



Eastern Promise:
20% off for all Imperial
students at Tampopo
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Science!!!
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Hockey Girls Naked Centrefold



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Union elections shambles

Some results annouced, candidates disqualified, appeals launced

Matthew Hartfield
Politics Editor

After weeks of delays, the Union have finally announced some of the results of Union Council elections. Some results were delayed after numerous complaints were filed regarding the conduct of some candidates. Five candidates were disqualified for illegal campaigning via mass spam e-mailing of students.

Emma Persky was elected as the Equal Opportunities Officer, defeating her only opponent, Kareem Osman. Dan Lehmann and Christine Itegebe were elected into the Trading and Retail Committee, with Dan elected again into the Services Committee. Laura Parkinson, Alon Or-Bach and Laura Griffiths were elected as Imperial's ULU delegates. However, a number of elections are still under dispute, and have yet to announce any results; namely those for the Ordinary Members of Council, for which positions a record number of candidates stood.

On being elected as the Equal Opportunities Officer, Ms Persky was glad. She told *Felix*, "Equal opportunities is an area I feel particularly passionate about". The new officer announced that she would be concentrating on 'Woman's issues', saying, "I would like to see the university putting more effort into encouraging young women into science and engineering".

The delays in the announcement of the Union Council results stemmed from complaints regarding two mass e-mails sent to club mailing lists, where the recipients did not know who the sender was. The Union immediately started an investigation, which was hindered by several factors including the fact that sent e-mails were blind copied (so it could not be seen who the e-mails were sent to), the sent e-mails were deleted from senders' mail accounts, and the fact that the mailing list was split into 15 subsets, with each e-mail sent to a different part of the list. "It was only through the help of ICT and other electronic information that we were able to



Five disqualified for spam emailing clubs and societies

piece together what happened," said Sameena Misbahuddin, ICU President.

Although the disqualified candidates did not send the offending e-mails, The Union Executive were unanimous in their decision that a serious breach of regulations had occurred with a deliberate attempt to hide the evidence. The Union believe the senders were instructed to send e-mails by the candidates, or the candidates were aware of the senders campaigning for them. The disqualified candidates claimed that they were not aware that any rules had been breached, despite being given a 'candidate pack', that stated the rules regarding emails very clearly, at the beginning of the election.

"The hold up has been frustrating for all involved", Ms Misbahuddin told *Felix*, she issued a warning to future candidates, "This shows that the breaking of rules will not be tolerated; elections must be run and fought fairly, and any attempt to breach the rules will be found out".

Obviously, some of those disqualified were not happy with the result. *Felix* spoke to Tanvirul Alam and Haji Hassam, who denied any wrongdoing. "The reason it appeared that a mailing list was used is because our friends were e-mailed, and being our friends we naturally have the same interests, which is why the

recipients were on the mailing list" said Mr Hassam. When asked why the recipients were blind carbon copied, Hassam said that this was because it was sent to his friends, but if a particular person decided to send a reply to the whole group, then this would prevent people who didn't know the replier from receiving an e-mail. He also claimed that the e-mails were not saved because "they were sent from website e-mail addresses, such as Yahoo or Hotmail, which doesn't automatically save sent items". Unfortunately he didn't specify if these were personal addresses, or why he didn't use Imperial's own e-mail system in this case. Hassam and Alam were adamant that they tried to keep to the rules, with both claiming they did not send out e-mails to their respective societies (Alam is head of MathSoc; Hassam president of IC Finance) advertising the elections as they knew that such an act would deliberately swing votes their way.

Tanvirul appeared defensive, saying that "My friends who did this were not on my campaign team ... I had no responsibility for what they did". Both Hassam and Alam were also critical of the investigation, with Alam claiming that the Union Executive had already "made up

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The fall of Southside... ...the rise of Linstead



As the demolition of the much loved Southside building continues (top) a new bar opens in Linstead. The Harrington Bar & Grill which "is not a Southside replacement" opens at 12pm today. But, Roger Pownall, Bar Manager, wasn't too keen on *Felix* publicising the opening: "We don't want everyone to come here until we know we can handle it."

felix 1,336

Thursday 24.11.05



The looks, the spring and the wardrobe
Winter wonders to warm cold nights and Kate Thornton
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What they did next - TeachFirst
'What are you going to do when you finally leave Imperial?' It's a question that has most of us at Felix stumped, so we thought we'd give you some inspiration. We've hunted down some recent Imperial graduates to find out what they're doing now.
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This Week

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Agony Aunt/

Sudoku No 1,336

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. Email your solution to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk by Friday 4pm. When we will randomly select a winner to receive either a 128MB USB stick or a crate of beer. Last week's winner was Magdalene Papacharalambous.

			9	1		3		6
5					6			
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3	1		7	4				

NEWS

Millionaire murdered near IC halls

Dean Veall

The Old Bailey heard on Monday, 21 November, how the daughter of financier John Monckton witnessed her parents being "brutally" attacked near Imperial College halls. The attack, last November (*Felix* 1308) left her father dead.

Two suspects, Damien Hanson and Elliot White, both 24, are currently on trial for murder and wounding with intent. Richard Horwell for the prosecution said witnesses saw the men fleeing the scene on 29 November 2005. The attacks took place minutes away from Evelyn Gardens, the location of Imperial College halls of residence, in a three storey townhouse on Upper Cheyne Row, Chelsea.

The attackers left both Mr. Monckton, 49 and his wife Homeyra, 46 with several knife wounds to the chest and back. Monckton later died at Chelsea and Westminster hospital whilst his wife underwent intensive surgery, she eventually recovered.

The court heard how Monckton, head of bonds management at Legal and General was "tricked" into opening the door to White, who was posing as a Royal Mail employee. White then forced his way into the house breaking a security chain on the door with the help of Hanson dressed in a balaclava and brandishing a knife and firearm, it is alleged. Hanson demand jewellery and cash from Ms Monckton.

The prosecution claims that Hanson stabbed Ms Monckton in the back several times as she reached for the panic alarm, before turning his attention to Mr Monckton. The pair left the house very soon afterwards, leaving with only a few small items of jewellery. The defence suggested that Mr White was at the scene of the crime as his blood was found at the house and he fully admits to the charges of robbery but denies murder. The court heard that there is no scientific evidence to place Hanson at the murder scene. The trial continues.



John and Homeyra Monckton violently attacked close to Imperial halls of residence

Imperial wins £4.9m Gates AIDS grant

Yu Lun Tang

Imperial College has received a £4.9 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to design a simple, affordable and effective test to measure the health of victims subject to HIV/AIDS in developing countries.

In the fight to combat HIV/AIDS, the critical disease-fighting cells in the blood; CD4+ and T-Lymphocytes are often difficult to keep track of. The "CD4 Initiative" aims to develop a device to measure such disease-fighting cells in an easy to use manner.

Current tests are expensive and require infrastructure and expertise which are often insufficient in developing countries, making sustained productivity of such techniques difficult. It is therefore the objective of this initiative to develop new tests which are appropriate to such specifications in hospitals and clinics in Africa and other developing coun-



HIV/AIDS treatment in Zimbabwe

tries.

Professor Stephen Smith, Principal of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London, said: "Despite the burden of HIV/AIDS on the developing world, many of the diagnostic tools are just not accessible there due to the high cost and complexity of use. This initiative will help develop new, simple, rapid, robust and affordable tools and help remove one important barrier to the effective implementation of AIDS care in these countries."

Elections

continued from page 1

their mind" as to whether they were guilty or not. Alam added, "Some of the questions they asked were out of order", but he refused to supply *Felix* with an example.

Another disqualified candidate, Shazad Khalid, was even more critical of the Union Executive. "I will not appeal against the Executive decision by presenting my case in Union Council. We cannot forget the situation that occurred last year with Collin Smith's campaign in support of Baber Ahmed, [which] caused the arrival of 6 security guards before Council finally came to their humane senses", he told *Felix*. "Since then, they have been trying to re-claim credibility with students. Unfortunately in doing so, the Executive has been forced to point the finger and place the blame on some individuals, rightly or wrongly," he added.

The controversy is sure to continue, with Union council reconvening this evening to announce the final results of the election, and to discuss the appeals launched by the disqualified candidates.

News in Brief

Shortage of physic teachers

Physics education in England is in steep decline according to research at the University of Buckingham, which found entries for physics A-level had fallen by 38% since 1990, despite average entries for A-levels rising by 14.6%. Nearly 10% of sixth forms in England do not offer the subject at A level, and almost 40% of sixth forms enter five or less candidates for exams. Half of physics teachers hold no degree qualifications in the subject at all.

What exactly discourages physics graduates from entering teaching? *Felix* asked a few physics undergraduates at Imperial their views. The most popular reasons for not entering teaching were the low rates of pay and unenthusiastic pupils. Most sort careers in banking and advertising.

Min Guan

Babar Ahmad protest

Last Friday, 18 November, an impromptu protest took place after Islamic Society Friday Prayers in the Union building. It was in response to news that Babar Ahmad, a former IT support technician at Imperial College, was to be extradited to the United States (*Felix* 1335). Around sixty people protested at the decision, and signatures were collected against the decision to extradite Mr Ahmad. External press were present from the Wandsworth Borough News and Eastern Eye magazine.

An appeal against the decision to extradite Mr Ahmad is planned by the family, as is a protest for the 11 December in London. It was specifically noted that the protest was not in any way against Imperial College or the Student Union, but against the decision for extradition by the Home Secretary.

Omar Hashmi

Life/Physical Sciences re-branding

The Life Sciences and Physical Sciences Student Unions are to be merged over the coming year as a result of the creation of the new Faculty of Natural Sciences (FoNS) (*Felix* 1334).

A referendum, to decide the new name of the Faculty Union, will be held from Thursday 24 November 0:00 to Thurs 1 December 23:59. If you are a member of Life or Physical Sciences then vote now! The options are:

1. Faculty of Natural Sciences Students Union (FNSSU)
 2. NatSci
 3. Royal College of Science Union (RCSU)
 4. (Other suggestions)
- To vote, email kilian.frensch@imperial.ac.uk from your IC account stating your preference. Results will be announced shortly.

BioEng Students Protest over noise

Evan Morgan

Bioengineering students refused to attend lectures in their noisy lecturer theatre on Friday 11 November. Instead they held a protest in the Mechanical Engineering Foyer. The lecturer theatre in question is located in the heart of ongoing construction work in the Bessemer building, and has been plagued by disruption since the start of term.

Concentrating in lectures can be difficult enough! But the rumble of floor shaking pneumatic drills often made it near impossible, leading to the spontaneous cancellation of numerous classes. At the end of October a petition signed by over 140 students was passed to Prof. Richard Kitney, Dean of Engineering, stating that the students found their learning conditions unacceptable.

Prof. John Lever, Head of the Department of Bioengineering, had been assured at the beginning of term that by use of new, advanced machinery, building noise would be minimal. He then attempted to solve the problem by informing the building works manager of the 2nd year timetable and instructing him that no work should take place during lecture slots. However, the noise continued regardless, making it apparent that the only reliable solution would be to find replacement lecture theatres.

To address the growing frustrations of students, City and Guilds College Union (CGCU) President Siddharth Singh raised the issue in a meeting with Prof. Julia King, Head of the Faculty of Engineering. In feedback from the meeting Siddharth Singh said, "Someone should be talking to BioEngineering

and other departments about moving lectures to another lecture theatre. In any case, Prof. King is also the champion of this long awaited project so she is keen that it is over ASAP. I can't stress enough that this is a short-term problem which will solve BioEng's long term woes."

The response suggested that since Bioengineering students would be one of the main beneficiaries of the new building in the long term they should put up with the noise for the short term. However, this seems to be unfeasible considering that the building works are planned to continue well into next year and will eventually involve the demolition of the main entrance to the lecture theatre.

In the days leading up to the protest Mr Singh urged students not to get "too excited about the issue". Some students regarded this statement as "patronising... and illustrative of the resounding apathy that confronted students since they raised this complaint in the first weeks of term". Indeed Singh's claim that any strike or room boycott would be of no help to anyone only served to make the students more determined to show that they considered their studying environment simply unacceptable in an academic institution as renowned as Imperial College. Although many would expect the CGCU to be the one of the primary bodies to support such actions students were instead left high and dry by the Union. The protest appeared to bring instant results, with a lecturer finding a quiet lecture theatre in the Department of Aeronautical Engineering where the students had the remaining day's classes. In an apparent shift of position Singh later e-mailed the class to "applaud



Students protesting at Imperial - Whatever next?

the protest action".

Speaking to *Felix* last week, Prof. King said, "I wasn't aware there was a protest. If I had known I would have acted sooner - students deserve an apology as they've had a rotten time". She added, "we need to look at the processes to ensure this doesn't happen again" but then went on to say, "there's no guarantee with building works, I would like to say it wouldn't happen again, but can't".

As of last week the second year students will no longer be returning to the Bessemer Building. They will, however, be getting a little bit more exercise between lectures. Their classes have been relocated to available rooms in the Tanaka

Business School, Royal School of Mines, Mechanical Engineering Building, Huxley Building and ACE Roderick Hill (Prince Consort Rd.). Prof King implied that Imperial students are lucky "they don't have to cycle between lectures like I had to at Cambridge".

Despite the fact that plans to move lectures to these venues had been made before the protest took place, the students still voted unanimously in a meeting with year reps that they should voice their resentment at having had to put up with "deplorable conditions" for six weeks.

Unfortunately this hasn't been the first of their troubles either. The Undergraduate course in

Bioengineering is one of the smallest at Imperial with an expected annual intake of only 50 students. Last year students saw their medical science practicals cancelled almost entirely (due to unavailability of laboratory space) and their computer room cut down to a third of its original size. This was all due to a lack of facilities, which raises the question: is it right to run a course which does not have the essential institutional support to allow it to live up to the standards expected from a world class University?

For more information and to listen to a sound clip visit www.cgcu.net/bioeng

A dressing down for Sir Richard

Chris Miles

Two weeks have gone by since *Felix* (1334) first reported the draconian dress regulations announced by Imperial's Management Board stating that all students must wear their identity cards whilst on college property and abide by a stringent dress code. The announcement has been causing quite a stir both within College and wider education community, the issue features in yesterday's *Guardian*.

If a cursory glance around the foyer of the Sherfield building is anything to go by, it appears that the stern security measures have fallen upon deaf ears. Curious as to whether instructing over 10,000 students to wear a red band with their credentials around their neck would have any constructive effect whatsoever, *Felix* went straight to the Rector himself.

Armed with the benefit of hindsight, *Felix* spoke to Sir Richard and the Chief Security Officer for Operations, Mr Branch, to find out what exactly is going on and why people were taking more notice of the neighbouring Natural History Museum Ice Rink than they were of 'immediate' college policy.

"It's a question of being sensible and so this is an overreaction to what should be a mature debate," says

the Rector. This seems somewhat contradictory to the rather stern and authoritarian e-mail sent via various faculties some time after the official announcement was made. One student tells *Felix*, "Maybe passing policies and then debating retrospectively is the Imperial College way of doing things but common sense tells us that isn't particularly fair or effective." Understandably, Sir Richard has been used to wearing identification for the whole of his corporate life, but when he starts inflicting mandatory regulations unseen in any other UK university, he can expect unrest amongst the student body.

Asked specifically about the wearing of hoodies, scarves and 'offensive' dress, the Rector replies, "And what we don't want are people completely covered. It's nothing about having a scarf, that's just being ludicrous. Just as long as we're all sensible about it at the end of the day." Sensible isn't the word of choice from Kian Low, Welfare Campaigns Officer, telling *Felix*, "The college should not have the authority to judge what is 'offensive'. What may be offensive to one person may not be to another. If anything it should be the student union that lays out what is 'offensive', which can be properly defined by the students themselves." Following consultation with the col-

lege's press officer, Sir Richard continues, "It's not a black and white situation, it's not a change from today until tomorrow, it's just about being sensible and realistic because if you see someone in the building, not out on the road, and they look a bit odd and you see they're wearing a badge, you don't take any notice. If they're not wearing a badge you think "oh that's a bit strange" and if something went wrong and we didn't have a system whereby people carried identification, then we'd seriously be in trouble. If you go into the city today you can't get into a building without identification. You know, fine, we all want to be free and not have to do this but unfortunately this is the will of the world today. We would expect people just to be mature and sensible about this."

We took these statements to Terry Branch, Chief Security Officer, to find out how strong the College's sentiments were being conveyed to the Security team. Responding to the perceived lack of compliance amongst the students, he says "around 50% are wearing their cards around campus at the moment, this will gradually improve once students get used to it", however accepts that there will never be 100% compliance. Addressing the concerns echoed by many readers, Mr. Branch tells *Felix* that no student shall be thrown off college property if they forget their

card, providing their identity can be verified by other means. Students who outright refuse to display cards, however, will be dealt with on an individual basis.

"It's like any college ruling; there's going to be a gradual transition. If someone says 'I am not wearing my card', I shall treat every instance differently, on its own merits. From a security point of view it's a very efficient policy, especially considering the recent thefts from campus where people are able to stroll off the street during the day and enter college buildings"

As far as offensive dress is concerned, "You need to have some sort of guideline; It's just officially been put in writing. If someone complains to us that they find something offensive, we shall use our common sense and if necessary discuss amongst ourselves to judge whether college intervention is appropriate". Yesterday, a Security Officer told *Felix*: "We had an intruder enter Beit Hall on Sunday morning. We checked camera recordings but could not identify him, or print a photo, because he was wearing a hoodie. One could say this was common sense, in this cold weather, yet it prevents us being an effective security service.". Hoodies, it seems, are not banned providing they aren't used to cover the face. Asked whether they were welcome



This isn't school, Sir Richard!

College announces draconian dress code



Felix's front page is "an overreaction, to what should be a mature debate" Sir Richard Sykes

on college property, considering the sale of Imperial College hooded clothing at the Union shop, he replies "They're not banned to my knowledge, no". Common sense seems to be a recurring theme although the interpretation of such is very much still up for debate. Telling *Felix* there have been daily briefings amongst security staff, and no complaints of intimidation or otherwise have been received relating to this new guideline, Terry Branch seems confident that this is one initiative which is here to stay.

science

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Regarding the pain of others

João Medeiros reports from the Christian Medical Fellowship's debate on euthanasia

On 10 October 2001 Diane Pretty went to the High Court in a plea for the right to terminate her life. She was paralysed from the neck down, doubly incontinent, and in need of constant care. Despite overwhelming public support, Pretty's request was denied, as was her later appeal to the House of Lords: the UK was not ready to legalise assisted suicide. Having lost a two-year legal battle, she was left to die in the way she least wanted: distressed and in pain.

Today, the march towards legislation has progressed considerably since the Pretty case. Last July, the British Medical Association dropped its long-held opposition to assisted dying in favour of a neutral stance. Proposals to allow doctors to help terminally ill people die were reintroduced in the House of Lords this month and await discussion.

The Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill was also the subject of a debate last week at a slightly more academic venue – Imperial College. The event was organised by the Christian Medical Fellowship and the Imperial College Christian Union. Two guest speakers tackled the arguments for and against euthanasia.

"In my own clinical and personal life I've watched many people die, and I can think of several occasions where I was strongly tempted to give lethal medication just to end it all. But I always held back from that final step, not least because there is a clear prohibition of the law on intentional killing, but also I have a profound conviction that deliberate killing is wrong. What is actually being proposed is a major change in the law on intentional killing and on suicide. Let's not try to sanitise the reality with compassionate words," said Prof Wyatt, a professor of neonatal paediatrics at University College London and an expert on Christian medical ethics.

"We recognize that life is a gift. It may come from a Christian understanding that life is special, but most people, even if they don't have a religious faith, understand that life is special and recognise that we are a community, we belong to one another, and therefore what you do affects me and vice versa. Assisting suicide strikes at the heart of this understanding. It seems to me that suicide is not a right to be assisted, it is a tragic sign of despair to be prevented."

Currently, assisted dying is legal in few places in the world. In the Netherlands, 1 in 40 deaths are due to assisted suicide or voluntary euthanasia. In the US, assisted suicide is only permitted by law in the state of Oregon, albeit under a very strict set of a priori conditions from the patient. Since 1997, 208 patients, most of them suffering from cancer, made use of the right to an assisted suicide. The US govern-

ment is currently seeking to overturn the Oregon law in the Supreme Court. However, if the law is found to be constitutional, many federal states are hoping to follow Oregon's example.

Of all countries, Switzerland is by far the most liberal with respect to assisted suicide, allowing it even when performed by non-physicians, the only safeguard being that no selfish reasons are involved. It also allows foreign citizens to be assisted to commit suicide on Swiss territory, a situation which has been commercialised to an extent by Dignitas, an organisation which provides assistance in suicide in exchange for a small fee. Reportedly, 20 Britons have already used its services.

"I have the greatest respect for palliative care, it does great things for so many people. But there are some patients whom we are unable to help," said Dr Margaret Braithwaite, a barrister and former consultant physician and anaesthetist at the Royal Brompton Hospital and a member of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society. "Some of them feel so strongly that they starve and dehydrate themselves to death. Alternatively, they can persuade their friends, their

What is being proposed is a major change in the law on intentional killing and suicide



Diane Pretty – a painful death.

relatives or possibly their medical practitioners to act covertly and help them to die in some discreet manner, hoping this will not come to the light of the authorities, so that there will be no persecution, but recognizing that that risk exists, and when they die, they will not know if they nearest and dearest will subsequently be charged. Finally, their other option is to take themselves off overseas and visit a commercial organisation available in Switzerland where it is possible to purchase assistance in dying. We like to think of ourselves as a caring, affectionate, tolerant, maybe even loving society, but what

an indictment on a society with those values when our most troubled citizens have to go overseas to seek the relief we cannot afford them." Can a religious perspective bring a valid perspective to the debate on an increasingly secular society? "My biggest fear is for tolerance. I can respect the view of the Christian faith, but they shouldn't impose their views on me any more than I am imposing

my views on them. And that is the message that needs to go right up the Christian hierarchy and not just the Christian Medical Fellowship. I think fanaticism, in any religion, is counter productive to the benefit of society."

