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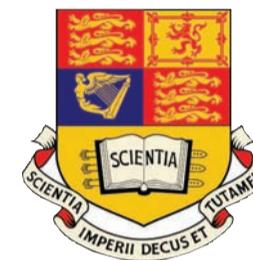


Racing to victory

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Felix



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Saving Southside

A large group of students have begun a 'Save Our Southside' campaign, in response to news that the popular bar will not be replaced when the building is demolished this summer.

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Sci-fi renaissance

With movies like *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* making megabucks on the big screen, science fiction appears to be making a comeback. Darius Nikbin looks at the reasons why.

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Can you guess the celebrities from their haircuts? It's something to do between exams...

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College clothing controversy

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Imperial College Union staff have told *Felix* that they were asked to stop selling certain items of clothing which were seen as offensive to the College brand.

The College's Director of Communications, Ardi Kolah, and Director of Project Management, Chris Towler, visited the Union shop on the Sherfield walkway last week. "I understand that my staff found them quite threatening and intimidating," said Union President Mustafa Arif.

The staff felt that they had been asked to take various items – bearing the name 'Imperial College London' without using the new logo – off the shelves.

Mr Arif continued: "It was stock that was apparently 'offensive to the brand', in particular the underwear



The Union shop could be forced to stop selling T-shirts like these, featuring the Imperial College name in different styles to the official logos

and the fun T-shirts, like the *Matrix* spin-off and so on."

The Union shop sells a range of clothing featuring the 'Imperial College' name,

such as T-shirts with the slogans 'ICUK London' and 'Probably the best college in the world', mimicking certain famous brands.

Mr Kolah told *Felix* that the College is trying to build an international brand. "We're working together to find a solution to this," he

said. "There is policy on how the brand ought to be used, and there should have been more importance placed on following that to the letter."

Mr Arif argued that the Union had followed the policy and that many of the products in question had been approved by the College following its rebranding exercise two years ago.

He added: "I think the College communications division needs to fully understand how university identities work. Ultimately they are the rights holder, but if they are unhappy with some products we are stocking, they should negotiate that with us, rather than just marching in saying 'this is offensive to the brand, I can't believe you're doing this'. They need to recognise that students are going to want fun things."

► Comment, page 4

Mr T joins physics greats



Eighties superstar Mr T joined an elite group of physicists last week, when his picture appeared in this display of Nobel Laureates in the Blackett Laboratory. The prank seems to have succeeded in amusing students as they revised for exams, but the photograph has now been removed

Felix

Issue 1324

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NEWS

News in brief

'Save our Southside' campaign launched

Students' groups led by the Real Ale Society have begun a 'Save Our Southside' campaign, in response to news that the popular Southside Bar will not be replaced when the building is demolished this summer.

Over 1600 people, including more than 1000 Imperial College students, have signed a petition in support of the campaign for the bar to be replaced.

The group believes that there are several other viable locations for a large College bar, such as the Ante Room (next to the Main Dining Hall) or certain disused buildings on Princes Gate.

Tobias Dalton, chair of the Real Ale Society, told *Felix*: "The lack of consultation with the student body has angered myself and many others. Southside Bar is not only well used, but is a valued and key part of this university. I'm sure they haven't considered all the effects of this – Southside staff also deal with things like the summer ball and all sorts of other College events."

Mr Dalton said that South Kensington was already lacking cheap student-oriented venues and the Union bars would become overcrowded as a result of the closure.

Representatives from the campaign will meet the Union President next week to discuss their concerns.

Union to push through plans for Graduate Students Association

Despite Monday's Council meeting being called off due to low attendance, Imperial College Union still plans to have a Deputy President (Graduate Students) and a new Graduate Students Association in place for the beginning of next term.

The constitutional changes necessary for the introduction of the new roles should have been passed by two consecutive meetings of the Council, but the Union President will ask the College to suspend that rule in order to hold elections for Graduate Student posts later this term. This could lead to a bizarre situation in which elections are held for roles that do not yet technically exist.

It is likely that various Union committees will be restructured or disbanded later this term, but plans to alter the composition of the Council and Executive will now not be considered this year.

QPR move to Harlington

Queens Park Rangers FC have reached an agreement to move to the Harlington sports ground, which is owned by Imperial College.

The ground, where many Imperial student teams train and play matches, was previously used by Premiership champions Chelsea, who



Any excuse to dress up: students Samantha Dunning, John Sykes and Aleks Corr promote this year's Hollywood-themed summer ball in front of the Queen's Tower

moved to a new facility at Cobham in December.

Imperial College Union said it was confident that the change would have no negative effect on its sports clubs.

Wye election results

The following people will make up next year's Wye College Union Executive.

President: Anthony Calder; Vice President: Sam Spring;

Education and Welfare: Ellie Oswald; Secretary: Rhian Salmon; Social Secretaries: Adam Kashin and Alice Tully; Web Editor: Ben Barnett; PR/Dolly Editor: James Burnett; Mercy Manager: Adam Miller; Buildings Manager: Khalid Alsewan.

Congratulations to those elected. Manifestos are still online at www.union.ic.ac.uk/wye/wcus/elections_2005.html.

'Film stars' on campus

Students in fancy dress have been attracting attention on campus all this week as they promote the 2005 Imperial College Union summer ball. 'Cleopatra', 'Spartacus' and 'Marilyn Monroe' are helping persuade students to attend the Hollywood-themed event, which will be held on Saturday 18 June. Tickets are on sale now.

Imperial College
London



'Celebrate Sport with London 2012' Wednesday 1st June

With only weeks remaining until 6th July when the IOC will announce which city they have chosen to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, anticipation is building in London and the rest of the UK.

For this final and crucial stage in the process, it is important to keep showing our support for the London Bid. As a result, Imperial College London is supporting the 'Celebrate Sport with London 2012' day on 1st June 2005.

The College is supporting this day by providing a number of free activities, for students, staff and the general public, based at South Kensington and St Mary's campuses.

The activities on offer are:

South Kensington campus

- Free circuit / boxercise class outside the Faculty Building from 12.30p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Book to avoid disappointment by emailing our Fitness Manager, Kevin Broster at k.broster@imperial.ac.uk
- Free use of the Southside Gym from 12.00 – 2.00 p.m.

St Mary's campus

- Free swimming from 7.00 – 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 – 2.00 p.m.
- Free use of squash courts from 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
- To book, please call Cosmo Murphy, Recreation Supervisor, on 020 7594 3665 or email him at cosmo.murphy@imperial.ac.uk

Come and show your support for the London Bid with Imperial College London on 1st June.

Bar Shisha

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Friday 27th May
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Vodka Twisties
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The Union advises you to drink responsibly

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Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

The science fiction renaissance

With the success of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Star Wars*, and the return to prime time TV of British series *Doctor Who*, **Darius Nikbin** asks why science fiction is making a comeback

In the 1950s, science fiction was used as a propaganda vehicle to promote ideas about the 'red scare'. Films like *The Thing from Another World* (1951), *It Came from Outer Space* (1953), *Them!* (1954), and *The War of the Worlds* (1953) were reflections of the media and political hysteria surrounding the apparent threat posed by communism.

During the Cold War, mainstream science fiction films were perfect for representing the deepest fears of the post-WWII generation. The Communists took the form of giant radioactive red ants or alien space invaders, embodying the terror that Americans felt from an invisible, unknowable enemy.

Today, it appears that science fiction is undergoing a bit of a comeback in the mainstream. With movies like *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* making megabucks on the big screen, science fiction appears to be a successful genre that the industry will find hard to ignore. Spielberg's remake of *The War of the Worlds*, arriving in July, looks set to be one of the biggest hits.

So why are we seeing this new wave of science fiction?

Sci-fi movies are all about suspending the audience's disbelief. A science fiction film with obviously fake special effects quickly finds itself relegated to the 'B-movie' category. Recent advances in Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) have made it cheaper to make convincing alternate universes.

For instance, the main reason for the return of *Doctor Who* on the small screen is that the BBC can now afford CGI, so they don't have to have plots hinging on actors dressing up in rubber suits bought from the local party shop and pretending to be Zorgons from Alpha Centauri.

The CGI revolution began in 1975 when George Lucas established a new company *Industrial Light and Magic*, which was to produce the visual effects for his new movie *Star Wars* (1977). Lucas' maxim was "sound and music are 50% of the entertainment in a movie". The success of the *Star Wars*

"These movies portray worlds as distant from the day-to-day monotony of modern living as we can possibly imagine"

series has proved him right ever since.

But a criticism that has often been levelled at science fiction is that usually the characters are very poorly developed and unrealistic. This may be true - from *Blade Runner* to *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*, dialogue and characterisation have always been weak points with sci-fi movies.

However, what science fiction lacks in characterisation, it makes up for in ideas. We live in a world when advances in technology are beginning to outpace our ability to keep up with them. We live in a technological culture.

Although recent films such as *I, Robot* and *Minority Report* are entertaining, they also provide social commentary about the nature of our technological culture that other genres of film are unable to make. Another recent example is *Gattaca*, in which social issues about genetic engineering are addressed.

In its ability to create virtual universes, where the only constant is human nature and everything else is liable to change due to technology, science fiction provides a valuable cultural commentary that other genres of film-making are incapable of.

It is also the ultimate form of cinematic escapism. The movies portray worlds as distant from the day-to-day monotony of modern living as we can possibly imagine.

