De Niro), meeting with the Fockers, an eccentric couple composed of a retired lawyer turned hippy (Hoffman) and a sex therapist (Streisand). Predictably, the mix proves to be explosive, so that as the two families spend a weekend together on Focker Isle, you can just sit back, relax and laugh at how someone else has to deal with in-laws that would make even yours seem the epitome of charm.

The film is enjoyable enough, with a multitude of recurring gags and characters, targeting mainly an audience that has already seen the previous film, a viewing of which is definitely recommended before

screening these "... Fockers".

There are plenty of good jokes in the movie, enough to keep you chuckling away quite happily in your seat. However it never quite managed to draw a proper roar of laughter from the audience. Most of us felt quite safe, without risk of having soda come out of our noses, something unusual in Jay Roach films (also director of the *Austin Powers* series).

Watching the film produces a viewing experience similar to watching several episodes of any of your favourite sitcoms in a row. This involves a screenplay that mostly fuses quick witted dialogue with slapstick humour in a 'real life' situation. The main satisfaction to

"Overall, if you liked *Meet the Parents*, you will enjoy *Meet the Fockers*"

obtain from this film is to find yourself laughing at what could easily be your worst nightmare (your in-laws). On the down side, most gags tend to revolve around the same topics (how many Focker jokes could one think of...?) and therefore end up feeling a bit stale towards the end of the movie.

However, the casting is brilliant and the characters are at ease in their parts. The on-screen chemistry between Stiller and De Niro is palpable. One can easily relate to Stiller's nerves about impressing



One big happy Focking family

his mistrusting in-laws and laugh at his clumsiness, while sympathetically feeling the burn of De Niro's menacing eyes.

Ben Stiller is easily maintaining himself well in the spotlight of Hollywood comedy and has seen 2004 as one of his most successful years so far.

De Niro's career in the new millennium is also looking alive, as the actor experiments with new genres. He can't help being type-cast as a

gangster/tough guy resulting from a filmography full of mafia and action movies. It appears, however, that rather than slowing him down, he is using this portrait to open a door to new genres. Comedy films such as the *Meet the Parents* series or *Analyze This* and *That* exploit this image fully.

The Fockers (Hoffman and Streisand) easily mix into the final recipe, along with a bundle of wacky side characters, mischievous pets

and a perverted baby genius to complete the picture.

Overall, if you liked *Meet the Parents*, you will enjoy *Meet the Fockers*. It adds new elements to the series and will definitely make you laugh. However, the film leaves a slight feeling of disappointment as the characters and the plot could have been exploited more fully. Too many 'Focker' jokes leave this film a bit... well... 'Fockered'.

Ignacio Quinones

This train terminates here

Creep

Director: Christopher Smith

Starring: Franka Potente, Sean Harris, Vas Blackwood

Length: 85 minutes

Certificate: 18

★★★★☆

For the first 20 minutes, I couldn't decide if this was supposed to be a serious horror flick or a piss-take from the *Scary Movie* school. I finally decided on the former; it was just the IC Dramsoc (no offence) level of acting and completely unfeasible plot that were implying the latter.

Kate (Portenta) misses the last train while on the way to try to shag George Clooney. She misses the train because she falls asleep on a London Underground platform. I'm not sure how many girls would fall asleep on a urine-stenched platform while on a mission to bed Clooney. But that's a minor implausibility in the script compared to other gaping holes.

Kate can't escape out onto the

street, but does manage to discover a homeless person's hideaway, a record archive and a backstreet operating theatre (with exemplary hygiene standards, take note medics). If you're thinking of going to see this because you're fascinated by what's under your feet, may I instead suggest reading *Underground London*, by Stephen Smith.

Do you remember Kurt Neilson, the Norwegian winner of *World Pop*

"The moral of the story is do not fall asleep on public transport"

Idol? A geezer who could easily be his slightly-more-deformed older brother appears and attempts, in a textbook horror movie way, to kill everyone. Neilson's brother, let's call him Goblin Boy (Christopher Smith), appears to be missing Kurt's vocal genius. He starts off emitting

the howl of a jackal but criss-crosses the entire animal kingdom, ending bizarrely with a seal's bark.

We don't find out if Goblin Boy is in fact a relative of Neilson, as the reasons why a deformed madman lives down the tube are never explained. Although, worryingly, we do see photo upon photo of other similarly deformed children... perhaps the Neilsons could consider a different method of contraception.

Maybe Kate, a German living in London, is still practising her English, but she must have "hello" down by now. I lost count of the number of times she banged on a door or rattled some railings going "hello, hello" in her slightly spooky Germanic drool. If you go, could you count for me and report back?

It really is a shame this is film is so poor, because it's a really good concept, but they just haven't done anything with it: big killer rats (there are a lot of the normal variety), or a world of underground crime (both literally and metaphorically).



It's no use running from the bogey man

The moral of the story is do not fall asleep on public transport. Unfortunately I've been doing this with annoy regularity recently.

Luckily, I have as yet avoided a run-in with either Neilson brother. But I have been stuck in West Ruislip all night.

Rupert Neate

Precinct 13: a prime example

Hollywood decides to remake John Carpenter's 1976 classic

Assault on Precinct 13

Director: Jean-Francois Richet
Starring: Ethan Hawke, Laurence Fishburne, Ja Rule, Gabriel Byrne
Length: 109 minutes
Certificate: 15
★★★★☆

It has been a while, but I am pleased to say that my faith in Hollywood action films has been restored. For when it comes down to good old-fashioned good guys versus bad guys with lots of heroics and guns, *Assault on Precinct 13* delivers the goods.

A battered cop is in charge of an equally battered police station that is 'enjoying' its last night before permanently closing its doors. That this last night is New Year's Eve during a nasty snowstorm means that it is going to be one long and hellish night for those trapped inside. And as mysterious forces try to get inside to kill the big time gangster in the cells, all concerned have to put their issues aside if they are going to make it to the morning.