SARAH BARCLAY: Diane, have you had enough?

DIANE PRETTY: Mmm

BARCLAY: Enough of this?

DIANE: (nods head, affirmative)

BARCLAY: If you had your way, would you rather die now?

DIANE: Mmm (nods head, affirmative)

BARCLAY: Does your life have any quality left for you?

DIANE: Ergh (shakes head, negative)

BARCLAY: None at all?

DIANE: (shakes head, negative)

Excerpt from the programme "Please Help Me Die", broadcast in May 2002 by the BBC. Sarah Barclay, a reporter, speaks to Diane Pretty.

Want to ask Stephen Hawking about Einstein?

CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, is the world's largest particle physics centre where scientists explore what matter is made of and what the forces that hold it together are. Thursday 1 December will be a celebration of CERN's 50th birthday, the 100th anniversary of Einstein's publication of the Special Theory of Relativity, and the World Year of Physics. CERN will celebrate by hosting a 12-hour webcast about Einstein and the future of physics beyond Einstein.

So how is Imperial College related to this? Well, CERN is working in collaboration with Imperial and 19 other UK universities in the construction of GridPP, the UK Grid for Particle Physics. The Grid is a network of computers running together, designed to analyse the immense amount of data acquired from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). If you are a non-physicist (or have not read Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*), the LHC will smash particles travelling at near-light speeds in a 27-kilometre-long circular tunnel underneath the Swiss and French Alps. Scheduled for completion by 2007, its aim is to recreate the conditions of the early universe, a fraction of a second after the Big Bang.

From the Internet to the Grid and Neutrinos, Imperial College will present a history of revolu-

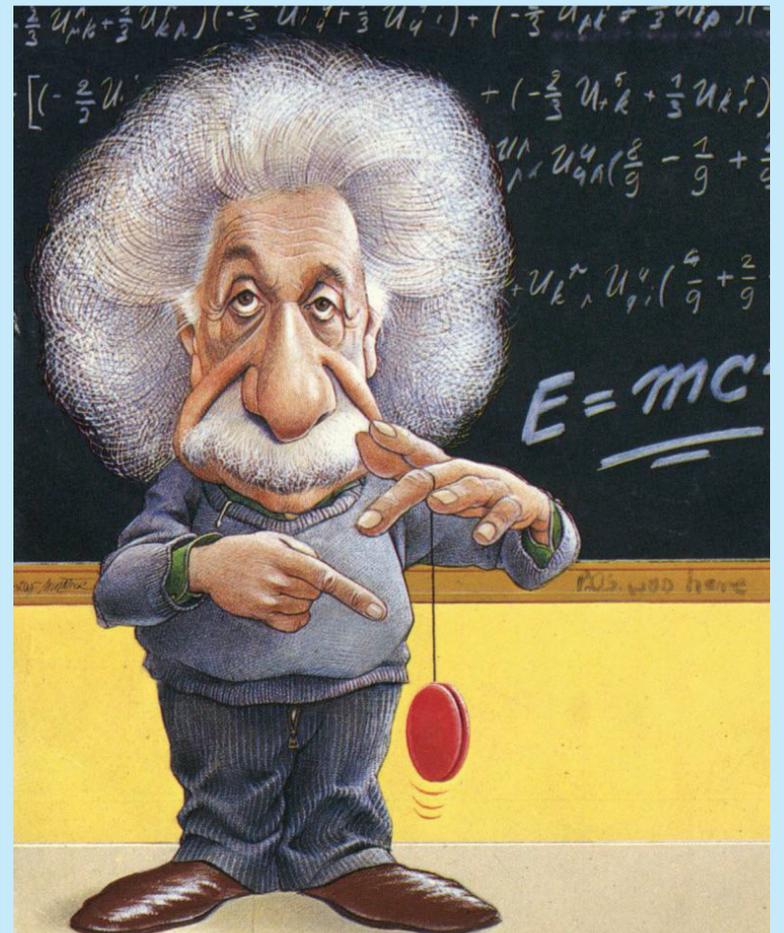
tionary, world-changing communication technologies invented as a result of scientific research. Hosted by Gareth Mitchell from 4.30pm to 6pm, there will be key appearances by the pioneers of the Internet, Vint Cerf, Peter Kirstein, and Robert Cailliau. There will also be live connections to the IceCube experiment, a one-cubic-kilometre high-energy neutrino observatory at the South Pole.

Before CERN hands transmission over to Imperial College, physics Nobel laureates Murray Gell-Mann, David Gross, Gerard 't Hooft, and Stephen Hawking will answer questions live from the Solvay conference in Brussels. Other partner institutions hosting different programmes throughout the 12-hour webcast include the National Science Education Center in Taipei, the Exploratorium in San Francisco, Fermilab in Chicago, the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem, and the Telecom Future Lab in Venice.

Follow the webcast live from your computer, for a unique chance to interact with Nobel laureates on live Q&A from 11.00 to 23.00 GMT on 1 December.

Daniela de Angel

All the information you need is on <http://beyond-einstein.web.cern.ch>



Imperial College will host a webcast on Thursday 1 December, celebrating CERN's 50th birthday and the world year of physics.

SCIENCE

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A Beddington ecological utopia?

João Vitor Serra weighs up the advantages and disadvantages of UK's largest eco-village

How do you imagine the future? Alex Proyas, director of *I, Robot*, sees a future of auto-piloted cars, friendly robots, and other high-tech, environmentally clean gadgets. Ridley Scott, director of *Blade Runner*, sees flying cars, androids, and pollution. So which is it? Are we heading towards an emissions-free, fossil fuel-free economy, or will we maintain our current emissions trends?

Most people have probably never heard of BedZED – Beddington Zero (Fossil) Emissions Development. BedZED is the first and largest UK eco-village. The mixed development complex includes 100 homes and additional office space. More importantly, however, it claims to be carbon neutral. In other words, BedZED is not meant to contribute to global warming through the emission of carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

Recently, the Imperial College branch of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) visited BedZED and had a look at how exactly this community functions.

Personally, I was very sceptical about the project's success. I expected to be let down either because it would turn out to have 'hidden' emission sources or because I would encounter uptight tree-hugging hippies, running around and preaching against other people's dirty way of life on the outside.

Here's what I found out. They have a highly effective recycling system, treat all of their waste water and reuse it (though they do bring in new drinking water), use solar panels and a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system run on woodchip waste (which would otherwise have

been burnt or put into landfills), and have no heating or air conditioning.

So here's the flaw! How do these people put up with the cold winter months (and 'hot' summer days)?

Large double-glazed windows provide for a greenhouse type of heating effect and prevent heat loss. The offices are built on the lower levels, so that heat generated by electronic equipment cycles up into the living areas. This still leaves one

important question about air quality unanswered.

How do you guarantee good quality fresh air if you don't have forced or natural ventilation? A highly creative ventilation system using a heat exchanger based on simple aerodynamic principles ensures that fresh air enters while 'contaminated' air is expelled, and heat inside the house is maintained without need for energy input. (I know you are all

impressed, even if you are a big fan of fossil fuels).

What's not so positive about this highly innovative community then?

Firstly, these 'tree huggers' are guilty of driving your conventional highly polluting internal combustion petrol cars. Sure, they do have a car-sharing system, which means they don't drive everywhere they go, but the cars still use petrol!

Secondly, the insulation material

used in the houses is highly damaging to the environment. The people at ZEDFactory told us that despite the negative environmental impacts of these materials, the overall result was overwhelmingly positive.

In fact, these were the only two significant disadvantages of BedZED. Which means it does quite well from an environmental perspective.

So where were all the crazy tree huggers? Actually, the people living there were rather down-to-earth. My real problem was that despite having been reassured that most of them were friendly and highly integrated in the community, the place looked like a graveyard. It reminded me of books like *The Giver* or *Fahrenheit 451*, where society has reached some kind of utopian lifestyle through brain washing!

Maybe this is a touch too extreme and while I was impressed by BedZED, why weren't simpler solutions appropriate to larger communities implemented? If you face reality, people require 'luxuries', such as computers, heating and air conditioning, cars, and so on. Why not try to provide them with the same but more efficient energy-conserving technologies, without being as radical as BedZED.

As engineering and science students, we found visiting BedZED quite an interesting experience. One day we'll all have to realise that the way we abuse of our scarce natural resources will end up harming our own children, if not us. BedZED may seem ugly and unliveable, but it is a considerable step forward.

To find out more, visit:
www.zedfactory.com and
www.bioregional.com, or contact
the Imperial branch of EWB



BedZED: a graveyard or a vision of fossil fuel-free future?

Giving women control in HIV prevention

Women now represent approximately 50% of the 39.4 million living with HIV worldwide, with higher proportions (up to 60%) in the worst affected areas such as Sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition to an increased biological susceptibility to infection (owing to significant mucous exposure to seminal fluids), women are at a greater risk due to issues of gender inequality such as non-consensual sex and the poverty-driven need for commercial sex. The well-known ABC mantra (Abstain, Be faithful, use Condoms) is not always applicable in developing countries, where the decision to use a condom often rests with the male. Analyses looking at the outcome of HIV infection based on gender have highlighted a 33% higher mortality rate in women participating in various studies, in part due to lack of access to health care and social support. Redressing the balance of power is crucial if we are to lessen the impact of HIV on this currently vulnerable population.

It has been accepted that the creation of a vaccine, the 'holy

grail' of HIV research, is still a long way off and therefore improving preventative measures in the meantime is paramount. The development of vaginal microbicides, as a method of reducing HIV transmission that gives control to women, has stimulated



Sisters are doin' it for themselves.

much interest. These are chemical agents (various forms such as gels, creams, tablets and suppositories are available) used by a woman before sexual intercourse.

Three types of compounds with differing mechanisms of action are currently being investigated. One such chemical works by destroying the envelope surrounding the virus. However, high toxicity of such compounds may cause local irritation and inflammation,

which could enhance transmission of HIV and other STDs. For this reason, new structures with lower vaginal toxicity are being developed. Other polymers act by blocking the entry of HIV into cells, and the third candidate for a microbicide acts by blocking viral replication.

Women in developing countries do not have the wealth of contraceptive options that are available in the Western world, and so there is potential to develop microbicides with a spermicidal action, which may increase their appeal for women.

The rapid dissemination of HIV infection must be stemmed and, since heterosexual intercourse represents the majority of newly acquired infections, a preventative method giving control to women is highly desirable. However, despite the potential held by vaginal microbicides, there are many issues surrounding the acceptability of such a measure. Alongside the need for clinical efficacy, it is essential for social and behavioural factors to be taken into account. Studies of men in Zimbabwe and South Africa have highlighted concerns over safety and side effects such as infertility, as well as other problems, such as the use of such measures indicating lack of trust in a partner, meaning that their use in long-term relationships is limited. Men generally did not want a microbicide to act simultaneously as a contraceptive, and many indicated that they would be angry if they discovered their wives to be using microbicides without permission. Interestingly, many women also indicated that covert use of such a product was not welcomed, perhaps mostly

because of the risk of discovery. Such studies indicate the difficulty of the battle we face in order to change attitudes towards women; however, perhaps measures such as microbicides, which give women a degree of control in their relationships, are a small step towards this goal.

Ruvandhi Nathavitharana
MEDSIN

Positively Red

Imperial AIDS Awareness Week
26 November – 2 December

Sat 26th: "People, Possibilities, and Promises" conference, Charing Cross Hospital
Mon 28th, Tue 29th: IC Drama Society Play
Tue 29th: Debate
Thu 1st: Vigil
Fri 2nd: Party

For more information, visit
www.positivelyred.co.uk or contact
oliver.todd@ic.ac.uk. For more
details ring 07709 566752. All
fundraising for charity in Africa.

business

business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Toyota takes pole position as GM heads towards bankruptcy

Trader vanishes after \$120m losses, Copper price rallies

Simon Jones

Toyota, the Japanese car-manufacturer, is set to overtake General Motors as the world's largest car manufacturer. The Japanese company is already both more profitable and more valuable than GM, and is set to produce 9.2m cars this year.

GM last week shocked the markets by announcing that it had overstated earnings for 2001 and the second quarter of this year. The restatements mean GM has so far this year lost \$3.8bn (£2.1bn). The accounts for the three years between 2001 and 2005 are also under question, and GM's share price has fallen to its lowest level in since 1992.

Earlier this year the ratings agencies, who determine the cost of borrowing for companies, downgraded the credit ratings of both GM and Ford, the world's third largest auto-manufacturer, raising their costs of borrowing for fears that the companies would not generate enough cash to pay the interest on their borrowings.

Adding to the woes of the American auto-manufacturers are the rising employee provisions. GM estimates that its pensions and healthcare costs total \$90bn and \$77bn respectively. The powerful United Auto Worker's Union (UAW) of the US has been locked in talks with Ford and GM over potential cuts to wages



High petrol prices have hit sales of General Motors' profitable SUVs, which include the Hummer H3, above, which returns less than 16mpg.

and employee benefits, as they try to return to profitability. GM last week announced plans to shed 25,000 jobs in and close several factories over the next three-and-a-half years, while Ford has announced a cut of 4,000 white-collar jobs, equivalent to 10 per cent of its North American white-collar workforce.

Both GM and Ford have spun-off their parts and components businesses in recent years in an effort to reduce over-heads, but GM's supplier and former subsidiary 'Delphi' is currently under bankruptcy protec-

tion. GM is so dependent on Delphi that if the supplier was to collapse, or if its workers were to launch a strike, GM would have to cease production, and would rapidly burn through its \$19.2bn (£10bn) cash pile.

At GM's heyday in the 1960s the company controlled over 60 per cent of the US car market, but market-share has steadily fallen through 40 per cent in the 1980s, to around 22 per cent today. Most recently high oil prices have sent sales of gas-guzzling SUVs plummeting, and the US manufacturers have had no answer

to cars such as Toyotas' Prius, the petrol-electric hybrid, and GM and Ford have yet to introduce a similar fuel-efficient vehicle to their line-ups. GM has been offering hefty discounts of around \$3,500 per vehicle, in order to clear swollen inventories of unsold cars and trucks, squeezing profit margins on its vehicles.

Of the vehicles that Toyota sells in the US, more than 60 per cent were produced there. The weakness of the Japanese currency, the Yen, is one factor helping Toyota, but the companies' tight cost control and

the efficiency of its manufacturing processes reflect the fact that the Japanese company is far more profitable than its US counterpart.

A senior figure at the Banc of America puts the chance of GM going bankrupt in the next two years as high as 50 per cent, predicting that even in the event of filing for bankruptcy in the US, the company should have ample cash to get through and re-organize.

Chances of GM bankruptcy 50:50

Simon Jones

A senior Chinese metal trader has disappeared, after a series of bets on the price of copper that may amount to \$120 million of losses. Liu Qibing, who allegedly worked for China's State Resources Bureau (SRB) is understood to have placed bets last year that the price of copper would fall from \$3,200 per tonne, but the price has rallied to over \$4,200 per tonne. Chinese officials denied that the Bureau's internal controls had failed to detect the losses earlier.

Mr Qibing "short-sold" between 100,000 and 200,000 tonnes of copper that he didn't own, expecting to buy the metal at a lower price later in the year, before the metal was scheduled for delivery this December. Mr Qibing's position was popular among many traders last year who

believed that demand from China would weaken, and that new supplies would help to depress prices.

The SRB of China has been accused by some traders of attempting to manipulate the markets by over-estimating its copper reserves and by auctioning-off up to 52,000 tonnes of the metal, in order to over-supply the market and push down prices. China claims to have reserves of 1.3m tonnes of copper, but analysts put the figure at closer to 200,000. On Monday the UK's Financial Services Authority announced that it was investigating allegations that China was trading unlicensed on the London Metal Exchange.

The world's largest copper producer, Chile, reported strong demand from builders and manufacturers in China – the world's largest consumer – that would exceed supply from

its mines, driving prices higher.

The price of gold is currently at an 18-year high of around \$485 per ounce. The price of the yellow metal has traditionally kept pace with inflation, and is seen as a long-term and low-risk store of wealth. Gold production has been relatively flat since 1997, when the price was closer to \$200 per ounce. The weakness of the dollar has meant that central banks – who in recent years were heavy sellers of gold – are now turning towards gold as a serious alternative to currencies.

Platinum prices reached a 26-year peak of \$988 per ounce, on the back of supply problems from mines in South Africa where the majority of the world's platinum is mined. Increasingly strict emissions laws have boosted the price of platinum – a key component in catalytic converters, which required 3.51m ounce



Prices of precious and industrial metals have soared in recent months, on the back of strong demand from China, and supply problems.

of the metal in 2004. Jewellery demand has also contributed to a surge in demand for the rare metal. Speculative money, from hedge-funds and other investors accounts for 73 per cent of all the bets that the price of platinum will rise next year, and this influx of money is expected to push platinum prices over \$1,000

per ounce in 2006.

Earlier this year, mining giant Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton negotiated a 70 per cent rise in the price of iron ore shipped from Australia to China. Other base metals including Aluminium and zinc are also trading at multi-year highs.

What they did next

Alisdair Falconer & Pedram Parasmand

Ruby Chu meets two recent graduates of the highly acclaimed Teach First scheme. **Pedram** graduated with an MSci in Physics in 2001 and now teaches in a secondary school. **Alisdair**, who also graduated in 2001 (Chemistry MSci), has qualified with Teach First and recently begun working for a pharmaceutical company.

The Appeal of Teach First

Falconer: During my final year, I was one of the people who was unsure of what I wanted to do once I completed my degree. I wanted to make use of my degree in some way, instead of going into something like accountancy. However, having worked as a medicinal chemist during my industrial placement at GSK, I also knew I didn't want to go into research at a graduate level. The reason for this is that I didn't want to commit to 2-3 years of post-doctoral work with the aim of one career at the end of it, which would be as a medicinal chemist. There was a lot I loved about labs but also a lot I didn't, which was why I was so undecided. This is when Teach First came along. I saw it as an opportunity to study a management course and as somewhere I could use my degree to teach students but at the same time not be totally committed to a career in teaching. So at the time, it seemed like the perfect choice for me. Previously I didn't think of a career in teaching. I had always wondered what teaching would be like and I would have liked to try teaching to see if it was the career for me. In this way Teach First was ideal as it offered me a taste of teaching and let me give back to the community (to put it in a cheesy way). For me Teach First opened up more doors. You get so much out of it and come out as a qualified teacher. I went into the scheme knowing that at least for some time I would not become a teacher but because I have the qualification I could always go back to it at any time. The way I see it, I didn't shut any doors but potentially opened several more and I've learnt a lot about myself through this scheme.

Parasmand: I actually took two years out before doing Teach First. I graduated and started working for the civil service. I then went to Africa with the charity Raleigh International. During this time, I was trying to sort out what I wanted to do. Teach First hadn't really started yet and I was trying to convince myself that I wanted to become an accountant. Then, through Milkround I heard about Teach First and out of interest, I decided to apply. Having then spoken to someone from Teach First, I decided to complete my application. I went through the interviewing process and got a place for Teach First, and here I am, teaching. However, if Teach First was available to me straight after my degree, I probably would have done the course immediately and not taken the two of years out.

What appealed to me was that the course seemed like an exciting way to spend two years. It was a worthwhile challenge, not just helping the kids but it also helped me. With the way the course is designed, you're forced to develop all sorts of skills and be able to deal with all manner of people. I'm only a teacher now because of Teach First. Although I'm happy to be a teacher right now, that doesn't mean I'm always going to be a teacher. I feel that there are still many more opportunities for me out there.

Through Teach First, I've met a lot of people that I wouldn't have had the chance to meet otherwise and in that sense it's given me this network of people. I have to say that working with children do have its fun moments. In my first year of teaching, I asked a year 8 class what an organism was. This girl raises her hand and whispers to me: "Is that what girls get when they have sex?"

On doing a PhD

Falconer: I did think about doing a PhD. However, if I was to have done a PhD, it would have been done to benefit a particular career goal. Although I believe you get a lot of skills by doing a PhD, it would have led me down a more chemistry-based career path and in that way Teach First seemed more favourable for my particular goals.

Parasmand: Although I thought about doing a PhD, I was seeking new and different challenges and decided that a PhD was not for me. In a way I would definitely recommend Teach First for people who aren't sure of what they want to

do because it does provide you with all sorts of avenues you can explore. However, you must be connected with the teaching and wanting to make a valuable contribution to society. Whether or not Teach First opens more doors for you really depends on how you approach it. Some people come out of Teach First and all they do is teach. Others do networking and build up more opportunities for themselves. I feel that with a PhD it's similar. It depends on what you personally want to get out of it, at the end of the day. However, deciding on what to do after you degree is very personal and it is difficult to say what is the best advice to give.

Miss most about Imperial

Falconer: Southside Bar. I also miss the Union on Friday nights. Although I'd hate to go there now. It was one of those things you did as a fresher with all your friends.

For me Teach First opened up doors. You get so much out of it and come out as a qualified teacher. I've learnt a lot about myself through the scheme

Parasmand: When I was at Imperial, I enjoyed my time there. However, after my four years there, I was prepared to leave. In a way, I kind of said my goodbyes without looking back; always look forward, never look back.