But some sci-fi purists remain sceptical: "Big budget 'sci-fi' films have always been popular and tend to come in waves," says Michael Wright of Imperial's Science Fiction society.

"I'm not sure science fiction as a genre is getting more popular. Many of the people who will see *Revenge of the Sith* in the cinema wouldn't touch a sci-fi book, and many of the best sci-fi TV series have been cancelled."

What is undeniable, however, is that at a time when the movie industry is undergoing a bit of a recession, science fiction movies seem to be the most bankable on the Hollywood production line. So don't be surprised if the first decade of the 21st century continues to see a science fiction renaissance.



Science fiction films like *Revenge of the Sith* and *The Hitchhiker's Guide* have been successful at a time when Hollywood is facing a box office crisis

Hitchhiker Exhibition

For your chance to win two tickets to the *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* exhibition at the Science Museum, just answer the following question:

Who wrote the original book *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*? Was it:

- a) Adam Sandler
- b) Patch Adams
- c) Douglas Adams

First correct answer in to science.felix@ic.ac.uk wins

The huge *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* Exhibition will be running from **28 May to 27 November 2005**. An absolute must for any fans and anyone else who wants to see cool stuff.



Particle smasher gets super-brain

I, science

A science magazine for Imperial College

Issue 2 out in June

This week at the Dana Centre

Expand your mind for FREE, right next to Imperial College's South Ken campus. Controversial issues discussed in a thought-provoking, frank and entertaining way.



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Thursday 26th May, 7pm
Wireless Utopias 05: An open future for Spectrum?
A debate on the future of wireless communications

Tuesday 31st May, 7pm
Punk Science: the Albert Einstein experience
A debate on the future of wireless communications

Friday 2nd June, 7pm
Hitchhiker's Guide to Science
Could *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* inspire future inventions?

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

Felix

No need for branding clampdown

Imperial College's rebranding exercises have been widely criticised in this newspaper and elsewhere. Some students take offence at the fact that the College crest, a symbol of quality and tradition, has been replaced by three very simple blue words on a white background. "It looks like something a five-year-old could have designed," one student memorably commented at the time. "It makes us look like a polytechnic," said another.

Now it seems that the College is going one step further, raising objections about items of clothing that display the words 'Imperial', 'Imperial College' or 'IC' in a different, unsatisfactory manner. The Union shop could limit its sales to clothing that only bears the new brand, but how many students would buy it? The shop should be allowed to offer a range of clothing designed to students' tastes, some with the new brand, some without. As the President says, "students are going to want fun things," so the Union – and others – should be encouraged to use the Imperial name in imaginative ways.

Cleverly designed items of clothing, such as those featured on the front page, are walking advertisements for Imperial College, which will be seen by students' friends, families and passers-by. The vast majority of these items promote Imperial in a positive way to people of a similar age bracket, which, surely, is exactly what the College wants.

Finding a way to 'Save Our Southside'

Southside Bar will be sorely missed by hundreds of students, staff and visitors to Imperial College, not least the 1600 who have already signed a petition supporting the campaign for a replacement bar to be created.

While they are to be commended for their efforts during the busy exam period, the 'Save Our Southside' campaigners need to come up with some viable proposals – and fast. It is all very well to protest against something, but you will be taken much more seriously if you can come up with a realistic alternative option. A classic example is top-up fees – the 'no to fees' message was heard loud and clear, but campaigners should have placed equal emphasis on how else they would have solved the massive financial problems faced by universities.

The Southside building itself is in desperate need of refurbishment and there is huge demand for space elsewhere on the South Kensington campus, so it will be difficult to find a suitable location for a new bar. Difficult, but not impossible.

The future looks bleak for Southside Bar in any form, but the Union is beginning to take students' concerns seriously on this matter following their antagonistic reaction to recent *Felix* articles and the 1600 signatures obtained so far. The College may well follow.

Graduates: get involved

The Union's new Graduate Students' Association will be launched next Wednesday, before it officially exists. The bizarre situation caused by non-attendance at Monday's Council meeting will also lead to elections for posts that have not yet been created. We believe the vast majority of the Council would be behind these proposals and the Association will form as planned, but the whole thing still looks a bit of a mess.

Regardless, *Felix* would like to encourage all graduate students to get involved – it is essential that this large, significant group has better representation and support within the Union. Read Sam Rorke's column, above, for details.

The joy of... the Graduate Students' Association

All graduate students are warmly invited to join us for the historic launch event of the Graduate Students' Association next Wednesday, 1 June, from 6pm in the Union Concert Hall (second floor, Union building, Beit Quad).

The event will hopefully be informal, sociable and fun, so to make the evening go smoothly, there will be a free bar, buffet and four-piece jazz band! You can also expect to be told more about the Association and how to get involved. We have a great keynote speaker in Annie Thomas, Warden at Goodenough College, a 600-strong multinational residential community of postgraduate students based in central London.

The establishment of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) at the heart of the students' union has resulted from lengthy discussions between the graduate schools, Union officers and your

UNCLE SAM



SAM RORKE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(EDUCATION & WELFARE)

student representatives on how to better represent and improve the lives of Imperial postgrads.

The GSA will be headed by the Deputy President (Graduate Students), which will be a full-time sabbatical position. Everyone who is currently a postgraduate student will be able to stand for election to this post, and they will be elected by cross-campus ballot at the end of June.

The GSA will also enable postgrads to determine what needs to be done to improve their time at College, and give them the resources to achieve it; this is likely to include establishing student-run societies that will receive funding from the graduate schools and the Union, and committees to organise student events as they see fit.

We hope that you are able to join us in welcoming in a new era for Imperial postgrads.

● **State of the Union will return next week**

Mine's a pint

You've just finished that tough last exam, all your classmates are going out for a few drinks, so you decide to go with them. Slowly the whole celebration is turning into a bit of session. On you go to a nightclub until 4am, then you grab a nice juicy kebab on the way home and finally get to bed around 5am.

OK, so you've woken up and slowly the memories of the night before drift back... you had ten pints too many, you were loud, you couldn't walk, you couldn't see, you insulted your mates who insulted you back, and you snogged that bloke or woman you swore blind you'd never go anywhere near in a million years.

Now you've got a headache from hell, your stomach's about to explode and you're still wearing clothes covered in last night's kebab and vomit (but whose vomit is it?) Whatever – you still feel like throwing up some more...

And chances are you'll go through exactly the same thing again tonight or at the weekend.

So why do we drink?

People drink for different reasons. Alcohol changes your mood, and some people say it helps them to cope with stress. In the short term it makes you feel happy (although, in fact, alcohol is a depressant) and at the end of a long hot day, nothing hits the spot better than a cool beer or a glass of wine.

Drinking can be fun – alcohol is not called 'the nation's favourite drug' for nothing. Some people use a drink to become more sociable and confident, but too much can:

- make you ill
- give you a hangover
- cost you a lot of money
- cloud your judgement
- encourage you to do things that are stupid or dangerous.
- act as a depressant
- make you fat
- lead to serious health problems and, in extreme cases, even death.

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
STUDENT ADVISER

How does alcohol get you drunk?

Alcohol quickly enters the bloodstream and spreads all over the body. It partially removes water from the parts of the brain that deal with the way we think. It makes you relax and lose inhibitions – a few drinks can make it easy to meet and talk to people. And if you're out with your mates you become chattier, more confident and convinced you are the funniest person on the planet.

Alcohol also affects the central nervous system, which controls many of your body's other functions – senses, speech and sense of pain. So the more you drink, the more your speech will be slurred and the more your sight will go fuzzy.

When you drink alcohol, your body gets rid of more liquid than it takes in, so you'll be dehydrated. This lack of water is what causes you to wake up with a throbbing head.

So it's not all good news

Losing your inhibitions and lacking co-ordination can be a tricky combination. When you're really tanked up and think you're invincible, you're actually really vulnerable. It's easy to end up in situa-

tions where you could be in real danger, and not realise it.

And we're not just talking about falling into the road as you stagger home from the pub. On a typical Saturday night, you can be pretty sure that the A&E department of your local hospital will be full of people affected by alcohol in some way. Drink makes you feel more confident and up for trying anything while your mates egg you on – things you'd never do normally if you hadn't had a drink beforehand.

A recent survey of 1000 women aged 16 to 34 found that half the respondents had got so drunk they didn't know how they got home, and a third had ended up having unprotected sex, putting them at risk of HIV and other STIs.

And though you'd definitely, never, ever, drink and drive, are you absolutely sure that your mate driving you home shares your view? The more you've drunk, the less likely you'll be to check... or care.

Even if you don't decide to walk home on your own (which a lot of people do with a few pints inside them, convinced nothing will happen) and get a cab, how do you know you're getting into a safe car if you're too drunk to check?

If you would like further information on the effects of alcohol or if you feel that your drinking habits are starting to affect your academic life, please don't hesitate to contact the Information and Advice Centre for further help and information.

Don't let your concern turn into a crisis. Make the Information and Advice Centre your one stop shop for all your welfare issues.

The Information and Advice Centre can be found in the east wing basement of Beit Quad. Telephone 020 7594 8067 or email advice@ic.ac.uk

Felix

COMMENT

felix@ic.ac.uk

Letters

The Rector's role

Sir,

I would like to express my appreciation of last week's article on your interview with Sir Richard Sykes. I'm sure there aren't many of us who wouldn't jump at the chance to haul our esteemed Rector over the coals and grill him on our pet grievances, so it was with great interest that I turned to page 10 of Felix. On the whole, I was not unpleasantly surprised. The article managed to dispel some of the mystery surrounding the head of our College, and gave some indication of what's to come.