The story revolves around Marion Bishop, a ruthless and intelligent gangster who has been arrested for killing a policeman. He and three other small time criminals are forced to spend the night in Precinct 13 when a freak blizzard causes them to take a detour. Also spending the night are the two policemen on duty, a feisty secretary and a slightly neurotic female psychologist.

Bishop, played by Fishburne is coolly detached from those around

him, and Fishburne has the presence needed to carry off this new age gangster. He just looks innately evil – a very bad man who you wouldn't want to meet on a dark night down a dark alley. His motivation is survival at any cost and you know that somewhere down the line he is going to make a break for freedom.

All this contrasts beautifully with our hero, Jake Roenick (Hawke), a young cop still reeling from a traumatic incident involving lots of gunfire and the deaths of some of his friends. His therapist thinks he is now hiding from the world behind a desk and losing himself in drugs and

"It is violent, and without a question bloody, but it's still a lot of fun too"

alcohol. She may just be right. Still, we know better, because as soon as the chips are down, Jake turns into a super-duper champion of champions, risking his own neck to save the lives of those innocents (and crooks) at the mercy of those outside. It is clichéd and corny I know, but I enjoyed it just the same.

So what follows is a heady mixture of explosions, gunshots through the head – yes it is that violent – and many utterances of "we're not going to make it, are we?" It goes without saying that in this kind of movie, most of them aren't going to.

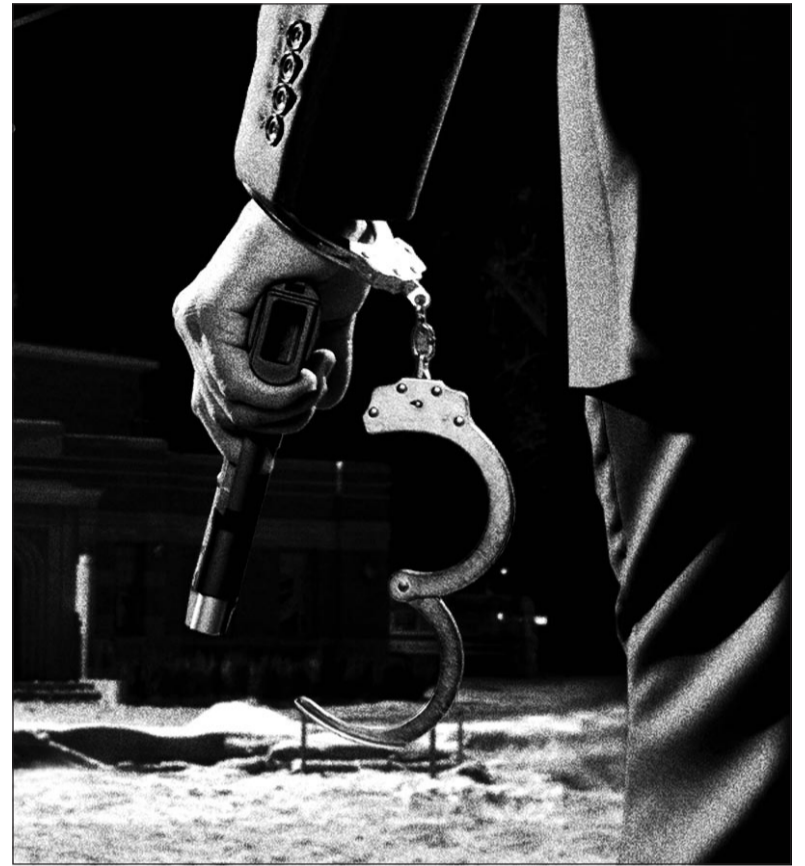
As I watched the cast dwindle in

number in various interesting and inventive ways, the question I asked myself is "do I really care?" Well, the director does do a lot to create three-dimensional characters that are both gritty and realist. He succeeds with the main characters but falls behind with a few of the auxiliary cast.

The most disappointing is Gabriel Byrne's character, who suffers from a serious lack of development – his corrupt cop comes across as totally unconvincing and flat. As with many movies of this genre, a few chuckles are needed to lighten the violent atmosphere. Here John Leguizamo is entertaining as a drugged-up ex-lawyer whose sparing partner is adequately played by Jeffery 'Ja Rule' Atkins, who also provides a bad-ass title soundtrack for the movie. The director Jean-Francois Richet nicely blends the action with the dialogue, although there is much more action than anything else.

It is Ethan Hawke's performance as the lead that seals the deal for me. Now fully immersed in the action drama genre, Hawke has the 'washed up policeman with a conscience' down to a tee. I would love to see him in more roles like this, but I have the feeling that he will soon return to more serious drama.

As the story unwinds, a claustrophobic air is built up with many tight shots of scared faces and some slightly jumpy camera work. Tension is built up as the characters seem to be sinking deeper into trouble with no way out. Still, I was drawn into



Quite literally 'off the cuff'

their struggle for survival that fortunately was not too drawn out; a tendency of action films these days is to plug on for at least two hours trying to reach some logical conclusion and often failing to do so.

Luckily this doesn't happen here,

and although you can guess what is going to happen at the film's end, the journey there is still definitely worth watching. Yes it is violent, and without question bloody, but it's still a lot of fun too.

Mandirassa Osakonor

Well Fock me Sideways

Sideways

Director: Alexander Payne
Starring: Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen, Sandra Oh, Marylouise Burke
Length: 127 minutes
Certificate: 15
★★★★☆

Wine-loving wannabe writer Miles (Paul Giamatti) is taking failed actor Jack (Haden Church) on a week-long tour of California's Santa Ynez Valley wine region to celebrate his old friend's upcoming marriage.

