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Security rethink

Spate of thefts in Evelyn Gardens

Tallulah Bygraves

Security has been tightened at Evelyn Gardens' halls following a spate of recent burglaries. Concerns raised by the Union Accommodation Committee were brought to the Rector's attention by Sameena Misbahuddin, the Union President, after student representatives voiced their criticism of current practices. The Rector responded by appointing a permanent officer stationed outside Evelyn Gardens with access to the area's live CCTV footage. Additionally, safes have been installed in each of the rooms of Bernard Sunley Hall for a trial period.

Miss Misbahuddin is very pleased with the College's reaction, "The response has been really good... the safes have always been an idea and until we trial them we'll never know what the effect will be. It should provide much better security for students' possessions. The area hasn't had much security presence in the recent past, especially when you consider that they have five halls down there, so having the security guards should be a big help to improving the situation."

The move comes in response to the rising incidence of theft from halls within Evelyn Gardens. At the Committee Meeting last November, representatives stated that an increasing number of valuable items had been reported stolen from student's rooms. The incidents, which took place in the first week of the autumn term, included the theft of

an alleged £10,000 from one student's locked drawer and £2,000 from another. Laptops and other valuables were also reported missing.

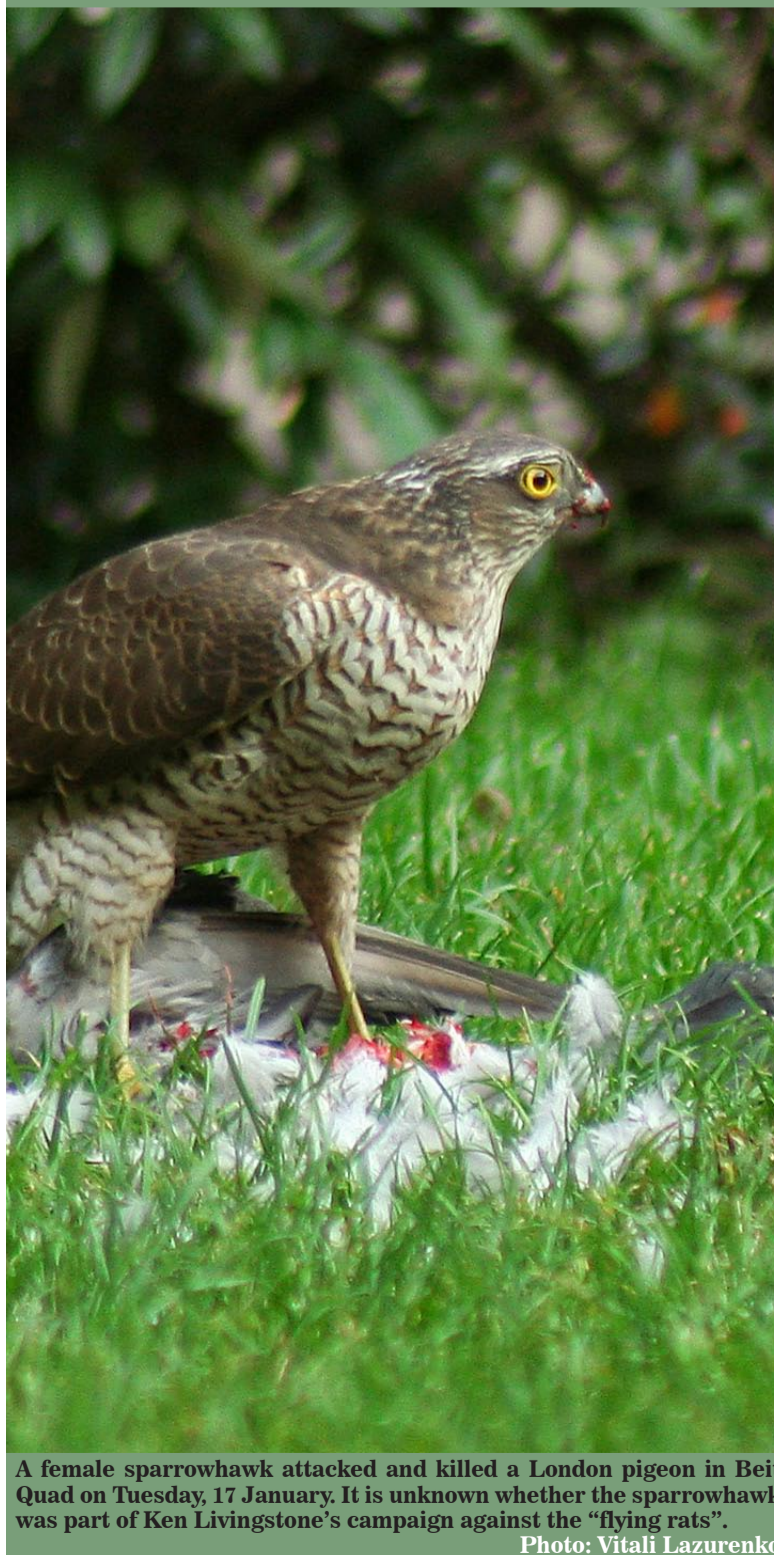
Existing security measures in the Gardens were further criticised after a suspicious man was seen exiting Bernard Sunley Hall carrying stolen goods. Adrian Medina, who is on the Accommodation Committee, told *Felix*, "I saw the famous thief which haunts us every year leave Southwell Hall carrying a black laptop bag. He is a big guy so I didn't really want to challenge him, instead I followed him whilst a friend of mine called security but they weren't answering."

"Coincidentally, I saw the police on the street and pointed the thief out but they didn't manage to catch him. He had gotten into halls by tail-gating, as shown on the CCTV. It was the first day of the year and the freshers didn't know each other well so nobody in halls realised that he wasn't a student. He got into a room on the second floor which had been left open and stole a laptop, mobile phone and other items." Although the incident was reported to the 4444 Sherfield Security emergency extension, the response was too slow and no immediate action was taken, leaving many students feeling increasingly vulnerable.

Ally Crowther, a resident at Bernard Sunley, told *Felix*, "At the time of the thefts last term, it was rather nerve-racking and it definitely seemed like Evelyn Gardens

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Murder in Beit Quad



A female sparrowhawk attacked and killed a London pigeon in Beit Quad on Tuesday, 17 January. It is unknown whether the sparrowhawk was part of Ken Livingstone's campaign against the "flying rats".

Photo: Vitali Lazurenko

Library to go 24/7 again

Saba Shafi

From the beginning of the Easter holidays and throughout the summer term, the Central Library will once again be operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The extended opening has been given the go-ahead despite many complaints in previous years from both staff and students regarding the "appalling conditions".

Students complained of "a lack of ventilation and a persistent smell", due to the large number of students cramped into study spaces. Some also felt that there was a lack of refreshments. Many students resorted to bringing in hot take-away food as there was nowhere to buy and eat food on campus. Staff objected to students' flagrant lack of respect for the rules. Last year, *Felix* revealed that some students had 'moved into' the library, bringing sleeping bags and brushing their teeth in the toilets.

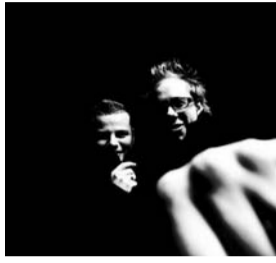
One student described the library as "a total mess, with tea bags and leftovers everywhere". Security guards were required to patrol the library to ensure that the rules were abided to. Several students were even referred to their college tutors after disputing the results with the security officers.

In spite of all these problems and the fact that some students told *Felix* that "there is no need for it to be open all night", the library will again be open 24/7 from the start of the Easter holidays. In contrast, Clare Jenkins, Director of Libraries, told us that approximately two hundred students were still studying until 2am every night during the exam period. She stated that the usage had been "higher and bet-

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Thursday 19.01.06



Chemical Brothers blow minds with their live shows

The Chemical Brothers are the pioneers of Big Beat - reaching the levels of the infamous Fatboy Slim and Death In Vegas.

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Sharon and his recent pursuit of peace

Alon Or-bach replies to Ammar Waraich's article in *Felix* 1339 on Ariel Sharon.

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This Week

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Sudoku No 1,340

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 Luke Taylor

			6			1		
	4		5	9				6
	1			8	2			
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NEWS

Coalition fight top-up fees

Chris Miles

The National Union of Students (NUS) has launched a campaign this week to try and resist the looming introduction of top-up fees by the government. Under current plans, students across the country will face a £2,000 hike in their annual fees unless MPs are persuaded to take the issue to the Commons later this year. A coalition of unions, including teaching unions from the university, college and school sectors, intend to join the NUS in lobbying MPs to help oppose the government initiative.

The impact of the impending fees has had a marked influence on the number of university applications for the next academic year. UCAS figures due to be released at the end of the month are expected to show a significant decline in university applications despite the government target to get 50% of 18-30 year olds in Higher Education by 2010. "The evidence is already mounting up that tuition fees will not open up access to Higher Education, particularly for students from less traditional backgrounds. This is in clear contradiction to the government's aim to get record numbers of students into universities over the next few years," said Kat Fletcher, President of the NUS.

Imperial College, which hasn't been a member of the NUS for over 20 years, had previously attracted widespread media attention over top-up fees due to the Rector's well publicised support. He believes that charging the full economic costs for going to university will allow more money to be diverted to those who can't afford it.

Sir Richard told *Felix*, "We know it costs a minimum of £12,000 per year to educate our lab-based students, with Medicine being around £25,000. We can't stop teaching Chemistry,

even though we're losing about £8,000 per student, because it's an integral part of Imperial College. The government has to recognise that."

The revised fees, which will mean students repay the tuition costs of their education after starting work, have been hailed as a realistic alternative which aims to ease the problem of university under-funding. Ministers have repeatedly argued that the £3,000 fee would not act as a deterrent to students, "I most certainly do not believe that we are going to see a major downturn in applications. Many students would be better off under the new system, with more generous grants and bursaries," said Bill Rammell, Minister for Higher Education.

The NUS President wasn't convinced, "If MPs really believe education is the key to social mobility, they need to act now to stop university education becoming a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. We are calling on them to support the coalition in fighting against any removal of the cap which could see universities charging five figure fees for an education."

The coalition group came together at the House of Commons on Tuesday, 17 January, for the NUS' Annual Reception. The event was hosted by Ian Gibson, MP, an ardent campaigner against top-up fees, alongside representatives from across the education sector. Commenting on the potential for success amongst the coalition, Gibson said, "The coalition lays the foundations for real long-term interaction between those who represent students and those who represent teachers, lecturers and staff working in our schools, colleges and universities, which is very exciting. I pledge my full support to the coalition and I look forward to working with them in achieving their aims."

Bank offers £3,000 bursary

In an attempt to lure graduates into the financial services sector, Deutsche Bank have announced that they will offer an annual bursary of £3,000 to students at five of the country's top universities, including Imperial.

The bank, which is targeting students from all backgrounds, will be offering the bursary to one student at each of Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick and the London School of Economics. The offer is "open to all" applicants, who simply have to show a "demonstrable

interest in the financial services industry".

Deutsche ensured that the £3,000 they will be providing matches the amount universities will be able to charge in tuition due to top-up fees, starting this year. They hope that the bursaries will help them stand out more to students as a future employer. However, the winners of the bursaries won't be under any obligation to join the bank after graduation. So if you were looking for more beer money, then look no further.

Brown on Campus

Alon Or-bach



Brown wants us to have a British version of 4th of July

Gordon Brown called for a 'British Day' to celebrate British achievements, history and culture when speaking at a left-of-centre Fabian Society conference in Imperial College last Saturday. He set out his belief that we should build a "strong, modern sense of patriotism" and reclaim the Union flag from the far right.

In his speech, the Chancellor questioned the lack of a declaration of our national objectives and the need for a British version of the Fourth of July, America's Independence Day. He remarked that perhaps Armistice Day is the closest equivalent we have to commemorate "standing firm for the world in the name of liberty."

The idea of a day to celebrate Britishness was widely supported, though reservations were made about combining it with Armistice Day or Remembrance Sunday. Another suggested date was 1 May, the day the Act of Union came into effect in 1707, uniting England and Wales with Scotland to form Britain. The Scottish Nationalist Party was quick to refute the idea of Britishness as well as attacking Brown, suggesting this is mere positioning in his aspiration to be Prime Minister.

Mr. Brown emphasised the importance of being clearer about what it means to be British, suggesting that if we were more confident of our British identity, we could have acted decades earlier in supporting African countries and not covered in the shadow of our past role as an imperial power. He also attributed it to the slow speed of reform, citing the "fear of losing our British identity" as key to our avoidance of addressing constitutional issues such as reform of the House of Lords.