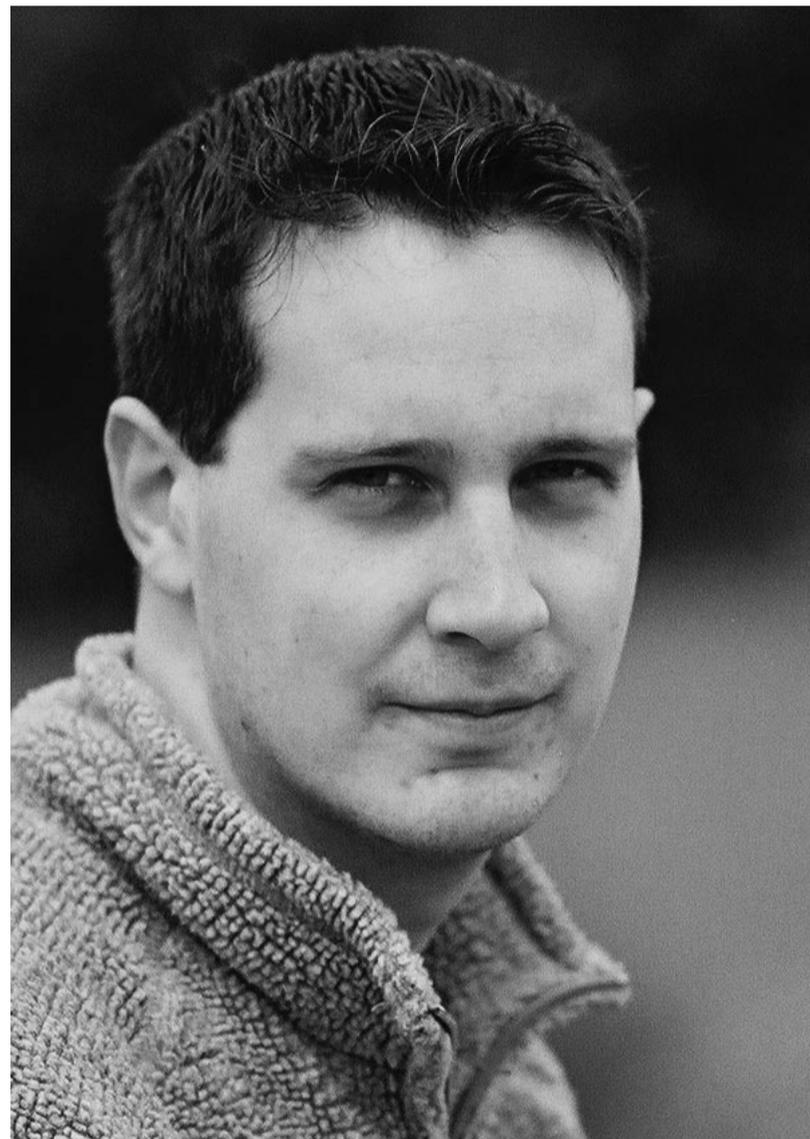
Friends from Imperial

Falconer: I'm still in close contact with friends from Imperial, especially friends from halls. I met up with a Norwegian friend of mine from halls, having not seen him in 3 years and nothing has changed. My core group of friends are still from Imperial. People you meet there are more like-minded, you all enjoy science. In that way, you create a network of Imperial friends. I'm actually going to a wedding of two very good friends of mine who met at Imperial. They got together in their second year (she was a physicist and he was a biologist). Now he's working as an accountant and she's a laser physicist at Imperial.

Parasmand: I've got two separate groups of friends at Imperial that I still keep in close contact with. One group is more international and the other live almost around the corner from me. I don't really label them as Imperial friends, to me they're just my good friends. In fact a friend of mine who has just finished his PhD at Imperial came to my school to give a talk. Some of my students saw him and said, "He don't look like no doctor!" because their idea of a doctor is a medical doctor.

Imperial memories

Falconer: A friend of mine, who's very keen on fitness, had



Alisdair Falconer is now working for a pharmaceutical company.

some special fitness equipment in his room. We faked a letter from the housekeeper saying that there have been some strange noises coming from his room. He received it and took it very seriously. So he went to talk to the housekeeper about it, only he didn't know what he was talking about!

Another good memory, first day of second year, my flatmate and I went out for a heavy drinking night. The next morning I looked at my alarm clock blurry eyed and realised that it was 10 minutes to our lecture. So I got up and banged on his door to wake him up. Then I went back to bed and realised that it was two hours too early. So I thought nothing of it and went back to sleep. Later in the evening I came home to find my flatmate not particularly chuffed. He told me he arrived at his lecture at 7:10am and so had to help the caretaker turn on all the lights in our department.

Parasmand: I guess the first thing that comes to me when I think of Imperial is how international it is. You meet people from all over the world that you probably never would have met otherwise.

If you had to do it all over again, would you choose Imperial?

Falconer: Yes. When you look back on it, you realise I'd rather have gone there and achieve everything I did there than to have gone anywhere else.

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Johnny Depp's back, back again

This winter, we'll be having another dose of him in *The Libertine*

The Libertine

Director: Laurence Dunmore
Starring: Johnny Depp, Samantha Morton and Rosamund Pike.
Length: 114 minutes
Certificate: 18
Released: 18 November 2005

★★★★☆

We've seen him play the curiously facial-hair lacking Mr Willy Wonka in *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, this time round, in a movie Johnny Depp claimed to be close to his own personal history, he is the morally corrupted womanizer the Earl of Rochester.

Set against the shocking and sensual backdrop of the Restoration, *The Libertine* follows the story of John Wilmot, the second earl of Rochester. He is the libertine of the generation: rebellious, scandalous without a regard for any social taboo or restriction. Strangely enough, he is very much revered for his eccentricity. So King Charles II asks for his help to boost the royal highness' popularity among his loyal subjects.

However, the earl is tired of his libertine status. From a wine bottle, he seeks solace from the persistent dullness and emptiness that has confined him all his life. He meets Elizabeth Barry (Samantha Morton), a plain but fiery actress wannabe. He makes her his protégé despite his friends' many protestations. As a result, his social status falls from the sky to the murky pits as she rises to become England's biggest star in the theatrical world.

In his alcoholic daze, he writes a play of dildoes and of kings who can't get it up. He is charged with making a mockery of the king and he

disguises himself as a bogus doctor to save his own life. Unfortunately for him, his sexual misadventures have chosen this time to punish him. Elizabeth, his beloved theatre darling also abandons him since she has now achieved the star status she has so coveted and has no use for a crippled earl. Fortunately for him, his wife Elizabeth (Rosamund Pike) remains true to his bedside while his body self-destructs from past indulgences.

From a critique's point of view, the story isn't a unique one. Hence, the director's choice to make this into a film isn't exactly an inspired decision. Fortunately for the director, he has Johnny Depp's talents to fall back on. However, is a one-man show enough to make this film spectacular?

Personally, I have always been a fan of Johnny Depp and there were a scattering of memorable scenes in the film. One of them was a shot of the earl lying helpless in his chair, pissing onto the floor as he had lost the ability to control his own bladder. When his wife enters the room, he tries in vain to assume a more dignified position. However, his wife can see all the horrible marks his disease has left on him. Hurt and frustrated, Elizabeth spits out her displeasure with his self-destructing tendencies. Nevertheless, for all his bastardly ways, she loves him and stays to help him until death comes to take him away.

The film will serve to impress those who have not yet seen his role as the maniacal pirate in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. However, an emotional, seeker of life's meaning earl is too much of a cliché. He's depressed, fine. He finds his life meaningless, too bad. Seriously, this story is just a horribly overdone steak: dry and tough to swallow. The only perk was that this story was easier to follow



When a man thinks with his heart and not his dick he's in for a spot of trouble.

than the other depressing films I've seen. The director could still have captured the mood of the film better if there was some internal narrative in the film.

In a nutshell, it's not your typical

entertainment channel type of film but it's a poetic and artistic wannabe that might appeal to some of you out there. Watch it if you love Johnny Depp or if you have no idea of Johnny Depp's greatness. It's a film

that's bound to make you a Johnny Depp convert but it's definitely not his most fantastic film to date.

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor

Foreign film of the week: Atash

It definitely pleased the critics in the Cannes Film Festival, but what about *Felix*?

Atash

Director: Tawfik Abu Wael
Starring: Hussein Yassin Mahajne, Amal Bweerat and Roba Blal.
Length: 110 minutes
Certificate: 12A
Released: 25 November 2005

★★★★☆

What do you think when I tell you that *Atash* is an Israeli/Palestinian film? First thing that comes to mind is probably suicide-bombers and religious conflicts. However, *Atash* is definitely not the movie you have in mind.

Surprisingly enough, *Atash* is just a simple family story. Abu Shukri (Hussein Yassin Mahajne) is the head of the family and he rules with an iron-fist. However, it's not just a story of children living under his tyranny because he is in fact a tender, loving father at heart.

The crux of the story is the location of their home. They use to stay in town, where they had proper electricity and Abu had a proper job to feed his family. However, Gamila, his eldest daughter (Roba Blal) was raped. The penalty for being a rape victim: death. To save his daughter from this untimely and horrible fate, he relocates his family to the middle of nowhere.

However, conditions are harsh and ten years later, the children and the

mother rebel against their father. The situation might have been different if Abu did not coerce his family into giving up school and other aspects of their social life to make and sell charcoal. Nevertheless, what's done is done.

The acting is realistic and the story is eye-opening. It's a refreshing take on the Palestinian society; a society terribly misunderstood due to the wars that has taken over their lives. I loved the film for its authenticity. Nevertheless, it's not an easy film to understand. However, American films are easy to understand and most of them are crap. So take a chance on *Atash*!

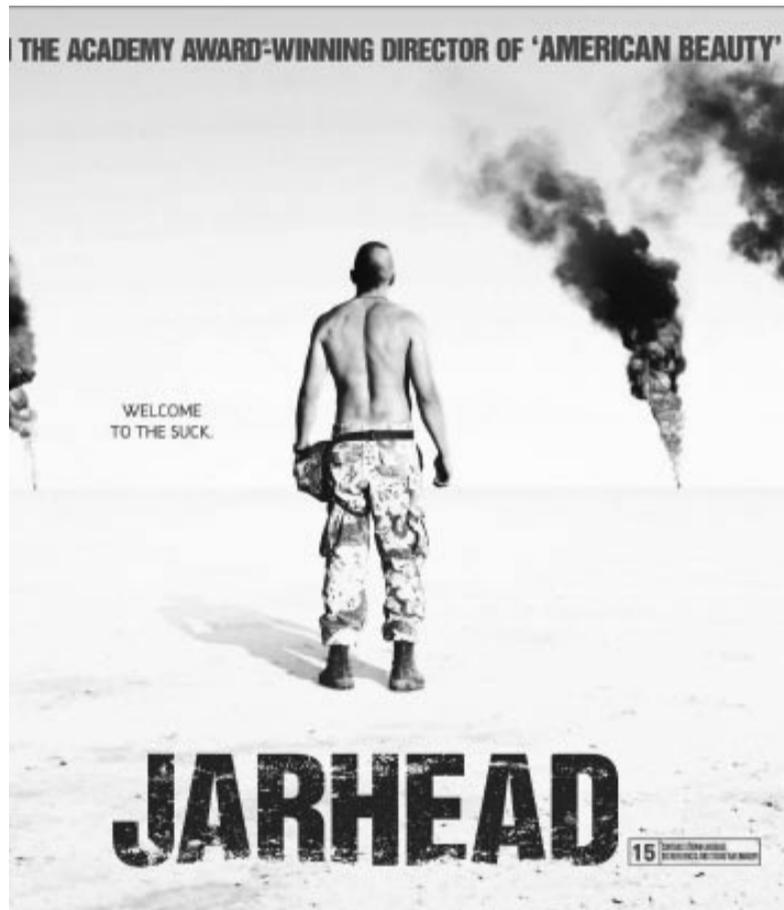
Yuen Ai Lee
Film Felix



Locked up without food and warmth

Introducing the freebies page!

To start it off we've two pairs of tickets to *Jarhead*



tee was sent to the deserts of Saudi Arabia to fight in the first Gulf War. In 2003, his memories of the time in that place became the best-selling book *Jarhead*. Swofford wrote with the urgency, immediacy, honesty and humour that could only come from someone who had lived through the experience itself. *Jarhead* is the unvarnished story straight through the eyes of the then 20-year-old kid, who told of a very different war from the one delivered in print or over the air.

Jarhead offers a ground up perspective of the Gulf War, live with shootings of burning oil wells and night-skies lit by comet-like flames. The recruits are rowdy, horny, exhilarated and also terrified that at any moment, over the next hill, the war might begin. These young men, are suddenly dropped down in an unforgiving terrain, seeking diversion in a game of gas mask football while they await the arrival of care packages containing letters and porn. Strangely enough, out of this hellish situation unlikely friendships are formed. *Jarhead* is also a tale of fierce loyalty and do-or-die camaraderie. It's a brotherhood of jarheads sworn to be faithful always.

Now, how do you get your hands on these 2 pairs of tickets? It's simple, just answer this question:

Q: What film did Oscar Mendes win an Academy Award for?

Email the answer to film.felix@ic.ac.uk together with your name and your department.

Other students can also go and see this film for free by exchanging two mastheads from The Times at their campus shop for two free preview tickets.

What are you waiting for? Start Googling and send me the answer already!

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor

Free tickets from iCU cinema to watch *History of Violence* and *Four Brothers*!

You've obviously heard of *History of Violence* and if you haven't, shame on you. It stars the likes of Viggo Mortensen, who has finally walked into the Hollywood light after his stellar role in *Lord Of The Rings* as the manly Aragorn, as well as Maria Bello and Ed Harris.

What's the story? It's a story of a simple man who runs a little cafe in a small hick of a town. However, things are about to change. Robbers invade the peace and surprisingly enough, Tom Stall (Viggo Mortensen) suddenly displays an exquisite skill in killing people. Is he who he seems to be? It's a movie of 'don't believe what you know'.

iCU cinema has three tickets to giveaway for *History of Violence*. Just answer the following question:

Where is Viggo Mortensen originally from?

When their adopted mother (Fionnula Flanagan) is killed in a random grocery store robbery, her four adopted sons (Mark Wahlberg, Tyrese Gibson, Andre Benjamin, and Garrett Hedlund) return to avenge her death. What was a simple robbery soon reveals itself to be something more nefarious and sinister involving one brother's (Benjamin) business dealings with a notorious local hoodlum (Chiwetel Ejiofor).

Another 3 tickets to give away, just tell me: Who sang Cleo's Apartment for the soundtrack of *Four Brothers*? Write to me with your answer at film.felix@ic.ac.uk with your name and department. Good luck now!



The four brothers contemplating their next move



Thanks to the Times Movie Mania, two lucky *Felix* readers will win a pair of tickets each to the special screening of *Jarhead*.

What's *Jarhead* you say? Well, don't be impatient, hear me out!

Directed by Oscar-winning director, Oscar Mendes, *Jarhead* includes a stellar cast of Jake Gyllenhaal, Jamie Foxx, Peter Sarsgaard and Chris Cooper.

In the summer of 1990, Anthony Swofford, (Jake Gyllenhaal) a 20-year-old third-generation enlis-

And then there are 3 Fantastic Four DVDs!

Starring Chris Evans (Cellular), Jessica Alba (Sin City, Into the Blue), Ioan Grufford (Hornblower) and Michael Chiklis (The Shield), *Fantastic Four* is the tale of four ordinary people who become the most fantastic superheroes the world has ever known.

Reed Richards (Grufford) is a struggling yet brilliant scientist, convinced he can find vital information in space that will affect the evolution of genetics. With the support of his friend and assistant Ben Grimm (Chiklis), the two men must approach their old school friend, and now rival, Victor Von Doom (Julian McMahon, Nip/Tuck) to finance the project.

Reed learns that his ex-girlfriend Sue Storm (Alba) is Doom's new love interest, and her rogue brother Johnny (Evans) is one of his team. With tensions in the group rising, the four of them jet off into space with Victor to conduct the experiment. Unexpectedly, they are exposed to a cosmic storm and, when the team return to Earth, they discover they have been transformed in a way

they could never have foreseen.

Strangely enough, the exposure they suffered in the storm has fundamentally altered their DNA and given them each an exciting super power. Reed becomes extremely stretchy, Sue gains the power of invisibility and the power to create force-fields. Johnny, the hot young sizzling talent of the movie turns into an explosive fireball or, if you must, a human torch. Doom however, turns into the Fantastic Four's version of Magneto.

The group find themselves obliged to use their powers to help others and hence they decide to use their talents for the greater good. Their everyday appearances have not changed as they can turn their powers on and off... except for Ben who has been affected the worst by the blast. His entire bodily structure has changed and he has turned into solid stone... and he can't change back!

Christened 'The Fantastic Four', Reed 'Mr Fantastic', Sue 'The Invisible Woman', Johnny 'The Human Torch' and Ben 'The Thing', take on their new identities to fight

Victor who cannot accept the changes in himself. His skeleton is turning to steel and, increasingly angry at his doomed fate, when 'Dr Doom' learns he can manipulate electricity he sets out to destroy the Fantastic Four and anyone else who gets in his way.

Fantastic Four is available to buy and rent on DVD, UMD and VHS from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment on December 2nd 2005. Thanks to Twentieth-Century Fox, Felix has three copies of the DVD to give away.

Alrighty, now how do you get your hands on this fabulous action-packed movie filled with the delicious and toned Jessica Alba? It's easy. Just answer the following question.

Q: Who is the singer behind the soundtrack 'Everything Burns' in *Fantastic Four*?

Know the answer? Don't be smug! Email us immediately with the answer along with your name and department. Good luck now!

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor



music

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Nu-prog is the new.. uhm, I dunno

The Mars Volta's live experience makes it to immortal CD form (I was surprised it would fit)

ALBUM REVIEWS

Film School

On & On (album sampler)
(Beggars Banquet)

★★★★☆

Incredibly this band doesn't sound like a band called Film School, i.e. they don't sound like Test Icicles or Art Brut. Instead they make a hypnotic semi-drone-rock kind of noise. *On & On* in particular swirls around and around, drawing you in to its repeated rhythms with heavily delayed guitars. They are fond of using the trick that many, ahem, nu-shoegaze (sorry) bands use, namely defining the chorus not by getting louder or changing the tune, but just by adding more layers of noise.

Harmed is really very good, and pulls away from the fuzzy sounds found elsewhere on this sampler. The melody starts bouncy and defined, until the chorus rapidly bursts onto the scene with circling, almost psychedelic guitars, distorted variously to white noise, or to sound like organs.

Less good is *Pitfalls*, let down mainly by its use of simplistic bass lines and annoying sliding guitar. Also, I've always thought that messing around with the settings on a keyboard is best done before a song, not during it. *11:11* brings the quality back, despite initially sounding like post-punk by numbers. Those trademark guitars that sound like they were strummed ten minutes before any sound was made are all over the track, as is a feeling of tension and disquiet. A simple motif is constantly and absorbingly repeated, right until the very end as the good ol' wall of noise grows and grows. And grows some more.

Film School's name is misleading, their place of origin is misleading (San Francisco, not exactly home of innovation), but their sound certain-

ly isn't. One to watch, and probably brilliant live.

James Millen

The Mars Volta

Scab Dates
(Gold Standard Laboratories)

★★★★★

The Mars Volta live experience is very different to the albums they produce. TMV take a much more fluid role during live shows, often opting for 20 minute jamming sessions between album tracks. Having seen them in early 2005 on the *Frances The Mute* tour, where they performed the entire gig with no supports in an epic two and a half hour set, I felt I knew what to expect from new live compilation *Scab Dates*.

The album begins with one of Omar Rodriguez Lopez's sound experiments; it sounds like a woman speaking over a tannoy while instruments are tuned in. Presumably this is symbolic of the audience waiting for TMV to begin their set. This slowly melts into *Take The Vein Cerpin Taxt* which is an extended and free-flowing version of the track from the early EP *Tremulant*. In this version, TMV take more time to explore themselves and their track with extended soloing and a sinister accordion 'solo' that breaks the track. *Cavigula* and *Harsupex* take the form of live jam sessions and really demonstrate their musical talent. These tracks serve as tension builders for the album tracks, *Concertina*, *Take The Vein Cerpin Taxt* and *Cicatriz* that form the majority of the album and they work well as such.

Cicatriz itself is a 40 minute epic split into 5 distinct parts. The first part is eight minutes long beginning much like the album version of the track but drifting gently off course towards the latter half into frequent



The Mars Volta - resurrecting both the twenty minute drum solo and concept album in one fell swoop.

organ and guitar solos. This soon flows into the second part - a much slower and relaxed portion. The slowness is broken near the end by some psychedelic guitar soloing that culminates in the switch to the third part. Part II - as it is called - is started with some audience cheers and quiet blues-like guitar riffs under Lopez's exhaustive vocal gymnastics. With some impressive instrumental work in the last two parts of this marathon track, TMV come to the end of this impressive, if slightly egotistical, 72 minute live compilation.

Scab Dates feels like the album *De-loused In The Crematorium* was intended to be with TMV being far more willing to experiment in live performances leading to the long jams that take over many songs-much as in *Frances The Mute*. This CD however will definitely not win over many newcomers who have not seen the somewhat magical live experience of TMV live.

Thomas Whitson

SINGLE REVIEWS

Tim Williams

My Brooklyn
(Dovecote Records)

★★★★☆

Sound the "yet another male singer songwriter" alarm. I tentitively put the CD in my hi-fi, Bluntly expecting a song of Damien like evil. My relief is total when I find that Tim Williams creates vaguely epic, heavily atmospheric songs, in the style of Tom McRae's softest moments. *My Brooklyn* is gorgeous, in a beautifully understated way. Mr Williams makes up for his lack of vocal range with a breathy romanticism, and exquisite use of space. Everything has a warm and dreamy quality, akin to watching the world from underwater.