While Miles downs glass after glass of pinot noir, ruminating on how difficult it is to grow that grape, Jack is determined to get laid one last time before settling down, so he hustles Stephanie (Sandra Oh), the wine pourer. Actually he seems to be hustling anything in a skirt for that one last fling. Who is he going to find to have casual sex with? He even convinces sad sack Miles to try his luck with Maya (Virginia Madsen), a sympathetic, wine-savvy waitress. Miles steals money from his mother to pay for his share of the wine, restaurants, and rooms. A pair of great guys?

Predictably, Jack gets into trouble. Equally predictably, Miles comes to the rescue while saving himself from a mid-life crisis. These two characters are polar opposites: the crass actor and the sensitive writer, linked by being roommates at college, but

by little else these days. Adapted by director Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor, from the book by Rex Pickett, *Sideways'* subtext is about fading youth and unfulfilled potential, which is as depressing as a holiday film can get.

After seeing the trailer for the film, I was very apprehensive about going to see it. Unfortunately watching the movie only confirmed my suspicions. I didn't like the characters and I didn't care about what happened to them. But towards the end, the film becomes funny in an unexpected way. Jack might be a fool, but he is honest about it. He is so disarmingly funny that you excuse his behaviour – he's just a self-involved actor. Miles, on the other hand, is someone to avoid at all costs. He is hunched over, depressed, angry, vengeful, and an unattractive little man.

There's something quite home movie about the style of this film, and I loved the laid back sunny shots of the wine valley and the guys driving around. Sadly I'm still confused about the poor tribute to The Brady Bunch – split screen effects aren't always a good idea. I'm not sure if Payne was trying to emphasise the laid back attitude of the area with the style and pace of the film, but perhaps the film's pace was too slow. It was supposed to cover a week yet it felt like it was covering months and months of their lives. I lost count of the amount of times I was checking my watch.



Don't try this at home. Actually, do

The main problem I have with this film is that it was full of lots of very cheap jokes that you will have heard and seen before. Did we really need to see a fat ugly naked guy with his pathetic excuse for manhood pressed against the car window? Or the fat ugly naked guy having sex with his fat ugly naked wife?!

I have to admit I did find parts quite funny and the rest of the audience seemed to love the film. It has been nominated for awards, so I

guess I'm in the minority on this one. What annoys me is that most of the movie was handled so clumsily that it lost some of its impact. The only saving grace is near the end when Payne directs some of the more poignant scenes.

I'm not sure if it's just my age that's preventing me from appreciating this film (a couple of forty-something losers aren't my idea of entertainment) – I don't understand the hype. It's not a great movie, just an average one.

Haj Alttahir

OUT NEXT WEEK

Released on Friday 28 January at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- Ocean's Twelve
- Racing Stripes

Visit www.myvue.com/student for more details.

Vue Fulham Broadway are giving you the opportunity to win posters for these new releases. Just answer this question:

Who is the odd one out and why?

- a) Casey Affleck
- b) Ben Affleck
- c) Matt Damon

Email your answers and which merchandise you would like to win to film.felix@ic.ac.uk. Usual *Felix* competition rules apply.

Last week's winners

Assault on Precinct 13
Nathan A Roberts

Meet the Fockers
Sujatra Jayaraj

Alan Ng
Film Editor

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Hey, how are you? We hope you're all okay. Coffee Break has a celebrity guest this week, Mr Roy Walker himself. He's hosting our hilariously titled 'Cat-phrase'. He wasn't too happy about it though. Something about 'toilet humour'. As always, send your answers to **coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk**

Cat-phrase

"Hello there! I'm Roy Walker! Work's dried up a bit since I 'left' *Catchphrase* by 'mutual agreement'.

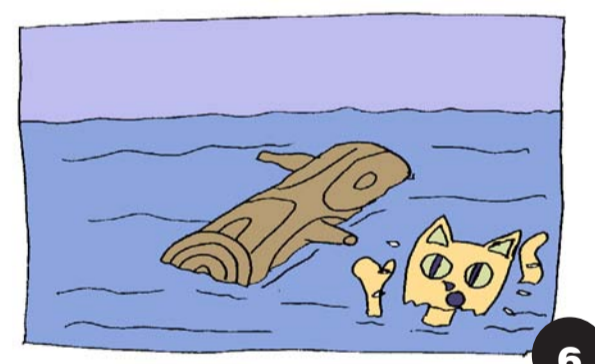
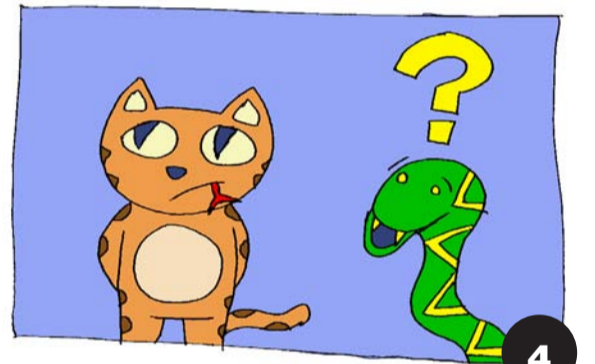
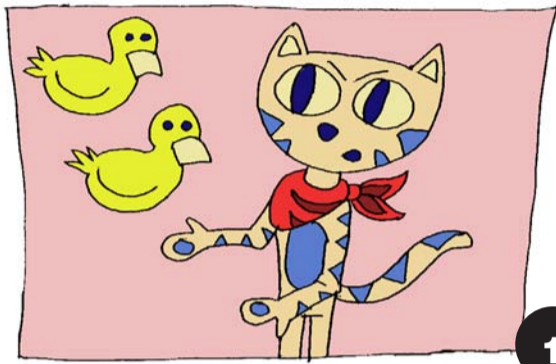
When I say left, I mean fired, and when I say by mutual agreement, I mean by some fat old cow who doesn't know the first thing about quality gameshows.

But I'm not bitter, I've found new work.