Whilst welcoming this, the Tories cautioned Brown not to attempt to answer the question of Britishness without building a consensus. Oliver Heald, Conservative Shadow Secretary of State for constitutional affairs, said, "building Britishness should reflect the interests not of one party, but of the whole country."

Your Imperial policy?

As engineers and scientists, we have an immediate and significant impact on society, for better and for worse. Fortunately, it is up to all of us to define what Imperial's contribution to society ought to be, and how our policy should reflect other ethical issues such as equality, diversity and fairness in student recruitment. Imperial College is drafting a new Ethical Policy Framework to address these questions, and wants students' feedback to ensure that a constructive - and representative - policy is arrived at.

Take this opportunity to voice your

opinion to the framework's coordinator, Pro Rector (Research) Prof. Chris Hankin. You will find a copy of the draft document on the ICU Pugwash website, where you can submit feedback through a simple survey. The survey results will be presented directly to Prof. Hankin at the end of this month, along with the conclusions from a debate which ICU Pugwash will host on 24 January to discuss how the proposed policy could be implemented. We hope to see you there - see our website for details! ICU Pugwash: www.union.imperial.ac.uk/scc/pugwash

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Cash & laptops stolen Library redevelopment



Bernard Sunley Hall, where safes have been fitted in every room to combat a series of thefts in Evelyn Gardens. If the trial proves successful, it will be extended to all halls. Photo: Vitali Lazurenko

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was a target above other halls. It was alarming to think that anyone could just walk around our halls unnoticed, stealing things."

The Committee also raised concerns regarding the permitted access of unsupervised workmen to the halls within Evelyn Gardens, particularly as many of the items had been stolen from locked rooms. This has led to some speculation amongst residents that a temporary cleaner may have been to blame for the wave of burglaries. However, such claims are unsubstantiated and have been widely dismissed by the majority of residents questioned, "I have heard nothing of a temporary cleaner being responsible for any thefts. My cleaner is very friendly and often quite helpful," responded Richard Arkless, "the thefts that occurred at the start of last term were down to a professional thief who knows how to target halls and took advantage of the freshers not knowing better."

Whilst it seems highly unlikely that employed staff are involved in the recent thefts at Evelyn Gardens, particularly given the fact that the thief has been recorded on CCTV and cannot be identified, such in-house crimes are not unknown. Earlier this month Ian Bartlett, a warden at Oxford University, received a five-year sentence after pleading guilty to a total of 115 counts of burglary taking place in 18 college halls. Bartlett, it emerged, had been employed as a care-taker despite "previous spent convictions".

A spokesperson for Oxford University blamed "existing legislation" preventing "refusal of employ-

ment on these grounds." Such statements led *Felix* to query the safeguards met by Imperial College when employing staff and to further question whether there had been any staff dismissals due to thefts in the past.

Nick Roalfe, Assistant Director of Estates, dismissed claims that thefts at Evelyn Gardens were carried out by a temporary cleaner citing "CCTV evidence which suggests that the suspects are not student/staff related". Mr. Roalfe urged students with any evidence to the contrary to "report suspicions immediately to the security department at the earliest convenience." Mr. Roalfe could not confirm or deny past theft-related dismissals although commented that "no records suggest this has been the case."

Felix queried the vetting procedures used to employ staff, and College assured us that Extracalm, the agency through which cleaning staff are employed, "undertakes the same level of vetting as is applied by the College for general staff." The College security department also monitors "keys and access controls." Overall, we were assured that the security of students and staff was taken very seriously and the department remained "extremely pro active regarding safety and security, constantly looking at ways to improve on this."

Dr. Martin Jackson, the Warden's representative for security issues at Bernard Sunley Hall, feels that security risks at Evelyn Gardens have been exaggerated. He told *Felix* that "the frequency of incidents is no different to those reported in Prince's Gardens or the outer

lying halls." The outlandish thefts in Evelyn Gardens contrast significantly with other halls, which have reported only a few minor instances involving the "stealing of food and cutlery from kitchens".

The installation of safes at Bernard Sunley Hall suggests that there is a specific problem in Evelyn Gardens. The College security department denies that Imperial has acted in response to known threats, stating: "The reason that hotel-type safes have been installed in Bernard Sunley Hall is purely a crime prevention exercise, acting on advice from Kensington and Chelsea Police." Safes have been piloted in this particular building, as Dr. Jackson explains, "simply due to the halls relatively small size (84 beds)" making it the obvious hall in which to carry out a trial.

The pilot scheme has so far received a mixed response. Whilst many are pleased with the added security, others, such as Arkless, are wary of the costs involved, "Personally I wouldn't want to pay extra for having a safe in my room. Hall fees are already extremely high and they don't need excuses to make them any higher." Earlier this year, Southwell Hall Committee opted against the measure after it was decided that, as well as increasing room prices significantly, the safes would be fairly easy to remove and would also let thieves know precisely where valuables were located.

A decision (largely dependent on student feedback) will be made later this year on whether to install safes throughout other halls in college.

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ter than expected", but appealed to students to respect this facility and help provide a cleaner, more inviting atmosphere for everyone.

Both College and the Union are devising various short-term plans to combat last year's problems, including improving the cleaning system in light of the littering problem and the possibility of providing late night catering outlets in the Anteroom (the small room next door to the Sherfield canteen) so students can eat there instead of in the library. Library staff have met regularly with Union and departmental representatives to draw up a student charter which will cover what is and is not acceptable behaviour.

Redevelopment of the Central Library will start this year, aiming to provide more study space, improved digital and wireless technology as well as improved working conditions by the introduction of air-conditioning. The initial phase will start in the summer, after term ends, and will include the transfer of books from the Science Museum collection.

Jenkins told us that "the building has not been upgraded since it was first built... I am pleased that we have a commitment to fund the renovation." The reconstruction will be "more suited to a larger student population and will have better zoning for quiet and group study."

While the exact details of the works are still being finalised, a summary of the proposal shows that both levels four and five will be renovated. Particular efforts will be made to improve ventilation on level four by introducing air conditioning and level five will become a specialist area for the humanities. In turn, the business department will move down to level two.

Work in these areas will be restricted to times when many students will not require access to the collections, such as during the summer holidays. College is presently looking at options for an alternative study space so students wishing to study during the holidays will not be disturbed by building works.

As reported in *Felix* last week, the redevelopment plans include the relocation of infrequently used items from the Science Museum collection as the Museum has "found itself unable to afford the library configuration". The Rare Book Collection will move to the Science Museum Buildings at South Kensington, whilst other materials will be moved to buildings in Wroughton, Wiltshire. However, all material not in the Central Library will be available through a twenty-four hour call back service, accessed online, by phone or through the library. These plans will help provide more study space within the library.

The proposal drawn up by the Science Museum regarding its relocation also requires "appropriate public access to electronically stored information." Ceri Davies, Head of Security, assured *Felix* that "this would make no difference whatsoever to security. The library already has a booking-in system for members of the public. Security in the library is provided by the Science Museum and is not part of the College's security services."

Student response to the proposed plans seems quite positive, although the closure of departmental libraries last year was met with protests. The estimated date for the completion of the works is, as yet, unknown, but the library staff hopes that the redevelopment will be finished by 2008.



The library will be open 24 hours again despite complaints last year of students 'moving into' the library and brushing their teeth in the toilets. Photo: Vitali Lazurenko

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored blazer over a white shirt and a striped tie, is smiling warmly at the camera. She is positioned in the foreground, with a large, out-of-focus crowd of people in the background, suggesting a busy, public event or a large gathering.

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business

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2005 - record oil prices, strong growth, but 2006 is uncertain

Simon Jones
Business Editor

2005 will be remembered as the year of record prices of oil and other commodities, the strong dollar, and possibly, the year that growth began to recover in Europe and Japan.

The strength of the US dollar wrong-footed even the best in 2005. At the start of the year, the consensus was that the dollar's value would continue to fall relative to other currencies, weighed down by the US trade and budget deficits, and a possible collapse in the US housing market bubble. Warren Buffet, the legendary investor, bet \$20bn on a falling dollar, but now insists he wasn't wrong but premature; the right conditions still exist and if it didn't happen last year it will happen in 2006.

Over the course of 2005 the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates to 4.25 per cent, as the economy grew at near 4 per cent and high oil prices threatened to cause inflationary pressures. The interest rate differentials – 4.25 per cent in the US and near-zero and 2 per cent in Japan and the Euro-zone respectively, gave the support to the dollar, and the markets ignored the US trade and budget deficits.

In the wake of hurricane Katrina oil reached a record nominal price of \$70.85 per barrel, and but it was difficult to see any signs of it hurting the global economy.

2005 saw China playing an increasing role in the global economy, as its own economy grew by nearly 10 per cent. In June China re-valued its currency – the Yuan or Renminbi – up 2.5 per cent against the US



The Red Dragon - China grew at over 10 per cent in 2005, having a profound affect on the global economy

dollar, giving the US currency a significant boost. China continued to suck-in raw materials, and supply disruptions and low stockpile of metals pushed base metals such as copper, aluminium and zinc to multi-year highs.

In the equity markets 2005 was the third consecutive year of double-digit global growth, with shares globally growing 10.1 per cent in dollar terms. In the US the S&P 500 index rose barely 5 per cent, as high interest rates hit US corporate profits. Europe-wide shares were up 22.5 per cent on the year, while in London the FTSE 100 was up 16 per cent. The two star performers were Japan – where the Nikkei 225 index of shares was up 40 per cent, and Russia, where shares rose 80 per cent. Despite the strength of global equities, precious metals have had

a strong year, with gold reaching 24-year highs and platinum breaking the \$1,000 per oz barrier. Normally rising precious metal prices reflect risk aversion or inflation concerns, but bond yields remained perplexingly low.

2006 Outlook

The prospects for 2006 look rosy. The American economy is still growing in excess of 3 per cent a year, and a recovery seems to have taken hold in the stagnant Euro-zone and Japanese economies. Meanwhile, growth in developing markets – such as Columbia – is strong, and fears of a slow-down in Chinese economic growth have faded.

Oil prices are predicted to fall to around \$40 to \$50 a barrel in 2006, but one stumbling block could be the

stand-off with Iran over its nuclear programme. Iran provides over 5 per cent of global oil production, and with Saudi Arabia and the rest of OPEC pumping at full capacity already, they will be unable to compensate for any shortfall in oil supplies as they did during the Iraq war. The global economy has coped with \$70 per barrel oil, but at the \$100 per barrel likely if Iranian oil exports halt, the global economy would suffer.

A bird-flu pandemic would spell disaster for the global economy. Economies would plunge into recession, and investors would sell bonds and shares and move to the safety of gold, cash and property.

For Britain however, the prospects are less rosy. The economy had been doing a lot better than the Euro-zone, but economic growth fell to

just over 2 per cent. Many economists blame red-tape and high taxes that are transforming the UK economy into a European-style economy. Christmas brought little cheer for many retailers – still suffering from the high-street recession – and there have been a record number of profit warnings issued by companies from all industry segments.

In the last week of December, the “yield curve” inverted, meaning that instead of being more expensive for a government to borrow for 10 years than it was for 2 years. The significance of the inversion is that over the past seventy years there have been seven recessions, all of which have been preceded by an inversion of the yield curve. This may be explained by the Federal Reserve's policy of increasing interest rates, but put into context with the recent rally in the price of gold (a safe haven during recessions) the global economy may be signalling weaknesses under the surface.

The final clouds on the horizon are the trade imbalances, namely the US trade and budget deficits, and which are the highest in US history. Oil exporting countries along with China and other SE Asian countries have been buying dollars to keep their currencies low, and their exports cheap in the US, but if they were to diversify away from dollars, the imbalances would be unwound, and are likely to do so abruptly and painfully.

But look on the bright side, if there were a major hiccup in the global economy, there would be some interesting fall-out. As Warren Buffet once said, “its only when the tide goes out that you can see who's swimming naked”.

Brandson settles NTL-Virgin Mobile bid battle

Michael Olymbios

Sir Richard Brandson recently announced a merger between Virgin Mobile and cable company NTL, the move would create an entertainment and communications giant worth £4.5bn. NTL chief executive, Simon Duffy, approached Brandson 10 months ago and clandestine talks continued between the two sides. This culminated in a discussion with T-Mobile, the German group, which carries calls for Virgin Mobile on its network. Completion is dependent on the current merger between NTL and Telewest. Ultimately, success will form the UK's first business offering a package of mobile, fixed line and television services.

The deal proposes a swap

between Brandson's 72% stake in Virgin Mobile for 14% in the newly formed giant that is intended to be rebranded Virgin. Thus far an NTL offer has been rejected by Virgin Mobile minority share holders, valuing the company at £817m. Brandson appeared on The Today Programme, citing a £25m gap in the value of the company. A rebuttal was issued to the UK Takeover Panel for fear of the company's corporate governance being brought into question.