There are, however, some points that bother me and that I'd like to voice. First of all: the library situation. I cannot either corroborate or dispute the famous librarian's claims. I can say, though, that I and several of my fellow students feel that the Rector has got wholly the

wrong idea. While we do enjoy the luxury of being able to stay in the library and work until the wee hours of the morning, this is not a call to close all the other libraries. Each department has its own history and sense of self – the departmental libraries are one of the best ways of safeguarding that. Sentimentality aside, it is painfully obvious to anyone using the library over this period that its capacity is already stretched. If Sir Richard's plans for disposing of all the other study areas were to go ahead, the building would need to double in size to accommodate all the people and publications, or face being woefully inadequate. The idea of turning Waterstone's into a cafeteria is, in my view, ridiculous. Waterstone's provides a most convenient and affordable (as much as academic books ever are) service. Most of all, it caters specifically to the students' needs, which is invaluable and off-campus book-

shops could not come near filling the gap. Unfortunately, Mr Sykes seems to have already made up his mind about a lot of this, and I expect much of it to fall on deaf ears.

On top-up fees: I would like to see the various university authorities petitioning the government for better funding to make higher education more accessible. If Labour is so committed to the 50% target and promoting the UK's academic standing, why aren't lower university fees part of that?

Last but not least, I wish to raise the issue of the general opinion of the Rector. There is the feeling that a lot of what happens around the College in terms of changes and procedures is not only beyond the control of the students (which, to a certain extent, is to be expected), but that the students are not properly consulted or even informed of anything. How can he voice concern about the student body ("we want to encourage them, show that we care about them") when he himself is such an intangible figure, who many feel takes little or no notice of what the students want to say, and

what they want to happen?

Yours,

Alistair Finn
Aeronautics

Ardi Kolah, Imperial's Director of Communications, responds:

It's always easy to criticise those in authority and to some extent the Rector is a soft target for any such criticism that's going. But Alistair's points are way off the mark.

A substantial part of the communications effort is focused on improving internal communications, including communication with our students. And Sir Richard's right behind this effort.

We've also ensured that students are engaged in the heart of the decision making process and the president of ICU sits on Council. This provides an effective voice for students at the highest level in our College and ensures that students have a say in issues that materially affect their quality of life.

Sir Richard makes every effort to

meet as many students as he can to solicit their views and opinions.

Of course we could always do more and I'd be interested to hear from other readers of Felix where we can improve our efforts in this regard [a.kolah@ic.ac.uk, 020 7594 6699]. But to set the record straight, Sir Richard has been instrumental in driving through developments in key facilities and services for students.

These include the multi-million pound re-development of new student accommodation at Southside; a £17.5m state-of-the-art Sports Centre development which will be free of charge for students wishing to use its swimming and gym facilities; 24-hour library opening to cover revision requirements; more cash machines around campus and £20,000 fund for the Student's Union Summer Ball.

All of these developments have come about through engaging with students and listening to what they would like to see happen at Imperial. And Sir Richard should be recognised for helping to drive these changes through.

Columns

felix@ic.ac.uk

The Neighbours generation



by RUPERT NEATE

Internet sex tests

My inbox is constantly inundated with emails from friends telling me to take some sort of personal test or other. You know the deal – you tick the appropriate boxes and discover things that you already knew about yourself. They are generally rubbish and correlate really badly, with

one telling me I'm an extrovert and another that I'm socially retarded. I'd like to think that I know which one I really am, but you never can be certain.

An interesting part of this is whether one should be proud or ashamed that the test labels you a nun or a slag. Is it something to be proud of that so far you've led a relatively sheltered sex life? I don't know. On the other hand, should you be proud that you've put it about quite as much as you have? Admittedly, it can be something to boast about (if you're a guy). But are the people you're telling really impressed by your tally chart or are they just pretending to be impressed because that's what society expects?

Recently, a new breed of test has been created. This one lets you set your own questions, and then test how well your friends really

know you. I liked this new format, as you can make yourself look much more interesting than you really are, and you get to set trick questions. You also discover that people haven't really been listening when you've been talking to them. Create your own test now at www.quizyourfriends.com.

I got an email from a mate the other day telling me to take a sex appeal test. It was cleverly worded to the extent that even if you normally can't really be arsed to take such tests, you probably would.

So I started filling in the test. It started off all nice and innocent with name, age, etc. Then, "What turns you on?" with some potentially dodgy options such as golden showers and S&M. Next come "How often do you masturbate?" "How big is your penis?" "How many one night stands have you had?" "Ever had

bisexual feelings?" "Ever had sex with someone of the same gender?"

I answered all the questions honestly, then clicked the send button expecting it to tell me I have a **% sex appeal. But no, a message appears saying "you have been fouled by 'name of friend', and all your answers have been sent to your friend's email address". Fuck. Now, there wasn't anything illegal or depraved in my answers, but your sex life is a private domain. I was like, bugger, I don't want my friends to know everything about my sex life. I worried for a bit, but then thought to hell with it, it's nothing too serious, and your friends should understand you better if they know more about you, shouldn't they?

Then I noticed in the small print at the bottom it said "don't you feel violated? Why not foul your friends too?" So that's exactly what I did: I

forwarded the email to other friends. I'm not sure why I did it, I didn't really want to know about their sex lives (I reckon I know most of it anyway). I think I did it mainly as a way of extracting some kind of revenge, but it wasn't these people I should have been directing my revenge towards.

I got an email the next day from one of the recipients. All it said was "wanker". Well, I guess I deserved that. I spent the rest of the day trying to warn the rest of my friends from filling in the test.

The final twist is that you can't actually read the responses of the people who filled it in... well, you can but it costs you £1.50 a time!

Moral of the story: be wary of internet sex tests.

Neighbours

Continues to surpass itself!

The girl about town



by STORMY WOODS

Dear readers,

In precisely one hour and twenty-six minutes, Stormy Woods is going to be enjoying a beverage with one of

Felix's most esteemed columnists, the lovely Mr Gerald. Hopefully, his presence in person will be as charming as his presence on paper. If this isn't so, I'll have much to report, and so shall he – since this meeting is undoubtedly tip top column fodder.

I've got very little else to report. I handed my project in on Friday, and have been partying non-stop since. Very little in the way of depravity has happened – five pints of Kronenbourg do not make Stormy lower her standards to pizza-faced linguistics students who speak poorer French than she does.

Pizza faces aside, there's also been

a marriage proposal. No, not the stereotypical Asian type involving two sets of parents and a dowry – but a spontaneous one from an IC Estates worker on the Hammersmith campus. Flattering as it may seem after a ten minute chat, gentlemen older than my father are not quite what I'm after. Night-carers are available from social services, you know. And functional packages are a necessity to keep up with someone as passionate as I am. Sex to me is like oxygen to the rest of you...

Oxygen. Oxygene. I took a trip down memory lane last night, whilst sorting through my extensive CD collection. Placebo, Mansun, Amen UK,

the Source, Mica Paris and D'Angelo – I'd like to think I had taste as a Shirley Manson-alike teenager. So many moments captured in a song; my first kiss to Kula Shaker's *Hush*, my first dance to *Brown Sugar*. Classic. I wonder what my first fuck will be to...?

First fuck? Stormy, the sex columnist hasn't actually had intercourse yet?

You've got it. I'm a virgin. And a perpetually horny one at that – the only sex I've had is that involving a pair of hands or a pair of lips. This isn't a religious choice by any means – more a personal one. I'd like the chap I give myself away to, to be

inspirational, passionate and understanding. I'd like him to respect me for my talents, and connect with me on an artistic level. Is this too much to ask for?

PS Aaron S, I'm flattered to know you read my column first – I aim to make people remember me, for better or for worse. Evil is essential to make history what it is. I'd be intrigued to hear your definition of a slut. Does she actually need to have sex, or just talk about it? What about the promiscuous males you meet?

Questions are there to be answered. Answers on a postcard to this one: what is your world when you are asleep or under anaesthetic?

Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Ten things I can do that you can't

EPISODE TEN: The fire staff

JUGGLING CLUB

By Chris Rowlands

I feel I should confess a sin before I finish this run of articles. I may have inadvertently caused people to believe that I was the world's foremost authority on all things juggling, and for this I apologise.

I realise that some people may have observed the easy-going yet well-informed nature of these articles and taken them to be a source of condensed juggling knowledge passed down secretly for millennia by only the most talented artists, but this is not the case.

So why the sudden urge to confess everything in the pages of *Felix*? Well, let's just say that, during the production of this particular piece, not only did we find someone who could do the same tricks, he did them rather better than we did.

We at Juggling Soc decided that the final episode should be dedicated to the most visual (if not that difficult) art we know – the fire staff.

The principle is simple: take a stick about 1.5m long and spin it around your body. Regular readers will probably anticipate how we will make this more interesting – yes, we're going to set it on fire.

All the usual disclaimers apply here – if you aren't certain that you can do this safely, don't pick up the staff. Keep a fire extinguisher, a fire blanket and a friend on standby in case something goes wrong, and don't wear artificial fibres since they are quite flammable and will melt all over you, which isn't much fun.