I've been on the radio a bit recently, but my first love has always been *Catchphrase*. So naturally I was delighted when the Coffee Break guys asked me to host their own version in this here newspaper. What they didn't tell me, however, was that they have no budget or talent whatsoever, and have had to use shitty drawings of cats, instead of the high-tech animations of Mr Chips that I'm used to. But I'll give it a go anyway.

On the right are six drawings, representing six catchphrases. All you have to do is say what you see and tell us what they mean. There's **two points** for each one you get right, and what do points mean? Prizes! It's nothing decent like a speedboat or fondue set mind, but at the end of the year, there will be stuff given away.

You know, they're not paying me for this, I'm doing it as favour to my old pal Dickie Sykes. If you're reading Dickie, give me a ring. It'd be great to hear from you. I'm a bit short on cash too, you couldn't spare a little could you? Good luck readers!"



1
2
3
4
5
6

Answers to 1312

Huge thanks to everybody who entered from issue 1312. Here are the answers.

Odd ones out

No skill in this one whatsoever, just plain guessing. However, some of you have a creepy amount of general knowledge and got a lot right. Shame on you.

Metal Lyrics - B
B-Movies - A
TV Superstars - D
Pointless Research - A
Baby Names - C
Way to Go - A
Opening Lines - D
Wrestling Giants - D

Beat the intro

Suspicious of cheating here, but we'll let you off. I thought these would be pretty hard, but you all really know your stuff. Next time we'll make it a bit harder.

1. Stevie Wonder, Superstition
2. Elvis, Suspicious Minds
3. Team America, America Fuck Yeah
4. The Zutons, You Will, You Won't
5. Rolling Stones, Paint It Black
6. Micheal Jackson, Billie Jean
7. Righteous Brothers, Unchained Melody
8. Prince, 1999
9. Spice Girls, Who Do You Think You Are?
10. The Beatles, Eleanor Rigby
11. Kinks, Waterloo Sunset
12. Chuck Berry, No Particular Place To Go
13. Temptations, My Girl
14. Erasure, A Little Respect
15. David Bowie, Life On Mars
16. Madonna, Like a Virgin
17. Jay Z, Big Pimpin'
18. Echo and the Bunnymen, The Killing Moon
19. T Rex, Get It On
20. Oasis, Half The World Away
21. Gang Of Four, Damaged Goods

22. Led Zeppelin, Stairway to Heaven
23. Britney Spears, Slave 4 U
24. The Buzzcocks, Ever Fallen In Love
25. Thirteen Senses, Through The Glass
26. The Smiths, Ask
27. Radiohead, Pyramid Song
28. Coldplay, Shiver
29. Joy Division, Love Will Tear Us Apart
30. Ian Dury And The Blockheads, Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick

The answers for 1313 (the one with the CD covers) will be in next week's issue.

Quick quiz

We've got a little bit of space to fill, so here's a very, very quick quiz to keep you busy. Here's some useless trivia, you just have to tell us if it's true or false. There's a point for each answer.

1. It's impossible for pigs to look up into the sky
2. Technically, a koala is a species of monkey
3. Slugs have four noses
4. Bats always turn left when exiting a cave
5. If you keep your eyes open while sneezing, the force will break your neck
6. It's possible to fold a piece of paper in half more than seven times, but nobody has managed it yet
7. Ants are healthier for you than lettuce
8. The first allied bomb dropped on Berlin in WWII killed the only elephant in Berlin Zoo
9. Pigeons can swim
10. You can solve any Rubik's Cube combination in 17 turns

FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5

Smith & Wesson	170 points
Araldite Sniffers	145 points
Management Slackers	127 points
The Illegitimate Bionic Progeny of Jeremy Beadle	103 points
Team Willy J	93 points
Schoolboy Error	80 points
Team Robin	52 points
Team Bulwer	42 points
The Schist Ones	38 points
Oliver Carson	29 points
KPN ²	11 points
Natasha Kundi	10 points

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COFFEE BREAK

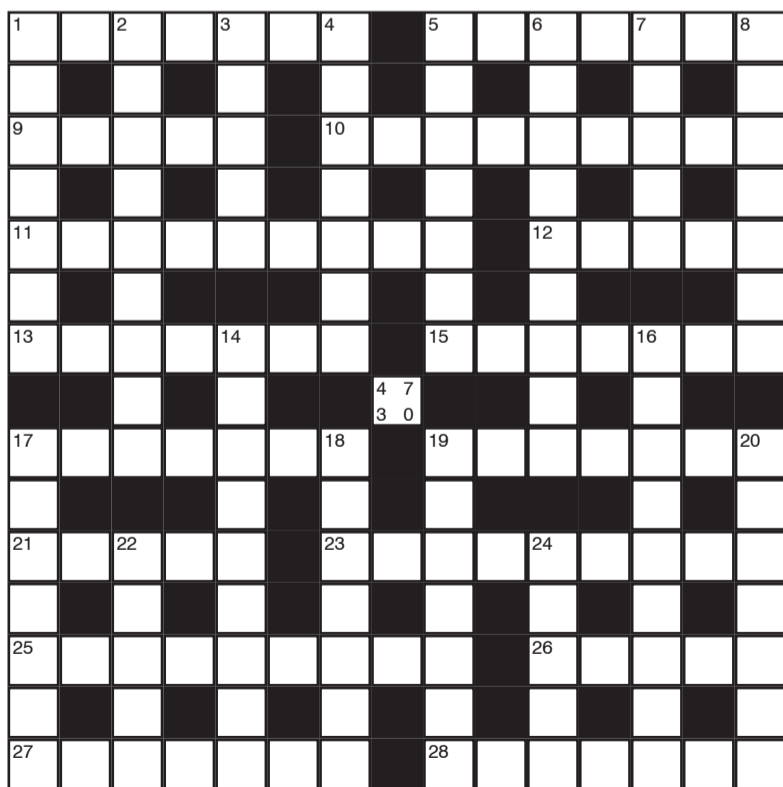
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Felix Crossword 1314

by Snufkin



Across

1. UNCLUED (see preamble, right) (7)
5. UNCLUED (see preamble, right) (3,4)
9. Missing lord found in Honolulu canal (5)
10. Working poor built cabinet for Communists (9)
11. On reflection, he shouldn't have fallen in love (9)
12. Backward roof-worker is fired again (5)
13. Fleeced and flayed (7)
15. Carriage for each animal-catcher (7)
17. I am sane but confused, having memory loss (7)
19. Restrain oneself, causing delay (4,3)
21. Deer having food noisily (5)
23. River with kinky shape (true!) (9)
25. Nearby, unlike RAF? (3,3,3)
26. Hooray for hit man! (5)
27. Drinking party wrecked our case (7)
28. Somehow learn about books using lamp (7)