Subsequently, NTL raised the terms of its offer this Friday to £930m. To realise the merger, Brandson is willing to reach into his own pocket, bridging the gap between what minority shareholders demand and the price NTL wishes to pay. At a cost of £9m.

The City - Conglomerate mergers

Michael Olymbios

Academics view the corporate merger as a fulfilment of the economies of scale theory that stipulates free markets tend towards having as few companies and brand names as possible. In summary, the theory argues that by merging and growing into large multinationals, companies' production costs are reduced for a number of reasons. On a simplistic level, this is due to decreased production costs permitted from bulk buying for example. You may then question the justification and motivation for corporations in different lines of business merging.

Initially, it would be appropriate to briefly classify mergers. There are fundamentally three kinds: the vertical, horizontal and conglomerate mergers. The horizontal kind is the most simplistic and combines two

companies in the same line of business, an example being Vodafone's acquisition of German telecommunications giant Mannesmann. The vertical variety involves companies at different stages of production. The buyer either expands the company back towards the source of raw materials, or forwards in the direction of the consumer. For example, Walt Disney acquired the ABC television network with the intention of airing recent production to large audiences.

The conglomerate merger involves companies in unrelated fields joining forces. This variety was particularly popular in the 1960s and 1970s, the justification being costs might be cut by sharing central services such as accounting. In reality, unrelated companies have struggled to cope under the same corporate-management umbrella and much of the corporate banking action in the 1980s

pertained to the break up of the conglomerates formed in the previous two decades.

Nevertheless, corporations are under the influence of shareholders and top-management executives leading to dubious motives for mergers. Brandson's quest to form a communications giant could be viewed as analogous to the formation of AOL Time Warner in 2000. This conglomerate made corporate history with a record-breaking \$156 billion worth of stock purchased by AOL to acquire Time Warner. The new company promised to fulfil the consumer's media and information needs. Unfortunately profits in the company slumped resulting in an 80% decline in the share value.

In the next issue, we shall examine the merger in more detail such as the mechanics and technicalities of the merger.

politics



The Sketch

I do have a wee confession to make here, but despite the Scottish patois it's not as striking as that of a certain ex-Liberal Democrat leader. My confession is that in this column I would take a sideways look at the many and varied events that would take place every week in the name of college politics. Unfortunately due to the recent Christmas holiday, everyone had the sheer gall to take the last three weeks off, leaving me with no material to play with. (Except maybe for the SWSS hijack/"Singing in the rain" audition which was the dress code protest which occurred last term, but that's so old. Get with the times Grandad!). Well I could try; lets see...delayed sports centre; dontcha just hate it? See, it wdoesn't work.

So I have to look further around for my weekly source of entertainment, and put my toe into the murky pond of national politics. No don't run, it'll be as good, I promise!

What can I write about? Well I was going to have a light-hearted look at the recent sex-offenders in schools scandal, until I realised that if I were to do so I'd almost certainly go to hell. I don't know about you, but personally I wouldn't like to end up being prodded from behind with a red-hot poker for all eternity. Oh wait...bugger it.

In lieu of this, let me tell you about a man who's in the spotlight at the moment. This was a man who was elected in the last general election, promising to protect his constituents in a very ethnic area of London. Since his election, he's rarely been in the Commons, speaking in only four debates, and missing out on important speeches that affects the people he represents, including not turning up to vote on anti-terror laws, shunning them for publicity-seeking events, including one at our very own university.

This sensational ego-stroking has come to a head when this man accepted 60 grand to appear on a reality TV show, spending the week trying to make conversation with Michael Barrymore (in return, he gives him dirty scowls - another diplomatic victory there). Well, you might say it's as if he hasn't more important things to do, such as, taking a purely random example, take part in the Crossrail debate in the Commons this week; a rail project which will have massive implications on his Bethnal Green and Bow constituents if it went ahead.

In the immortal words of Rolf Harris...can you guess who it is yet?



"The future of Charing Cross is still uncertain"

Felix catches up with Greg Hands, Conservative MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, whose constituency represents many Imperial students

Matthew Hartfield
Politics Editor

Greg Hands, for those not politically inclined, is the newly elected member of parliament for Hammersmith and Fulham. Taking the seat in the 2005 general election, winning with a swing of just under 6%, he was one of the success stories of the last election, seen as a prime example of how the Labour government has lost its grip over the last eight years. Just before Christmas, he was the guest speaker at the Chelsea Conservative club, and *Felix* decided to give him a visit.

I started off the interview by asking Greg how he felt to be elected as an MP, after serving on the local council. He told us that it was an exciting time to be in politics at the moment, citing some of the extraordinary events of the past twelve months, including Blair's first defeat in the Commons, Britain's presidency of the EU, and more shocking events, such as the London bombings. "It's been a very exciting time to be at the centre of politics" is how Greg summed it up "I'm pleased to be the first Conservative MP for Hammersmith and Fulham", noting that due to boundary changes he is the first Conservative MP for Hammersmith since the 60's.

As the MP for the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Greg Hands presides over an area of London, which is the home for

"Charing Cross Hospital has the second largest deficit in the UK, which currently lies at around £37 million"

many Imperial students who live in Fulham, Putney and Shepherds Bush. I asked Greg if he has any policies planned them? "One of our aims, which is very relevant to Imperial in particular, is to save Charing Cross Hospital", the main school for medic students, and for which Greg has met with the medic's students union to help resolve the dispute. "We are also aiming, in a general way, to improve public transport in West London, and to reduce crime", including trying to get the Piccadilly line to stop at Ravenscourt Park and Stamford Brook. On Charing Cross,



Greg Hands, Conservative MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, speaking at a Congestion Charge demonstration last year

I asked how certain its future was, to be confronted by depressing news on how the Hammersmith hospital's trust has the second largest deficit in the UK, currently being around £37 million in debt, which might require services being cut and also being moved to Hammersmith hospital in a bid to save money.

Greg Hands has also been actively campaigning for other issues around the area, including an appearance at a demonstration against the congestion charge extension last year. "I'm fanatically opposed to the Congestion Charge extension, and I say that as somebody who doesn't have a car" he told *Felix*. "I'm worried for my constituents, who will suffer from the diverted traffic", claiming that transport that'll go through London will naturally divert through Hammersmith and Fulham to avoid the extended zone. What about the effect on public transport, I asked? Surely the extension will be a good effect for the many people who'd commute into the capital? Greg wasn't supportive of this argument. "All the studies have shown

that the time saving through the extension zone would only be half a minute. As a regular bus user I feel that to be a too much of a sacrifice"

There was also the problem of the impact on local businesses - one of the main arguments against the congestion charge, and one that Greg Hands strongly believes in, speaking of how small businesses lose out from passing trade, and how it encourages the use of out-of-town shopping centres instead, saying how "Places like Bluewater probably love the Congestion Charge". The comparison he made next though was astonishing, citing how John Lewis in Oxford Street (hardly a small, local business) lost sales from the Congestion Charge, whilst a comparable shop, Peter Jones in Sloane Square, had no effect. I say it's astonishing, as a quick Google search shows that the John Lewis figures came from a report (which it commissioned itself) which showed an apparent 5.52% drop in sales over the period; but in comparison over the first half of 2005 it showed a 6% rise in sales, and managed to buck


the trend of falling Christmas sales of 2005, with an increase of 12% from last year.

On a lighter note, Greg Hands was sad to see the recent decommissioning of the Routemaster buses, calling them "A great icon for London...It's a great shame to see it go". He wasn't too impressed with the reasons for its departure: "The main argument is wheelchair accessibility, which is fair enough...but how many wheelchairs do you see on those buses?" I did mention, however, that although this may be true, there was the fact that there are a lot of pushchairs on the the bus these days, which the old Routemasters can't cater for. Acknowledging this, he asked for a system where Routemasters are running alongside newer buses, such as the 14 and 414 in Fulham.

After the interview, Greg Hands gave a speech to the assembled, but what was interesting was his views on the current state of British politics. Despite supporting Liam Fox in the recent party leadership race, he gave great praise to David Cameron, describing how "He has performed incredibly well, at Prime Minister's question time, and in various speeches" Pre-determining the resignation of Charles Kennedy (this was in December, remember), he also pointed out that with Blair stepping down at the end of his term, the next general election will be the first one since 1979 where there will be three fresh leaders competing for votes - a unique moment, and one that should create a lot of fertile debate over the next few years.

Politics Felix

We need writers!
If you have an interest in current affairs and like to be put on the mailing list, contact:
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Magnetic activity in space

New observations give first proof of magnetic reconnection in space

Alex Antonov

Researchers reported last week that new spacecraft observations have cast fresh light on a process thought to play a part in controlling the energy balance of stars and galaxies.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, the British, French and American team claims that these observations provide the first strong evidence that a process known as 'magnetic reconnection' can occur over extended areas in space.

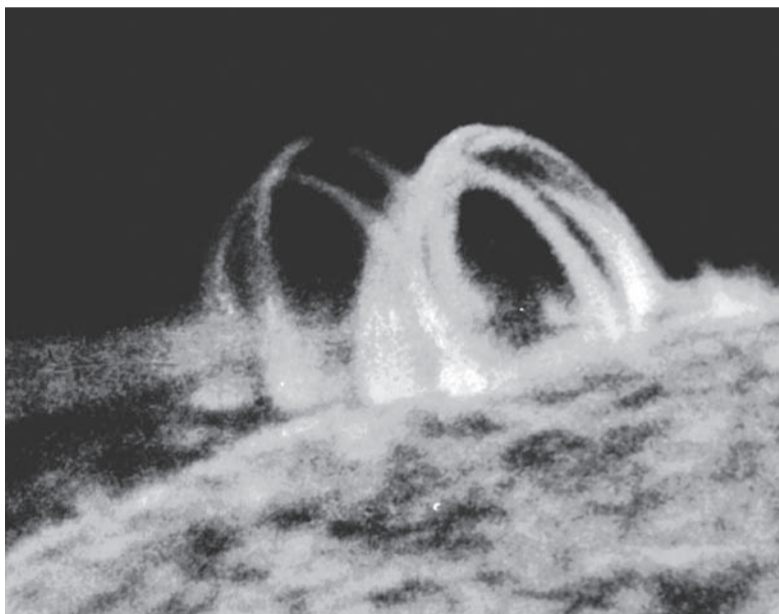
Magnetic reconnection is a physical process in which oppositely directed magnetic fields are annihilated and the energy stored in them is converted to beams of energetic atomic particles. This reconnection process is believed to drive the dynamics of the Earth's magnetosphere and is responsible for phenomena such as solar flares and the aurora.

Until now, a full description of reconnection has proved elusive because observations were only made within the Earth's magnetosphere, the band of space surrounding Earth that protects it from most of the Sun's particles. In this area the thin electrical current sheets in

which reconnection occurs extend over a short scale, allowing only evidence of patchy reconnection to be found. Scientists needed observations on a much larger scale to

prove that reconnection over distances of thousands of kilometres can occur as predicted.

This evidence was provided in 2002, when the team discovered that



Magnetic reconnection in solar coronal loops like these is widely believed to play a crucial role in heating the corona.

reconnection could take place in the solar wind, a stream of particles ejected from the atmosphere of the Sun. Here, unlike in the magnetosphere, the current sheets occur over much greater distances. This gave researchers the opportunity to test the theory of large-scale reconnection.

The first reconnection event detected in the solar wind was experienced by three widely separated spacecraft that found it to be at least 2.5 million km long. In addition, reconnection 'exhaust' was detected over a period of two and a half hours, implying that reconnection must have been sustained over at least that time span.

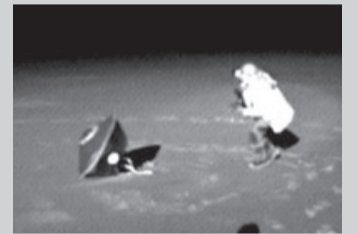
The team has since identified 27 similar events in the solar wind, strongly suggesting that reconnection is large-scale and steady. Professor Balogh of Imperial College London, an author of the paper, says:

"These findings really are a breakthrough because magnetic reconnection is very difficult to observe. Before now we have had the 'smoking gun' of small-scale events but far from a full picture. Now for the first time we have proof that reconnection can and does occur on scales that make it as important as theoretically predicted."