The most fun to be had with a fire staff actually occurs within the first few seconds. Normally the wicks of a fire-toy are dipped in paraffin, shaken off, and then set on fire. Not so the fire staff – the wicks are left saturated and the staff spun into the air. This propels paraffin in all directions and creates two very large sheets of flame [see picture 1], which impresses the opposite sex if nothing else.

Once the staff comes down again, spin it backwards on one arm. You will quickly discover that your arm doesn't go that far, and the staff carries quite a lot of momentum, so you're going to have to pass it to the other hand. Place your other hand under the one holding the staff and catch it [see picture 2]. While maintaining the momentum of the staff, pass it across your body so that it is now spinning in the same direction, but on the other side of your body. With a long-exposure shot, this looks quite pretty [see picture 3].

While this looks impressive, it's actually quite basic, so at this point we'll show you what happens if you give the staff to someone who is quite good at it [see picture 4].

If you'd like to see quite how to make this ludicrously difficult pattern happen, you can come along to juggling on Tuesdays from 6pm in the union – contact juggling@ic.ac.uk for more information (including where to get cheap paraffin).

Finally, I should thank all the people who have helped make these articles – Chris, Nez, Steve and Tom for showing off in front of the camera, John for taking the photos, and of course me. I would thank people for reading, but I'm pretty sure more people use these articles for lining the cat's litter tray.



Imperial College Union Presents Summer Ball 2005

HOLLYWOOD

Sat 18th June

10096 →
SUNSET BLVD.

(MTV, Radio One)

TREVOR NELSON

JOE RANSOM (Fabric Live)

16900 →
MULHOLLAND DR.

(Radio One)

COLIN MURRAY

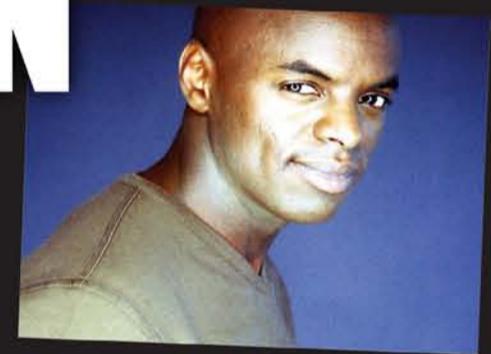
6700 →
HOLLYWOOD BLVD.

CASINO

£25 Ents ticket
£45 Dinner ticket

Over 18's only
Student ID required
R.O.A.R
The Union advises you to drink sensibly

Jazz Big Band, Fireworks,
Funfair, Formal dinner
(halal and vegetarian option)
Sparkling wine / Pimms reception
and breakfast in the morning
for every ticket holder!



Deloitte.

ZEN
MICRO



imperial
college
union

THE FELIX INTERVIEW

felix@ic.ac.uk

“We give a very good all-round education”

As Imperial's Pro Rector for Educational Quality, Professor Rees Rawlings must ensure that standards of teaching remain high.

Dave Edwards took a trip to the top floor of the new Faculty Building to meet him



PHOTO: WILLIAM TURNER

A laughing matter: Professor Rees Rawlings (left), finds humour in a discussion about libraries with Dave Edwards in the Faculty Building. For the uninitiated, it's the shiny new building that looks like it's made from lego bricks and makes a low whistling sound in strong winds

Professor Rees Rawlings joined Imperial College as an undergraduate student and never left. Now responsible for educational quality, he is the man to talk to about SOLE, lecturer training, high hall rents and those humanities timetabling problems.

“We give a very good all-round education,” he tells me. “We take in top quality people, we push them and give them the opportunity to develop and show some innovation. At the same time, we've brought on possibilities of doing things such as humanities... there are around 2000 students engaged in humanities every year.”

Two thousand students is certainly a number to be proud of at an institution focused around science, technology and medicine. But squeezing humanities classes into busy timetables has proved a major problem for Rawlings. In November, we reported that students in a number of College departments were having to attend lectures and tutorials at times supposedly reserved for humanities classes and lunch breaks.

Rawlings accepts that the problem

still exists, and tells me that departments should be capable of arranging their activities around the 'no-go' areas of lunchtimes and Wednesday afternoons.

“I think it's essential that we have the rules and everyone keeps to them. I have reported a few times over the last six years to Senate [the College's

“SOLE had a very bad start, but the last couple of years it's been running consistently with no problems”

main academic committee] to say how important this is. When examples are brought to me, they will be followed up, but students do need to bring the examples to the union so they can be brought to me.”

He mentions two recent incidents that were brought to his attention by the Deputy President (Education and

Welfare) and have now been resolved. If you have a similar problem, contact the Deputy President at dpew@ic.ac.uk.

SOLE

It is surely essential that a university has an effective, large scale method of getting students' feedback on their lecturers and courses. SOLE, the Student OnLine Evaluation questionnaire, has been running for four years, and Rawlings is confident that after some teething troubles, the system is working well.

“We need to know the students' opinion of the education provision we supply,” he says, “and that's basically the purpose of SOLE. When we get that information, we then need to act on it.”

“SOLE had a very bad start. When we did our first online survey [four years ago], the system just wasn't up to it. It wasn't robust enough, and it was possible to actually break into it. But the last couple of years it's been running consistently with no problems. As you know, the results go straight to the students' union as well, so there's great transparency.”

Recent levels of participation in SOLE have been just under 50% - far higher than Union election turnouts, and surely to be applauded with such a notoriously apathetic student body. “I think a turnout of 50% is OK,” says Rawlings, “but I'd like it to be more. Staff have got to remind students when SOLE is on, and students

“We've had a good look at things we thought we were a bit short on... the students brought up personal tutoring”

have to realise that it'll help a lot of new students coming in... so I think the argument that 'I won't do it because it takes up an hour of my time' is pretty poor.”

I put it to Rawlings that perhaps more students would take part in SOLE if they had evidence that things would change. In my department - maths - we knew for a fact that certain lecturers were

consistently given poor ratings, yet still turned up year after year to teach the same courses.

“Students have all the information,” he argues, “and it's discussed at staff-student committees. It's up to student representatives to make sure there's full discussion of SOLE results. But I can assure you that actions are made of SOLE results. We're going to try to release some actions that have been taken.”

But what if the department doesn't listen? “Well, students need to bring it to me through the Union. That's what the Union's for, that's why we have representatives. People would have to give me evidence over, say, three years when a particular course has been badly taught...”

He goes on to say that staff have to give their SOLE results when they are being considered for promotion - certainly a step in the right direction, but perhaps not far enough.

Lecturer training

In an ideal world, there would be little need for lecturer evaluation systems such

as SOLE, as the ratings would be high across the board. So how does the College move towards that goal and ensure that its lecturers can teach well and communicate clearly? I was interested to find out more about the training they receive.

“For many years, all our lecturers have had to attend ten days of compulsory workshops within their first three years while they're on probation. But we're tightening it up now - there is a certificate course run by the College's Centre for Educational Development and accredited by the Higher Education Academy, and as of this year all new lecturers have to go on that [one year, part time course].”

Rawlings believes that, in general, standards of teaching and communication are high. “The Centre for Educational Development was set up about five years ago, and since it's come here it really has pushed that aspect of educational development tremendously, giving staff training in all areas of learning and teaching.”

Personal tutors

Rawlings is in charge of Imperial's submission to the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), which will provide a thorough assessment of the College later this year. “We've had a good look at things we thought we were a bit short on,” he says.

He is reluctant to divulge what those things might be, but eventually admits: “The students brought up personal tutoring. We have put out some more detailed guidelines on what we expect from personal tutors...”

Although many students only see their personal tutor once or twice per year, and a considerable number have raised the issue as a problem with the Union, Rawlings believes that “we have a good system in place.”

He continues: “If the personal tutoring breaks down, the students can go and see the senior tutor, and if the relationship with the department breaks down, they go to the College tutors and that's what happens... On the other hand it would be nice to think that the relationship doesn't break down at personal tutor level. That could be the student's fault or it could be the staff member's fault. To get the relationship to work, both sides have got to work at it.”

Hall rents

Rawlings is chair of the Rector's Committee on Student Residences, which makes an annual recommendation of hall

“Imperial isn't so difficult that you can't play some sport or belong to a club and still get a good degree”

rents to the College. I put it to him that our hall fees are particularly high and ask him where the money is going.

“We compare the rents at Imperial with those at other universities and other London colleges such as King's, UCL and LSE,” he replies. “This data shows that the rents at Imperial are comparable to those at other institutions.”

Hall rents are due to rise by an average of 6% for 2005-6, but Rawlings tells me that “the money from the rents is not being used to subsidise other projects. A simple calculation based on the rents that are likely to be charged for a room in the new Southside and the cost of building Southside would show that the rents won't even pay back the capital cost of that particular project, let alone subsidise other projects.”

Apparently, the above-inflation rise is necessary due to increasing costs in sectors such as construction, maintenance and cleaning.

To compensate for the temporary loss of all beds in Southside next year, around 300 students will be housed in accommodation run by UNITE Housing. Hundreds of students in Liverpool experienced problems with UNITE Housing in 2003, but Rawlings is confident that the College has made the right choice.

Libraries... again

Good library provision and adequate private study space are essential to a high quality education, but departmental libraries are being closed down and the central library has been labelled “a dump” by its own staff.