A, the other track on the CD, is a pretty standard acoustic strum, but not gratingly annoying like so many of the boring men with guitars out there. It's a shame that he doesn't make it over to our shores very often, but it's maybe for the best if his home (Brooklyn) inspires him to write such exemplary music.

James Millen

Computerman

No More Broken Hearts
(Must Destroy)

★★★★☆

Nottingham quintet Computerman make an achingly fashionable noise. The synths are glitzy like The Killers, the guitars are sharp and fast like Bloc Party and the vocals are of the sincerely yearning sort you hear all over the place. Still, underneath it all the bands name checked above are pretty ace. *No More Broken Hearts* is obviously their flagship song, with a driving rhythm, emo harmonies, and a suitably energetic chorus. Oddly, they take to pronouncing words strangely (not just a dialect thing, since Midlandsers are sometimes

indecipherable to my south coast ears, they add syllables all over the place), possibly for novelty factor for more plays on MTV2. There's a lush bit with handclaps though.

Watch More Television, found lurking on the flip side, tries a little too hard. There are too many stops and starts, and an irritating tune in the chorus. *No Recover* delves too far into the dark depths of emo, with a worrying injection of glam that makes it all sound a bit King Adora.

Certainly not bad, definitely not offensive, undoubtedly better than The Bravery (as are genital warts), but nothing new. Or exciting.

Meh.

James Millen

Yankee Nine Niner

Yankee Nine Niner
(The New Black Records)

★★★★☆

Reading rock 'n' rollers Yankee Nine Niner are making waves in the U.K music scene-quoted as saying they are here to "awaken us from our sleepy Keane and Coldplay slumber." Yankee Nine Niner and their two track sampler simply rock. Where The Darkness have seen fit to parody the staples of 80's rock Yankee Nine Niner have grabbed them with both hands and embraced them.

Oh Yeah has a great feel with jazz chords and metal inspired solos sprinkled over the croaky, almost grainy, vocals of singer Henry Rundell. This is a classic Rock 'n' Roll track wrapped up with some great jazz guitar work. *Giving Up* is more about the vocal, the track begins with a slow paced breezy intro fading smoothly into Aerosmith-esque vocals that saves it from being entirely unremarkable. The track is much less impressive than Yankee Nine Niner seem to be and is a bit of a let down compared to other tracks (www.purvolume.com/yankeenininer). I look forward to a solid EP release from them to keep the likes of The Darkness at bay.

Thomas Whitson



Film School - rockin' out. Probably for all the squares.

Ahoy there!

The Decemberists bring their odd blend of folk and surrealism to the UK

LIVE REVIEWS

The Decemberists
University of London Union
★★★★★

I received an email from my senior tutor bemoaning the improper use of the halls network for pirating copyrighted material. It's a shame that piracy is frowned on, because if this were widely enforced, people would have no chance to access the back catalogue of the Decemberists' work. With only their latest album, *Picaresque*, due for release in the UK (on Rough Trade this summer), the full excellence of this band of whimsical buccaneers from Portland, Oregon is in danger of going unnoticed in this country.

The support, San Francisco two-piece act Two Gallants, with their "off-the-heezy" guitar work and vocals reminiscent of the tortured strains of Bright Eyes and the tortured strains of Kurt Cobain, produced a wall of noise meant to pick you up, throw you about and deny you any rest until the end of their set. Their brand of Americana, with its lyrics about murder and alcoholism, made them rather more than the White Stripes knockoff they seemed at first sight, and definitely worth looking out for.

As the Decemberists came on, fears that the small stage of ULU would be unable to accommodate their big band sound were instantly dismissed as the opened their set with *The Infanta*. The crowd's unusual familiarity with the songs (stemming, presumably, from piracy of copyrighted material) was evident as, in a feverish mood, they belted out each one in unison with frontman Colin Meloy's geeky voice.

From the off, the Decemberists were a joy to watch. It is generally joked that a master's degree in English is required to follow their lyrics -- not a baseless claim as each song moves easily between articulately witty and atmospheric; an example is *Eli The Barrow Boy*, their contribution to the long tradition of murder ballads. Their songs are sometimes political as well, but not hysterically so: witness their latest single, the anthemic *Sixteen*

Military Wives, an incisive but subtle look at America's political situation.

Throughout, the interaction with the audience was superior, with the band treating the show as a surreal indie pantomime. Between each song, Colin bantered with the crowd, and the band introduced humorous ad hoc elements, like a random violin rendition of the Indiana Jones theme in the middle of the escape-themed *Bagman's Gambit*. Later, it heated up as multi-instrumentalist and Red Army Robin Hood Chris Funk "fell asleep" mid-song, prompting Colin to force us to sit down so he could rest undisturbed. It all came to a head during the finale, the epic *Mariner's Revenge Song* as the crowd were instructed to "scream like a whale is chewing you up", leaving us with a bizarre mix of well-pitched pirate-rock and screams of "Bloody hell! It has teeth!" ringing in our ears.

The Decemberists are one of those rare bands, absurd yet compelling, who tax the eyes, ears and brain all at once. Showing more originality in one show than most band's careers, they've certainly earned the self-applied name of their second album, *Her Majesty*. Long may she reign.

Tom Whitson

Athlete
Hammersmith Apollo
★★★★☆

After a typical indie-rock performance from the Bright Space, and a less than inspiring performance from 'girl with a guitar type' Gemma Hayes, anticipation was high for Athlete's 2nd performance at the Hammersmith Apollo on this tour. Athlete enter the stage to the thunderous roar of applause. Having waited a good few minutes for the adulation from their fans to die down, they played the popular *Yesterday Threw Everything At Me* and *Half-light*, which were unsurprisingly chanted back to Athlete by the crowd word for word. From the reaction of the crowd and the magical atmosphere that Athlete create with such ease, it becomes apparent that this home-coming gig is going to be something special.



The Decemberists - favourites of hipsters with folk leanings everywhere.

Athlete continue to pull out crowd-pleasers, breaking into favourites from their debut album *Vehicles And Animals*. Athlete's first ever single, the sing-along favourite *Westside* and *New Project* with its slow intro lulling you into a false sense of calm, prior to hitting you with the crazy electronic unexpected middle section go down a treat. *Beautiful* turns the venue into a ball of happiness and love, momentarily washing away any qualms anybody has, leaving the feeling, albeit it false, of perfection within the world.

Athlete then ingeniously, yet effortlessly manage to make the gig seem tailor made to every individual lucky enough to be in the room. The gigantic curtains behind the band glide open to reveal a huge screen, with a street map of London. Then *On Your Street* commences, and the crowd are taken on a journey through London- through St James's Park, Notting Hill, Islington, Charing Cross and more, accompanied by gasps, cheers and ahhs as people see the familiar streets where they

live, work and grew up. The song somewhat predictably, but no less specially ends with the map zooming into the Hammersmith Apollo.

After a few more popular tracks from their albums, Athlete then manage to make a gig that is already turning out to be pretty awesome, just that little bit extra special, playing their emotionally charged tear-jerker *Wires*. As Joel Potts beautifully sings the well known lyrics, you feel sorry for anybody that doesn't have somebody to hold, as thousands of friends and lovers embrace throughout the song. Despite the well documented and discussed, and lets be honest, blatantly obvious inspiration for the song (Joel Potts 'running down corridors, through automatic doors, got to get to' his prematurely new-born and ill baby) an unusual twist is taken on the screen. Whilst most people know that the wires refer to those coming from his ill daughter, the screens take the crowd on another journey, along the wires of the London underground-yet again, making the gig feel that little bit more personal.

After leaving the stage, and returning for a much-called for encore, Athlete end their spectacular gig with new single *24 Hours* (which I have been credibly informed was not written about Jack Bauer or the US show *24*) and leave the stage to huge cheering and miscellaneous noise. Athlete can do no wrong and appeal to an impressive range of people. They have the potential to be huge, and hopefully, their next album will secure them a deserved place as British musical legends.

Matty H & Mark Hagen

Athlete
Pre-gig interview

Athlete, having spent the last few months in the U.S. returned to the U.K. to play a sellout U.K. tour. We were lucky enough to be given the

opportunity to meet and interview Athlete drummer Steve Roberts before their gig at the Hammersmith Apollo on the 2nd October.

As we were escorted to the Athlete dressing room, we were unsure what to expect from a band that have had such main stream success over the last year, with the release of their latest album *Tourist*. As soon as we were inside and politely offered beers, any visions of rock and roll debauchery were shattered. Steve was very down to earth, with his physics teacher glasses and beard reflecting his unphased attitude towards fame and success.

Having seen Athlete play a few weeks before in the Apple Store, Regent Street, we asked about the performance and how it felt to play a much more intimate set than unusual. Surprisingly beforehand they were dreading playing the clean white store with its clinical sterile atmosphere. Once they got on stage to the huge applause and the loud drunk guy in the front row they really let loose and enjoyed playing more personal stripped down acoustic renditions of their classic hits to the 400 strong crowd.

Despite hitting the "big time" with the release of their latest album *Tourist*, Athlete's rise to the top was through relentless touring, slowly but surely building up a fan-base since the release of *Vehicles & Animals*. When asked about the current music scene and young emerging bands, they dismissed any comparisons to the Brit-pop era. They share the feeling that Brit-pop was an era of one image and one sounds, where now all genres and styles are embraced with the same person listening to The Streets, Morning Runner, Basement Jaxx and Roots Manuva. The embracing of such a diverse collection of music is likely to nourish many of the U.K. music scenes, which can only be a good thing.

Tom Whitson & Jenny Gibson



Athlete - they're not small, just far away.

arts

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Theatre extravaganza!

Think a pantomime will be your only choice of theatre this Christmas? Don't despair, *Felix* has tracked down some slightly more cultured options for you...

Theatre
The Blue Man Group
 New London Theatre
 Drury Lane
 Tickets £40
 Student tickets £20 all seats

When asked what the "Blue Man Group" was all about by a friend before watching the show, I was at a loss for a suitable description. "Performance artists pretending to do things for the first time" was what I eventually settled for. Now after "experiencing" the Blue Men, my prior description does seem pathetically inadequate.

For the clueless, there are some distinct features of the Blue Man Group that really stand out from any other ordinary performer. The most upfront, being their uncomfortably bald blueness. They have an otherworldly appearance that could scare a timid child into tears. There is a strange "nakedness" about the group that makes

them vulnerable and child-like. Their faces are frozen straight but by no means blank.

The uniformity of their appearance meant that there are no "frills" to distract the audience. They wear black suits with funky contraptions that spew out food/paint in the course of the show. Most importantly, they do not speak and their "act" has no storyline.

Although these enigmatic characters hardly emitted any squeaks, the energy from their eyes and other body movements gave them away entirely. They communicated with the audience in a way that surpasses performers who actually speak.

The act saw the Blue Men playing with ordinary objects and testing how far one could get doing so. Sort of like a dare, with no boundaries. Most of it accompanied by great rhythmic music that got my friend and I bobbing our heads and tapping our feet. The music made uncannily by the crunch of Rice Krispies, a colourful PVC-pipe-xylophone and oil drums. Members of the audience

who were picked by the Blue Men to participate in their on-stage routines, were gems themselves:

20 minutes into the show, everything was suddenly stopped as a man holding a camcorder gets upstage to film the arrival of some latecomers. Accompanied by an opera singer's rendition of "You're Late" and strong white spotlights with much flare, this, I believe will put the embarrassed couple off being late for a while.

A stern-looking man was pulled down from the balcony to be painted blue. He was then smashed against a white wall to form his print. He looked miffed but much to the amusement of the audience!

I regret describing the Blue Man Group as "performance art". It does deserve less of a classification. Being in the audience was more of an experience. A reminder, if you like, of how we should not forget how to play and connect with others, and experience the joy of being alive.

Ling Ching Wong



The little Blue Men are coming to get you....

Theatre
Black Comedy
Ruffian on the Stair
 Union Concert Hall
 Wednesday to Saturday 7pm
 Tickets £6/£4.50 Students

Night has fallen over South Kensington. A crash is heard in the distance as someone stumbles blindly. A figure walks slowly with a chair in his arms, trying to avoid obstacles as he crosses the room. Whispers of voices hide in the chatter of others. Even stranger, this is all going on in a room at the top of the Union, where the cast are rehearsing for the upcoming play, Peter Schaffer's *Black Comedy* (directed by Brooke Milburn), which will open on the 30th of November as half of a double bill with Joe Orton's *Ruffian on the Stair* (directed by Neil Monteiro).

The first play, *Black Comedy*, is about a sculptor facing a highly nerve-wracking evening with a potential buyer and his future father-in-law. Typically for such an important occasion, his power goes out before his guests even arrive, and the rest of the evening just goes downhill from there.

After the interval, the audience returns to find a magic wand has been waved over the stage, and we are sent to the other side of theatre for *Ruffian on the Stair*, a dark drama about a hit man and his live-in girlfriend, who is blissfully unaware of his occupation. One day, a strange man shows up on their doorstep while the boyfriend is meeting a man in the King's Cross toilets. Though he seems to be merely harassing the woman, we gradually learn that there is more to the story. A strong cast of three carry this intense piece through its twists and turns to an explosive end.

Vivian Chiu

Theatre
Three in the back, two in the head
 Orange Tree Theatre
 Until 10 December
 Tickets £7-£17

It is worth seeing this play simply to experience the Orange Tree Theatre, a small venue in Richmond. The 'stage' is a square of floor surrounded by seats on all sides and there is also a balcony where people can sit and enjoy a bird's eye view. It is a very intimate space and must be challenging for the actors, who are only metres away from the audience, as this allows every facial expression and movement to be scrutinised.

However, all five characters are

played superbly by actors who are recognisable from television roles including parts in *Black Books*, *Spooks*, *Dr Who*, *Casualty* and *Silent Witness*. The proximity to the drama makes it more interesting to watch as you can see spit fly, veins bulge and detail that you would miss in most other theatres.

The plot is about Donald Jackson, a scientist working on a space-based missile system for America's defence programme. However, he loses support for his research and transfers his work to an enemy state referred to in discussions only by coded initials. He is murdered and his son Paul, a young university professor, attempts to understand the truth behind his father's death by contacting CIA bureaucrat John Doyle.

Between them, Paul and Doyle tell

each other (and us) what they know, or at least what they are willing to tell, about the events leading up to Jackson's assassination.

The playwright Jason Sherman was inspired by the real life murder of the Canadian weapons scientist Gerald Bull, a man who felt betrayed by his own and the American government when his work was no longer given support. As a result, he started to conduct international arms deals with countries that led the US government to become increasingly worried. He was warned to stop his involvement several times, but was eventually assassinated, shot three times in the back, twice in the head. No one has ever been arrested for his murder. All this is relevant in the present climate. Words that spring to mind are Iraq, WMD, scapegoat and distortion of truth.

Although there are hardly any props or special effects, the scenes that unfold are still dramatic and the story is well told. There are parts of the play that flash back to previous events with conflicting versions of the truth being revealed. This switch between the past and present is carried out very smoothly and the plot is easy to follow.

The way the stage is set up with the audience surrounding it is an original idea and it is fun to be able to watch how everybody else is reacting to the play. It was also interesting sitting next to a group of Americans on the way home who had also just seen it. According to them it was 'preachy' and 'too political.' I disagree, but go and see for yourself.

Helene Myrvang

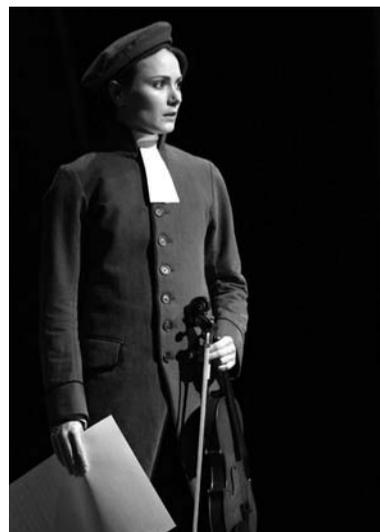


Photo: Catherine Ashmore

Theatre
Coram Boy
 The National Theatre
 Until 4 February 2006
 Tickets £10-36
 Student Standby £10

The National certainly doesn't seem to be going for ease in its Christmas family entertainment. Last year it was the phenomenal *His Dark Materials* and this year it is Jamila Gavin's Whitbread Award winning novel *Coram Boy*. I was a little apprehensive as to what the result would be; adaptations of children's books can so often be sentimentalised. I really didn't need to have worried.

Helen Edmundson's masterly

adaptation is very faithful to Jamila Gavin's novel and is not at all precious about the grittier aspects which give it so much of gothic beauty.

The story itself spans two generations and eight years and like the book, has music as a central theme, particularly Handel's *Messiah* which is played and sung with beautiful effect and style by the actors and a live choir and orchestra at the back of the stage.

Paul Ritter is deliciously slimy as the utterly immoral villain of the piece, Otis Gardiner, a man who, in cahoots with Ruth Gemmill's coldly calculating Mrs Lynch, makes his living by collecting babies from desperate mothers who also give him money in the belief that he will take them to be cared for at the Coram

Hospital in London, but instead buries them and pockets the money. Jack Tarlton is no less mesmerising as the son that Otis abuses, not quite of this world, losing and discovering love and life with such poignancy that the stage feels almost lacking when he is not there.

Another brilliant innovation in this production is having the many boys played by actresses; an approach that is so effective and utterly believable. Anna Madeley's performance as two boys, Alexander Ashbrook and his son Aaron, is sublime. She also had the most startlingly perfect voice that I have ever heard - quite an astonishing thing in a woman who also has to scamper around stage, laugh and cry and then sing extremely exposed and challenging baroque arias.

Of course, it wasn't perfect - for people who don't know the story already it may be a little confusing at times, I felt that Mrs Lynch's morality lecture was slightly unnecessary and the Hallelujah Chorus was a little corny, but these are niggles and highly debateable ones at that.

It was, very simply, one of the very best experiences that I've ever had in the theatre. So if you're planning a family outing, an evening with a significant other - or have no excuse at all, apart from wanting one of the most haunting and moving experiences in the theatre that you are ever likely to have - you could do a lot, lot worse than going to see this.

Lily Topham

ARTS

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Ten little soldiers went out to dine, one choked himself and then there were nine...

Theatre
And Then There Were None
Gielgud Theatre
Tickets £12.50-£40
Standby £17.50 (available 1 hour prior to the show)

'A detective story without a detective' is one of the numerous taglines that have accompanied this adaptation of one of Agatha Christie's most famous novels. It's easy enough to see why the story itself has been so popular - it is brilliantly imaginative - indeed, it would be hard to imagine anyone else who could invent a situation where everybody is both the detective and a suspect, make the child's nursery rhyme 'Ten Little Soldier Boys' have such grisly importance and create a body count more

impressive than Shakespeare's. The story itself starts off innocently enough with some guests making polite conversation over dinner as they wait for their delayed host. However, it rapidly transpires that they have been lured to dinner on a deserted island for far more sinister purposes as one by one they gradually start encountering fatal 'accidents' as the ten soldiers on the mantelpiece also disappear - prompting revelations of dark secrets, and some of the most satisfyingly terrifying theatre I have ever seen. Part of the thrill for the audience is wondering how Christie will fulfil the prophetic role of the 'Ten Little Soldier Boy rhyme - and I challenge anyone who doesn't know the story at all to figure out 'A red herring swallowed one' accurately. (By the way, please don't send in let-

ters to next week's edition abusing my mental ability if you do!) This is a production that is completely engrossing (a new version by Kevin Elyot which remains very faithful to the book) not sugar-coat-

"The child's nursery rhyme takes on a grisly new importance."

ing any of nastier elements to the story. It is a little slow to start off with, including some very non-funny 'silly' dancing by Sam Crane and Tara Fitzgerald. However, the evening immediately livens up after the classic 'disembodied voice' speaks, accusing all the assembled of murders, followed rapidly by the

first, highly spectacular departure of one of the accused.

After this, the revelations and respective changes from people into ex-people come thick and fast, along with ever-increasing amounts of tension. This tension was provided in no small part by Gregory Clarke's brilliant sound effects, including a truly terrifying hornet sound as well as all the classics of a murder mystery, thunder, gunshots and some very effective screaming. This combined with lighting that plays on all our childhood fears of shadows and the dark, and follows the excellent rule that 'it's not what you see but what you think you'll see that scares you most,' as well as some highly dramatic special effects manage to crank up the tension so much that you feel almost as terrified as the characters themselves.

As for the acting, well it was all pretty excellent too really, though I felt that Gemma Jones (as spinster Emily Brent) could have given her character much more terrifying coldness rather than playing up the doddering-old-lady effect quite so much, and Sam Crane was a little too shrilly hyperactive as idiotic rich-boy Anthony Marston.

The main acting credits go to John Ramm as the unfortunate butler providing most of the humour, and Tara Fitzgerald as Vera Claythorne - sexy, intense and perfectly conveying her transformation from a confident modern young woman of the 1930s to a terrified creature, more than slightly derailed by events, and able to...well, I won't give away the ending.

Lily Topham

Photos at the NPG

Photography
The Schweppes Photographic Portraiture Prize
National Portrait Gallery
Tickets £12.50-£40
Until

The Schweppes Photographic Portrait Prize is the predecessor of the 'John Kobal' award which is one of photography's most distinguished competitions. It definitely follows in those fantastic footsteps with sixty brilliant and totally different interpretations of the theme 'Portrait.' The pieces on display have been selected from six thousand works which were submitted, and are by photographers which come from variety of different backgrounds, including both professionals and students, and even amateurs.