News in Brief

Stardust capsule returns to Earth

A capsule containing comet particles and interstellar dust has landed on Earth after a seven-year space mission. The Stardust probe released the capsule as it flew back to Earth after a 4.6-billion-km (2.8-billion-mile) trip. The US-built capsule plunged through the atmosphere and touched down in the Utah desert at 0312 (1012 GMT) on Tuesday. Scientists believe the first cometary dust samples ever returned to Earth will shed light on the origins of the Solar System. **bbcNews**



World's biggest fish shrinking

Whale sharks spotted off the coast of Australia are getting smaller, researchers have said. In a decade the average size has shrunk from seven metres to five metres. Whale sharks, the world's largest fish, are caught for food in some east Asian countries and Australian researchers suspect this is causing a decline.

The fish is listed as "vulnerable", and one of the authors of the new study has described the new finding as "a very worrying sign". The data comes from ecotourism companies which run expeditions to watch whale sharks and swim with them in Ningaloo Marine Park off the north-west coast. **bbcNews**



Mutations protects from AIDS

A genetic mutation that protects people from AIDS may make them more susceptible to the West Nile virus, US researchers reported on Tuesday. The study, published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, underscores the theory that any genetic mutation that offers an advantage in one area usually has some drawback. The mutation causes people to have blood cells lacking a receptor. **Reuters**

Look who's laughing now

Our critic on the new science-based comedy show at the Dana

Kath Nightingale

Take three comics, two scientists and a group of slightly unnerved punters reaching for their wine glasses and you've got *The Humour Behind the Headlines* at the Dana Centre: a quiz-based evening looking back at the science stories of 2005.

Slime mould beetles named after important members of the Bush administration; Snuppy the disgraced cloned puppy; the threat of global warming and the fact that poets get more sex than people of other professions – but also have a higher incidence of schizophrenia – are just some of the topics discussed at tonight's science comedy evening at the Dana Centre.

Two teams made up of one comic and one scientist compete to show who knows the most about the science headlines of 2005. Rufus Hound competes professionally in a battle of both knowledge and wit that closely resembles a *Have I Got News For You* for science. He has a job on his hands: chivvying rambling



Comedian Rufus Hound

comics into answering the questions correctly, stopping the scientists champing at the bit to answer before the obligatory 'comedy bit' has been covered, and occasion-

ally laughing uproariously like an embarrassed uncle at a family meal trying to cover the silence. There's a sense of getting the fun comedy bit over with before getting down to the hard facts. The fact that all the questions are answered correctly does not go unnoticed. 'What's George Bush been searching for on the moon recently?' 'Erm, his brain?' 'Weapons of mass destruction?' 'Cheese' 'Certain minerals which could provide gases such as hydrogen and helium to use as fuel for astronauts?' 'Correct!' It couldn't have been more obvious if each contestant had a small boy whispering the answers into their ear.

Possibly the most disappointing aspect of the evening is the conforming to stereotype. When asked to talk for a minute about her research in the 'expert round', embryologist Virginia Bolton talks for more than a minute about the possibility of growing organs from human stem cells as if she's at a conference. Rufus Hound listens, seemingly fascinated, as she speaks of blastomeres, inner cell masses and totipotency as if he's watching

someone speak a foreign language. Paul Foot's minute is taken up by a charming tale of his grandmother's move into knitting jumpers for the pornography industry, which while genuinely funny (in my opinion at least) is met with only mild chuckling from the crowd. Why can't a scientist say something funny and a comic something which makes a bit more sense?

I really love the premise of the Dana Centre. It has grabbed the challenge of public engagement with science and run with it, taking in theatre, comedy and well, alcohol, along the way. The idea of it is lovely really – that the disillusioned masses will leave *Eastenders* at home and wander to South Kensington to be informed and entertained; like moths to the shiny light of science-in-public. Whether it's working overall is hard to say, but tonight could only be described as a damp squib. Despite the best intentions of integrating science and comedy, the evening seemed only to highlight the differences between the two. Maybe we should leave it up to Look Around You.

SCIENCE

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Don't feel SAD

Lilian Anekwe enjoys a light therapy session

In the wintry doom and darkness of South Kensington, there is a place where pasty-skinned, vitamin D-deprived Londoners can seek sunlight and solace. For the past week and a half Londoners have been pouring in off the gloomy streets and into the Dana Centre, and leaving twenty minutes later feeling distinctly more cheery. The reason for the new state of Nirvana in this corner of London is the 'Light Lounge'; a pure white room in the Dana Centre with comfy sofas, fluffy pillows and four rectangular light boxes mounted on each wall to beam positive vibes at all comers and eradicate all traces of the winter blues.

The Light Lounge coincides with a Dana Centre debate on Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a form of winter depression that Jennifer Eastwood, founder of the SAD association, says affects more than half a million people every year in the UK. As a person living with SAD, Mrs

the winter blues: "It seems that light is the main thing. Medication does help but that's more for the depression side, what the light seems to alleviate is the very characteristic SAD symptoms of overeating, oversleeping and lethargy".

In the luminous glow of the Light Lounge, I met Lauren Gildersleve, the press officer at the Dana Centre who had the idea for the Light Lounge: "SAD is something that comes up in the media every year, there are always stories on it but they're always quite samey. So we were looking for a way people could have some free light therapy, to get people into the centre and get them engaged in science, and a way they could learn a bit more about SAD through the debates and talks running here at the same time."

There is a valid scientific theory behind the light therapy offered at the Dana Centre. SAD is thought to be caused by a biochemical imbalance in the hypothalamus, due to

lazily flicking through *Marie Claire* and enjoying the silence (oddly, no-one speaks during my time in the lounge, afraid of ruining the peacefulness) does unsurprisingly make me feel better. When I leave twenty minutes later, I feel serene and happier in a way I can't quite put my finger on. I'm not alone in having had my mood improved ("I feel well chilled now", announces one happy guy to his girlfriend) and several people leave the lounge and head straight to the front desk to book another appointment. This is common, according to Lauren Gildersleve: "A lot of people are feeling very relaxed when they come out and they've said it made a difference. We've seen a lot of the same faces, a few people I know have come back three or four times already. We've had so much demand we've extended the event for another week". Good news for these punters, who are disappointed to hear the lounge is booked solid for the

Reclining on the sofa, lazily flicking through *Marie Claire* and enjoying the silence, does unsurprisingly make me feel better

Eastwood is more than familiar with the effects of the condition. "It was impossible to get up in the morning...I was very ill; I had to be put in hospital. And then they turned the light therapy on me and it started to work". That was 25 years ago, and now Mrs Eastwood controls her SAD symptoms with medication and the use of a light box in her office in the Imperial College Department of Environmental Science & Technology. The number of people who contact the SAD association every winter, when the days become shorter and light quality poorer, suggests that SAD is more than just a need for a holiday or a bad case of



Visitors enjoying the Light Lounge at the Dana Centre.

the shortening of daylight hours and the lack of sunlight hours in winter. Light therapy can be effective in up to 85% of cases when light boxes that provide 10,000 units of light energy (lux) are used. This is the same light intensity beamed out by the light boxes in the Light Lounge; by comparison a grey winter day in London provides a miserable 200-500 lux.

The Light Lounge has met Lauren's vision perfectly ("I'd envisaged this white, relaxing chill-out room, where it's quite comfy and laid-back"). Reclining on the sofa

next two days.

But even my twenty minutes in the lounge may not be enough according to Jennifer Eastwood: "One thing that one has to be clear about is that no matter how much light you get from an artificial source, it doesn't beat the real thing. That's why I'm off to Lanzarote next week". I can't afford to go on holiday again, so I've booked another two sessions next week.

The Light Lounge at the Dana Centre is open daily from 12pm to 8pm until Friday 20th.

The Newer Scientist

Winston's moustache

Duncan McMillan



Investigators are looking into the possibility that Professor Lord Robert Winston's moustache is fake, following a statement by a colleague from his television series *Child of Our Time*. The claims are the first to be made on record, following months of rumours which have dogged the respected scientist and broadcaster.

Karen Flotilla, the researcher who made the claims, described the crucial moment when she became aware of Winston's apparently fraudulent facial hair: "We'd just wrapped on a day's filming near Bristol when I was told by the producer to deliver the next day's script to Lord Winston in his hotel room. I knocked and he called for me to come in - he was locked in the bathroom, freshening up. He told me to leave the script on the desk; he sounded flustered. Then I saw it. It was on the floor. At first I thought it was a hairy caterpillar, maybe the Giant Leopard Moth larva, but then I looked closer and noticed a small patch of double-sided tape. It was definitely the moustache."

Dr Ezekiel Peabody, author of *The Cult of Winston* (Palgrave, 2004), pointed out that if the allegations were found to be true, Lord Winston's career could be ruined: "I've long maintained that his curious allure is built largely from his fascinatingly thick 'tache. As Samson's locks were to his strength, so Robert Winston's moustache is to his intellectual standing and on-screen personality. Without that bushy growth he may well be finished."

Supporters of Winston are said to be reeling from the news, but Sally-Ann Slocombe, founder of the Ealing-based Bob's Fan Club (BFC), is defiant: "Sure, the moustache means a lot to us, but it isn't the be-all and end-all of Lord Winston's appeal." Slocombe went on to point out that Winston is also a highly-respected medical expert, having sat on numerous high-profile government advisory panels, and that he has hosted dozens of documentaries and authored just as many books. As Twiggy Teather, a BFC member, said: "He's demonstrated not only his expertise in the sciences, but also his thorough understanding of theology in his latest book and TV series. And, of course, there's that lovely, thick barnet."

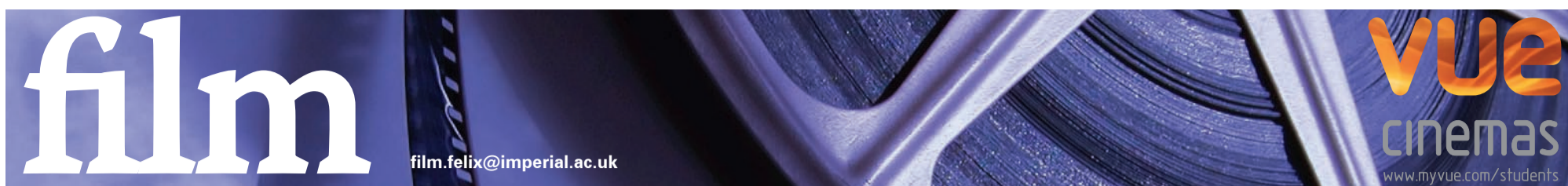
The world of television moves on quickly - it seems the position of cuddly bewhiskered expert is up for grabs. TV producers have apparently discussed the possibility of bringing in another man to fill Winston's shoes before he has even been formally investigated and Ladbrokes has started offering odds on the front runners to be the next moustachioed media scientist. Heinz Wolff is third, at 22-1; Adam Hart-Davis is next in at 11-2 but the favourite is Sir David Attenborough, at 5-2.

Jim Badger, celebrity barber of New Bond Street, commented on the potential of the three men: "Wolff has good follicles, but he'll have to be dragged out of retirement first. Hart-Davis has just trialled a beard on Balderdash and Piffle, but I'm not confident he's got the right top lip for the job. As for Attenborough, I love the guy, but I think his bristle-density isn't going to be up to scratch. The field's wide open."

Lord Winston's moustache was not available for comment.

Get involved in the next issue of *I,Science*.

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Not another Pocahontas sequel!

Where did Disney go wrong? And how did rehab Colin Farrell become John Smith?

The New World

Director: Terence Mallick
Starring: Colin Farrell, Q'orianka Kilcher and Christopher Plummer
Date of release: 27 Dec

★★★★☆

A word of notice: while *'The New World'* is about Pocahontas, it is quite unlike the Disney version. In fact, the name 'Pocahontas' is not said in the entire film. I can only imagine that this is an effort by the film to distance itself from the popularized form of the legend – the sort of good guy, bad guy,

right and wrong, love conquers all sort of attitude that cheapens many good stories. No, *'The New World'* is more complicated and thought provoking than that.

Following what may be the most popular and oldest legend in America, the film opens with the establishment of the English settlement Jamestown by Captain

Newport (Christopher Plummer). Newport, in his wisdom, frees Captain John Smith (Colin Farrell), the party's only professional soldier, from imprisonment. While Newport departs for England to bring fresh supplies and men, Smith is sent to make contact with Chief Powhatan (August Schellenberg), the ruler of the region's native Indian tribe. Smith is captured and about to meet some terrible end when Powhatan's favourite daughter, Pocahontas (Q'orianka Kilcher) throws herself upon Smith, and begs that his life be spared.

Rather than portray this gesture as motivated by 'love at first sight', Mallick seems to prefer that it be an act of compassion. The film is not a story about heroes and villains; as different as the British and Natives are, the characters are all human, and each show their individual virtues and flaws. The conflict that erupts between them is borne of fear and misunderstanding – all too human tendencies.