Predictably, Rawlings tows the party line. “I think libraries are changing very dramatically, due to new journals, books and the ways students and researchers actually require information. For example, I think by 2008 over 80% of journals will be e-journals. Libraries supply a lot more advice than they used to, not just advice on where to find a book on a particular topic, but advice on plagiarism, and searching for literature. A small library hasn't got the skills to do all those things. The best interest of the students is that we have a good, up-to-date, well-serviced library.”

He insists that the levels of service will remain high when collections are transferred to the central library, as “we still have librarians associated with certain disciplines”.

Putting a question from a disgruntled Union officer, I ask what the QAA would think of departmental libraries being shut down and having their books thrown away. Rawlings laughs. “I'm sure some books that haven't been used for 15 years have been thrown away! I mean, any library will throw some books out, [but] I can't believe a book that's regularly used will be thrown out. You've put the question, you've got the laughter.”

Striking a balance

Rawlings is obviously fond of Imperial College and proud of the standards it has set. He believes that an Imperial education “was hard work then [in his student days] as it's hard work now.” He tells me that the courses are difficult, but “not so difficult that someone can't be organised enough to play some sport or belong to a club and still get a good degree. It's just a case of managing your time properly. It's about striking the right balance, and the vast majority of students strike it.”

● **Next week: what's happening to Wye? We talk to Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, the Deputy Rector**

Current and classic chart music

SPORTS NIGHT in UDH
Bar Shisha
Carlsberg and Tetley's
£1 Pint
Across all bars all night

THE LEGENDARY WYE COMMEMORATION BALL 24TH JUNE - MAKE A DATE!

The Wye Commem Ball falls this year on Friday 24th June, and promises to be bigger and better than ever. The evening starts with a champagne reception and 3 course dinner, accompanied by a string quartet and a magician, all in a marquee on Withersdane Lawn. After dinner there will be a band and firework display, and the fairground (dodgems, waltzers etc.) will be open until 4am. This year also sees the introduction of the Shisha Tent (variety of flavours). Music will vary throughout the night (string quartet with dinner, band playing classic covers, Kiss FM's the Firin' Squad, other DJs to be confirmed - hip hop, dance, cheese, chart, rock - the lot). Between 6 and 7am, breakfast will be served and the Survivors' photo taken.

This year it would be good to see some of the other Imperial College campuses down at Wye, as this may be the last Commem Ball. Also next year Wye converts completely into Imperial's business campus, so if you've been wondering whether there really are sheep and inbreds everywhere then now's your last chance! We'll look after you and we can guarantee that you will have a fantastic time. If enough London students want to attend, we are prepared to lay on a return coach or two, so get your mates together...

Tickets for entertainment only are £40, or £65 to include dinner, champagne and Red Bull. Shisha is included for both tickets. For further info or tickets contact wye2005@hotmail.co.uk

Film

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

vue
cinemas
www.myvue.com/students

Listings:
opposite page

All is forgiven George!

Revenge of the Sith brings Star Wars fans new hope

Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith

Director: George Lucas

Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman, Ian McDiarmid, Samuel L Jackson

Length: 140 minutes

Certificate: 12A

★★★★★

At last, the movie we've all been waiting for is here! It's been what seems like ages since Episodes I and II hit the big screen, and finally it's time for *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*. I must say it was certainly worth the wait.

The third film takes place during the height of the Clone Wars, and begins with an amazing space battle as Obi Wan (Ewan McGregor) and Anakin (Hayden Christensen) lead an attempt to rescue the kidnapped leader of the Galactic Senate and secret Sith Lord, Chancellor Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid).

Upon their arrival back on Coruscant, Anakin greets his wife Padme (Natalie Portman) and learns he is to be a father. Having to keep this secret, along with his marriage to Padme, troubles Anakin greatly.

Through the night, he is troubled by dreams and visions of his beloved wife dying during childbirth. However, Anakin learns from Chancellor Palpatine of a once great Sith Lord, whose knowledge of the dark side of the force was so great that he could cheat death and stop

people from dying.

As the Jedi Knights are being dispatched across the galaxy to help fight in the wars, Anakin is further tempted by the prospect of the knowledge of how to save Padme from death, eventually learning of Palpatine's position as the Sith Lord and pledging his allegiance to him. He is now no longer is Anakin Skywalker, but Darth Vader. So begins his journey to the Dark Side.

First off, this movie is visually stunning. There are a few original treats that have never been seen before, such as Obi Wan riding on the back of a gigantic lizard, but on the whole the special effects are mostly typical of the other prequels.

"I sense the force is strong with this one. Enjoy this very much, you will"

However, the sheer quantity is far greater and I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Revenge of the Sith is non-stop action. The fight scenes are stunning and amazingly choreographed. Never have so many light sabres clashed in any other *Star Wars* movie. The last hour of the film is really intense and will have you glued to the screen as, towards the end, the inevitable clash between Obi Wan and his old apprentice Anakin takes place. Truly gripping



Obi Wan and Anakin fight an apocalyptic battle on the rolling lava surface of the planet Mustafar

stuff.

McGregor carries the film with his terrific performance as Obi Wan and does a wonderful job of creating the link between the younger version of his character in the previous films and the much older Obi Wan in the original trilogy (played

by Alec Guinness). Unfortunately Christensen's acting, yet again, is below par, although marginally better than his previous performance in *Attack of the Clones*.

Despite Christensen's hollow performance, there is nothing else to bring this film down. It's exactly

as I was expecting the third movie to be, which is good, since I had high expectations. *Revenge of the Sith* delivers excitement, action and even a laugh or two.

I sense the force is strong with this one. Enjoy this very much, you will.
Stephen Smith

House of Wax Competition



Chad Michael Murray (second from left) from the fabulous *One Tree Hill*

What begins as a weekend getaway for six friends becomes a terrifying fight for their lives in *House of Wax*, an exciting re-imagining of the 1953 horror classic from Dark Castle Entertainment and producers Joel Silver and Robert Zemeckis.

A road trip to the biggest col-

lege football championship of the year takes a turn for the worse for Carly (Elisha Cuthbert), Paige (Paris Hilton) and their friends when they decide to camp out for the night before heading to the game. A confrontation with a mysterious trucker at the camp site

leaves everyone unsettled, and Carly has her hands full trying to keep the peace between her boyfriend Wade (Jared Padalecki) and her hot-headed brother Nick (Chad Michael Murray).

They wake up the next morning to find that their car has been

deliberately tampered with. At the risk of being stranded, they accept a local's invitation for a ride into Ambrose, the only town for miles. Once there, they are drawn to Ambrose's main attraction - Trudy's House of Wax, which is filled with remarkably life-like wax sculptures. But as they soon discover, there is a shocking reason the exhibits look so real.

As the friends uncover the town's dark secrets, they are stalked by a demented killer and find themselves in a bloody battle for survival. The group must find a way out of Ambrose - or become permanent additions to the *House of Wax*.

As part of the release of *House of Wax*, Warner Bros have generously provided you with the opportunity to win one of five sets of a t-shirt and cap.

To win, just answer this:

Which one of these is better in my opinion?

- (a) **The O.C.**
- (b) **One Tree Hill**

Email your answer to film.felix@ic.ac.uk. Usual *Felix* rules apply.

Alan Ng
Film Editor

OUT NEXT WEEK

Released on Friday 27 May at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- **House of Wax**
- **Millions**
- **The Pacifier**
- **It's All Gone Pete Tong**

Released on Thursday 2 June at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- **Sin City**

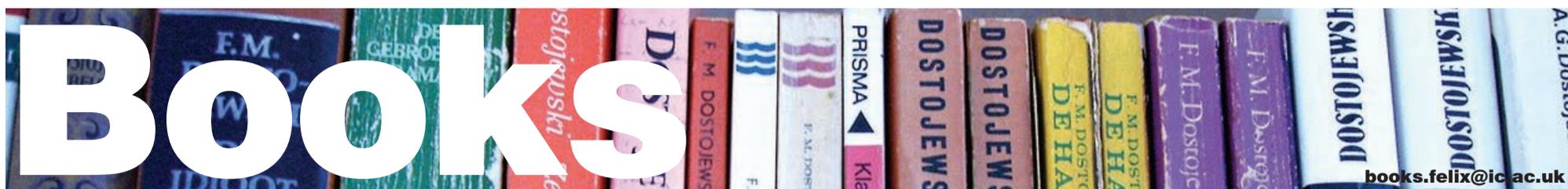
Visit www.myvue.com/student for more details.

Vue Fulham Broadway are giving you the opportunity to win a poster for any of these titles. Just answer this question: Which of these is the odd one out?

- (a) **Lucas Scott**
- (b) **Nathan Scott**
- (c) **Seth Cohen**

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

Alan Ng
Film Editor



books.felix@ic.ac.uk

Wicked, wicked

Deep Jungle is masssif, says **Harriet Wellington**

Deep Jungle
by Fred Pearce
Eden Project Books
£18.99

Deep Jungle views itself as an ambassador to exonerate the clichés that bind us to age-old perceptions of the jungle: what really happened in jungle history, what's really there now and what state is it all in?

This illustrated volume accompanies the ITV series of the same name. The series' investigative technology is impressive, allowing unseen footage and photography. From flying remote-controlled cameras to mice painted with fluorescent powder, the production team has carried out thorough and inspiring research. *Deep Jungle* comprises a very broad range of topics, however it surprisingly only touches on the jungle's flora and fauna, on which one might hope for more.