Down

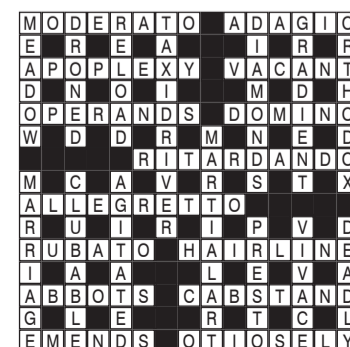
1. US state calls off Roman day (7)
2. Invasion destroyed Ionic urns (9)
3. Boredom bottled up by sullen nuisance (5)
4. Former lover was a model, it's revealed (7)
5. Empty mathematics class? (4,3)
6. Force after wall collapsed (9)
7. Peer enters quality university at London, initially (5)
8. Queen decapitated Bertie's cock (7)
14. Fear us not, foul vampire! (9)
16. Helpless king captured by crack republic (9)
17. Gangster and half-hearted maniac produce annual record (7)
18. Excellent quality solvent (7)
19. Optimistic, like Schopenhauer? (7)
20. Arranged one soft garland (7)
22. Scoundrel runs away, slippery creature! (5)
24. We hear Cockney's stealing bird (5)

Hello again! I think you deserve a bit of a break, after the challenges of my last barred puzzle and last week's musical puzzle from Jabberwock. This week's is also thematic, but the clues are fairly straightforward - verging on the boring in several cases, for which I apologise - and the puzzle should be solvable. I hope you enjoy the penny-dropping moment when the theme falls into place.

1 and 5 across are unclued and provide the theme. The other thematic elements are contained in the perimeter answers and in the central square. When sending in your solution, you needn't do anything with the central square, but you should briefly explain its significance. Good luck!

Snufkin

Issue 1313 solution



Last week's winner is Karen Osmond, Computing IV. Well done!

Send your answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or bring this page down to the Felix office in the West Wing of Beit Quad. Each week, we'll choose a winner and print their name, thus providing them with almost unlimited kudos and self-satisfaction. Everyone who provides us with a correct solution will get an entry into our prize draw at the end of the year

SPORT

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Seconds give Brunel a close game

RUGBY

Sponsored by



Imperial Men's 2nd 20
Brunel Men's 2nd 31

By Steve Barham

On a chilly day in mid-January, the ever changing gestalt that is the Second XV arrived at Harlington for our first match since December against Brunel Seconds, currently placed second in our league.

When the teams last met in November, we were comprehensively outplayed by a well-drilled team, losing by 67 points. Despite this, we kept an upbeat attitude, knowing that we were capable of better play, especially with the legend that is Baby Paul upgrading his shirt to number 10.

From our kick-off, Brunel ran back hard and fast to test our all-new defensive regime, which had been perfected in ten minutes earlier on in the day. Given that this was sufficient last time to gift them innumerable tries, they were slightly put out to find themselves stopped by the chunky back line combo of Ed

Poulding and Alex Ferguson. Some scrappy play on our 22 resulted in 15 consecutive scrums, due to some moody Brunel front row players binding incorrectly.

Following this concerted pressure, Brunel sneaked in a try after a well-worked backs move. After the restart, determined defence and some classy lineouts kept Brunel pinned back in their half of the pitch for quite some time before they drove over from a lineout to score again. The rest of the half progressed in the same vein, until star winger Rob Phillips snatched the ball mid-pass on the Brunel 22 and skipped over the line for his cheekiest

try yet.

The second half opened with some slightly less glamorous play, gifting Brunel some more easy points. The prospect of conceding more points seemed to wake up the stirring beast that is the Second XV, however, and we replied with some of our best play of the season, well supported by a vocal crowd of First XV players and Virgins.

The entrance of Mark brought some much needed stability to the scrums, and even Gareth's 30 second came seemed to cause Brunel concern.

We scored two more tries, both coming from lineouts.

In the first instance, your humble narrator plucked the ball from the lineout while Brunel looked the other way, yielding enough space that even I could jog over the line. Our next try came from Charlie Davidson, who despite being cuddled by three Brunel players was judged to have grounded the ball cleanly.

The last minutes of the match saw more pressure which could have resulted in another score, before some fat mess of a prop grew tired of Rich Bish and his rapid penalties. Deciding that rather than stop conceding penalties they would simply sit on his neck, a brief hia-

tus ensued while Imperial Rugby's campest EMT fondly caressed Rich to 'check for spinal injury'.

Rather than risk permanent injury, 'Lucky' Dave Griffiths joined the fray at scrum half to start his third game for the club in two years, following shoulder damage at his fresher debut and an injury for an external club just before the start of this season. Sadly, his luck has yet to change, and he suffered a nasty dislocation in the final minute of the match after some excellent play. Bad luck Dave, and thanks to the Virgins for transporting him to Charing Cross Hospital.