The second half of the movie

dives deeper into the character of Pocahontas, and introduces John Rolfe (Christian Bale) who begins to notice the native girl after Smith departs for England. Here, the film tends to slow down considerably, focusing more on the three principle characters.

I suppose if I had to name something wrong with the movie, then it would be that: it moves very slowly. This must be partly intentional; Mallick is fantastic at creating a sort of meditative angst, complimented by narration by the main characters. The acting is first rate, developing the characters very well, and Q'orianka Kilcher's performance as the playful, expressive, and complex Pocahontas comfortably steals the show.

It's an outstanding movie with talent to spare, but it's not something for the Friday-night after a long week – it'd probably just make the week seem even longer.

Matthew Fung



Pocahontas is back in *The New World* next December.

Drumroll please

It's time to announce the winners of the recent *Felix* Video-clip Competition

Not so long ago, (actually it was last-term), Felix had a short video-clip competition. The winner (winners) of the video-clip competition is the new CIA-wannabes of Imperial College. I have to say, I didn't really understand the item they were looking for. So what exactly made them the winner of the Felix video-clip competition?

That's easy, a steady hand, good panoramic shots (I'm assuming it was Hyde Park), and the extreme seriousness of the actors' faces when they found the rock. I do admit that the video-clip was in dire need of a better script writer but otherwise, watching the video-clip told me that this is the winner. Congratulations to Hamish Spender and his team! They are the official winners of the Felix video-clip competition.

Apart from the quality of the video, the video-clip was surprisingly hilarious. Of course, you will guffaw at the sight of a plain rock that apparently holds the secret to what they were looking for. What made it more hilarious were their

attempts to crack the code. Criss-crossing their arms to type on two different keyboards, taking huge swallows of milk to maintain their energy as they search for the great answer – and all of this is done in some strangely familiar hall-bedroom. You have to give the guys credit for having the ability to pull it off with a straight face.

What do they win? 10 free Vue tickets to see any show they like, a crate of beer, DVDs (*Kingdom of Heaven*, *Robots and Hide and Seek*), Nightwatch tee-shirts and a lot of other Fox goodies! Congrats, guys!

Now, wouldn't you love a piece of that? I know, I do. Well, there will probably be another video-clip competition next year. Summer will be here soon (I know, it's a bloody long six months away), take advantage of the three month holiday (yes-its quite short, I do agree.) and make a funny, entertaining video-clip and maybe next year your video-clip and your name will be in the papers! Its interesting to see what Imperial people get up to. Good luck!

FILM

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Munich, Sept 1972: Free tickets!

If you think Eric Bana is the man, you wouldn't want to miss this one

In September 1972, a group of Palestinian extremists invaded the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany. With the intention of highlighting the Palestinian plight to the world, they killed and captured the rest of the Israeli Olympic team. Despite Germany's efforts to recapture the hostages, all of the Israelis were killed 21 hours later.

Munich isn't a story about how the family members of the Israeli Olympic team handled the tragedy. This is a story about how the Israeli government decided to stop the killing of Israelis by taking an eye for an eye. They call it the "Operation Wrath of God".

The operation is led by the young and inexperienced intelligence officer, Avner (Eric Bana). The rest of the assassination team consists of the getaway driver, Steve (Daniel Craig), the document-forger Hans (Hanns Zischler), the Belgian toy-turned bomb-maker, Robert (Mathieu Kassovitz) and the clean-up man, Carl (Ciaran Hinds).

Thanks to Dreamworks Ltd. and Sublime movies, Felix has 5 pairs of tickets to give away to our loyal readers. And these tickets are for a special preview screening just for



Your mission: To kill and not get killed in the process.

students on the 23rd of January.

Now, the question remains. How do you get your hands on those tickets? It's time for a little history quiz.

1. What is the name of the Palestinian extremist group that invaded the Olympic Village in Munich?
2. Who was the head of the Israeli government who staunchly refused to negotiate with the terrorists?
3. What event led the German government to free the three surviving members of the Palestinian extremists involved in the Munich massacre?
4. Which PLO bases did the Israel Air Force bomb as a response to the terrorist act on September 9th?

The five people who get the highest number of correct answers and send in their replies by 20 January will be the lucky five to watch *Munich* for free. (And a mate too!) What are you waiting for? Google the answers and hurry!

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor

iCU cinema:

Free tickets! Pay attention now

Now, I've been to tons of cinemas. (Unfortunately, yes.) And as a result, I should expect myself difficult to impress. (insert hilarious laughter) Hence, why do I think you should visit iCU cinema?

Firstly, you'll be surprised but the sound quality of their 'cinema' is actually very good. It definitely beats downloading the movie off the Internet, watching it on laptop speakers (the horror!) and it's definitely legitimate. (Hence, you don't have to worry about being tracked and later trialed in court by some ominous movie company.)

Secondly, the movies are fairly recent. The people at iCU cinema pay good money to ensure that you get to see the best movies in the comfort of your own campus. Considering it receives Union support, not going to the iCU cinema will be tantamount to paying the union and not using the amenities provided. (In English, that would mean, it's utterly stupid to not go to the iCU cinema.)

Thirdly, it's in campus. Need I say more? Especially first-years who stay in Beit Quadrangle, you don't even need to don the heavy winter coat to watch a movie. You don't have to take a bus or a tube ride to get there. (This means, that you do not have to suffer being harassed by strange people who decide to go on tracks and hence cause a huge delay on the tube line.)

Lastly, it makes perfect economic sense to visit iCU cinema. It's only 3 pounds and since you don't have to take a bus or a tube, visiting the iCU cinema is just perfect for the skimpy student budgets. (Yes,

money is scant after all the New Year celebrations.)

Next week, they are showing *Keeping Mum* and *Mrs. Henderson Presents*. Are you asking me what? (Seriously, don't you even keep up with the times? I mean, pass the general news over and at least scan the upcoming movies section. *Kidding.)

Keeping Mum features Mr. Bean or Rowan Atkinson in a serious role. The gist is that he plays a pastor and his family is falling apart from his biblical obsession. If you are a fan of the man himself, you wouldn't want to miss this.

The next one is *Mrs. Henderson Presents*. Maybe most of you didn't hear about it, but it's a British film. Maybe that's another reason to watch it? (Perhaps it's the odd streak of patriotism.) To sum it up, it's a show about a widow who decides to start a theatre with nude-acts. Sounds interesting? (Perverts.) You should check it out. After all, it got a 7/10 on imdb. And imdb is rarely wrong (except in the case of A lot like love. They seriously hate Ashton Kutcher. It's prejudiced!)

Okay, now, why am I telling you all this? Because iCU cinema is giving out free tickets. On Tuesday, be the first four people with this Felix article to get to iCU cinema and get a free ticket each to watch either *Mrs. Henderson Presents* or *Keeping Mum*. (Your choice!)

Remember the times: 6 and 8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Check out their listings on the iCU cinema at www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/cinema. Get your sneakers ready and good luck!



These beauties are ready to take centre stage, without any clothes on!

music

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Singles club

Shock horror as very long byline precedes page with only two singles on it, due to the massive advert below; stay tuned for further boring updates

SINGLE REVIEWS

Mando Diao
Down In The Past
(EMI)
★★★★☆

Wow! This is without doubt a song to go absolutely nuts to; an eclectic mix of frantic guitar chords accompanied with the deepthroaty yell of Bjorn Dixgard and a crazily catchy chorus makes for awesome light rock which will most definitely get you up and dancing, screaming "...down in the PAST!" at the top of your voice.

Prophesised to become as big as Oasis, this manically energetic band comprising of Gustav Noren, Carl-Johan Fogelklou, Samuel Giers, Mats BJORKE and Dixgard originates from the town of Borlange in Sweden, forming at the tender age

of sixteen in a desperate attempt, so Noren claims, to escape the high drug and murder rate. Through years of dedication to their music (thank God!) and with their gritty background they have provided us with two almost certainly amazing albums, the current being *Hurricane Bar*, released in 2005 and from which this track is taken. After recently supporting The Bravery in concert, Mando Diao stepped into the limelight to headline their own acclaimed tour in October 2005.

A seemingly little known wonder, I am shocked that I know and have heard so little about them. Go and buy *Hurricane Bar* now! Their last tour tickets were at a maximum of £8 - a drink and rocking tunes all for a tenner? It hardly seems fair with a quality of music this brilliant: we have to get this band known! Forget The Hives. Mando Diao should now be the band blasting their Swedish sounds in your ears. Put on Down In

The Past, crank it up to full volume and let the magic begin!

Priya G

Arctic Monkeys
When The Sun Goes Down
(Domino)
★★★★★

Yes they've been causing quite a stir lately, yet seem to have appeared out of nowhere like an underground cult that's secretly been planning world domination and has suddenly revealed its hideous and evil form, everywhere, in a single night.

When The Sun Goes Down will be the last single they release before the arrival of their highly anticipated debut album. It's not your standard song material either. The song, as far as I can tell, is a compassionate look at the story of young girls forced into prostitution for one rea-

son or another, and the scum-of-the-earth (hence "Scummy") pimps who drive them. The song begins with a single guitar strumming the odd chord and sorrowful vocals on top introducing the character of the girl and the scummy man: "...I said he's a scumbag, don't you know?" And then there is a full-blown cymbal crash as the rest of the instruments come in, building slowly up and up, and at the climax seamlessly falling into the main riff, which, in all of its bassy glory, is one of the coolest I've heard in a while. The drums, as in previous songs (most notably *Bet You Look Good...*), are fabulous, with more funky rolls and fills than you can shake a stick at, and give the song a real sense of pace. The lyrics are well thought out and convey a very clear picture, although the song is in fact quite short and ends abruptly. All instruments suddenly stop save the guitar, which goes on to play the intro once again and

finishing with a lovely, very befitting series of plinky chords.

All-in-all, the single is a unique and fantastic song. Whether we'll hear it being used on dancefloors remains to be seen, but I think that is where it's full glory would be finally realised.

Priya G

Editorial

We're back! Apologies for the dearth of music recently; what with exams and all, I spent most of my time in a foetal position and whimpering about biological synthesis when not avoiding work by spending eight hours playing Tetris on my housemate's Gameboy. Fun. Anyway, expect a bumper issue next week to make up for it.



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MAYOR OF LONDON



Switzerland rocks!

The Young Gods impress and the Chemical Brothers blow minds with their live shows

LIVE REVIEWS

The Young Gods
Camden Barfly
★★★★☆

Originating in Switzerland, The Young Gods have survived an almost complete turnover of members with the exception of the band founder, Franz Treichler; by the early nineties they had achieved critical acclaim and commercial success. The Young Gods have gone against the conventional rules of music, replacing the commonplace guitar with a sampler to introduce a new electronic dimension to live music. The Swiss trio refuse to be categorised by embracing all music from classical to punk, obscuring and fusing these opposing sounds with such genius that although it shouldn't work, it does. Before last Saturday we were unfamiliar with this band, but trusting the opinion of a good friend, decided to check out what The Young Gods are all about.

On arrival, the venue was pretty empty, but at 9.15pm the band appeared on stage to a hoard of screaming fans with barely enough space to lift a pint. Their performance began as it was meant to, with catchy up-beat tempos and undertones, expertly exploiting the sampler to loop and layer diverse riffs to achieve a gradual crescendo from mellow to manic. With the contribution of strong beats by the drummer, and Franz playing his vocals like an instrument – sometimes soothing, sometimes screaming – the ultimate outcome was that of a rich and varied performance. The feel of the night was slightly techno, slightly rock, and fantastically edgy, combined with an atmosphere brimming with energy, both on stage and in the audience. The Young Gods expressed themselves not only through their music, but took full advantage of dramatic lighting to set a dark, almost hypnotic mood, interjected by sudden bursts of energy to keep the audience on

their toes. Gig-goers were treated to an hour long set including numerous classics such as the brilliant *Skinflower* and *Supersonic*, along with new songs to whip the audience into a frenzy and firmly establish an energetic mosh-pit.

With the melodramatic use of light and sound, and their fervent passion, the band really do provide a show worth experiencing in the flesh. If you closed your eyes, you'd be forgiven for believing an entire orchestra was performing. While the whole futuristic feel may not be to everybody's taste, The Young Gods prove that there is more to music than simply adding lyrics to a melody.

Lucy Riches

The Chemical Brothers
Brixton Academy
★★★★★

Tom Rowlands and Ed Simons, aka The Chemical Brothers, are the pioneers of Big Beat – reaching the levels of the infamous Fatboy Slim and Death In Vegas. Yes, these are big names, so shut up and put down your panini.

The Chemical Brothers took deliberately artificial, robotic and repetitious drumbeats and added rock-style drum lines with individually sampled loops. For the less musically astute, they created a deadly duo of dance and guitar rock with the energy to fill stadiums from Tokyo to Chile and so became.... Super Star DJs.