A history of the jungle evolves into discussion of various controversies. Pearce's book addresses political, mythological, tribal and ideological issues central to jungle past,

present and future. However, if one were to look for any Attenborough-esque narrative of 'how the leopard got its spots' type detail, *Deep Jungle* would be lacking.

Touching on the idiosyncrasies of random species, the book is a captivating splutter of factual description. From the plant perspective, we hear about the discovery of the regal aphrodisiac chocolate drink using the vanilla bean and discovery of the highly valuable nutmeg and mace, at one point worth more than their weight in gold. Then onto the Brazil nut tree and why it grows exclusively in Brazil and its indebtedness to the agouti guinea pig for germination of its seeds.

Next Pearce sparsely touches on the medical secrets held within the rainforest pharmacy. We're told of the origin of HIV within monkeys carrying AIDS, of the rosy periwinkle holding the secret to fight childhood leukemia, and of the Ebola virus believed to have originated from infected bush meat. The jungle's consumer arena follows, where Pearce enlightens us about the popular cuisine, souvenirs and

commodities yielded from its vast expanse. Shockingly, a kilogram of soft turtle shell from rainforest swamps can fetch up only £1 sterling for the local villagers in up-market Asian restaurants. Equally surprisingly, we're introduced to the market delicacies of Chinese bat faeces and the fallopian tubes of frogs (only while stocks last).

The book concludes by tossing up various proposals: imagine transport without the strange, milky excrement from a tree found deep within the Amazon (we're talking rubber); imagine the 19th century Imperial conquests without the bark of an obscure shrub from the foothills of the Andes (think tonic water). Finally, *Deep Jungle* polemicises about the destruction and devastation that logging, mining and pollution has caused in the rainforests.

To categorise Pearce's adventure would be an impossible task. Spanning biology, evolutionary theory, history and chemistry, *Deep Jungle* is a compelling if sporadic read.

● The TV series *Deep Jungle* was shown on Tuesdays, ITV1



The deep jungle: incredible

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 26 MAY

UNION EVENTS QUIZ

7.30pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross
Hospital
£2 entry
Win yourself an XBOX! Drinks
prizes in other rounds.
Contact:
medic.president@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS AUTONOMIC JAZZ

8pm
dBs, Beit Quad
FREE
The famous IC Big Band
make a welcome return to
the Union.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

FRIDAY 27 MAY

UNION EVENTS CANDY

8pm-2am
Beit Quad
£3
Current chart music. Vodka
twisties £2.50 for two.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

MONDAY 30 MAY

UNION EVENTS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

8pm
Great Hall, Sheffield Building
£2.50 students, £6.50 others
Featuring the music of
Tchaikowsky, Rachmaninov
and Stravinsky.
Contact: a.rutledge@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 31 MAY

UNION EVENTS STA TRAVEL QUIZ NIGHT

8-10.30pm
Beit Quad
FREE
Cash and beer prizes on offer.
Get a team together and see
how much you really know.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE

COLLEGE EVENTS CELEBRATE SPORT WITH LONDON 2012

All day
See page 9 for more details
The College is supporting this
day by providing a number
of free activities, for stu-
dents, staff and the general
public, based at the South
Kensington and St Mary's
campuses.
Contact: k.broster@ic.ac.uk,
cosmo.murphy@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION LAUNCH PARTY

6pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
FREE
A joint event hosted by the Pro
Rector for Graduate Affairs
and the Union President.
Find out more about the
new Graduate Students
Association and how you can
get involved.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS SPORTS NIGHT

8pm-12midnight
Beit Quad
Free entry before 9pm
Current and classic chart
music. Carlsberg and Tetley
£1 a pint in all bars all night.
With Bar Shisha upstairs in
the Union Dining Hall. Free
cloakroom for sports bags.

Now with summer barbecue.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 2 JUNE

VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

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

ALL WEEK

FILMS: VUE CINEMA, FULHAM BROADWAY STAR WARS EPISODE III: REVENGE OF THE SITH (12A)

Daily: 10am (not Fri), 11am,
12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 4pm,
5pm, 6pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm,
9.30pm. Fri to Sun only: 11pm.
Sat-Sun only: 9am.
HOUSE OF WAX (15)
Daily: 12.50pm, 3.30pm,
6.15pm, 9pm. Fri to Sun only:
11.40pm.
MILLIONS (12A)
Daily: 10.20am (not Fri),
12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm,
8.15pm. Fri to Sun only:
10.45pm.

Is anything happening this term??? If so, we'd love to hear about it!

Felix will print your listings free of charge.
Just email felix@ic.ac.uk with LISTINGS in the
subject field, and tell us:

- the name of the event
- who is running it
- the time
- the location
- the cost (if any)
- a brief description of the event
- a contact email address

Surely you can't revise ALL the time.....

THE PACIFIER (PG)

Daily: 10.10am (not Fri),
12.25pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm.
Fri to Sun only: 10.30pm.

IT'S ALL GONE PETE TONG (15)

Daily: 1.20pm, 3.50pm,
6.20pm, 8.45pm. Fri to Sun
only: 11.10pm.

MONSTER IN LAW (12A)

Daily: 6.45pm, 9.20pm (not
Thurs). Fri to Sun only:
11.50pm.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (15)

Daily: 11.20am, 2.40pm,
5.50pm (not Thurs), 9.10pm.

HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (PG)

Daily: 11.10am, 1.40pm,
4.15pm.

ROBOTS (U)

Daily, not Fri: 10.40am.

VALIANT (U)

Daily, not Fri: 11.15am.

Arts

arts.felix@ic.ac.uk

Classical, cutting edge, primal

Revelations with the Royal Ballet

DANCE

Mixed Bill

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden, WC2

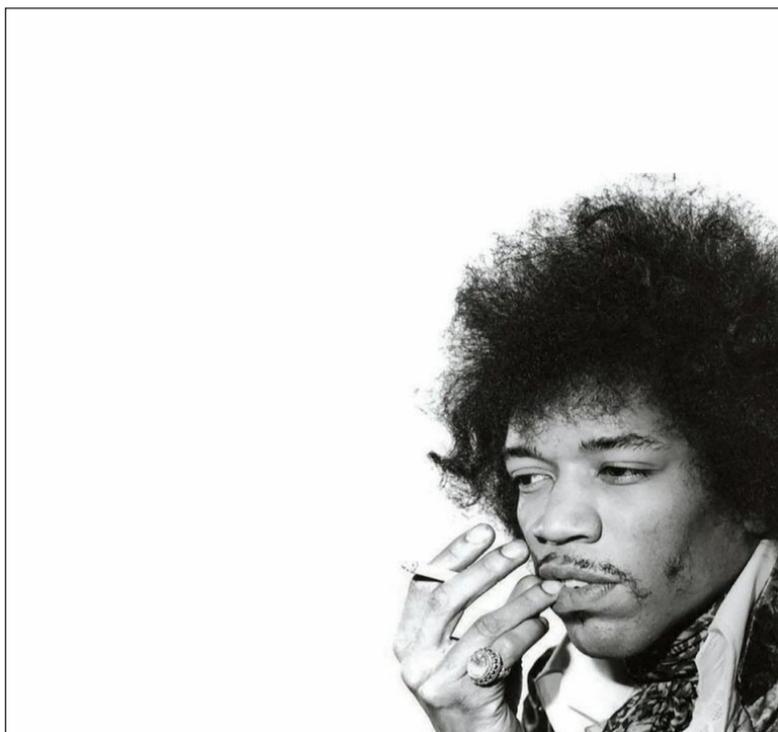
The Dream – Mendelssohn

Three Songs - Two Voices – Hendrix

The Rite Of Spring – Stravinsky

I am more of an opera person than a ballet person, so it was with some trepidation that I booked tickets for one of the Royal Ballet's mixed programmes. It was with yet more trepidation that I headed off to the performance last week, but that was for rather different reasons involving a morning exam the following day. However, what is done is done.

I was originally tempted to get the tickets by the promise of being able to see Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, having read about the Ballets Russes last summer, but was very pleasantly surprised by the rest of the programme. Mixed bills commonly involve three shorter productions all staged on the same night, separated by intervals. This particular group consisted of *The Dream*, set to Mendelssohn's music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Rite of Spring* and a new work entitled *Three Songs - Two Voices* set to music written by



Jimi Hendrix: composer of the music for the Royal Ballet's latest production, *Three Songs - Two Voices*

Jimi Hendrix.

After the more traditional fare of *The Dream*, *Three Songs - Two Voices* was definitely something

completely different and entirely in a class of its own; simply put, it was stupendous. The evening was rounded off with *The Rite*, not with

the original Diaghilev choreography, but with the 60s MacMillan choreography, which, while not the classic version, still managed to portray the very primal nature of the ballet that was so shocking to audiences when it was premiered in 1923.

I have never been in an audience that was quite so enthusiastic in its support, particularly for Edward Watson who danced the role of Oberon in *The Dream*. To be honest, I enjoyed his performance, but he didn't really earn such rapturous applause – his Titania, Leanne Benjamin, far outshone him as he wobbled his way through their duet. That is my humble opinion, but it must be pointed out that Watson's most enthusiastic fans did leave after *The Dream* and so were perhaps just there to see him and might have been a little bit biased.