For the third year running, this exhibition is bringing in crowds of people, as aside from housing the work of new and talented photographers, it is absolutely free. This quality, when combined with the fact that the exhibition includes portraits ranging from the mildly disturbing

to the arguably erotic, makes the exhibition very appealing indeed!

Pieces aim to challenge our perceptions and are not just superficial portraits. The photo of 'Anabel and Vikki' depicts two unattractive, butch, punk lesbians. The women are standing close together with the more masculine figure grabbing lustily at the breasts of the other. This piece really questions the glamorous modern day image of lesbians.

One striking portrait was 'Rebecca' by Shane Degan. His subject's hair is wild and tangled and is strewn against her cheek joining her eyebrow in a long dark curve. She is set against white and pink Lavateria flowers; their branches twist and turn. Her skin tones mimic the colours of the flowers, and her wild hair follows the movement of the branches. In her suburban settings she is shown with as much beauty and freedom as Lavateria flowers.

The winning photograph was 'Girl With a Baby' by Shara Henderson, it was taken on a photo shoot of local children in the Polish industrial town of Brzeg Dolny. The portrait shows a barefooted girl of about 6years old

holding a baby of about her size. The artist states her aim when taking photos as to 'show a side that people do not see or happen to overlook.'

Despite the winning photo being very effective, my favourite was 'Amy and Jack' by fourth prize winner Magnus Reed. It shows Jack out of focus in the foreground whose body divides the photograph in half. Behind him stands Amy who is clearly in focus, she stares at him tentatively, with bracelets dangling gently from her wrists and her hands placed in the pockets of her jeans. By dividing the photograph into two halves, Reed is putting emphasis on each person having an equal part of the interaction. The photographer remarks, 'Amy and Jack had never met but they soon started interacting. I wanted to remind people what it was like to be 12/13, to view things as they really are.'

Thoughtful comments on society and culture, a bit of humour and quite simply beautiful photography make this exhibition very enjoyable. I would recommend this to everyone.

Natasha Ehsanullah



The Winner: Girl with Baby - Poland by Shara Henderson

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Nightlife

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Am I the Editor?



I take it some of you were a little offended by what my Bar Wench wrote last week. What I have to say is, if you don't like it, don't read it.

Firstly my Bar Wench writes as she sees it. She saw a load of irritating yanks so she wrote about it. I thought it was very informative.

The two letters I have received have been very interesting. Now the reviews. The **bar wench** has written another fantastically fabulous piece

for us. Not quite sure what it was about as I was drunk when I put this together. Did I put in the picture of someone using the complaint as toilet paper? I guess I should just get fired now.

In addition to this I thought I should have something about the lady of the hour: Madonna at G-A-Y. Also have something from my night at Renaissance.

The Nightlife Editor

The lady of the hour



No more body parts I'm afraid these are too good

Well, I was told by a friend of mine that I should apologise for my cruel generalisation and degradation of the American visitors to our beloved Union. At first I considered their compassionate idea, but then I thought: 'Hell no! Especially when they stroll in at 5 to 11 and ask for pitchers of Guinness. The moronic, stupid, loud gits shouldn't

"Manic, midget obsessed"

be allowed! Bloody cheek!

Anyways, as my manic, midget obsessed editor says, no point flogging a dead coke whore. This week is binge drinking. Now, guys, I think you all must have heard about, even seen in our very own Union this awful trend in society today, this evil corrupting minds, bodies and souls. What absolute bollocks! I'm sorry but who has ever thought: "Oh no, that's my third pint of Carlsberg, better stop or else I'll be binge drinking"? What I don't understand is when did four pints suddenly change from being a normal amount of drinks to an obscene number of units that will

end up in numerous cancers and liver failure? To be honest, if that's the case, I'm guaranteed a dose of mouth cancer and sclerosis of the liver before I'm 25. Oh well, we've all got to die of something.

Will it deter us from drinking ourselves into comas? Somehow I don't think so. It would be like giving an obese person an unlimited supply of cake. Five hours later and you know the puke bin will have to be reached for so they can start all over again. I know it's so that people don't cram forty units into half an hour but come on Tony, show me an intoxi-

"Unlimited supply of cake"

cated person who thinks: "Hmm I've got four hours left, therefore I will only drink beverages of one unit and alternate it with water". Not bloody likely.

We are students, drinking ourselves stupid is part of the lifestyle. Oh no, is this a piece of journalism I see before me? I bloody hope not! Where's my bottle of vodka?

The Bar Wench



Alright, I'll get the boring stuff over with first. Renaissance at The Cross costs about £20, but this can change depending if the guy at the till likes you or thinks you're hot. But really, I would say its worth going out once a week to somewhere really good instead of going out 4 times a week to all those skanky holes we all love. I mean don't get me wrong, I love the smell of vomit and piss when I walk into a place. That's why we all love Prospect. Well if you've started drinking homemade snakebite before going out at 11pm then you

Rennaisance @ The Cross

know you are in for a dirty night. After a hot drunken Tube ride to King's Cross, my friend Trish and me had to make our way through what can only be described as the ultimate in rape alleys.

"I don't look too much like a tramp do I?"

We managed to avoid rape, murder, or worse still, having someone start to approach you, about to mug you, and then realising you're not worth it and clearing off (I mean I don't look too much like a tramp do I).

Getting in was no problem but we did get accosted by several people in big hats screaming in some funny language. I think they were probably northern or something, or perhaps Australian.

When we arrived the place was already rammed. People were

sweating like a paedophile in mother care or like the really obese man on the bus on the way home. If you take up two seats you should pay twice as much!

The music initially was very beige and bland. It may not sound bad but could you imagine your friends calling you beige or magnolia? It would be enough to make you slit your wrists and sit in a warm bath. I know some people should, but still. After venturing around the various sweat pits we ended up outside dancing in the rain. If any of you have been to The Cross you will know its an amazing venue. Not very big but its really individual; lots of palm trees.

Sorry another slight tangent there. The range of music was quite incredible, I was truly surprised. Quite often when you go to a club they tend to stick to one genre of music: be it hard, funky or dirty house. It was refreshing to be able to go from room to room and actually feel something different.

Aaron Mason

Madonna? Oh yes it is.

For those of you who didn't realise, perhaps you've been living in a cave or haven't had your head out of a textbook in a while, Madonna is back - with a vengeance. Her new album is a glittering fusion of retro funk and future disco and, let's face it, it's just a little bit gay.

It's no surprise then that just four days after her spectacular album launch at Koko she put on a very special show for the little dancing queens of London at the countries most brand labelled gay club, G-A-Y.

Hosted at the Astoria Theatre on Charing Cross Road, G-A-Y has a live act nearly every Saturday of the year, ranging from the legendary Britney Spears herself (woo hoo) to, ahem, Daphne and Celeste (bless, they did try). The great thing about seeing an act at G-A-Y is that the rest of the night is one super-fun-happy party with super-cheap drinks. Without a doubt this show was by far the best live performance ever held at G-A-Y.



Just a little bit gay



Look at her go! Boy she can move that ass

After weeks of teasing snippets of information, mysterious disco ball posters that never once used the word 'Madonna' and hours of queuing for tickets on a cold, cold morning in Soho, the lucky two thousand that made it in were going for it like Duracell Bunnies - pink, fluffy and absolutely hyper. I'd like to say I feel I truly suffered for my ticket as in my excitement at the prospect of standing around on the street for two hours I spilled hot coffee down myself and ruined a perfectly good scarf in the process. By the age of twenty you'd think I could use a sippy cup, but no.

The songs were taken almost exclusively from her new album, opening with 'Hung Up' before partying through 'Let It Will Be', 'Get Together', 'I Love New York' and finishing with a remixed classic in the form of 'Everybody'.

Fortunately for die hard old-school Madonna fans, the DJ sets for the night were very Madge heavy with at least a solid hour of her best known hits either side of the Queen of Pop herself - including my personal favourite part of the night, when, where you would expect an encore, the anthemic 'Like a Prayer'

began to play and the crowd went nuts with wails of "Oh My GOD! I can't BELIEVE she's gonna sing THIS!" They kept going nuts until half way through the song when they finally realised it was just a DJ track and Madonna had long since left the building. Bless 'em. She didn't even say goodbye, which was the perfect end to the set. Harsh but effective and the most memorable ending for the most memorable night the club has ever hosted.

Mike Case



IC Women's Hockey

It's all about hockey.



Think you're better looking?

Pose here. We would like to feature page 3 every week. All you have to do is email us at page3.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Girls and Boys please. We believe in equal rights.

food & drink

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Fulham: full of eastern promise

The stir fry can see you through any cold winter night, whether cooked at home or away.

Hannah Theodorou
Food & Drink Editor



Stir-fries can be a gastronomic event. Alternatively they can also be the perfect emergency meal; low in fat, high in fibre and real fast food, it can't really be beaten. You just need to gather some veg, noodles and a jar or sachet of sauce, add meat if you're feeling super peckish and you have a meal fit for a king.

Simple stir fry

Let's face it- we're never going to be as adept as the Malaysians who appear in the kitchen every meal time at whipping up the perfect stir-fry sauce. Many supermarkets have both fresh and jar versions now.

2 pork chops, diced
1/4 onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
a few mushrooms, sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
salt and pepper
1 tsp fresh minced ginger root (optional)
1 tablespoon sesame or veg oil
1 sachet stir fry sauce

1. Heat a wok over a medium heat, then coat with the oil. Saute the onion, garlic, and ginger until fragrant. Increase heat to high.

2. Place pork into wok. Cook and stir until pork is no longer pink, about 4 minutes. Stir in mushrooms, green pepper, and sliced green onion. Cook, stirring, until vegetables are tender, which will take about 4 minutes. Stir in your chosen sauce and heat through. Serve with noodles or rice.



Cheat's Stir fry

Adding the soup to this stir fry gives it a rich, creamy sauce which is ideal teamed with rice or noodles.

2 chicken breasts, cut into bite sized pieces
1/4 onion, chopped
1 green pepper
2 knobs of butter
salt and pepper
1 tsp paprika (optional)
1/2 can cream of mushroom soup
water to thin

1. Melt butter/margarine in a medium wok over a low heat. Add the chicken, onion and green pepper and saute all over a low heat for 4 to 6 minutes, stirring occasionally and turning the chicken pieces. Season with paprika, some crushed garlic, salt and pepper.

2. Cover the wok and let it all cook until the chicken is done and juices run clear, which will take about 15 minutes. When the chicken is cooked through add the soup and water and let it simmer, stirring frequently. When liquid has reached the consistency of a sauce, the dish is done. Serve with rice or noodles.

Is there a meal you desperately want to know how to make? Or an obscure liquor you would like our Mixologist to blend into a sumptuous cocktail? Email food.felix@ic.ac.uk and we'll see if we can sort out your request. Carry on sending in your favourite recipes!

(where you can probably find every drink you could need for Cocktails).

- 1cl Cream
- 2cl Cream of Coconut (heat the can up in hot water before use)
- 3cl white rum
- 4cl pineapple juice

Put all the ingredients together with 2-3 ice cubes in a blender and blend it. If you don't have a blender just shake it with a Shaker.

- Cuba Libre

A drink which our revolutionary parents drank during the cold war to show how "cool" they were and also to get drunk.

- 4cl white rum
- 1cl fresh Lime juice
- Put into a glass with a few ice cubes
- fill up with Coke

- Daiquiri

Never heard of it? It's the easiest rum-based cocktail and simply fabulous.

- 5cl white rum
- 3cl lemon juice (best is to squeeze them yourself, I've never found a

nice bottled one here in the UK)
- 2cl sugar syrup (which you can buy in most wine shops or make yourself)

Shake with 2-3 ice cubes and pour



into a cocktail-cup (martini glass).
Variation: Pink Daiquiri (exchange 1cl of sugar sirop with grenadine-in wine shops too)

Make your own sugar syrup by dissolving a few tablespoons of sugar in 1 tablespoon of water over a gentle heat.

Hope you like them. Drink in moderation!

Tampopo



140 Fulham Road,
London SW10 9PY
0207 370 5355

Price: £25, meal for two

★★★★☆

After an exhausting day trundling back and forth between Hammersmith and South Kensington there's nothing more appealing than having dinner cooked for you. Especially when it's being cooked to perfection at Tampopo, Britain's favourite restaurants when it comes to authentic Pan Asian cuisine..



Melt-in-the-mouth Vegetable Tempura

The restaurant is illuminated by an orange glow, courtesy of low-hanging lanterns and, although side by side with other tables, it has a very intimate feel. I would recommend it for both a first date situation or even a party; the staff are very accommodating in any situation.

For starters we tried the Vegetable Tempura which was dreamily light and melted in the mouth and Gyoza (Pork dumplings). Both came with sweet dipping sauces which were as appealing as the morsels them-

selves.

Choosing a main course was difficult and with a variety of dishes ranging from Vietnamese Nam Yang Manao to Indonesian Nasi Goreng there is something to accommodate for most tastes. Beware of the spicy ratings though- the divine Nam Yang Manao which came with a spicy warning was surprisingly refreshing, whilst the supposedly mild Pho Xao Bo had a fierce kick.



Pork Gyoza Dumplings

Washed down with a mango smoothie, though, it was nothing I couldn't handle.

The time flew by and before long well over an hour had flown by. Too stuffed to eat anything filling for dessert, we ordered a mango sorbet which was saturated with the flavour of fresh fruit. It was the perfect end to a thoroughly enjoyable meal.

Instead of being awash with gimmicks, painstaking effort has gone into creating a diverse menu and a warm atmosphere. The staff are attentive and you can see the cooks flicking their woks from your seat. Visiting Tampopo is like embarking on an Oriental Odyssey for your taste buds. The downside is simply having to choose what to eat.



Jasmine rice is a perfect accompaniment for any of the curries.

MIXOLOGY: RUM Pit Bingen

Rule No. 1: Don't drink BACARDI but Havana Club! This isn't just because Bacardi is a big American company and Havana Club is still original Cuban, but it is simply better. And you don't pay that much more. Most will agree that for £1 extra it's worth buying a better spirit. Here's a few drinks you can prepare with white Rum.

- Pina Colada:

Sounds difficult yet is pretty easy as long as you can get your hands on cream of coconut. I found it at Gerry's Sprits Shop in Soho



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fashion

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The looks, the spring and the wardrobe

Winter wonders to warm cold nights, interesting new collections and Kate Thornton



an eye on fashion

Dolly Delaney
Fashion editor

Many styles are around this season. So to make the most of that ever-decreasing overdraft I will help you make sure you find the look that suits you best.

Have you looked at shop window displays recently? Urban Outfitters,

“the Black Widow has never been more sexy”

Monsoon, Kookai and countless others have gone for black displays. Black is definitely back this season, so don't be afraid to darken up this winter, with lace shedding its gothic guise and re-emerging as an enchantingly romantic option, the Black Widow has never been more sexy.

Black seems to be the order of the day with such styles such as the Houndstooth and Monochrome looks. Be careful not to overdo the Houndstooth. Generally this pattern is best on either coats or skirts. In my first page as fashion editor I mentioned the Beatnik look, inspired by Edie Sedgwick. The monochrome look incorporates Beatnik, but you can also hark back to the eighties Two Tone movement-just make sure it's black!

Fashion often likes to mimic the animal kingdom. This winter several textures have made this idea big again- velvet, fur, sheepskin and feathers. If you haven't bought your winter coat yet, sheepskin and fur will keep you toasty and warm.



Roberto Cavalli:
The Event Dress, dress to impress at the Christmas Ball

However I fail to see its appeal, as many coats on the high street will use synthetic fabrics to create these (the use of fur is not only high street taboo, but totally immoral).

So, if you want opulent winter chic, turn to velvet. At the premiere of “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire”, Daniel Radcliff, Rupert Grint



Velvet Dress by Giles Deacon: The Harry Potter boys donned matching velvet jackets at the films recent premiere, but maybe excess isn't really magic.

and Robert Pattinson (who plays the luscious Cedric Diggory) wore velvet jackets. Although they all looked dashing on the red carpet, it was Pattinson who looked the best. The trick to wearing velvet well is to have it only on the collar and cuffs of a jacket if you're going to wear



Louis Vuitton's Spring/Summer Collection: Don't worry, if all else fails the timeless classic of sandals and socks will do.

more than one item that contains the material. Radcliff wore a green velvet jacket and waistcoat with green trousers, whereas Pattinson wore only a black velvet jacket with white shirt and jeans.

For those ladies who have various balls and dinners to go to, how about adding some black or white feathers to a strapless dress? Plumes exude bird-of-paradise flamboyance and give classic styles a glamorous touch.

If you like the idea of adding a little glamour to your wardrobe, use the above materials to make the Russian look. Excess is best when

“you want to make the most of the January Sales”

it comes to pulling off this. For girls, think Ivana Trump, but tone it down just a little! For boys however, this look is slightly modified and called the Military look. You've probably seen Pete Doherty wearing a jackets and hats that look like he's come straight out of the Crimea. Many have mixed views on this man, but his style epitomises what this look is all about. Very cool.

The world of fashion has brought out its Spring/Summer collections already. Already?! You've only just sorted out winter look, but if you want to make the most of the January sales then look at the new



Floral prints from Christian Laeriox

collections to find out what's hot and what's not in 2006.

The general theme of the new collections is the Italian Riviera; linen jackets and white shirts for boys and floral dresses for girls. Lovely, you might think, but sometimes major fashion houses can do bizarre things with nice ideas. I think the designers at Christian Laeriox have been watching too many old movies as the models in their new collection look very much like extras from Summer Holiday (ah, Cliff will be pleased). Louis Vuitton has mixed schoolboy with Italian businessman, resulting in a confused look. The shorts, with shirt and tie look is interesting, but maybe a little “out there” for my taste! Alexander McQueen has kept his collection surprisingly simple with modest, light shirts and trousers building most of the new look. His models looked beautiful in their white and biscuit outfits with tanned skin, who knows, maybe the Italian look will payoff after all?

Beauty



This winter's fabric seems to be velvet and silk. So if you're going to go all out on winter chic, make sure that your make-up is just as opulent. Metallic eye shadow and cheek highlighter will add that frosty look to any outfit. Benefit have a wonderful range of body and face metal cream, in various shades of gold to match all skin colours. They also have some gorgeous eyeliner pens, my favourite being “gilded” (see above). But if you're an indie girl and prefer the Beatnik look, make sure that you have the perfected the look of wide-eyed innocence. Although some of you may not have mastered the art of applying eyeliner to your upper eyelids, this is something that is worth investing a little time in doing. Eyeliner on the upper eyelids makes even those with thin lashes look luscious and thick! However, if you simply cannot get the art right and end up looking like a panda, fear not - false eyelashes are here! I tend to steer clear of the blast-



ed things as a dear friend once melted hers while opening the oven door. In last week's X Factor Kate Thornton oozed fifties sex appeal with her black bolero and red corset. But what really made her stand out was of course her red lipstick! I have it on good authority that she is every bit as beautiful in real life as she is on the show. So for the Hourglass look of high maintenance secretary, make sure that while wearing your pencil skirt that you can only shuffle in, those fishnet tights that keep snagging on table corners and stiletto heels that are simply impossible, you also wear red lipstick. This timeless classic should of course be bought from the empire that personifies chic, Coco Chanel.



Think you're fabulous?

Do you think you're fashionable? Send me a picture with you name and department. If I agree then your picture could be in the next issue of Felix!

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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For more details...

www.union.ic.ac.uk/finance



Sameena Misbahuddin
President

Union



News Snippets...

New Cash Machine in Beit

Good news - over the Christmas holidays, the Union will have its very own Cash Machine installed! This has been offered by College to improve the cash machine facilities on campus and will be ready for the new term. But don't worry, it will NOT be one of the machines that charge - it will be free to use.

Union Building Redevelopment

To hear the latest about the redevelopment and to give your feedback, take a look at pages linked from www.union.ic.ac.uk or have a look at the display in the Union Building foyer.

100th Birthday

July 2007, College will be celebrating its Centenary year and plans are already underway. The year will be full of celebratory activities throughout which are being discussed and organised starting now. More information can be found on the College website at www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/centenary.htm. If you have any ideas of what the College should be doing, let me know on president@imperial.ac.uk. College will be undertaking a large fundraising campaign, which has already begun and will be most prominent in the run up to the Centenary.

Elections

I realised that I hadn't put the Union election results into Felix yet. The results have been available on www.union.ic.ac.uk and are:

- ULU Delegates** - Laura Parkinson, Alon Or - Bach & Laura Griffiths
- Trading & Retail Committee** - Dan Lehman & Christine Itegebe
- Sevices Committee** - Dan Lehman

The result for the **Equal Opportunities officer** was announced on Friday - **Emma Persky** is the winner.

Results for the Faculty/Department elections can be seen at www.union.ic.ac.uk and have been publicised through the faculties.

This year's Council & committee elections saw the highest number of candidates standing and an improved Electronic Voting system. Thank you to all of you who took part and had a say in the way the Union is run. We had over

1,000 students voting, which is very close to the record number of votes received during last year's Council & committee elections.

However many of you will be aware that the results for the candidates standing for ordinary member of Council could not be counted on the same day as for the others above. Instead it has had to wait until this month's Council meeting for the results to be counted.

The reason for this was not to do with the Electronic Voting system, but due to complaints about students who appeared to have broken election regulations. Once this issue was highlighted, we had to investigate it. It's taken a while to investigate because the number of people involved (both as those complained against and those investigating) was large so anything took time. The data that were needed took time to collate, as they came from various sources, and had to be pieced together for a determination of what had happened and what the decision regarding the standing of certain candidates would be.