Being the dedicated reviewer that I am, I decided to skip the Friday night slut fest at Crush, smoke a lot of hash and head to Brixton to see what they were all about. Being in no state to tell the time or read a tube map and dragging along a plus one that can't do either on a good day, I end up bizarrely being a little early. This gave us plenty of time to stand in the cold and chat to some rather pilled-up short Europeans and as far as I could tell a Northerner, as he spoke funny and



The Chemical Brothers - knob-twiddlers.

couldn't quite grasp the concept of meaningful conversation (*I'm northern, you southern pansy* – ed.).

Suddenly the sadistic doorman received his mystic cue and opened the doors. All immediate friendships were forgotten, girlfriends were discarded and it was every man for himself. I ruthlessly made my way to the stalls, which are by far the best seats in the house – not because you're actually allowed to stand and dance but because there are four bars in one room. God bless this nation of drunken rabble.

Any Chemical Brothers album is always a journey through mesmerizing guitar riffs, block rockin' beats, wicked samples and huge breakdowns. Tonight clearly wasn't going to be an exception. DJ James Holroyd had the honour of opening up and provided a backdrop of early, simplistic house and techno that spawned the new generation of energetic DJs that rocked the house into an ecstatic state of pure euphoria.

Caged Baby took to the stage donning tight leather in true camp glam-rock style. Playing live and providing deep, guitar-lead techno that would put a smile on Frankie Knuckles' face.

A host of lush melodies and softer dance grooves fell on eager ears as anticipation of the chemical gods grew to immense hysteria. All fell quiet as psychedelic laser beams filled the academy. A silent whisper ran across the floor. The Chemical Brothers had arrived.

The intro was bass-heavy and a little rugged but it will be interesting to see how it develops into an album track. Digging into their back catalogue, *Hey Boy Hey Girl* exploded into the smoky atmosphere. Stunning visuals in sync with the music projected over the throng of heads, exploding bubbles, scary clowns, marching robots and other trippy shit.

Chart topping tracks from *Push The Button*, *Dig Your Own Hole* and *Exit Planet Dust* featured heavily across the set while periodically dropping into their deeper,

non-released and more expressive works.

The mighty Dust Brothers had emotional control of five thousand people, turning them into one immense euphoric flow of energy, manipulating the mood of the crowd and using them as an instrument within itself. This is what they are famed for. They truly are the masters of the arena-sized sound.

George X

Milk Kan
Putney Halfmoon
★★★★☆

Clad in pink lycra catsuits and with 'Halagoogoo' emblazoned across their stomachs, please welcome the warm up act for tonight's gig. To chants of 'Hal-a-goo-goo, Hal-a-goo-goo', the band pumped out a range of upbeat funky tunes and wholeheartedly entered into the Christmas spirit, with their glitter adorned faces and tossing crackers into the crowd. With their enthusiasm and catchy tunes, these guys are bound to become a well known name on the London circuit.

Come 10.15 and Milk Kan make a modest entrance; it is evident by their casual dress and manner that these guys are not buying into the whole 'product' ethos of the music industry. With the crowd warmed up, they wasted no time with small talk during their set, and allowed their unadulterated rawness to speak volumes. Milk Kan provide a wonderfully weird blend of satirical poetry, part-sung, part-recited to simple tunes. The journey of aspiring to fame has seen these cheeky

chaps jet off from South London to New York and back again, along the way recruiting further band members to generate Milk Kan as we see them today. Named after the famous Houdini milk can escape, they are perhaps implying that all in life is not quite as it seems, and ultimately give a refreshing uncensored take on modern ways. Noone is safe from the wrath of Milk Kan's wicked wit, yet they somehow get away with it, using their cheeky appeal to go places others wouldn't dare. Obvious comparisons to be made are that of Milk Kan to the Streets, combined with the down-to-earth appeal of GLC and somewhere deep down I am sure I felt the influence of Blur. Make what you will of them, you have to give Milk Kan credit for their fantastically deadpan attitude towards the music industry. Forget the wishy-washy lyrics favoured by many bands today: these guys waste no time on menial subjects such as love. Instead, their lyrics are completely bizarre, though if you listen carefully you may begin to understand what was possibly not intended to be understood in the first place.

It truly was a shame that the audience was not larger; though the boys appeared not to care, and despite, as we were later informed, the set being plagued by technical hitches, this went unnoticed by the crowd and the set flowed smoothly. With their hilarious lyrics and catchy tunes they definitely deserve more appreciation. I can picture a room jam packed with bouncing revellers; if you are after that happy-go lucky, feel good factor then Milk Kan are the guys for you.

Lucy Riches

kids will be skeletons 2.0

You remember back in December we had a night at the Union with three pretty awesome bands. Yes? You came, right? Well, someone drank enough beer to keep the Union happy, so we're running another one this Sunday. Bands

are (top to bottom) Lucida Console (awesome posthardcore), Souvaris (elegant and thoughtful post-rock), Candy Sniper (riffastic hardcore) and Epideme (shouty indie punkers). It's £2.50, and it's in dBs on Sunday 22nd. Come down.



The Young Gods - Best. Jacket. Ever.

Charles The Fish

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Photo: Kristina Buch



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Sameena Misbahuddin
President
president@imperial.ac.uk



Union Building Redevelopment

With the plans for the Union Building redevelopment progressing, a number of you have asked about the Energy Efficiency options that have been looked into and that will be incorporated into the redeveloped building. Whilst not everything that we'd ideally want can be incorporated, due to structural reasons, costs, planning permission (we are in South Ken after all), various areas have already been looked into and are continuing to be investigated. College will be taking an Energy Audit of the proposed redevelopment and will make recommendations to be incorporated into the building plans to improve energy efficiency e.g. better carbon management. But for now, below is a summary of what's been investigated so far.

Energy Efficiency

Water Efficiency Metering of the water consumption will be introduced to the building and will help in monitoring it, allowing for reductions in usage. Direct mains toilet flushing will also be used instead of cisterns to reduce water consumption. We'll be working with College's Framework Energy Working Group who address the issue of water conservation in new building and refurbishment projects on campus.

Heating Efficiency There'll be a good level of heating monitoring and control with thermostatic radiator valves being fitted and central climate control where possible, to prevent over-heating in rooms or heating at times when areas aren't occupied.

Electrical Efficiency The engineers will be investigating the monitoring of electrical energy consumption, through metering, to reduce the usage. Currently College Estates are assessing the impact that redevelopment will have on energy usage.

Lighting Efficiency An energy efficient lighting solution will be developed for all areas of the building to suit the activity of each space. Types and sizes of lamps will be standardised, energy efficient long life lamps will be used throughout as well as dimmable controllers. The lighting control system proposed will include presence sensors and daylight sensors to control the electrical light output. Using natural light as much as possible will be key in the building.

Carbon Efficiency We're working with College's Energy & Environmental Manager in improving carbon efficiency and using low carbon technologies where possible in the Union Building.

Renewable energy options that were investigated initially included, Wind Generation, Photovoltaic (PVs) and Solar Water Heating. These could all be suitable for 50% funding from various grants. These are not currently being included, but College investigating them further. However, though 50% funding could be sought, funding for the other 50% would significantly increase the cost of the overall building project, sometimes not bringing the equivalent benefit. If there was a way to gain full sponsorship or more funding for these aspects, then we'd be keen to revisit these options...

More Feedback

Thank you for those who have emailed already. If any of you have specific energy efficiency ideas, let us know and then we can see if they've already been addressed (and what the result was) or investigate the feasibility of the new idea. If any of you know possible companies that would be interested in fully sponsoring energy efficient technology then let us know and we can pursue it together...

If you have any questions or feedback, you can email me and the other Sabbs, or pop into the Union Building, 1st floor.

Sameena Misbahuddin: Union President president@imperial.ac.uk
Simon Matthews: Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) dpcs@imperial.ac.uk
Sarah Khatib: Deputy President (Education & Welfare) dpew@imperial.ac.uk

Tim Aplin: Deputy President (Finance & Services) dpts@imperial.ac.uk
Luis Hui: Deputy President (Graduate Students) dpgs@imperial.ac.uk
More information can be found on www.union.ic.ac.uk

Sid Singh

City & Guilds
College Union
President

president@cgcu.net

Many years ago, in a union far, far away...enough for a dramatic beginning?

In case you are wondering who I am, let me introduce myself, I am Sid, the President of the City & Guilds College Union, the student's union for the Engineering students. I take this opportunity provided by Felix, to inform and gauge the views of students in the Engineering as well as other faculties.

First thing this month, the City & Guilds will be holding a faculty-wide consultation on the 23rd of January with all its Year and Departmental Representatives numbering more than a hundred, covering nine departments including the RSM. This is a continuation of our attempts to have a frank and regular dialogue with our reps. If you have an issue you wish to raise, speak to your year or departmental reps. and ask them to raise it with us on the 23rd of January or any other time they can.

City & Guilds have also announced their 11th annual 5-a-side Football tournament, teams from all departments and faculties

are welcome to participate. If you wish to play, please register your team by emailing vpa@cgcu.net.

I know, Sameena (above), always writes about the issues facing the union, I would like you all to consider the work put in by all your representatives at all levels, including the Sabbatical officers and if you are unhappy with the state of your union or education, feel free to raise them. You are paying the Sabbs. to work for you, make sure you are getting your money's worth. If you have an interest in the running of the union or would like to know what is going on with Union re-development or website, there are other places (other than this page), come to Union Council, next one is scheduled for the 26th of January, starting 7pm in the Union Dining Hall.

In the meantime, if you are an Engineer and would like to raise any issues, please contact your departmental representative or email me at president@cgcu.net.



Letters to the editor

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



Star Letter

Minority Students

To the Editor,

I read with surprise, both in Felix and in other news sources, about HESA's alarm at the demographic anomalies between the general population and university students. What I find more alarming is the responsibility which is being placed on higher education institutions with respect to this divide.

In my own personal experience, universities are amongst the most accepting and non-discriminatory institutions in modern society; isolated pockets which strive for pure meritocracy. The quotas in place at Cambridge and LSE are a shocking display of bad science and are exemplary examples of reactionary

reflexes which have been implemented without a critical analysis of the problem.

Correlation with ethnicity does not imply causality and I suspect that the real cause of this rift can be traced to poverty and not the colour of one's skin. In fact, I'm sure that white children who attend dysfunctional inner-city schools and come from underprivileged backgrounds are no more likely to be accepted to universities than anyone else who has not achieved a satisfactory level of academic and social competence.

Lindi Galloway's statements echoed the real root of the problem, which is that those demographics who are underrepresented have already been failed by society by the time they reach university. To place quotas on admission which forces capable students to be turned away while struggling students are accepted does nothing but degrade the quality of higher education. It is a fundamentally flawed remedy to nothing more than a symptom of a deeper problem which is now in danger of getting worse. Like giving

a cancer patient an analgesic, this sort of "remedy" leaves the patient feeling better about themselves, but merely masks the symptoms of the cause while allowing the disease to progress unabated. And, personally, if I were a member of a minority group, I would find it terribly insulting to think that my admission was a charity and not earned on merit. To rob a person of that dignity is divisive and condescending, in my humble opinion.

The real solution will come when politicians face the reality of a deteriorating social and educational system and put programs to work which aim to remedy them. Underperforming primary and secondary schools need to be identified and steps made to improve them. Social programs for disadvantaged families and parents need to be put in place to help provide a stable and positive environment for those children and to help parents be more effective. Only then will those children stand a chance at being prepared for the challenges of a university education and only then can

we say that we have truly given all people a real, fair chance.

Sincerely,
Justin Dane

Department of Physics

Ramadan Campaign

Dear students and staff,

If you can cast your minds back to October you may remember ICU Islamic Society's 'Save a nation' charity campaign, our annual Ramadan campaign, in which we frantically collected for the south-east Asian quake victims.

As with any relief process – the tsunami, Katrina – sadly there were shortcomings; I certainly felt frustration and was disheartened when, despite global efforts, there seemed to be little progress, but I'm glad to say that in the week I spent in a medical camp and tent school in Mansehra I met some very dedicated and inspirational individuals

- foreigners and nationals alike.

Truly, it is the global support and efforts of international governments and NGOs, in addition to the Pakistani army and government, that have brought the relief effort this far. What's more, with all this foreign and government investment the region shows promise of quality education and new opportunities for a brighter future.

I just wanted to say a (slightly belated!) thank you to everyone who helped and supported our Ramadan campaign in coordination with Islamic Relief; your contributions were important and together we managed to raise over £15,000.

I would also like to mention that there is still a lot going on; with more than 80,000 dead, a lost generation (a reference to the thousands of schoolchildren killed) and 3.5 million left homeless, rehabilitation and reconstruction are proving to be no easy task; I urge you to continue to support the relief effort in any way possible.