Three Songs - Two Voices refers to the music being an arrangement of three of Hendrix's songs, *Third Stone from the Sun*, *Little Wing* and *Fire*, each portrayed, principally, by a pair of dancers. The musical arrangement was full of vigour and the choreography more than matched it. The only unfortunate thing about this ballet was the substitution of the violin at times for the guitar; violins can reach notes that only dogs should be able to hear and

they do so with one of the most pain-inducing tones.

This ballet truly demonstrated the power of dance in interpreting music and also served to show that dance, in the form of ballet, is a hugely versatile and modern medium that requires real athleticism.

Given the rapturous receipt of *Three Songs - Two Voices* from both audiences and critics, it can only

“This truly proved that ballet is a hugely versatile and modern medium that requires real athleticism”

be a matter of very little time until it is back on stage. I do urge anyone remotely interested and curious about dance to sit through whatever it is scheduled alongside and experience it – it is quite possibly the most powerful piece of dance I've ever seen. *Sylvia* was a spectacle not to be missed, but this is beyond any more words I have at my disposal.

Paola Smith
Arts Editor

Music festivals: there is another way

Step away from the tent. You know you want to

FESTIVALS

Opera Holland Park

Holland Park, W8

Season Begins: 7 June

Box Office: 0845 230 9769

www.operahollandpark.com

It's almost impossible to ignore the fact that summer is the season for the music festival. However, what is often overlooked is that music festivals are not all tents, mud and huge speakers; some festivals are somewhat more civilised and less hazardous to one's health. These are, of course, those showcasing classical music.

Summer is the season for the open air performances and intriguing destinations. Having said that, you need not travel far to experience the festival atmosphere – just take a short walk to Holland Park, whose opera festival is one of Kensington's better kept secrets. However, given the recent improvement in quality (there were some rather 'interesting' productions on offer about eight years ago) and the increased media coverage this has engendered, it will not remain a secret for much

longer.

Performances are held in the park's eponymous Holland House. The House offers a ready-made backdrop for productions that could not be complained about; stately, but at the same time unobtrusive.

Under the guidance of James Clutton and Michael Volpe, Opera Holland Park has been able to move on from the rather below-par quality that it was suffering, and survive a rather abrupt change of orchestras. The opera in Holland Park is now definitely a place to go to spot up-and-coming talent and established names. And unlike Glyndebourne and Bayreuth, you don't have to plan years in advance and sell your soul to get tickets. Just wander into Holland Park or go to their website for ticket details: www.operahollandpark.com.

This year's season begins on June 7 and runs until the start of August. The productions on offer are mostly reasonably well-known operas sung in their original language with subtitles provided, so no one need worry about not understanding anything. Given the venue is 'open air', there is also the rather vital addition to any British summer on hand – a canopy

to ensure that even when the heavens open the show can go on and the audience doesn't begin to resemble a collection of wet rats.

The season opens with Verdi's *Macbeth* and Bellini's *La Sonnambula*. However, if you want tickets for either of those productions, I'd really recommend getting a move on. I checked availability last week and tickets were getting scarce; not least because Hugh Canning in the Sunday Times named *Macbeth* as one of his top ten choices for summer opera. The season continues with *Madama Butterfly*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Yevgeny Onegin* and concludes with Giordan's *Andrea Chénier*. **Paola Smith**

● For more information on opera festivals around the world, the best place to start is *Opera: Festivals 2005*, a magazine. This covers festivals in all locations and provides all of the necessary contact information you could dream of. It's a little hard to come by, but the shop at the Royal Opera House carries it, as will any record stores with a decent classical music section. Otherwise, the magazine's website is www.opera.co.uk.

Busking, the Paris way



PAOLA SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

People in different countries do things differently. This is rather obvious; but it never ceases to surprise me just how vast the variation is sometimes. Stand at Waterloo station for 20 minutes and no-one will bother you. You may get jostled a bit, but nothing more. Get off the Eurostar in Paris and, unless you manage to make a quick getaway, you will soon find yourself bombarded with questions and comments from streams of people you don't know. However, this isn't really my point at the moment – the plan was to say a few words on Paris and the arts.

This brings me on to buskers. More often than not, the last people you want to have in your carriage on the train are buskers, however, I was pleasantly surprised by the

quality of some Parisian busking. A trio of performers boarded my carriage and proceeded to make me forget all about having missed my intended train. These guys meant business, which was patently obvious not only from the quality of 'the show' but also from the very fact that one of them was lugging round a double bass – much more impressive than the occasional guy with guitar and harmonica extras that we get here.

Moving away from the buskers, I have decided to make a couple of recommendations on some sights you may miss when in Paris. Firstly, Sainte Chapelle: after four failed attempts to get in to see this, I was richly rewarded by a spectacular sight. The chapel was built by Louis IX to house his collection of relics. The most stunning feature is definitely the impressive array of stained glass windows, most of which still boast their original glass. This is Gothic architecture and decoration at its pinnacle.

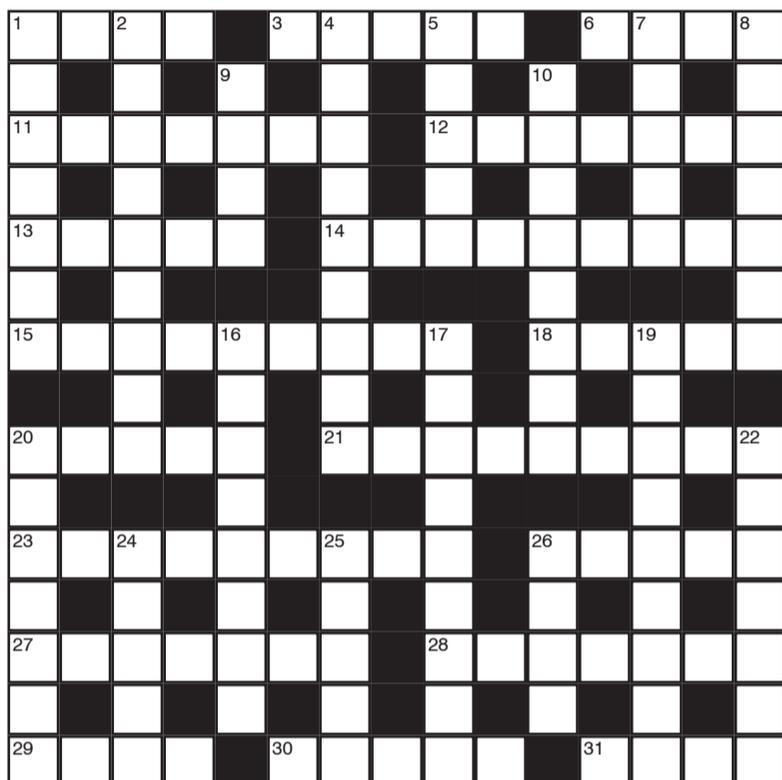
The other place of interest I'd like to point out is the National Museum of the Middle Ages. This houses the tapestries that are the subject of the last Tracy Chevalier novel as well as an impressive array of medieval art and artefacts. The museum's buildings are also worth seeing from both historical and artistic viewpoints.

Puzzles

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Felix Crossword 1324

by Snufkin



Across

1. Playful artist turning back on companion (4)
3. In bed, touching rear (5)
6. Throw actors in shed (4)
11. Might expensive dating process require this form of carbon? (7)
12. Porn actor initially erect, I fancy (7)
13. Irritable character messing about in boats (5)
14. Old democrat arranged procession (9)
15. Men-at-arms injured by these? (9)
18. Look – girl's earthy (5)
20. Turn on crew, demanding fruit (5)
21. Might this sink a ship of the desert? (9)
23. Flatten bridge, getting award for bravery (4,5)
26. Vexillum, for one, leapt up (5)
27. Crushed and hung over (7)
28. Frank manner displayed in the garden, perhaps (4-3)
29. To give image of body, plot right ascension in pair of axes (1-3)
30. The old folk's place by the Red Sea (5)
31. Zealot firstly finds letter in Greek – then another (4)

Down

1. State logical functions before filling in 29 (7)
2. Artisan caught worker at pontoon (9)
4. Feeble energy displayed by weaklings with undeveloped organs (9)
5. Cock up (5)
7. She's a nicer-sounding girl (5)
8. Attempt to cover up old disaster (7)
9. Thin bread obviously needs yeast, for starters (4)
10. Modest style of dress? (2-6)
16. Fool present behind cow (8)
17. Rock novelist's style (9)
19. Change of policy that's superficial? (5-4)
20. Man heard package arriving at delivery point (7)
22. Cheeky bloke almost getting complaint from Anopheles (7)
24. Works in telescope radiography (5)
25. Look up at the German relic (5)
26. Writer has metre for verses (4)

Sudoku

SET BY FISHFACE

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square (bounded by bold lines) contains the digits 1 to 9.

Email your solution to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk by Tuesday 31 May. No attachments please. The first correct solution randomly drawn wins your choice of a 128MB USB storage device or a crate of beer.

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

Issue 1323 solution

Thanks to everyone who entered. The winner is physics student **Marcelo Alcocer**.