Job Opportunities

Part-Time Vacancies with the Union Student Services Division

We currently have several Part-Time positions within the Student Services Division at the Union. The Student Services Division oversees the administration for all the non-commercial activities of the Union, including **Clubs & Societies**, our **Transport Fleet** and the **Information & Advice Centre**, as well as **Marketing and Communications** for the entire Union. All positions available are paid **£5.05 per hour** and will help you develop a range of skills that will prove invaluable when you graduate. **Positions available:**

Student Activities Centre Staff

The Student Activities Centre is the hub for the administration of Clubs & Societies. Join the Reception staff team, who help co-ordinate the transport fleet, the sporting programme at Imperial and the day to day running of this busy centre. Knowledge of Clubs & Societies at Imperial is desirable.

Hours are flexible throughout the day and week. For details contact **Phil Power**: phillip.power@imperial.ac.uk

Union Sales Team

A brand new opportunity in the Union marketing department. Responsibilities will include liaising with local and national businesses and communicating what advertising opportunities exist on campus for them. Enthusiastic students with a good communication skills need only apply.

Send your details including past experience to **Alex Mckee**: a.mckee@imperial.ac.uk

Transport Team

We have a team of dedicated staff who love our minibuses, land-rover and trailers and they are looking for people who love vans as much as them to join them. Ideally you will be over 21 with a full driving licence (but that isn't essential). More than anything you will love vans as much as us!

For information about the Transport Team, contact **Dan Lehman**: transport@imperial.ac.uk



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- Educational events
- Interactive events
- Networking events

For more details...

www.union.ic.ac.uk/finance



felix

No 1336
Thursday
24 November 2005
felix@imperial.ac.uk

// **How can informing the students of the dress code be deemed "an overreaction", when the matter has caused a national stir?**

Sir Richard & Dress Code

How can informing the students of a ridiculous dress code be deemed "an overreaction", when the matter has caused such a stir as to make it into several national newspapers including yesterday's *Guardian* and BBC news.

If this a matter for "mature debate" why weren't we, the students consulted for such a debate before the policy was put in place?

College seem to believe they can go around making autocratic decision without so much as a by-your-leave to the students. The students, and more importantly, the Union



Remove that hoody or we'll shoot! Hoodies - not actually the police's top priorities.

need to make our views heard.

Its is encouraging to see that students are taking action in these matters, there have been two protests in as many weeks, against the dress code and noisy Bioengineering lecturers.

Elections Farce

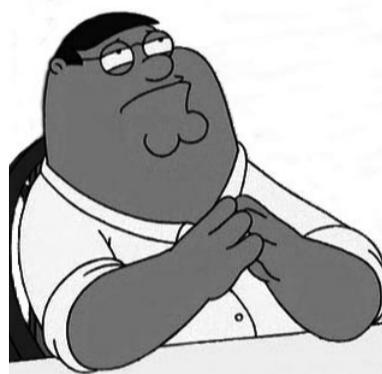
Will Union elections ever proceed without hold-ups and bickering? *Felix* can't remember a time when ICU elections passed without incident. Spam emailing seems to cause problems just about every time they hold elections, shouldn't the Union just ban candidates from campaigning via email altogether? At least the Union isn't fining students for grafting the streets with chalk.

New 'Southside' bar

The students loved Southside bar and were very sad to see it lost, lets hope that although the Harrington Bar & Grill "is not a Southside replacement" it will be just as good.

It is important that students have an alternative to the Union. In previous years the Union has failed to impress students, who instead frequented Southside.

At present the Union is much busier than it has been in previous years lets hope that this is due to the Union showing the students a good time and not simply a case of their being no alternatives.



Peter Griffin

What really grinds my gears

Well, this article has been a long time in production, and I'm surprised that this hasn't been highlighted in a letter yet. I suppose that I'm just one of the few people left who care about such things.

"What's the point of this article?" I hear you all cry, or I imagine you do. Shout it a little louder, and I may just explain. Are you sitting comfortably? Then we'll begin.

The week before last, I was reading through my usual copy of *Felix* (1334), armed with my usual red pen. I've got into the habit of trawling through our dearly beloved paper, picking out the various little things that the editor has missed in his rush to write half the articles and publish it. Then, to my horror, I arrived at the Nightlife section. It was at that point that I very nearly gave up on the the use of the English language, the world in general, and editors in particular.

I'll ask a question here, and I hope that not too many of you get it wrong. Here goes: how do you spell "beer"? If you answered B-E-A-R (twice), then you should be very ashamed of yourself. Beer is pretty much the single most important word in the student vocabulary. On the other hand, people might have started giving out teddy bears for a quick flash of one's breasts - if so, nobody told me about it. If you make this sort of mistake, you certainly should not be editing a section in the student paper (or working in Hamley's, for that matter).

Poor spelling aside, some of the paragraphs barely make any sense at all. Has anyone writing for *Felix* heard of sentence construction, proofreading, or common sense? Judging from some articles, the answer is a resounding "no". If this is the standard of spelling and grammar of the editors, how much damage is done to the articles that they edit? This isn't a rant against

Rupert, as he does have a lot to do, and there's hardly anybody writing for *Felix*. Writing most of the stories and editing the whole newspaper is a lot for one person to manage, and it shouldn't just be one person doing this. An editor's job is, surprisingly, to edit. *Felix* represents the student population at Imperial. If *Felix* is anything to go by, then we're almost illiterate, barely able to string together a coherent paragraph, and only one or two people do all the work.

I have no time or space to mention all of the numerous errors that they must have fought tooth and nail to force past computer spell-checkers. I know *Felix* has at least one copy editor (one of my housemates), and he does well when he has the time. It takes too much time to fix all of the stupid mistakes that people make in their articles, and it shouldn't have to be that way, even if they are written at 3am.

Why are people not taught how

to spell and punctuate any more? We're no longer taught the rules of grammar at school. Let me give you an example to illustrate how bad things are (putting *Felix* aside for the moment). My girlfriend is at Royal Holloway, and is a first-year English student. Part of the work she was given last week was an exercise in putting apostrophes in the correct place and identifying all of the verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs in an extract from a book. This is not what either of us expected from a degree-level course: it's more suited to 7-year-olds learning how to write our language.

Reading through old editions of *Felix* on the website gave me an insight into the past. *Felix* used to be funny. It used to have great writers and was well-respected by the students. The writers used to be able to spell. Please, let's try to return to that golden age once more.

Perhaps next week, a lesson in basic English.

Liked it or loathed it?
Send your opinions to comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Letters to the editor

The author of the 'star' letter received each week will win £10
felix@imperial.ac.uk



Star Letter

The Bar Wench

Dear Editor,

At risk of taking "The Bar Wench" more seriously than she deserves, I must respond to the xenophobic, hateful views expressed in "The Wench Returns" in the Nightlife section of *Felix* on 17 November, 2005.

On the surface the piece uses the juvenile humour of the "Fat Slags" variety; but it also exposes a troubled ego that is threatened by those who speak, dress, and interact differently. Fear is, of course, the mother of hatred. The opening comparison with vermin, meant jokingly (of course), is as disturbing as those insults levelled, with narrow-minded persistence throughout our shared history, against a range of "outsiders" who seem to threaten our way of life simply because they are different (Jews, Irish, Punks, Caribbeans, Muslims, Women, Catholics, Welsh, Homosexuals, Pakistanis, Scots, etc.)

Jokes are to be laughed at, but to compare someone with a sexually-transmitted disease is to turn a joke into a weapon of nationalist, xenophobic destructiveness. The reduction of a young woman to "a pig in a girdle" puts "The Bar Wench" on the same level as those nationalists who dehumanize their perceived enemy so as to justify genocidal atrocities.

Only someone who is both obnoxiously arrogant and extremely insecure would set out to represent her enemy -- "attractive, lovely" American girls - as vermin, as beasts, as a biological infection.

My hope, as an Englishman and as a teacher, is that your readers can see that "The Wench Returns" says more about the vitriolic hatred of "The Bar Wench" than it does about the students who help pay her rent, who help make ICU a more interesting place, who are here to learn about British culture from the many students at ICU whose minds are more open to difference than hers.

Stephen John Dilks, PhD
Associate Professor of English and Irish Literature
Director of Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching
University of Missouri-Kansas (UMKC)

Aaron Mason, Nightlife Editor, addresses the comments regarding last week's Nightlife in his editorial, page 15.

The Union & Babar Ahmad

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to discover that the union president has set policy to support the campaign in support of Babar Ahmed. For those of us without strong sympathies toward this person it seems an abuse of the power of a president to set a policy which is either redundant or potentially offensive. Supporting a free trial ought not to be a policy but a principle upon which any political body within the union should support, why then single out this special interest and suggest unequivocal support for Babar Ahmed? I say unequivocally since the caption on the front of last weeks *Felix* showed the campaign using the slogan "FREE BABAR AHMED" why not "FAIR TRIAL FOR BABAR AHMED"? Ought not the president retract her support for this campaign given its inflammatory and heavily biased nature?

Why does the president not feel a fair trial will be given in the US? For those of us who realise that a death penalty of Babar Ahmed is not at all likely, a campaign to prevent fair trial in the US rather than to fair trial in the UK seems to express merely an anti-american sentiment, hardly a sentiment which should be shared by the president of an organisation which ought to represent the americans within the college.

This contrasts with the neighbouring article on the front page of *Felix* (ULU council chair sent packing). Whilst we should support the removal of a person in a union body who seems to have such homophobic tendencies since he surely cannot be a fair representative of the homosexual members of that union, why should the American members of our union be represented by someone who possesses and acts upon anti-american tendencies?

Ought not the President and the council not hold an impartial position toward political causes within the Union? Would it be right for the Union to allow Conservative Society meetings but ban the Liberals from meeting within its buildings? The impartiality of our Union is important given that it ought to be representing all cultures and political persuasions within the university. Just as ULU would not support homophobia within its council we ought not allow such clear anti-american sentiment to fester in ours.

Andrew McGlashan, Physics

Sameena Misbahuddin, Imperial College Union President, replies:

Dear Andrew,
I wanted to write to clarify a few points made in your letter. The policy that's being discussed was set by Union Council in December 2004 (see www.union.ic.ac.uk/council), and not by me as an individual. Therefore I'm not abusing

my position as President; it's my job to uphold the policy already set by Council - and to represent the views of Imperial students. As I said to *Felix* last week - "Union Council set policy to support Babar having a fair trial in the UK and it's disappointing that after our students' efforts, which were most prominent last year, it hasn't prevented the Home Secretary's decision. - the policy still stands, so continues to be supported by the Union." Though the policy was set last academic year, Union policies do not lapse for 3 years unless specifically revoked, therefore it still holds (more information about the governance and policies of the Union can be found at www.union.ic.ac.uk/resource).

Any policy is voted on by Union Council before it can become Union policy. Union Council has 50 members representing the different parts of the Imperial student body. Any student can attend Union Council meetings to give their views and feedback and therefore if policy is set it represents the views of a substantial number of the student body.

For the Union or any individual to oppose actions or policy decisions of the current American administration doesn't equate to being anti-American in anyway whatsoever. Many Americans, including American students, hold a similar position to that of the Union, and they are not of course 'anti-American' for doing so. Had the policy been seen to be anti-American, then it wouldn't have passed as it would have breached the Union's Equal Opp's Policy. The reasoning behind the policy was not anti-American, but that Babar, as a British Citizen, should have his trial in Britain and not elsewhere.

As President, my role is to represent ALL students regardless of race, religion, nationality or anything else and students should not see this policy as anti-American, by me nor by the Union as a whole - the Union represents all cultures and all students and any prejudice against any part of the Imperial community will not be tolerated or supported by the Union. The Union is apolitical and deals with issues affecting students as students. However as Babar was a former student of this College and the policy also addresses the wider issues of civil liberties, the policy was passed by Union Council. I Hope this clears things up.

Sameena
ICU President

The policy as passed can be seen at <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/resource/governance/babarahmed.html>

Sarah Khatib on Luca Manfredi

So why did I abstain after all? Council Chairs are not expected to have no views at all; rather, they are expected not to show any in

their role.

I believe Luca Manfredi's comments were violent and homophobic; and posting them on a public website demonstrates bad conduct. However, these comments were not made when he was in office.

We cannot look back at each individual officer's past and rule them out because of what they had said however long ago it was before they were in office. Where do we draw the line? At one, five, ten years?

By abstaining, I was not condoning his actions and did not "sit back and plead impartiality". I made a clear statement against the motion, which was setting a precedent that I felt was unacceptable.

We are still students, we make mistakes, we repent, we apologise and we grow; Manfredi had the chance to apologise and prove himself at the most recent ULU Council meeting.

I could not vote against the motion because the statements Manfredi put forward in defence of himself were inadequate and portrayed an incompetency as Council Chair but at the same time, I could not vote in favour because I believe that it would set an inappropriate precedent. I expressed these views by abstaining.

Sarah Khatib, ICU Deputy President Education and Welfare

Rethink Rubbish

Dear Felix,

I fully agree with Andrew McConville's article "Rethink Rubbish: Reuse and Recycle": recycling is a vital issue for Imperial College to tackle. I would say that the change in attitude that Andrew speaks of is a matter of appreciating that recycling is not about making environmentalists happy but is simply the most intelligent and efficient thing to do.

This shift in attitude is underway across European countries, businesses and communities, and indeed here at Imperial College. For example, my fellow students in the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (which, let's face it, can hardly be accused of being environmental) have been questioning the limited recycling facilities and the fact that paper is simply thrown away. They have done so not because they like trees, but because they are engineers - good engineers - and object to wasteful and unintelligent solutions.

As an Imperial student, I would obviously like to think that Imperial is a champion of intelligent solutions. Yet, as Andrew mentions, Cambridge and Oxford are ahead of us in terms of sustainability measures. Even the LSE has clever energy-efficiency lighting control technology in their library.) Let's bring Imperial's waste management into the 21st century with a well-functioning recycling system. Ellin Barklund
4th year, Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Page 3

Dear Felix,

Farewell to page 2. Picture this: little me sitting on the train on my way home from university, quite smugly pulling out the latest copy of *Felix* which I'd hidden under my arm. My secret weapon!! Any Tom, Dick or Harry could get a copy of *The Guardian*, but me? Oh no, I was a member of the elite. I had my *Felix*. With it's intelligent layout and flawless design, my *Felix* was bound to beat the other literary materials scattered around the train carriage in the hands of Mr Banker and Ms French Tourist. As I opened my beloved *Felix*, I could sense that my friend from across the channel was not impressed. The intelligent content and flawless design had also failed to register with self important banker whose icy stares I could feel raising the hairs on the back of my neck.

When I eventually dropped my smug gaze to the paper in my hands, I found to my utter amazement, not one, not two, but three pale forms splayed across the originally entitled page 3. Just where did they come up with a name like that?

For a second I thought I'd picked up the wrong paper. But no, when I glanced back at the front page the word 'felix' stared back at me.

Is the world going mad? Evidently so. Am I the only one outraged by the rather strange attempts at indent exposure by our peers? Again, evidently so!

My eyes have been scarred but others out there can still be saved. Let us stop this degradation of our swanky high calibre paper. If you're really desperate for some naked science then head down to the Science Museum during your lunch break. I personally will be gluing pages 2 and 3 together in order to save my eyes and mind from further pollution.

Alea El-damanawi

Rupert Neate, Felix Editor, replies:

Dear Alea,
Do you not like the concept or was it just those 3 "pale forms"?

Alea El-damanawi, responses:

Dear Rupert,
Technically it's more the concept, I've seen many a girl look away in horror this week. I don't think guys mind it as much but then again their eye candy seems to be of a better quality than what the ladies get.

Rupert Neate:

I hope you don't say that when I pose for the last issue of year.

Alea El-damanawi:

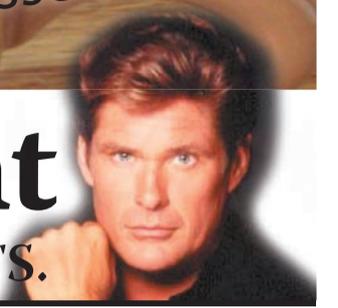
Your intending to pose? My my, I'll get the word out, better print some extra copies of *Felix* when u do! You should do it sitting on a piccadilly line train reading a copy of the *Felix* and put it next to my letter..

coffee break

with David Hasselhoff

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Coffee Break: a shadowy flight into the dangerous world of a man who does not exist. Good luck FUCWITS.



Close Ups

The more astute of you may notice that this is a shameless rip-off of one of my coffee breaks from last year.

I don't care. I like it.

Here's some famous album / single covers, and you have to tell us the artist and title. Simple. There's two points for each answer, so good luck.

Emails, as always, to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



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3



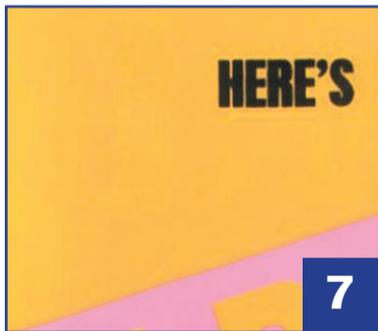
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coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Answers 1334 - TV Go Home

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. 1997 | 2. Robbie Williams - Trippin' |
| 2. 51 or maybe 58. Whatever. | 3. Vanilla Ice - Ice Ice Baby |
| 3. 48 | 4. Boyz 2 Men - End of the Road |
| 4. Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte, Miranda. | 5. Baywatch theme |
| 5. Twenty bloody years. | 6. 5ive - Keep on movin' |
| 6. Quahog | 7. R Kelly - Trapped in the Closet (Part 4) |
| 7. CTU | 8. Micheal Jackson - The Girl is Mine |
| 8. Slough | <i>Answers to this weeks by the 8th December please. You've got until the 1st to send in last weeks as well. Next week I'll announce the winner of the bag of Gay Porn, so see you then!</i> |
| 9. Neil Buchanan | |
| Stop... Hammertime! | |
| 1. MC Hammer - U Can't Touch This | |

blind date

felix-blinddate@imperial.ac.uk

Steve and Wayway @ Tampopo

Felix plays match-maker and sets up two Imperial students in the hope they'll find love, or at least have a laugh.



Describe your ideal partner?

Tall enough to reach my face but not so big that I can't chuck her over my shoulder and run off to my cave with her.

What would be your ideal location for a date?

In a restaurant that weighs people as they come in and bans the fat ones from eating there.

Which celebrity would you liken yourself to?

William Hague. Young, blonde and Tory to the core.

Which celebrity do you fancy?

Elisha Cuthbert.

Where can we spot you around IC?

In the maths library, improving my chances of world domination by honing my time-series skills.

Steve Brown

3rd year maths

Felix Sports Editor



Describe your ideal partner?

Has a pulse. And arms, legs, nose, ears a head. Male preferably but not particularly.

What would be your ideal location for a date?

On the moon.

Which celebrity would you liken yourself to?

Buttercup from the Powerpuff girls.

Which celebrity do you fancy?

Borat.

Where can we spot you around IC?

Well, you can hear me on IC Radio every Monday night.

Wayway Sim

Civil and Environmental

Engineering, MSc

Tampopo

140 Fulham Road,
London SW10 9PY

Meal for 2, £30

Monday 21 November 8pm



Steve's Verdict

What were your first thoughts when you saw Wayway?

Seemed humorous enough. Good to get along with on a rather impromptu evening out.

Did you fancy her?

To be honest, no. Nothing wrong with her, it's just I normally take a while to realise I like someone.

Did you like the restaurant?

Food was excellent, staff were friendly. I believe that IC students get a 20% discount so get your

arses down there now.

What would you give the date out of 10?

7.5

Will you be seeing her again?

Well, another Felix bar night is just around the corner. Perhaps we'll next meet in slightly less civilised surroundings.

And finally the question everyone wants ask, did you kiss?

No. The romantic mood was somewhat soured by the sight of the morbidly obese gentleman sitting to our right.

Wayway's Verdict

What were your first thoughts when you saw Steve?

He had a good sense of humour. Very nice sounding Scottish accent.

Did you fancy him?

Umm, not immediately no. We could be good friends, I don't think more than that. We share a GSOH, it was definitely fun chatting to him

What did you think of the meal?

Yes, very good nice atmosphere,

quite romantic, candles, good food, service was excellent, company was excellent.

Will you be seeing him again?

Yeah, why not.

What would you give him out of 10?

An 8.

Will you be seeing him again?

We'll see.

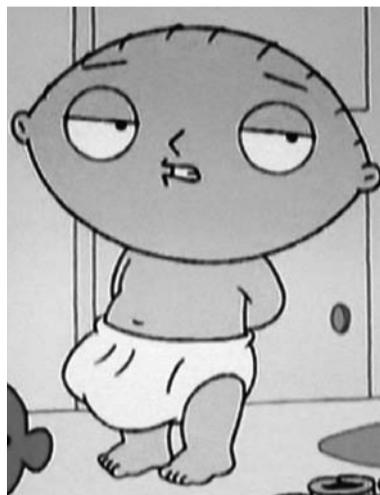
And a kiss?

No, we had a good laugh though.

Looking for Love? Or just a free dinner? felix-blinddate@ic.ac.uk



Last weeks TV



Ah... *Felix, Felix, Felix!* I had a pet called Felix once. He was black and white, and had four legs. He ran away when we went to the zoo. I thought that was the last I would see of my Felix. But no, Richard Attenborough insists on reminding me lions feasted on his carcass.