Ayesha Choudhary

Get your views heard. Write a Letter - felix@imperial.ac.uk

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Upcoming events from the IC Law Society

'A Career in Law' Presentation

6pm, Mon 23rd Jan, Rm 741, Blackett Lab (Physics)

The leading law school are coming to Imperial to tell you:

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- What recruiters look for in applicants
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[The College of Law](http://www.collegeoflaw.org)

Wine-tasting with Olswang

6pm, Tue 31st Jan, Olswang Offices, 90 High Holborn

Meet trainees and lawyers from Olswang, the law firm of choice in the Media, Communication and Technology sectors, over free wine & champagne!

Pre-registration necessary,
e-mail iclawsoc@gmail.com

OLSWANG



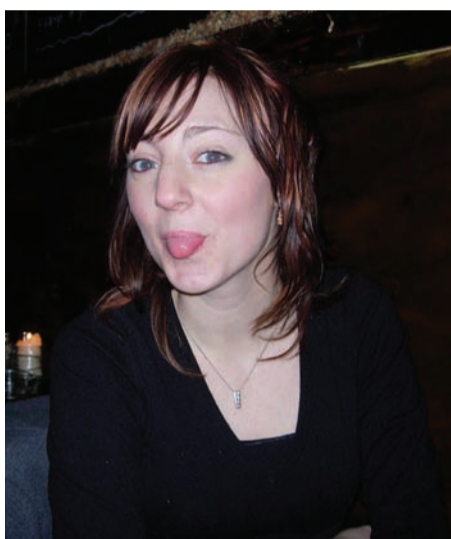
IC Law Society

blind date

felix-blinddate@imperial.ac.uk

Emma and Thea @ Equisitos

Burritos, Corona and Sombreros - A recipe for hot action



Emma, 18
1st Year Biology

Are you a native Briton?
Nope, I was born and grew up in Amsterdam, Holland. But moved to England to study A-levels.

What would be your ideal date?
Depends on the clarity of my beer goggles! If I'm sober I tend to be quite picky, but when I've had a few in me I'm more easily satisfied.

How did you react when you found out your date was a girlie?
It'll be fun, I haven't spent much time in female company since I've been at Imperial. Wasn't exactly what I was expecting.
Disappointed then? Not at all!

How would you prefer to be woken up in the morning? A wet slap on the cheek, a mega phone in your ear, or being sat on by a heffer?
Breakfast in bed would be fine.

What did you hope for in your stocking this Xmas?
Nothing else but you, Jack. But I must have been a bad girl this year.
Don't worry, there's always next year.



Thea, 18
1st year Physics

Your accent tells me your American?
You're a clever one, aren't you?! I moved here from Laguna Beach, Florida.

What would be your ideal date?
You, Jack. You do it for me every time.

How did you react when you found your date was a girlie?
I live for surprises, always one to try something new.

Are you a lesbian?
No.

That's a shame. You must have thought about it though?
Well I never say never.

What would be your perfect date?
Sitting on Santa's lap in his ice grotto, keeping each other warm.

Favourite shoe size?
As with all things, the bigger the better.

Equisitos
Fulham Road,
London

Meal for 2, £40

Thur 12 December 8pm



Emma's Verdict

Would you come to Equisitos again?
Definitely, the food was lovely and the service was excellent. I'd come back for more Thea too!

Do you have anything planned for after the meal?
I'm going back to my halls in Evelyn Gardens.

To do what?
Sleep, I'd imagine.

With Thea?
No, not tonight! I'll be sleeping alone, I'm not an easy girl, it takes more than one date to get me between the sheets.

Is there any potential for another date?
Of course. I might even "ring" her tomorrow.

Where would you take her for a second date? I love the movies, so I would probably take her to see a romantic comedy, then back to mine for ice cream and "coffee".

Marks out of 10?
At least 11.

Have you enjoyed your night?
I've had an amazing night, I almost chickened out at the last minute, but I'm very glad I turned up now. It's not every day you get to have a free meal and meet an awesome girl!

Thea's Verdict

What did you think of Equisitos?
Good food, good company, good times! I really loved the decoration as well, it's very authentic and traditional. If the place wasn't so clean I could easily have believed I was actually in Mexico.

What did you think of Emma?
She is rather tasty, my appetite has been satisfactorily whetted.

Just your appetite?
Yes, Jack, just my appetite.

So has she turned you gay?
She tried.

And?
"None of your business", she tells me smiling, as they both leave for the toilet, giggling all the way.

Will you be seeing Emma again?
Emma: "You know you want to".
Thea: "I do?! Of course I do, but next time it will have to be a bit more private."

Marks out of 10?
She's off the scale! I'm not going to say which way, but I'm sure that you can guess!

What would you like to say to Felix?
Both: "Thank you Felix!"

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



Alon Or-bach

Sharon and his recent pursuit of peace

In reply to Ammar Waraich, Felix 1339

In last week's *Felix*, Ammar Waraich set out his view of the legacy of Ariel Sharon and what the future may hold for the middle east.

Although in all a well-written article, Ammar falls foul of the most common attack on Israel when he refers to "the racist nature of the Jewish-only state". This inflammatory language not only detracts from his argument, but it is also wrong. Jewish-only? Israel is indeed a Jewish state but it is far from being Jewish-only, with twenty percent of Israelis being of non-Jewish (and predominantly Arab) background. Racist? Israel is a multicultural society, with freedom of religion and all citizens treated equally under law. The one exception is its immigration policy, which while open to all gives automatic citizenship to Jews. This is brought about by the exceptional circumstances of Israel being the only Jewish state in the world, providing a unique haven to Jews denied their rights elsewhere. But if you were to brand this policy as racist, you would need to label almost all immigration policy as being bigoted - even the UK's favouring of commonwealth citizens, let alone the restrictive migration laws of most other countries in the middle east.

Aside from that assault, the article laid out a well written account of recent events and offered

an intriguing suggestion as to the motives behind Sharon's decision to leave Likud to form the new Kadima party - to counter the "rising popularity" of Avoda, Israel's Labour Party, which elected Amir Peretz as its leader on November 9th.

However, while an interesting idea, it is rather doubtful. Ever since the pull out from Gaza last summer, it has been an open secret that Sharon was planning to form a new party. The split in Likud was not mere "infighting" - it was a fundamental disagreement about Sharon's unilateral strategy of withdrawal.

It is misleading to suggest that Kadima is nothing more than "a new Likud". While it is indeed dominated by former Likud members, Kadima's support for further unilateral withdrawals is a complete upheaval of Likud's policy of continued rule of the occupied territories. This has given the Israeli voter three distinct choices in the upcoming general election - continued occupation with Likud, a return to peace talks with Labour, or further unilateral withdrawals with Kadima.

As a supporter of peace and the formation of a viable Palestinian state, my heart lies with Labour. I was very enthusiastic when Peretz was elected and emphasised tackling poverty and improving public services. However, the

sad fact is that after years of failed negotiations, many Israelis have given up the idea of final-state peace talks. At the same time, the majority of Israelis do not support the continuation of occupation and settlements. Because of this, Sharon's plan struck a chord with many people across the political spectrum. It is now expected that he will not return to politics even if he does recover. But this will not mean the election of Labour as Ammar predicted. Kadima is anything but stranded and is likely to be by far the biggest party - despite Ehud Olmert only just taking over as its leader.

The reasoning behind the support of the unilateral approach is the wish of the majority of Israelis to give up occupied territories towards peace and security, while despairing at the failure of doing this through negotiation with the ineffective leadership of the Palestinian Authority. The international community must recognise the vast ramifications this has on future peace talks. Further withdrawals from occupied territories should be supported, but it is crucial to make sure they do not prevent the future establishment of a Palestinian state or its viability. It is uncertain when a return to the negotiation table will be made, but it is something we must continue to push towards.



Brown Couch

Pimp my college

An MTV-sponsored report, entitled Statistics of Trendy University Discrimination (STUD), has singled out Imperial as having very few cool students. Officially only 12 students attending Imperial qualified as "cool" with another 34 managing to score "hip". Concern has been raised over the 2 students qualifying as "dangerously uncool". Although IC scored highly on "geek chic", it unfortunately scored even more highly on just pure "geek".

The STUD report was a nationwide survey compiled over November 2005 in which universities across the country were compared on aspects such as trendiness and coolness. 5 young officials from MTV spent time on campus ranking the students for their coolness. They measured such things as walking style, fashion sense, weight of worn bling, hair style etc, to come up with an overall cool percentage for the university.

The coolest university in the UK was the Institute of... The students there were too cool to agree to name their university. Courses featured in their prospectus include "Funkology" but unfortunately, as IC students, we were unable to understand the rest that were listed. They scored a cool rating of 98.2%. This contrasts sharply with Imperial College, now officially

the least cool university, even being beaten by Cambridge with a score of 1.7%. It is speculated that Cambridge got such an impressive score solely because of their recent Hendrix Institute of Rock 'n' Roll that was opened to students last October.

Although Imperial is the least cool UK university, things may be about to change. The purpose of the MTV report was to find a worthy university to participate in the first UK version of the state-side show "Pimp My College". The changes to college will start in February and will give an added boost to the planned Union refurbishment. Official announcements will be made over the coming weeks about the changes students should expect as the MTV crew moves in. The project and accompanying TV show will be hosted by Michael Jackson (who'll earn a six-figure sum) and should last around 4 months.

Most topical of all will be the new dress code. Students will be required to wear as many hoods as they can and a minimum of 2kg of gold and silver medallions. Swipe card lanyards will be replaced thick gold chains and swipe cards will become diamond encrusted. While filming is in progress, any student seen in shot not wearing the correct attire will be removed by security.

More sweeping changes involve the abolition of the physics and maths and their replacement

by the Brian May Institute for Rock 'n' Roll. This thinly veiled attempt to follow Cambridge's path to glory will result in the unemployment of 300 researchers. Those who remain will be expected to learn chords, riffs and showmanship. The Electronic Engineering department will become The Exotic Entertainment department and Geology will be toned down to "Rocks for Jocks".

A physics student, who did not want to be identified, said "Yo dwag, I fink dem derr is excellent plans. Me 'n me bitches will be pluckin'. Aai?" Pressed upon this point, he further elucidated that: "Well, actually, I'm not terribly 'cool' as they say, but I'm trying to go with the flow. You know?". A female medic proclaimed: "I'm really cool. Last night I ginned 3 of my friends. Aaai?" As we walked away, she proceeded to chug a little gin bottle.

The Mayor of College has agreed to lead by example and wear a huge white fur coat, a diamond cane and grow a goatee. He has given his go-ahead for the painting of go-faster stripes down the side of Sherfield as well as begrudgingly agreeing to allow the pimping of the logo from Arial font to Times New Roman.

The Brown Couch team has also reached agreement with MTV about transforming the JCR. All the seating will now be plump leather brown couches for staff and students to enjoy.



Omnipotent One

Socially-able at Imperial

Last week *Felix* ran an article about the lack of British minorities attending Imperial. While this is a concern, I think people are over-looking a much bigger issue. Over the past few weeks I have been more and more observant of the issue and have come to this conclusion: Imperial is prejudice against socially-able students. I personally find this blatant discrimination appalling and am shocked any university could over look such a horrifically corrupt admissions procedure.

An anonymous insider revealed to us that the admission tutors had come together with the computer science department to create a computer system which scans through UCAS application forms and filters out applicants

whose personal statements contain any of the following phrases: "When I'm not studying I enjoy...", "In my spare time I like...", "My non-academic interests include..." and so on. A newer version of the program, version 1.04a beta, is currently being developed. This will allow the previous phrases to be overlooked on the condition they are followed with any of the following: "playing dungeons & dragons", "updating my online diary" or "buying more science fiction novels for my collection."

It was also revealed that the science fiction club had played a central role in these sinister goings-on. A recent attempt by an undercover outsider to infiltrate their head quarters ended in catastrophe. After being sent off into the

unknown, the young volunteer was not seen for weeks, until, on be spotted scurrying across the Beit quad, showed no sign of recognition to his old friends and was heard to mutter: "Leave me alone, my epic ogre-warrior is almost a level thirty-two!" before climbing under a rock (or going back to the science fiction room).

I will conclude by asking you all to give a few moments thought for our fallen comrade and leave you with this: If you seen anyone approaching you sporting a "There are 10 types of people in the word, those who understand binary and those who don't", then flee for your life!



felix

No 1340
Thursday
19 January 2006
felix@imperial.ac.uk

//
Burglar:
"I'm here to see
Dave"
Student:
"Uh, ok then"

Thefts in Evelyn Gardens

We are not a lucky demographic. Both students and Londoners are more likely to be victims of crime than the population as a whole. The sheer fluidity of life in halls means security will never be as tight as we would like. Students in halls need to take a more pro-active approach to safeguarding their home.