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



Hello again! Those of you who found last week's puzzle frustrating because of its obscure answers will be pleased to know that this week's is much more down-to-earth. In my defence, it is quite hard to fill a grid whose perimeter consists of two sets of four adjacent anagrams (retinal, reliant, latrine, entrail; tearing, granite, gratine, ingrate). There are a couple of conceits in the completed grid for this puzzle, too, but they are much less obtrusive – and I think some of the clues are great fun. Good luck! **Snufkin**

Issue 1323 solution

R	E	T	I	N	A	L	T	E	A	R	I	N	G
E	E	E	A	R	N	N	R						
L	I	L	L	E	P	R	O	S	C	E	N	I	A
I	L	D	D	V	E	E	N						
A	M	U	G	S	G	A	M	E	S	E	R	A	I
N	R												T
T	R	I	A	L	C	A	M	B	R	I	D	G	E
A	A	E	A	A	A	A							
L	O	N	G	M	A	R	C	H	L	O	L	O	G
A													R
T	W	A	I	N	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	A
R	D	A	R	I	M	L	T						
I	N	A	R	R	E	A	R	S	A	B	A	C	I
N	P	I	W	H	U	M	N						
E	N	T	R	A	I	L	I	N	G	R	A	T	E

Last week's winner is Martin Smith, Maths III

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





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Medics drag Imperial over finish line



The winning Imperial Medics team sit triumphantly at the end of the day with their trophy – apparently 30 years older than the modern Olympic Games

Continued from back page

'athletes' on the eve of the event, sapping many of their true strength.

To cut a long story short, Imperial won the University of London Championship with 595 points to UCL's 412, and the Imperial medics took the hospitals trophy, finishing on 449 to GKT's 206 points. So it doesn't take an Imperial mathematics student to work out that the 'thoroughbred' Imperial students only scored 146 points. This, added to the

fact that UCL had no medical school to back them up, means Imperial should really have been crushed.

One can only begin to wonder why such a large college couldn't manage to raise a few more athletes from its depths. Some blamed the location of the event – apparently Battersea is too distant from the South Kensington library, where the majority of our beloved university seem to reside. Which begs the question whether faster times would have been

recorded had the winner won a subscription to the *New Scientist* along with all the episodes of *Robot Wars* on DVD (or whatever superior home entertainment system they may be developing in their front room/lab).

In case you haven't noticed by now, there was definitely a medic flavour to the day and by pure coincidence the events got underway under a cloud of medical controversy. Following the men's 110m hurdles, two final year medical students nearly came to blows arguing, not over an infringement on the track, but instead over the nature of treatment that ICSM star Richard 'Brad' Hutchinson required. Having witnessed the event, in which Richard's legs passed fluidly over the hurdles whilst two small but vital constituents of his pant content failed to do so, the medics argued ferociously over whether stitches were required in Brad's heavily lacerated scrotum. They were indeed, and the lives of Brad's future children were saved.

But fortunately the day wasn't all about athletic inadequacy; in fact Pippa Callegari showed more invention in the 2000m steeplechase than an Imperial student in a physics lab. In front of the onlooking chairman of British Athletics

(possibly), Pippa, as if from nowhere, created the 'drop and wade' technique in the water jump section of the event [see photo, below right]. We have heard since that news of this technique has spread like wildfire around the athletics world, and already the world famous Kenyan team have introduced it into their winter training schedules for the coming season. Also sneaking into this event were two highly respected Union Deputy Presidents, Messrs Rorke and Walker. Thanks for lending your support, but perhaps a touch more training wouldn't go amiss...

Be that as it may, there were actually some performances Imperial athletes can be hugely proud of. Eoin O Colgain did particularly well, coming second in the 10,000m with a time of 35 minutes and 32 seconds (apparently on purpose because the medal goes better with his beautiful silver locks). David Xiong did well to come second in the 5000m in a time of 17min 4sec, Elsa Carneau came second in the women's high jump with 1.50m, and the boys 4x400m runners won in a time of 3min 53sec.

Imperial Medicals heroes included Lydia Egan (best performance 9.37m in the shot) and James Franklin

(best performance 35.32m in the javelin) who both won the heptathlon and decathlon competitions respectively. Hamish Stutcliffe picked up second places in the 100m and 200m and astonishingly won the baton throwing competition with a distance of 12.45m. Mark Willesdon starred in the 400m, winning in 54.0sec. Angharad Care clawed back a big lead to win the women's 2000m steeplechase in 8min 2sec, Lucy Perkins won the women's 10000m, and Claire Khaghani was second in the

discus. Tom Amies and Pippa Callegari both finished second in the hammer, while Temi Lampejo won both the triple jump and the long jump.

We were lucky enough to have UCL student Christine Ohuruogu, a semi-finalist at the Athens Olympics in the 400m, to present the athletes with their medals. Enormous thanks to everyone that turned up to compete and to support, and perhaps next year we can get a better turnout to represent Imperial and hold onto our trophy.



Captain Max Marsden wins the men's discus with 35m



Pippa Callegari shows off her water jump technique

Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Imperial athletes win again

...with a little help from their medic friends

ATHLETICS

University of London Intercollegiate Track and Field Championship

By Max Marsden and Martin Bailey

For the eighth consecutive year, Imperial College raised the cup high above their heads as winners of the University of London Intercollegiate Track and Field Championship. Having battled in the fields and across the track of Battersea Park athletics stadium, victory was sweet.

Mind you, had it not been for a little help from the medics, Imperial would have limped off into the sunset empty-handed. I should explain: alongside the Universities Championship, the Medical School Athletics Championship rages on simultaneously. The shield awarded to the winning medical school dates back to 1865, pre-dating the modern Olympics by just over 30 years, and is a beautiful trophy to lay claim to.

So Imperial Medics fight it out in the Medical Schools

competition and thoroughbred Imperial students go into battle for the Universities competition. Simple... well not quite, as the medics' points also count in the universities competition overall. Why? well, because basically we're all from the same big happy family at the end of the day, and us medics just love helping people.

So now you know what it's all about, we'll start from the beginning. As the sun rose on Sunday morning, the Imperial team was select (small), elite (well, more so than the medics) and well organised (again, its all relative), but were out-gunned and outnumbered by teams from King's, UCL and Goldsmiths.

It looked grim for Imperial and they knew it. The first inklings of self-doubt spread through the team like a mosquito in a nudist colony. The Imperial Medics were not much better - bigger definitely, but not better. All was not perfect in the camp, as it seemed a nasty endemic of acute ethanol intoxication had swept though the

● Continued on page 15



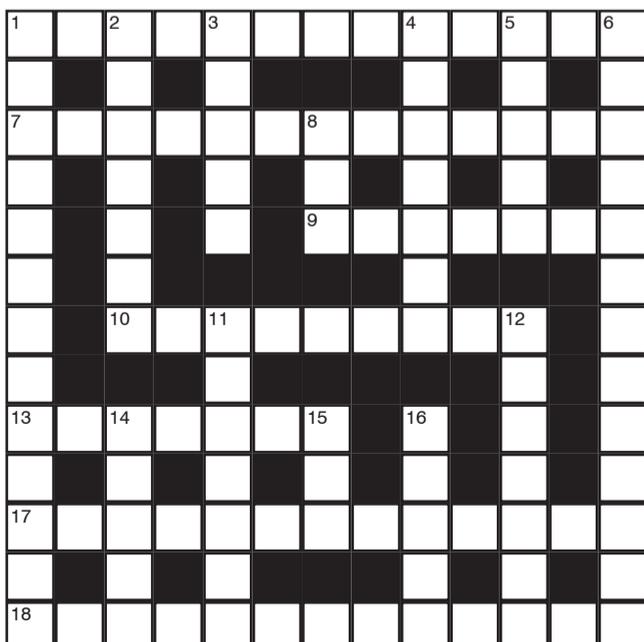
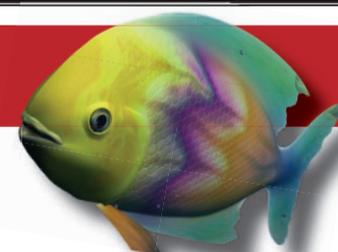
Imperial Medicals' anchor leg runner (right) in a closely fought men's 4x100m relay

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON CHAMPIONSHIP: FINAL STANDINGS

1. Imperial College London	595 points
2. University College London	412 points
3. King's College London	343 points
4. Goldsmiths, University of London	208 points
5. London School of Economics	174 points
6. Courtauld Institute	18 points
7. Queen Mary, University of London	9 points

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

- Eight-legged insect (5-4-4)
- Military rank between private and corporal (5,8)
- Supervise (7)
- Set off; initiated (9)
- Tales (7)
- Method of execution (8,5)
- Latest star of James Bond films (6,7)

Down

- First ever cloned mammal (5,3,5)
- Practitioner concerned with teeth (7)
- Submit; produce (5)
- Break from education (3,4)
- Acquires (5)
- Hand tool used to connect metallic parts (9,4)
- Brand of stock cube (3)
- Stupid (7)
- Lack of respect; contempt (7)
- Extremely fat (5)
- To travel or glide, usually over snow (3)
- Small lizard (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 1323 solution

A	L	I	E	N	S	M	A	N	U	A
M	D	U	T	V	N	A				
O	C	E	A	N	I	A	A	L	I	G
E	A		X	L	C	C				
B	A	L	L	E	R	I	N	A	O	N
A		X	D	N	R	T				
F	L	U	O	R	E	S	C	E	N	T
R	E	R	R	H	A					
E	T	A		C	O	M	P	E	T	I
V	T	I	I	N	R					
A	S	H	E	S	S	C	E	P	T	R
M	E	E	T	O	E					
P	A	R	A	D	E	A	D	O	R	E