Results

WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY

BADMINTON

Queen Mary Men's 2nd 6
Imperial Men's 2nd 2

GKT Women's 1st 4
Imperial Women's 1st 4

BASKETBALL

London Met Men's 2nd 72
Imperial Men's 1st 53

Imperial Women's 1st 20
London Met Women's 1st 54

FOOTBALL

Imperial Medicals Men's 1st 0
Sussex Men's 1st 4

Canterbury Christ Church Men's 2nd 2
Imperial Men's 2nd 1

LSE Men's 4th 2
Imperial Men's 4th 1

Imperial Men's 5th 1
LSE Men's 5th 0

King's Men's 7th 5
Imperial Men's 6th 1

RVC Men's 2nd 1
Imperial Men's 7th 0

Imperial Men's 6th 2
King's Men's 5th 0

School of Pharmacy Men's 1st 1
Imperial Men's 7th 0

HOCKEY

Imperial Medicals Men's 1st 4
Roehampton Men's 1st 0

LSE Men's 2nd 2
Imperial Medicals Men's 3rd 5

Imperial Men's 3rd 1
Brunel Men's 2nd 7

Hertfordshire Women's 1st 1
Imperial Women's 1st 3

UCL Women's 3rd 0
Imperial Women's 2nd 5

Imperial Medics Women's 1st 3
Kingston Women's 1st 2

NETBALL

Holloway Women's 1st 37
Imperial Women's 1st 16

Portsmouth Women's 4th 34
Imperial Women's 2nd 29

RUGBY

Imperial Men's 1st 29
Bucks Chilterns Men's 1st 7

Imperial Men's 2nd 20
Brunel Men's 2nd 31

Imperial Medicals Men's 1st 26
College of St Mark & St John Men's 1st 35

Imperial Women's 1st 83
Surrey Women's 1st 0

SQUASH

Imperial Women's 1st 3
King's Women's 1st 2

TENNIS

Imperial Men's 1st 3
London Met Men's 2nd 7

Imperial Men's 2nd 5
Roehampton Men's 1st 5

FRIDAY 28 JANUARY

BASKETBALL

Imperial Men's 1st 62
Holloway Men's 1st 73

SATURDAY 29 JANUARY

FOOTBALL

UCL Men's 2nd 2
Imperial Men's 1st 3

Imperial Men's 2nd 2
St Barts & Royal London Men's 1st 2

LSE Men's 3rd 2
Imperial Men's 4th 0

RSM Men's 1st 0
Imperial Men's 5th 5

Imperial Men's 6th 2
Imperial Men's 7th 1

RUGBY

Holloway Men's 2nd 6
Imperial Men's 2nd 25

MONDAY 31 JANUARY

SQUASH

Imperial Men's 1st 5
Imperial Men's 2nd 0

COMEDY NIGHT
Fri 4th feb
colin & fergus
& Russel Howard
COMEDY NIGHT AND DISCO
8.00PM - 2.00AM
SHOW DOORS AT 8.30
£4.50 UNION
£5.00 GUEST
£4.00 ENTS CARD
£2.00 NON-SHOW TICKETS
£1 PINT TETLEY AND CARLSBERG
Carlsberg
TETLEY'S BITTER
ROAR Student ID required
The Union advises you to drink sensibly
physSc
imperial college union

SEND US YOUR SPORTS REPORTS!

If you've played a match, been on tour or entered a competition, why not write about it for Felix? Send your reports to sport.felix@ic.ac.uk, with a good quality photograph if possible

SPORT

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Role play road rage puts Wye in the zone

RUGBY

Wye Women's 1st 20
GKT Women's 1st 15

By Lucy Le Cocq

Road rage caused pre-match drama when the Wye girls ventured out of the countryside to remind GKT that they can't beat us. Ever. Domestic violence between our army of male westcountry supporters on the A205 was too much for our violent number eight

who felt the need to abuse them, risking her life in the smog and London traffic in the process.

Once we had composed ourselves enough to look for the pitch, we were utterly shocked to find it located in a rather urban area; however the relief of seeing grass for the first time in an hour was immense.

The forwards worked hard and we were rewarded with our first try from a lineout set piece. Gobby missed the con-

version as the ball appeared to be too heavy to leave the ground. The embarrassment was too much and a small scratch on her knee caused potential hospitalisation. However, some good running and talking earlier in the game more than made up for this. After a quick reorganisation, Annie was drafted in to play fly half, where she did a great job.

Radio Full Back thought that we would crumble, however we didn't. She wasn't on

the right wavelength. Great running from the elusive Em put us on the scoreboard, however GKT equalised. The Wye midgets couldn't hold the weight of the GKT maul, anchored by their apparently unfriendly giant number eight. This result resulted in the crumbling of the maul.

The match showed great form from our captain Scum, who combined awesome tackling with quick offloading from the scrum. Her leadership kept our heads up throughout

the game.

In the second half Hetty's awesome power gave us another five points and Emily's massive speed blasted through the opposition. Suzie's personal experience with number 7 put her off hurting anyone to that extent ever again.

Great hooking by Cat was only one feature of our great scrum which turned the ball over on several occasions. Becky showed great potential with her running and tackling.

Recognising the good bits and working hard together will be necessary in preparation for the next game.

This was not our tidiest game, but commitment from the whole team contributed to our victory. The hospitality from GKT was the best this season and we'd like to thank them for a well-matched game. The final scoreline was a true reflection of a match that could have gone either way and was undecided until the final whistle.

Twice in one night

NETBALL

Sponsored by

accenture

High performance. Delivered.

Imperial 1st 23
Goldsmiths 1st 22

By Erika Kennington

A double header on Monday saw the firsts add another two wins to the season, in their tightest game to date.

Following numerous postponements by Goldsmiths, it was decided that this match would count for both the BUSA league and ULU cup matches, setting up a game

with 6 points at stake.

Having never played Goldsmiths before, we had no idea what we would be up against, and this was our first match since the Christmas break so everyone was feeling a bit rusty. Spirits were high, though, as it gave us chance to unveil the new kit, although it did lead us to question its suitability on cold Monday nights

in the middle of winter!

So to the match. Imperial set off quietly in the first quarter, with both teams evenly matched, gauging the tactics of the opposition. Freezing conditions meant that the pitch was icing over as we played, severely slowing down our game, and we took only a two-goal lead into the first break.