Last Thursday, the new series of *Little Britain* aired. I'm a bigger fan of this show than Marjorie Dawes is of insulting Asians, so my expectations were higher placed than the Qu'ran. So too were the nation's and the BBC's. *Little Britain* began on BBC3, then gained promotion to BBC2 and now Series 3 has gone straight to air on BBC1. It is a testament to the show's success that it is now regarded as a primetime program, but some argue it will become too mainstream. Only a few months ago, the excellent *Extras* was scheduled for BBC1, but creator Ricky Gervais demanded it be shown on BBC2 to avoid becoming too mainstream. I understand the argument, but it is about as apparent as Daffyd's sexual orientation! Unless it is clear television execs insisted the program be toned down for popular channels, surely the program is crap because of its creators' faults?

Last weeks *Little Britain* was certainly not toned down. In a supermarket, David Walliams played OAP Mrs Emery. We expect something fishy to happen. She starts nattering to a friend: "Blah, blah, bl..." Urea-ka! The flood gates opened! Walliams is wetter than a [edited - I crossed the line.] as she starts gushing piss onto the floor! Cringe-worthy: I smiled through my fingers covering my eyes. Smiled, not laughed.

We saw the return of Bubbles, darling. First, a predictable joke: "Are you sticking to your diet Mrs DeVere?" asks someone. "I'm just having Special K this morning" replies Bubbles carrying a stacked tray of cereal boxes. Second: two men rolling around in fat suits. It just didn't cut the mustard. Last series, Bubbles was shockingly funny. This was more like *Takeshi's Castle* on Bravo!

Few new characters meant the old guard needed to save the show. Matt Lucas must have had a back, sack and crack. Shamelessly, dressed in an outrageous thong, Daffyd had "become a rent-boy Myfanwy". Good sketch, but no classic. Andy or Lou, I forget which one. It's like Ant and Dec, Dick and Dom; guessing who's who. The 'cripple' then, went swimming with sharks and parachuting: more smiles. The best was probably from "V to the P, icky to the ollard" who had a dance off, Run DMC style. Her break dancing was phat. Not only "p-h" but pretty "f" fat too as her home girls spun her round as convincingly as a beached whale. Overall, it was enjoyable. Much better than the half-arsed slapstick of *The Worst Week of My Life* that followed, but rarely belly-aching.

Quick mention about *Lost*: Sawyer's turn. A better episode as always when focussed on him, but we still got nowhere with the main plot. Oh well. Lastly, I also caught a bit of *Children In Need* which is great fun if you like watching kids dying and celebrities' careers dying too.

Tomo Roberts

Strewth!



Real shocker this week. Firstly, I barged into Linnie's something past midnight like a root rat on heat. Being a bit worse of the turps I crashed out on her sofa and smooched the dog come morning. Bit awkward, as you might imagine, after that. Funnily enough, that Janelle patched us up proper. Closer than two bills in the wet season now; and her kissing is 100% on Harvey's.

The poor gal is worried about me, now that I got some graft with Paul "The Slime" Robinson. But, nah! A bloke like me knows when he's being conned, plus I'm in need of the bees and honey. You see, I gotta start paying my way now Old Davie boy ain't gunna be too happy since his daughter is having the naughty with some pommie bikini shop owner from over the road, and Hazzzer's been giving us grief since I got back from the bush. Bunch of wowers I say!

Talking of wowers, Dylan got done up and down proper in the coffee shop by some school boy. I told the kid to get off the grass and give the drongo a dinky-di seeing too, cos I ain't having my Sky courting a pansy.

Anyway, hooroo for now!

Joe Mangel

DVD Crime

Garth Marenghi's Darkplace

★★★★★

You are forgiven for thinking that this article might be dealing with the seedy underworld of entertainment piracy. It is not about some shady bloke called Garth, who flogs dodgy DVDs from the boot of his Ford Sierra in some dingy alley. In fact, I am preaching to you and demanding the attention of the Channel 4 execs. This show is genius. It is criminal that it has not been released on DVD.

Matthew Holness, who starred briefly in *The Office*, plays Garth Marenghi. Marenghi is a prolific horror writer, no, dream-weaver. His cannon of famous chillers includes: 'Slicer', 'Juggers' and 'Afterbirth', the last of which tells of a mutated placenta that attacks Bristol. During the 1980s, Marenghi wrote, directed and starred in a program so "radical, dangerous and God-damned crazy" the television corporations denied showing it. Now, these companies have come back to Marenghi and asked him to unleash the horror on the unsuspecting public - that's you and I. This creation is the "most significant televisual event since Quantum Leap": *Darkplace*.

Darkplace is a hospital drama with a twist: supernatural occurrences are the norm around these wards. Marenghi plays Rick Dagless MD, 'Dag' to his friends. One of his good buddies is Sanchez, although these cats occasionally do have punch-ups. Liz is the new girl on the block, complete with telekinetic powers. Each of them sports a classic 80s mullet, including Liz with what can only be described as the female equivalent. Their boss is the legendary Thornton Reed, donning bushy afro. Together, this unstoppable team overcomes any difficulties that the underworld throws at them. The doctors deal with an evil highland force known as "Scotch Mist", possessed kitchen utensils and

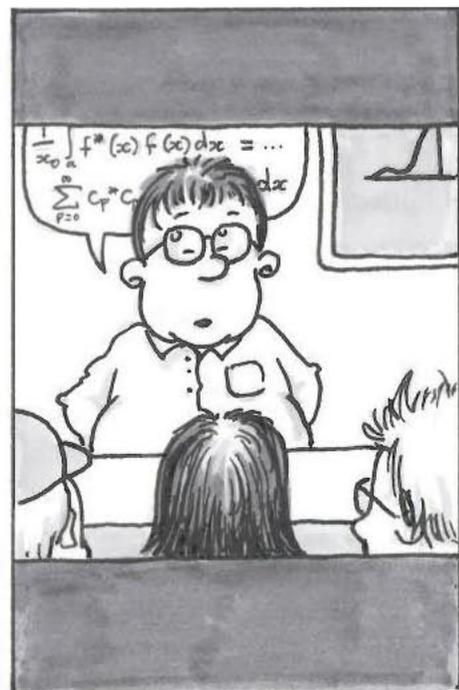
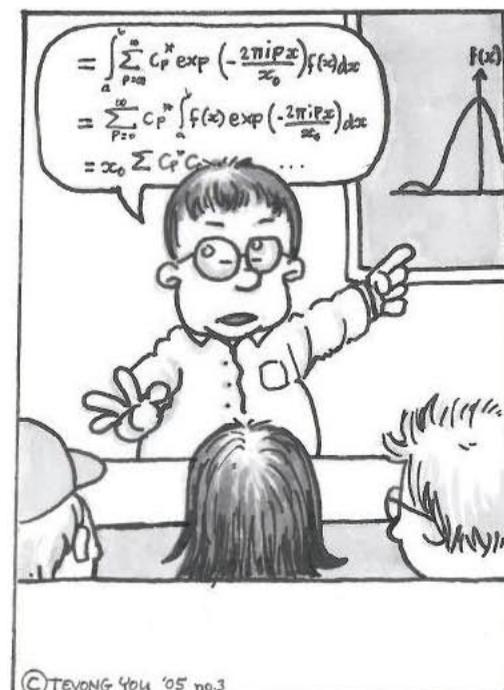


in another episode Dag becomes attached to a randy mutant eye.

The action takes place on retro, cheap, poorly lit sets; think *Diagnosis Murder* piss-take. Upbeat electronic music accompanies the actors running through hospital hallways. Running in slow motion not for dramatic effect, but to compensate for the eight minutes Marenghi didn't have script to fill. The picture is faded and sound out of sync. In one scene, Dag goes to leave Reed's office. He stops... "Wait one moment", commands Reed. Another sees Dag and Reed shooting at a demon. "Boom, boom" fires Reed. The camera switches. "Bang" shoots Dag, Reed stands straight. The camera returns: Reed still trigger-happy. There are many, many hilarious touches. *Darkplace* takes our nostalgia and runs away with it, then makes it explode into millions of pieces. Incidentally, Marenghi knows what it's like to explode. Don't ask him why: he just knows.

It's been a while since *Darkplace* was aired. I cannot understand why this isn't on DVD yet! Maybe Garth Marenghi doesn't want to be responsible for an insomnia epidemic. Imagine it being released on Betamax to complete the retro feel. Heck, I'd buy a player just for this. Whatever, this *must* be released. Channel 4: your arse is grass and I'm the lawnmower; you dig?

Tomo Roberts



Dear Miss Confidentiality...

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Hey guys! As I'm a sucker for romance I had to let Love hurts win, but keep the questions coming, I'm here to answer all you can throw at me! Films tickets for the winner again next week!! agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk!



Star Letter

Falling without her...

Dear Miss C,
I know that gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love but I have fallen for this girl. She is very sweet and nice to me but only treats me as a friend. I tried to take her out for dinner but she always responds by saying 'no need and not to waste time and money on her.' I bought her a present last week but she told me it's not necessary and it won't change anything. I really like her. What shall I do?
Love Hurts

Dear Love Hurts,
My my my!! Someone can't take no for an answer. As sweet as your being and a nice as you seem its time to cut your losses. Unfortunately in this case it seems that the nice guy does finish last, as she's just not interested. What you have to see is that it's her loss and some other lucky girls gain; I can

always enter you into the Felix blind date draw when you start looking!! In future don't try so hard, it seems like you're trying to buy her love. It's the nicest thing to get a gift when your dating, but when your not interested and people don't take no for an answer, it can get slightly scary and almost stalker like. My advice is sadly to move on, and in future take it slowly. Next time you get the urge to splurge, remember lil old me!?? I always love a good present!! ;)

Homoskeptic...

Dear Miss C
I don't like gay's full stop, but I masturbate over a transsexual in lingerie. I think this is sick in real life and would never try it and now when having sex I can't get a hard on without thinking about this and this is hard and off putting.
Har Dick

Dear Har Dick,
Ummm, right well as I'm a girl, obviously I have had loads of experience in this matter, but I'll see what I can do. Now you have a few options; my medic friends tell me that the transsexual op take place every Thursday at Charing X, so you could go and find yourself a new partner or next time you get the urge to drag out the Nadia wannabees try taking a cold shower and going cold turkey. Perhaps you could try your hand at 'normal' porn?? Why not try focusing on your partner for excitement, unless of course it's a drunken night out and she might cause your dinner to reappear. To be fair if you're under the influence you're gonna have problems getting it up anyway. Otherwise put it down to your urge to experiment (I'd try Ann Summers in future!!) and embrace your new feelings. Good luck with that and let me now how it goes.

Return of the rant...

Dear Miss C,
I have another love problem! I sit behind these asylum bars looking at butterflies slowly die in the sunlight. I've recently fallen for this woman. She's amazing and charms me like nothing I've ever come across. Including the crack in the wall I

find myself studying for hours. However, she is being seen by this man who comes every Sunday to play the organs for the church. Usually I sit strapped in a straight jacket so I can't take even the smallest bite out of him. But I spit at his face with my eyes whenever he looks my way. He has bewitched my woman, even though he only works in a funeral service! If they hadn't taken my cloak and ring away I could become invisible and find out what he really gets up to! But here I am locked away just because I can see these transparent worms coming out of people telling me there future! Oh and because of you. And mostly my room mate who woke up with me studying him, the police wouldn't listen to my explanations regarding the quest for face equations. I wish that queen's tower was open more often so I could prove you can fly as long as you think happy thoughts and can actively miss the ground.
Xenebicci Aka Nobody

Dear Nobody,
Well as a returning lost soul requiring my help I thought I should try attempt to advise your ramblings, hopefully leading to a happier ending than in the green mile. Now, your love life, firstly as you've met in an asylum, this isn't looking promising, especially as you're doing a Hannibal Lecter. Secondly she's a taken woman, even if it is by an undertaker. Hey whatever makes her happy right? Now I feel that your medication has kicked in and you now believe that you're Frodo. Repeat after me, LOTR was not real!!! You cannot become invisible; else you would have long escaped from the prison in which you currently find yourself! I'd cut your losses and try and find someone else. Even better, get well, get released, and find someone worthy of your insanity, perhaps a female Donny Darko? Now I'm sorry I had to alert the police, but I had serious fear for both your flatmate's and your own safety, can you blame me when you dream of being peter pan?? Heed my words, and all will be well. Until we meet again.....

Mystic stars

Scorpio (Oct 23rd - Nov 21st)



Feeling frisky? Stay away from oysters, asparagus and other aphrodisiacs this week, trust me, your friends will be thanking you for it.

Sagittarius (Nov 22nd - Dec 21st)



One step forward and two steps back... Stop dancing around your worries this week, instead take the lead and show them a quick left hock to the jaw.

Capricorn (Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)



I have seen your fate in the cards!! Take heart from this week-ends' events, although you may later flush at the thought.

Aquarius (Jan 20th - Feb 18th)



Why stop at cloud 9? A certain someone will be putting a smile on your face and butterflies in your stomach. Just go with the flow.

Pisces (Feb 19th - Mar 20th)



Honey. You've been had! You are particularly gullible this week so watch out for people trying to lead you down the garden path!

Aries (Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Don't try to be too ambitious this week, take things bite size for now! You may feel there's nothing you can't handle, beware of biting more than you can chew or you might end up wondering what the hell went wrong.

Taurus (Apr 21st - May 21st)



Oh oh! Someone has this bull by the horns, wrapped around their little finger; beware of being the doormat that people walk right over.

Gemini (May 22nd - Jun 21st)



You may think all is sweet as pie, but watch out for those little sour apples who want to spoil your week. Revenge is a dish best served cold.

Cancer (Jun 22nd - Jul 22nd)



Someone's been sampling the menu this week, as crabs is on the recommended list. Make the most of it as, being on top doesn't last that long.

Leo (Jul 23rd - Aug 22nd)



You may be a little careless so try to avoid making mistakes! If you do; remember it happens to the best of us. Then get over it!

Virgo (Aug 23rd - Sep 22nd)

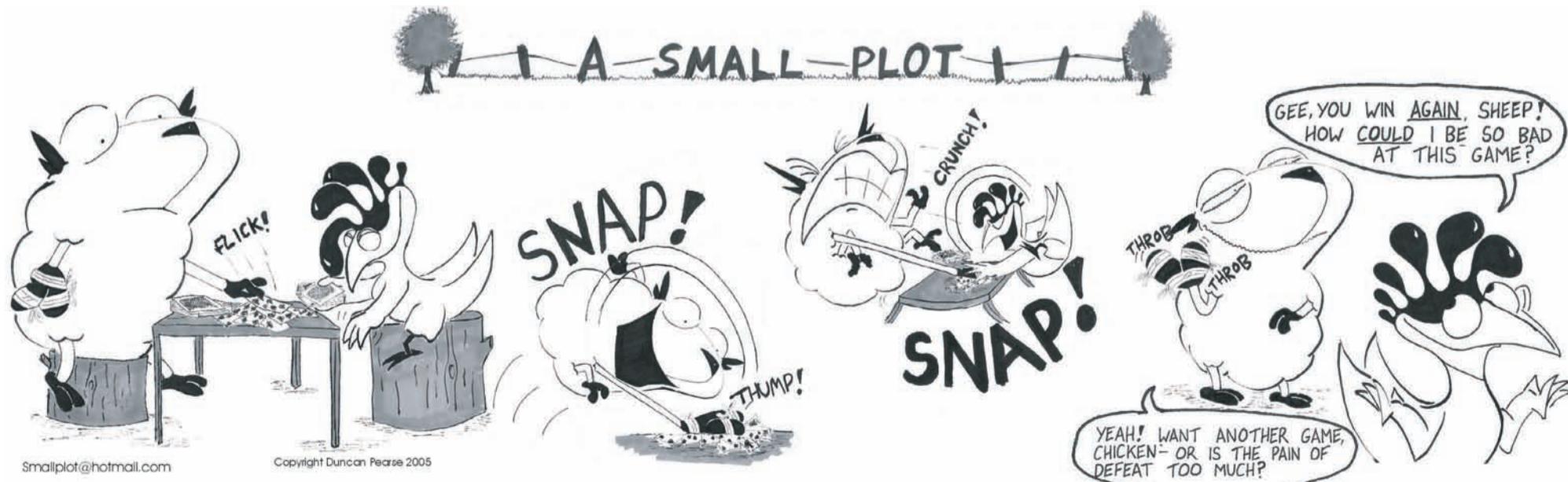


Broken promises aren't pretty, so think carefully before a loved one gets hurt. You're great at thinking on your feet, so put those skills to work.

Libra (Sept 23rd - Oct 22nd)



The whole world feels like it's caving in on you and you don't know why. Talk to someone you'd never usually confide in. You'll be surprised how a stranger's opinion can help.



A brush with royalty...

Vasudha Gudipati

Bioengineering

It all started as the Bioengineering society organised a trip to the Windsor castle for the whole department on the 22nd of October. For those of you who don't know Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen and the largest occupied castle in the world. A Royal home and fortress for over 900 years, the Castle remains a working palace today. Over a period of nearly 1,000 years it has been inhabited continuously, and altered and refurbished by successive monarchs. Some were great builders, strengthening the Castle against uprising and rebellion; others, living in more peaceful times, created a palatial Royal residence.

William the Conqueror chose the site, high above the river Thames and on the edge of a Saxon hunting ground. It was a day's march from the Tower of London and intended to guard the western approaches to the capital. The outer walls of today's structure are in the same position as those of the original castle built by William the Conqueror in the 1070s. So too is the central mound supporting the Round Tower and the Upper Ward, where successive monarchs have had their

private apartments since the fourteenth century.

In the 1170s Henry II rebuilt - in stone instead of wood - the Round Tower, the outer walls of the Upper and most of the Lower Ward, and the Royal apartments in the Upper Ward. In the 1360s Edward III, who was born at Windsor, extended the Castle. He created the immense St. George's Hall for the use of the Knights of his newly founded Order of the Garter. Oliver Cromwell captured Windsor Castle after the Battle of Edgehill in 1642, and for the rest of the Civil War it became a prison as well as the headquarters of the parliamentary forces. In 1648 Charles I was held there before his trial and execution in London.

Following the Restoration, Charles II was determined to make the Castle as splendid as possible. He created a new set of State Apartments in the 1670s, using the skills of the architect Hugh May, the artist Antonio Verrio for murals and ceiling paintings, and the famous wood-carver Grinling Gibbons. The King's Dining Room and the Queen's Presence and Audience Chambers retain many of these original features. Charles II also laid out the 5km Long Walk leading due south from the Castle into Windsor Great Park.

George IV was a great lover of art and fine decoration. Much of Windsor Castle's present appearance is due to the alterations he instigated in the 1820s with his architect, Sir



Just a tad more attractive than our monstrosity in South Ken.

Jeffrey Wyattville. The buildings were refashioned in the Gothic style, with the addition of crenellations, turrets and towers. In the Upper Ward the private apartments were moved from the north side of the quadrangle to the south and east side. The rooms on the north side were designated, as now, as for use on formal occasions and State visits. One of George IV's most remarkable additions was the Waterloo Chamber, which was created in the 1820s to show portraits commissioned from

Sir Thomas Lawrence to commemorate the defeat of Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo in 1815. They represent the monarchs, soldiers and statesmen who were involved in that defeat and its aftermath. They include George III, George IV and the future William IV, the Duke of Wellington, Field Marshal von Blücher, the Emperors of Austria and Russia, the Kings of Prussia and France, and Pope Pius VII.

The twentieth-century history of the Castle is dominated by the major fire that started on 20 November 1992. It began in the Private Chapel, when a spotlight came into contact with a curtain and ignited the material. It took 15 hours and one-and-a-half million gallons of water to put out the blaze. Nine principal rooms and over 100 other rooms over an area of 9,000 square metres were damaged or destroyed by the fire, approximately one-fifth of the Castle area.

The next five years were spent restoring Windsor Castle to its former glory. It resulted in the greatest historic building project to have been undertaken in this country in the twentieth century, reviving many traditional crafts.

Windsor Castle may be 900 years old, but it continues to play a large part in the official work of The Queen and members of the Royal Family. Today The Queen uses the Castle both as a private home, where she usually spends the weekend, and

as a Royal residence at which she undertakes certain formal duties. The traditional State Banquet is held in St George's Hall (55.5m long and 9m wide), with a table seating up to 160 guests. This table was humongous I tell you and it looked well, "majestic".

The magnificent State Apartments are furnished with some of the finest works of art from the Royal Collection, including paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Canaletto, Gainsborough and the famous triple portrait of Charles I by Sir Anthony van Dyck.

In the 1992 fire by good fortune the rooms worst affected were empty at the time, and as a result, few of the Castle's artistic treasures were destroyed. The highly acclaimed restoration work, completed in 1997, is a testament to the extraordinary skills of some of the finest craftsmen in Europe.

Once we were done with the castle we went down to the town centre which reminded me a lot of Stratford-upon-Avon (Shakespeare's birthplace), it had a very traditional village atmosphere (although with all the high street shops). We sat by the river Thames which was only 10 minutes away by walk and reminisced on the enjoyable day we had. The trip was certainly entertaining and the castle is well worth going to if you want to experience this island nation's history.

Who will rule IRAQ?

A speakers' event that will discuss the current major issues in Iraq, hosted by the ICU Iraqi Society.



The Iraqi Constitution
Ali Latif (Iraqi Prospect Organisation)



An analysis of the current situation
Dr Zuhair Al-Naher



The Iraqi Elections
Iraq OCV spokesperson



Q&A Session

Refreshments will be served

Wednesday 30th Nov

Start @ 2.00pm

Chem. Eng Lecture Theatre 1



For more information, please contact:
Anwar Amin on 0797 01 35 005 (anwar.amin@ic.ac.uk)
OR Sarah Mehdi on 0781 38 48 965 (sarah.mehdi@ic.ac.uk)
www.icu-iraqisoc.org.uk

Felix New Year's Honours 2006

The Queen does them. So why can't we. Nominations are now open for the *Felix* New Year's Honours List 2006. Send your nominations, with an explanation, to honours.felix@ic.ac.uk.