We picked up the pace in the second and third quarters, albeit in an attempt to avoid hypothermia, but despite some great play working the ball up the court, we couldn't establish a decisive lead. Goldsmiths were clearly not going to give up the points without a fight, and our eight week break since our last match meant we were not

quite on top form. A few dodgy set-plays cost us some of our lead in the final quarter, but we held our nerve and one-goal lead to the final whistle.

At the end of the day, though, a win is still a win (or two in this case), and has taken us to the quarter finals of the ULU Cup and third place in our BUSA league. Well done guys!

Fourths make winning start to 2005

FOOTBALL

Imperial Men's 4th 4
UCL Men's 4th 2

By Michael Nicholson

After a long winter break and two abysmal friendly performances against our own fifths, Imperial Fourths finally returned to competitive action against their namesakes from UCL.

The starting eleven had a very settled look to it with Tim and Shinguards at centre-half, alongside regular full-backs Toony and Ed Goh. Aldridge-Carlos took his Bambi-style running into midfield in place of Paul, who was

injured again. Alongside the Bambi-man in the middle was Dave the Hippy, with tricky wingers Parrot and Demetris starting in their usual roles. Fresh from his brush with a certain tsunami, Shwin started up front with Jai.

The slick passing, which had so deserted the fourths during the matches against the fifths, made an instant and welcome return, and Imperial managed to create a multitude of chances in the first few minutes with Jai and Shwin both having half-chances.

The breakthrough came only thanks to a momentous howler from the UCL keeper. A nice move involving most of

the team managed to work the ball to the Parrot on the left, who jinked and twisted past a couple of players in trademark style before unleashing what can only be described as a daisy cutting trundler.

The keeper thought the best way to deal with such an effort was to leap in the air and pounce on it like some sort of strange cat. hilariously, he missed, and the ball trickled through his arms and legs to gift Imperial a soft lead.

Chances upon chances were subsequently created by the impressive midfield, and both Jai and Shwin really should have done better when neat passing moves presented them both with gilt-

edged chances. Sadly, Shwin spooned a free header into orbit, and Jai somehow managed to screw the ball wide when my Grandma could have scored. Thankfully, both lads kept their heads up, and when Shwin was presented with another simple chance - thanks to some woeful UCL marking at a free-kick - he gratefully knocked it in to give Imperial a deserved two goal lead at half-time.

The second half was much of the same with shots from Imperial raining down onto the UCL keeper. It was no surprise that IC went three up when Jai flew through the air like a swooping eagle (not of the Figo variety) to power

home a Parrot cross from the left.

Sadly, fatigue set in at around the seventy minute mark, and UCL, to their credit, began to dominate the game. With Bambi struggling with a bash on the nose, their very fast, very small, very annoying winger managed to escape from three poor tackles in the centre circle, freeing up some room for the strikers. The pair of them combined nicely and a neat finish gave UCL a way back into the match.

UCL continued to dominate through IC's tiredness, but against the run of play Imperial restored the three goal advantage when the

Parrot bent a free-kick in off the upright, despite the best efforts of Jai on the line trying to hi-jack the goal. The scoring was still not finished though, and another lapse in concentration at the back allowed UCL to claw back another.

Four-two was how the match ended, with the fourths earning a morale-boosting victory. Among the positives for the side were Bambi's excellent battling display in midfield and a far greater assuredness on the ball; however, there are still plenty of improvements that must be made if we are to win the Cup this year.

First points of season for DeIViants

HOCKEY

Imperial Men's 4th 2
St George's Men's 4th 2

Despite TKT's best efforts, we eventually made it back to the Croydon Badlands. Stepping over the headless body in the sports centre car park, it was hard to ignore the smell of death in the air, which was only overpowered by the stench of the goalkeeper's kit.

Our efforts to confuse the opposition by turning up 30 minutes late seemed to succeed as we took the game

by the scruff of the neck and rammed it thoroughly into their half.

St Georges had started slowly, and Second Avenue capitalised, latching onto the rebound of Tightlips' powerful shot and turning it past their wretched keeper.

The DeIViants dominated play for the entire first half. Opposition attacks were broken down almost as soon as they were started. With Tightlips controlling the game from midfield, Bleeding Dick and Glasto prevented any chance of the opposition entering our half, and, with

the creativity and hard work of Spanish Shquisition, Creamy Mouthful and Colgate, it looked as though St Georges were almost dead and buried, especially when TKT slammed in a shot from the top of the D to make it 2-0. The first half came to a close with practically everyone in the St Georges half.

At half time the opposition used a diversionary tactic by setting the trees behind their goal on fire. It was rumoured that they had strapped their sub to a tree and sacrificed him in order to turn the game around.

Unfortunately, their sacrifice seemed to do the trick. As Dirty Sheets eyed up the firemen at the beginning of the second half, his 'clean sheet' was soiled when St Georges pulled one back. Although stunned by conceding this early second half goal, the DeIViants soon steadied the ship thanks to the hard work and perseverance of Slow On The Uptake and some Randoms.

The search for the third goal, which would kill the game (and be the fifth killing in Croydon that day), had started. TKT created several

chances but failed to take any of them whilst Post and Tightlips also had opportunities.

As the game entered into its final stages, there was an awful feeling in the air and it wasn't because news had filtered through that an undertaker had been runover by his own hearse at a nearby location. Many chances had been wasted and it would take just one lucky counter-attack from the opposition to be able to score and level the game. What followed was completely and utterly devastating for the

DeIViants.

It was at the death (continuing the theme of the day) that the opposition had a lucky counter-attack and were able to score and level the game.

On the way home, the depressed DeIViants suddenly realised that things weren't so bad. It was the first point of the season, and the first time we had scored, and we hadn't conceded any short corners. It was a fine performance from the whole team.

Fear not, for the DeIViants are on their way back!

Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

University College Losers

FOOTBALL

Imperial Men's 3rd 7
UCL Men's 3rd 1

By Perry Deu

It was the traditional ULU fixture between Imperial College and local rivals UCL. Captain Mark Shatwell dropped his 4-5-1 'continental' formation and opted for a very traditional 4-4-2 system instead.

News was received that UCL could only field nine initial starting players, due to injuries, with one player shortly to arrive. However, after kick off, the false sense of security led to a few nervous moments for Imperial early on. This was short lived though, as the Thirds began to improve after 15 minutes of play, when the first real chance of the game came.

The move started with Dominic Booth picking up the ball and playing it down to Leon Thorne on the right wing. Thorne skilfully collected the ball and sent a long pass to striker Perry Deu, who brought down the ball and whipped in a cross which was narrowly missed by the hard-working Matt Gready.

The resultant play led to a corner, and Thorne whipped a precise cross to find an unmarked Gready, who gave Imperial College a deserved lead by hooking a shot past the bewildered UCL goalkeeper.

As the match wore on, more success for Imperial came down the right wing, with Deu and Thorne linking well to create many a break through the UCL defence.

The arrival of the tenth UCL player made no real difference, as a long ball from Booth was controlled by Perry, who flicked the ball over the marking defender and then swivelled past a second man. Nakamoto collected the ball, and the resulting shot shaved the crossbar.

Adam Williams and Anthony Maule ensured that Imperial College kept their guard up until half time with their aerial dominance. The now legendary dolphin back four of Shatwell, Ruso, Booth and Tom Trump ensured Imperial College feared no real danger by 'beefing' out any attacks and performing the odd 'really big kick' or handball for good measure.

The second half saw changes. John Slavin was brought on for the injured Gready, and Hasan Iqbal replaced Adam Williams. The half started vibrantly, as UCL had to attack.

Imperial College seemed in control of the match, but a long clearance from UCL defence caught goalkeeper Lester napping, the resulting long clearance bounced awkwardly and the UCL striker seemed to punch the ball into the net. The referee saw nothing wrong, and the goal stood.

With the score tied, Imperial College now needed to push for the lead again, which came courtesy of Deu. Iqbal picked out Thorne on the wide left, who crossed into the area. Deu flicked the ball over his marker then over a second defender, before driving the ball past the UCL keeper, capping off a brilliant Imperial College move.



Keeping his eye on the ball: striker Perry Deu (back row, centre) is distracted at the vital moment, but that didn't stop him scoring a hat-trick in Imperial Thirds' 7-1 thrashing of UCL last week

This instant reply led to wave upon wave of attacks, which ravaged the UCL defence. The third goal came shortly afterwards, when Nakamoto scored a brilliant individual goal, picking up the ball, skipping past two defenders and striking the ball from the edge of the area

into the top corner.

Thorne decided to match Nakamoto, by picking up the ball on the edge of the area, cutting inside past two players and striking the ball past the UCL 'keeper into the roof of the net. The score was now 4-1 and Imperial College began to enjoy

themselves.

Goal number five came from brilliant work from Iqbal, who 'beefed' past the UCL midfield to pick out Deu on the corner of the 18 yard area, who then drilled the ball first time into the UCL net.

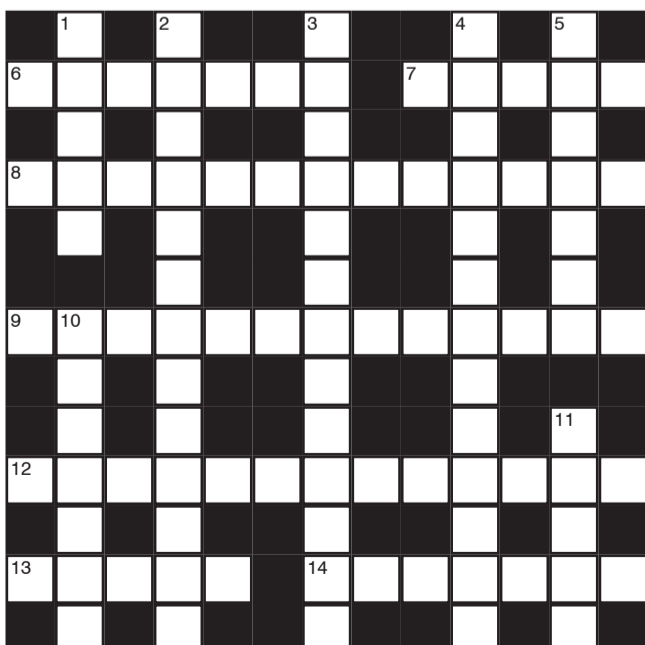
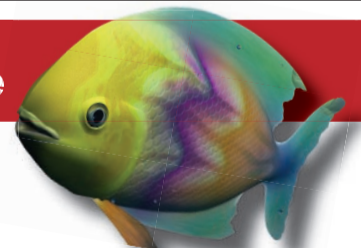
The sixth goal came courtesy of Dominic Booth, again

after good work by Iqbal.

To round off an all-round great game, Nakamoto broke down the right wing into the UCL penalty area, then unselfishly cut the ball back for the onrushing Deu to complete his hat-trick and produce a man of the match performance.

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

6. ___ law; suggestive of war (7)
7. Fungus (5)
8. Imbalance (13)
9. Game or contest in which anyone finishing second or worse receives nothing (6-4-3)
12. Highest level of development at a particular time (5,2,3,3)
13. Pebble (5)
14. Groups; divisions (7)

Down

1. Wireless communication device (5)
2. Useful for crossing a stream (8,5)
3. Sharp rebuke (4,2,3,4)
4. Soft white dairy product (7,6)
5. Intoxicating liquor (7)
10. Copy (7)
11. Cooked (5)

Send your answers to
coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or bring
this page to the *Felix* office in
the West Wing of Beit Quad

Issue 1313 solution

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