Categories include; Hero of the Year, Wanker of the Year, Most Eligible Bachelor, Most Dateable Female, Best Page 3 Model(s), Best Faculty & Best Student's Union in London.

Sport, Clubs & Societies

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Play without the politics

Jasmine Sze

5-a-side Football

OSC World Cup
Champions 2005:- Iran FC

Bright and early last Saturday 12th of November saw a gaggle of Imperial's most keen footballers from 16 national societies warming up together at Paddington Recreation Ground. What brought this diverse group of young men and women (Yes! There were female players too) out into the bitter cold at 9am? It was the opportunity to play for their country and their pride in the annual Overseas Students Committee World Cup.

This year the OSC World Cup was the culmination of a week's worth of events organised at IC to commemorate RiseWeek, a London-wide anti-racism campaign. The tournament spanned the whole day with 15 minutes 5-a-side quali-

fiers followed by 10 minutes quarter and semi-finals. Sandwiches and refreshments were served to footballers courtesy of the OSC. The excitement rose to fever pitch as Iraq came head-to-head with Iran FC, and Sheffield United played Abacus in the semi-finals. Congratulations go to the winners, Iran FC, and the runners-up, Sheffield United, who battled it out in a nail-biting 20-minute final. All in all it was a wonderful day out, with tournament participants already calling for a sequel next term. A big thank you goes to the participating teams, all of which showed good sportsmanship and exemplified the spirit of diversity and tolerance that was the inspiration for the event.

Look out for posters about the next Overseas Students Committee production, A Sense of the World, a cultural extravaganza of fashion and food organised in conjunction with IC FashionSoc. A Sense of the World will be held on Wednesday 30th November in the MDH, with tickets on sale in the JCR during lunchtimes this week and next.



We are the champions of the World!

Cant hack the pace of College life?

Kat Spall

Chaplaincy

How do you find time and space to think – or just to be – in the middle of busy college life? It's a struggle for many of us – so much is going on that it's hard to find some peace and quiet to let go of it all for a few minutes, or to think about the way we relate and respond to specific issues in the world. Next week, the Chaplaincy is providing two opportunities to help you create that space.

“respond creatively – or simply respond by lighting a candle”

On Monday we're holding an event called A Journey to Stillness. It offers you a chance to be still in the middle of a busy day. We start with a short meditation so that people can let go of the rushing around and anxieties of everyday life. You are then invited to continue the meditation by walking into a labyrinth, which represents a journey to stillness. The labyrinth has just one path (unlike a maze) and allows you to walk without having to decide which route to take. This act of walking can be very calming, and for many people is easier than sitting still. People who have used our labyrinth before have found it very relaxing, and enjoyed having a structured time of quiet. Labyrinths arise at different times in history and in different cultures from around the world, so they are

open to anyone rather than being linked to just one religious tradition. A Journey to Stillness is in the Union Dining Hall from 1.10 – 1.45.

From Tuesday to Friday between 9.30am and 5.00pm, to tie in with Medsin's Positively Red events for World Aids Week, we are holding Reflect & Respond: Why are you wearing a red ribbon on World Aids Day? This installation in the Chaplaincy prayer room offers a range of resources and activities, for people of any faith or none, to reflect on and respond to HIV and Aids. You will be able to encounter voices of people affected by HIV through resources from the National AIDS trust, and think about your own response to HIV and Aids and why you wear a red ribbon. You can add to our red ribbon paper chain as a sign of solidarity and to represent the diverse ways people are affected by HIV. You'll also be able to reflect on some of the challenges HIV presents us with and respond creatively – or simply respond by lighting a candle. Reflect & Respond presents you with a variety of things to read, look at, think about and do, and you can engage with whichever ones you choose to.

“How do you find time and space to think?”

Both events are free and there's no need to sign up in advance. If you've ever wished you could find a moment of peace during your busy day at college, one of these events could be a good place to start. Go to www.chaplaincy.imperial.ac.uk or contact us on chaplaincy@imperial.ac.uk for more information.

www.positivelyred.co.uk

Positively Red

AIDS awareness week
at Imperial College
26/11 – 2/12

SATURDAY 26th November Conference:

“People, Possibilities, and Promises”
Society and Culture
Treatment access
Projects in Developing World
And WORKSHOPS!!!

Chaired by Prof. Gazzard

Perspectives from politicians, aid workers, clinicians,
researchers, social workers, nurses & students

Time: 9am - 4pm

Venue: Drewe Lecture Theatre, Reynolds Building,
Charing Cross Hospital

Price: £5 (waged), £3 (unwaged) Includes lunch

To book your place, email matthew.butler@ic.ac.uk

MONDAY 28th November

Play:

“Satan and Simon DeSoto”

by Ted Sod
with DramSoc

Time: 7pm

Venue: Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital

Price: £4

Includes wine and mince pies

TUESDAY 29th November

Play:

“Satan and Simon DeSoto” by Ted Sod
with DramSoc (Details as Monday)

Debate:

“This house believes that the promotion of abstinence is the
most effective way to curb the global AIDS pandemic”

With speakers Dr Roger Ingham (University of
Southampton), and William Meara (US Embassy)
With IC Debating Society

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Mech Eng, Rm 342, South Kensington

Price: FREE

THURSDAY 1st December WORLD AIDS DAY

6pm

Vigil in the Main Dining Hall, Sheffield building moving
on to the Queen's Lawn

with Guitar Music, Song,
Prayers & Contemplative time
Tomato soup available

Rowan Harvey (Terrence Higgins Trust) will be speaking
Bring an item of clothing for the charity Out of Afrika

FRIDAY 2nd December PARTY!!!

Paint the Reynolds RED! Wear RED!

Breakdancing from Funkology!

Cyan Jazz Band!

DJ!

Red Curry!

Free Condoms!

Time: 8pm (extended licence)

Venue: Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital

Price: £3 dressed in red /or bought in advance

£4 without red

All profits from the week will go to the charities:

Zisize Orphanage, South Africa
(www.zisize.org)

'Out of Afrika'
(www.outofafrika.org)

'Inter-Community Development
Involvement' (ICODEI)
(www.volunteerkenya.org)

Thirsty for the win!

Celina Rughani

Netball

Imperial College 3rds	17
Kings College 3rds	16

Our last scheduled match was a home game against Queen Mary's 4ths, who haven't won a single game this season - so of course an easy win! ...Not quite. After spending what seemed an eternity finding these (now no longer) home courts in some random area in Kensal Green, and being quite tempted to give up along the way and retire for a drink in one of the Halloween decorated pubs, we arrived to find some admittedly cute, so of course non-imperial, footballers. All is good until we realise there are no...posts! Yes a netball court with no netball posts - smart! By now Queen Mary's were already making their way from Mile End - fair play long way to come for no match. So out of the kindness of our hearts, and seeing as we were all there anyway, we decided to at least take them for a drink - had quite an amusing session playing a random fruit and tube-line game...don't ask I have no idea. So anyway, when we asked to re-schedule the match they tell us they can't because they don't have the time...but wait, they're happy to

fit in a friendly...!?!?!? Losers - they knew we'd whoop their, not so trim, arses! So we are now officially anti Queen Mary's!

Ok now I've got that out of my system, our match against Kings was a scrapped victory, but a victory all the same. It was an away match, so planning ahead; we arranged to meet at South Ken station to make our way to Canada Water where kindly one of their team members would pick us up, giving us enough time to warm up and practise a few plays. However, as we're jinxed with our travel, it took us twice the time to get there due to the Jubilee deciding to be gay (excuse my non-PC'ness) and stop-starting along the way. Reaching nearly half an hour late, we started almost straight away - with no centre bib.

We set off with great strength, taking the lead and keeping majority of the possession. Even though we were playing well, there were still some basic errors being made, which Kings took well advantage of. They pulled off a one goal difference in the first quarter, extending it to two by half time, and in the third quarter we were 14-9 down, but that wasn't about to put us off! The last quarter was our quarter - we dominated the court and made the game ours!

The ref was quite blatantly against us from the start, with one of her favourite calls being contact, even though the player meant to be on

the receiving end of our 'foul play' was half way across the court, and poor Ashley was her favourite victim - but in her defence, she was quite a big girl to try and get around. The other being delayed play - that means our players weren't getting back fast enough for the centre passes - bull! As Anjali quite correctly put it, "We were literally sprinting back...her big arse couldn't get back any faster!" (I warned you I'd be quoting).

After a quick pep talk we came back on for the final quarter, all guns blazing, looking for no less than a win. Taking the first 5 goals, which brought us up to 14 all, the win was at our fingertips. The final quarter showed true drive and determination of all the girls - Jade even went for goal outside the D! After the fifth goal, Kings managed to get their mitts on the ball and started scoring, the game went up to 16 all - all hearts stopped for the final minute, there was no way we were settling for a draw. Then, in the last few seconds, a fab-tastic goal - sneaking it in before Cruella could blow the final whistle. What a high! Adrenaline rushing we got back in time for a quick drink at the union. Special congratulations to Tombo for winning player of the match...again. Well played girls - a deserving win, they wanted it, but we wanted it more!

Country bumpkins triumph!

Adam Miller

Mens Football

UCCA Rochester XI	0
Wye XI	15

A score that would not look out of place posted upon the pavilion at a local cricket ground ensured that Wye's 100% unbeaten start to the season remained intact. It became apparent from kick-off that the game could potentially become a 'walk in the park,' and it did so with the men in blue initiating a high tempo passing game. With the bagging of our first goal, we settled into a rhythm in which we began to express our refreshing flowing brand of attacking football. This relaxation brought with it an onslaught of shots, peppering a visibly quivering Rochester goal.

" a good days work from every player"

Milton and Nick showed their pace out wide and provided excellent delivery for our front pairing of Ian and Rich, whilst being backed up excellently by full backs Lucas and

Kieron. A Formidable engine room manned by Jack and Max ran the Show in the middle of the park, mirrored by Wye's best looking couple Chris and Jamie sweeping up anything at the back. Wye's strength in depth was made all too clear with the addition of Calder, Jay and Millsy at half time. Special mention to stand-in goalie JD, as with all the action in our box the crowd were concerned had turned to stone!

The net was burst seven times in the first half before a reshuffled second half team improved on this with eight scorers! There were plenty more goals in it with a number of spurned Wye opportunities but I suppose we should be content with 15!!

"A score that would not look out of place posted upon the pavilion at a local cricket ground"

Another positive was the continued solidity at the back - wye are still yet to concede this season! All in all, a good days work from every player as the lads continue to march on relentlessly!!

A not so friendly friendly!

Gilly Barber

Ladies Hockey

Reading 4th XI	4
RSM XI	3

What can I say? A truly stunning match was played by the RSM Ladies Hockey team last Wednesday against a very nasty Reading 4ths. We set out from campus for the long drive out to Reading with our usual number of 9 players, to be met by another team of 14 with rolling subs. Why do all our matches seem to be the other team's tryouts? Anyway, a quick warm-up in the freezing cold and we got underway. The first half was especially tricky for us as they were fielding 11 players so 2 messy goals slipped past our keeper Rachel. However we fought back with an awesome play up the wing from Heather and a very neat goal from Lucy - our first of the season no less! Two minutes later, and against a very sloppy Reading, we were even with another goal from our frontman Dasha. As play con-

tinued we managed to send one of their girls off with a neat stick-chin contact from Charlotte, and some flying sticks from me, but to no avail and half time ended 4-2.

Some words of encouragement from our two lovely cheerleaders in the form of Mike and Sam and we were back out on an even pitch playing 9-all. Everyone upped their game in the second half and we became the dominant team, with Alice snatching many a possession from right under their noses. Reading in their desperation turned to complaining to the umpires and rugby tackling our girls on the pitch, even managing to take out our lady-of-the-match Lucy. Some great defending from Dawn and Charlotte kept out their lousy attempts at another goal, and with Stacey and Dasha up front we managed another stunning one taking the score to 4-3 (even if it did go in off the goal-wheel and not the post!). Minutes later the final whistle blew and it was all over, but with such breathtaking play it won't be long until we are racing up the league! Massive thanks to everyone that played - a truly inspiring match!

The fours Head of the River

Mike Walsh

Boat Club

It was a remarkably pleasant November morning, the sun was out and the water was flat. Even more notable, though, was the sight of over 500 racing boats lining the banks of the Thames between Brentford Dock and Chiswick Pier (that's almost 4 miles!) They were all waiting for one thing - the chance to race the 'Championship Course', from Mortlake to Putney in the Fours Head of the River.

At just after 12:30, the horn sounded and they were off! The processional race was led away under Chiswick Bridge by a quad scull packed with GB international rowers, but the chase was on as the following crews looked to make their mark on the race. The first IC crew down was the 'Senior 2' quad of Ben Smith, Ed Johnson, Will Laughton and George Whittaker. This was the top priority crew for the club, but the guys didn't appear to be feeling the pressure as they came through the start looking smooth and controlled. And so it went on, with boat after boat setting off to tackle the grueling 20 minute course. Among them were another 10 IC crews, including three from this year's promising women's' squad. Also in the mix, for the eagle-eyed amongst us, was one James Cracknell, who picked up an

oar again for the first time since last year's Olympics as a last minute sub for his club, Leander.

Eventually, after over 2 hours of racing, the last of the crews made it through the finish. From this point, all we could do was to wait for the results to be worked out by the race organisers, and what better place to wait than the bar...

A few pints and a quick download from the race website later and we had those all important results. Initially there was a bit of disappointment as it turned out that none of our crews had actually won their events. However, there were some good performances all round. The men's quad came in 13th overall and 4th in their category, seven seconds behind the victors. Even closer still was the top men's coxed four, who put together a strong race to finish 2nd in the 'Senior 1' category, less than 2 seconds adrift of the winners. Further down the field, the 3 'Senior 2' coxless fours were 5th, 14th and 15th, and the 'Senior 1' coxless four was 9th. Also putting up a good fight was the top 'Senior 3' coxed crew, who, despite having to carry Connie down the course with them, managed to beat one of the coxless fours and also finished a creditable 3rd in their category, with the 'B' crew further back in 13th place. The girls also came up with some useful results - the top quad finished as the 8th fastest women's' crew overall (5th in their category), with the 2nd quad not too far behind them (8th in the same category). Last but not

least was the girls' 'Senior 3' coxed four, who fought their way through to 11th position in their category despite having a 2 hour wait at the start.

With the evening ahead of us, and with many people already pretty far gone (alcohol is surprisingly quick to affect you after a period of intense physical exertion!), the dance floor at our neighbours, Thames Rowing Club, began to draw the punters in. Predictably, a night of crazy, drunken 'dancing' and general debauchery ensued. There were of course some less predictable occurrences, but I don't think I'll go into them here... (There's a time and a place, and neither of them involve this issue of Felix!)

So, all in all, a good start to the main racing season. We definitely all need to put some work in over the coming months, but now we know where we stand, and what we've got to aim for...

On another note, I feel that a mention should be made of those boys and girls from the club who made the trip to Boston (Lincs' not USA) for the first GB international trials of the year. Of particular note were the performances of George, who came home 4th in men's heavyweight, and new-boy Will, who pulled out an astounding 8th position in his first senior level trials. We'll have to wait and see how the season unfolds, but there's certainly promise there in terms of potential international representation - fingers crossed.

Please send your sports reports, reviews and comments to sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Batizado for Capoeira Abolição

Imperial Capoeiristas earn their cordas

Dom Thorrington

Capoeira

Salve! Most of you might not have heard about the Afro-Brazilian martial art of Capoeira, so you probably don't know that we have our own Capoeira Society here at Imperial. Well, allow me to explain...

It all began in the 'slave-trade' in the 16th Century; people were kidnapped from Africa and sold as slaves in Brazil. Those captured devised a plan to free themselves from the shackles of slavery - they weren't permitted to train in any fighting arts or skills, so created a new martial art disguised as a dance. This is how Capoeira was born. In the game, Capoeiristas gather in a circle (roda) with various instruments at the head of the roda playing tribal music. The Capoeiristas clap and sing to the music, whilst two people play Capoeira to the rhythm in the centre of the roda. It has always been played in the streets and on the beaches of Brazil, but now has reached every corner of the planet.

Capoeira is a martial art full of fluid and dynamic movements of attack and counter-attack, with some awesome acrobatics thrown into the mix too. The finished display is a beautiful blend of music, singing, dance, attack/counter-attack and the traditions of those who created Capoeira. It is quite simply a martial art unlike anything you will have ever seen before.

Our society is affiliated to Capoeira Abolição, a group of Capoeiristas



Haven't I seen you somewhere before? Oh, that's right - naked on page 3.

stretching across the globe, allowing us to be trained by some of the best Capoeiristas in the world. We currently have academies in the UK, USA, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Brazil. The man in charge of the UK branch is Formado 'Polvo', our instructor who also allows us to attend his private lessons in Chelsea and Ladbroke Grove outside of college hours. Other Abolição representatives (Graduado 'Duplo' and Graduado 'Madimbu') also allow us to train with them in Brixton, Bow and Vauxhall. So coupled with the lessons held in college, IC Capoeiristas have plenty of opportunities to enhance their skills in this art.

Last week however, Capoeira Abolição UK had its annual Batizado - a one-week workshop put on by our Master - Mestre Delei 'Kaçula', ending with a ceremony for those who have earned their first belt (corda) and are "baptised" as Capoeiristas, and for those who have earned a higher corda. Mestre trains three times a day at his academy in Miami, and also travels to all other academies throughout the world giving these Batizados, allowing each Capoeirista to train with the best Capoeirista in Abolição. Amazingly, he was awarded his black belt at just 20 years of age.

Some members of IC Capoeira took part in the main event, learn-

ing valuable new skills from Mestre and earning their first cordas (corda verde), with one earning his second corda (corda amarelo). For the other members not in the Batizado, Mestre arranged a special class so that they didn't miss out on this amazing opportunity to train with him.

Mestre Delei, like all Masters of any martial art, insists on absolute perfection in practicing our martial art, as well as complete dedication to the group and to Capoeira generally. It was the most exhausting lesson we have ever had in college, but well worth the aching muscles the next day.

A normal lesson consists of learning various moves and techniques

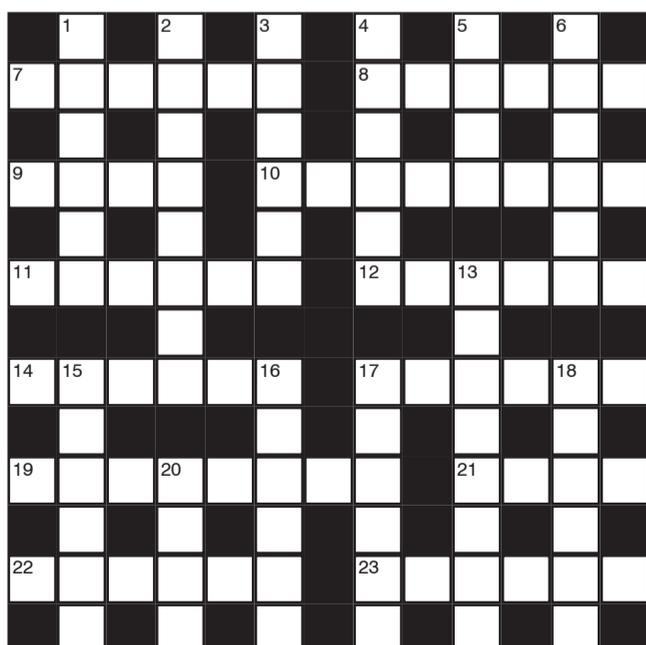
to attack or counter-attack your opponent, but the art of Capoeira is only really seen the roda, and at the end of this special lesson Mestre Delei invited us to create a roda with him. Some of the group had only been playing Capoeira for one month, so the opportunity to play against him was unbelievable! He tested our skills, knowing some had only played for one month, and gave everyone a taste of true Capoeira played by someone who has devoted their life to Capoeira Abolição. For those who were looking to earn their first corda, he tested them a bit more, trying to see if they were worthy of the corda verde.

For the rest of the Batizado, the group had longer training sessions with Mestre (some running for over three hours) with some music and singing lessons thrown in to complete the training. A Capoeirista not only needs to be skilled in acrobatic and fluid movements, but must also be capable of playing the various instruments used in the roda - the atabaque (floor-standing drum), pandeiro (tambourine) and the berimbau (like a long bow with a wooden bowl at one end - the music is played by hitting the string and changing the pitch with a stone), as well as knowing the songs and different rhythms of the game.

If you would like to know more about Capoeira, why not come and try a class? We meet every Monday in the Union Gym at 6pm, running till 7:30pm. You can get more details by emailing us at capoeira@imperial.ac.uk.

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

- 7. eg Autumn (6)
- 8. Knitting implement (6)
- 9. Vehicle (4)
- 10. Dutifully complying with commands (8)
- 11. Ten years (6)
- 12. Red fruit (6)
- 14. Gentle touch (6)
- 17. Breakfast food (6)
- 19. Popular series of films (4,4)
- 21. Norse god (4)
- 22. Official marks used for postage (6)
- 23. Narrow strip of pasta (6)

Down

- 1. Children's TV show: _____ Street (6)
- 2. Guess (8)
- 3. Additional performance (6)
- 4. Put in (6)
- 5. Lunch counter (4)
- 6. Celestial body (6)
- 13. Long race (8)
- 15. Shrewd (6)
- 16. At widely spaced intervals (6)
- 17. Public place for gambling (6)
- 18. Famous NASA space programme (6)
- 20. Easy victory (4)

**Crossword
Setters
Required
please!**

(pretty please)

felix@ic.ac.uk