If someone tries to follow you into halls, don't let them - challenge them. If someone rings the doorbell and says 'I'm here to see Dave', don't just go 'Uh, ok, then'. Even if they get lucky and pick a weird name, like Rupert, stick on the side of caution.

The "famous thief" mentioned by Adrian Medina is well known to College security and the police. Ceri Davies, Head of Security, told us that he has been difficult to apprehend as he is without a fixed abode.

Apportioning blame in an environment such as halls is extremely difficult. In a situation like this, it is often easy to blame cleaners and security staff as they have extra powers of access. But, to do so without conclusive evidence is ill advised and will cause distress to innocent members of staff.

College have assured *Felix* that any allegations against cleaning or security staff will be dealt with "in the same way as any crime reported. All suspects will be interviewed and the police will be informed. Any specific allegations would be thor-

oughly investigated and if there is evidence of a crime being committed then a police prosecution would follow."

What's troubling us at *Felix* most is how anyone could be stupid enough to have thousands of pounds lying around their room. That sort of money is just a temptation too strong to ignore.

Library: 24/7 & redevelopment

Last year, the library was one of the most contentious issues covered by *Felix*. The conditions, frankly, were disgusting and definitely not conducive to effective study. If 24/7 is to work successfully this year, students must respect the facility and each other. If you see anyone brushing their teeth or washing cabbage in the toilet take a picture and we will name and shame them in *Felix*.

Some students have been sent emails by their senior tutors telling them to "get a good nights rest before exams". Doesn't having the library open 24/7 contradict this good advice?

Hopefully, once the redevelopment has been completed, the library will be a more pleasant place to study and we will finally be assured of finding a spare place to study.

We want to hear your views on these issues, please email felix@imperial.ac.uk



Omar Hashmi

An Undeniable Opportunity

I am glad to be in a university whose students are not politically correct. Though at times there are some whose necks you could wring Homer Simpson-style for being the most deceptive - nice to your face yet saying less than the most complementary of remarks behind your back, for the most part people will be forthright and say exactly what they think about you, to you. I hope that this air of frankness remains in the next two weeks for the Islamic Awareness Fortnight.

Of course there will be the usual dialogue, and you may walk past a stall in a rush with three courseworks or so to hand in, but if you feel like picking a (pseudo-intellectual) fight, then I encourage you to do so. That's what the stalls and events are there for. It is a concern that there are still perceptions of Islam that are common yet, from a Muslim point of view, totally unjustified. The underlying concept behind all the interaction will be to try to show the positive side of Islam to students. An entire way of life alien to Ancient Greek philosophy, embracing an awe-inspiring fruition or "Golden Age" when Europe was in its Dark Ages,

and separate from the values that ignited the Enlightenment era in Western Europe where much of civilisation stems from today. There was a time in Islam when new patterns of thought and philosophy flourished, coupled with advances in material progress and the spread of an inter-continental Caliphate. It is this basis of life that governs the actions for 1.5 billion people globally - and the number is ever growing.

I sincerely hope that the interaction will come to highlight the Islamic alternative for many issues. Islamic jurisprudence is an immensely rich field, where it is shown how the Qur'an and other Islamic texts are taken as the basis of all decisions in Muslim life. At first glance, it may appear counter initiative - how can a book give solutions to today's problems? However a profound empirical understanding of the situation that is being studied, and use of a philosophy wholly based on the Shari'ah that relies much on analogical extension and is the basis of judgements in Islam. Yet the process of Ijtihad - the study of a scholar exerting his utmost effort to find the Islamic solution on any particular

issue, gives rise to a system that can regulate any, and in fact all, issues that occur in society.

Take the hijab for example. It, like all other Shari'ah rules, should not be viewed in isolation. Instead hijab is part of wider Islamic thinking that argues sex, sexual activity and sexual satisfaction should not be public. Imagine what that means. Whenever people meet publicly e.g. to work, trade, study, teach, travel or politically participate in an Islamic society they are viewed purely for what they offer in that particular relationship. They are not viewed for their sexuality. Gender is irrelevant. Each is viewed simply as a human being. Sexism disappears. No more sex objects. No more billboards or images of semi-clad women required to advertise the latest cars, music singles or Cadbury's Flakes. No more unrealistic expectations of the female form to drag down a woman's self esteem.

Islam also recommends we all marry early allowing us to flourish within marriage so imagine no more trying to pull someone (or be pulled) on a Friday night. Of course living in a sexually-charged society brings its own

dangers. How many of us fear our loved ones could be attacked just because someone else is sexually agitated? Of course further safeguards come from a Muslim's adherence to ultimate divine accountability which links into social responsibility, giving charity, being a good neighbour and an upstanding citizen.

Such issues as these are also parts of the Islamic way of life, with solutions derived from reasoned deductions from the revelation in a similar way described above. Indeed, perhaps it is the last that is of most concern to non-Muslims. Is there still this attitude that Islam is concerned only with the spread of total Jihad against all infidels with the sword, indefinitely, till all is conquered or burnt? History can be interpreted this way, but it is also possible to divorce the inappropriate actions of individuals from the true Islamic viewpoint - an encouragement to respect human life that embodies the utmost care for both Muslims and non-Muslims as humans. It is in this spirit of frank debate and discussion that I'm sure we all hope the interaction of all peoples with far ranging views on life's matters will occur.

FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY

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DAN BAILEY (RADIO 1)

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ESKIMO BLONDE



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The Union Encourages Responsible Drinking



On 1 February, Imperial College London will host its first Ethical Careers Exhibition. Imperial has an excellent reputation for equipping students for top careers in science, engineering and business, and alumni go on to work for some of the world's biggest companies. But the range of career paths available that combine challenging work and a competitive salary with making a positive difference to the world has never been greater, and more graduates than ever are looking to find ethical work.

At the Exhibition, we'll be showcasing some of the ways to find a career that protects or promotes peace, social justice or environmental sustainability. It won't be like other careers fairs - our exhibitors come from a huge range of sectors and backgrounds, and are looking for graduates with all levels of experience. The event is open to anyone, so whether you're wondering what to do after graduation, already in the world of work and looking for a change, or just want to support the idea of ethical business, come along and explore what's on offer. We have exhibitors from the public, private, and academic sectors, and a packed seminar programme covering everything from sustainable engineering to charity work, careers in the civil service to tackling climate change. Be inspired - perhaps over a cup of tea from our free FairTrade Cafe - by browsing the poster display, featuring stories of graduates whose careers have taken an ethical direction.

Next week's Felix will contain a full guide on how to get the most from the Exhibition - your first step towards a rewarding career with an ethical dimension. Hope to see you there.



The Ethical Careers Exhibition is being organised in support of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in partnership with the Careers Advisory Service and:

Imperial Volunteer Centre

Imperial College London



event supported by:



ethicalcareersexhibition

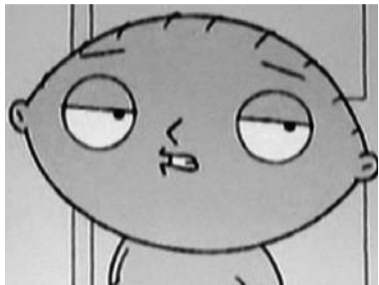
www.union.imperial.ac.uk/ethicalcareersexhibition

Great Hall, Imperial College London
Wednesday 1st February
11:30 - 16:00





Last week's TV



Hello. Firstly, my apologies for last week's bout of crude language. Ainsley Harriot was drafted in and Joe's mouth has been thoroughly rubbed and scrubbed with Fairy Powerspray. We promise it will not happen again.

On Wednesday last week, the 'grand' finale of *Lost* aired on Channel 4. The double episode was supposed to reveal the answers to all the secrets according to the adverts I heard. I say 'heard', I didn't watch the adverts. Despite my best efforts to avoid the adverts by pulling the duvet over my eyes and covering my ears with my hands, the spoilers seeped through my fingers. Blimey, I love Channel 4, but they are awful for that!

Anyway we were expecting, rather hopefully, to discover: what was in the hatch, what was the smoke about, what the bloody hell were the loud growling noises in the woods, what the heck are polar bears doing there, what was so special about Walt, what about Claire's mysterious baby and why couldn't Charlie have actually died when he was hung? Ok, perhaps not the last one, but I still ask that question whenever the annoying pleb opens his gob. The point is: viewers were in for an action packed few hours in which a tension greater than that of Hurley's belt would be relieved.

Unsurprisingly perhaps, we found out almost jack shit. Even though the actors were tormented by some mechanical sounding 'monster', we never got a view of it. The smoke turned out to be a simple beacon,

but little more was known about it; polar bears were never mentioned; Claire's baby was kidnapped by the French woman and Walt was kidnapped by a band of scruffy folk. The episode even ended by fading to black as Locke and Jack peered into the hatch. All in all, even more pieces of plot were created than resolved! American cinema is renowned for explaining every last detail of a story, so leaving something for the viewer to think about is often refreshing but *Lost* took the piss. This happened throughout the season. Whenever something was revealed, such as the polar bears, the following episode the islanders would get collective amnesia and forget all about them! Episodes rarely continued to the next. To end an entire season in such a manner gives little reward to the audience. *Lost* was a chore to watch at times, yet I must give it some credit for making me return each week and probably next season. Channel 4's apology after the final show made me laugh and certainly summed up the frustration neatly.

Good riddance to Jodie! The woman who modelled her nose on Winter Olympics ski jumps was evicted from *Celebrity Big Brother* last week. Good! Her attempts at proving she was not a slag/bitch/moron/cow/whinge-bag failed miserably and she actually just confirmed the media's portrayal. In one discussion she said something along the lines of "I just wanna go out and stick my tongue down some bloke's throat, get wasted and have my friends hold my hair back as I throw up down the bog." A classy lady indeed. The eviction evening was odd though. During the phone vote advertisements, Jodie was booed loudly, but upon eviction was greeted much more kindly. Even Davina's interview seemed diluted; probably to avoid her topping herself there and then.

Anyway folks, see you next Thursday!

Tomo Roberts

Strewth!



G'day again! Now which whacker spat the dummy over my clearly unappreciated nappy talk last week? I thought brain boxes like you lot would overlook my blue, and appreciate a bit of slang banter from one of us common blokes Down Under, but I'll cop it sweet with Ainsley's magic hands.

You see, we all need to spread the love, like that anonymous donor and his 250 smackaroos. Fair suck of the sav; his blood's worth bottling! Makes a change to all the dirty bizzo that's been going on around Erinsborough.

Although there is a lot of man-to-man love spreading goin' on in the 'house of trouser'. Rougher than the wrong end of a pineapple I say! I've never heard of a camp bushie, but I can see that Toadie wearing a thong under his suit. Plus I think he's got a photo of Lance 'the horticulturist' in his wallet, right next to his doodles.

Lucky if that Conor has any doodles with the business he's getting into. Italian standover men are no wowsers. He'll probably cark it before Alex does.

Along with the house of 'bend over and take down your trousers', and the Timmons herd in their bus, this area is becoming real couky. All we need now is a rasta carrying a boombox in the name of Radio Raheem.

Rattle my bones all over the stones, I'm gonna stop this yabbering to 'fight the power and increase the peace'.

Joe Mangel

DVD Review

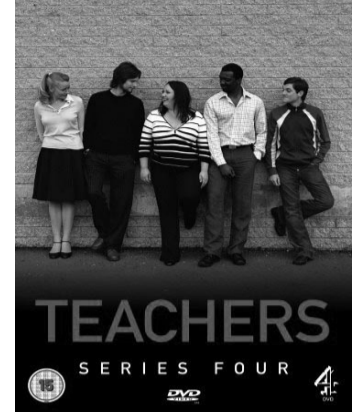
Teachers - Series 4 (Cert. 15)

★★★★☆

As a pupil, you have preconceptions that teachers are blank, with little or no personality; they don't have lives outside of their sorry, underpaid existence. Teachers are almost robotic machines that operate Monday to Friday, 8 till 6. They only know how to shout and strike their red ball-points in a crossing motion, or stroke in an "F" motion if they're the US model. Once the end of school bell has rung they return from bus duty, in single file of course, to their corner of the staff room and mark books. After sticking down the very occasional golden star, they walk on the left hand side of the corridors to their store-cupboard and power down for the night.

Going out, smoking and drinking are treats reserved for the rare lunch down the local pub on teacher training days. Not so for the teachers of Summerdown Comprehensive. A new term and a merger with another school means the old tobacco chimneys: fatty Lindsay, blonde sexpot Penny and "fucking fucker" Bob are joined, smoking in the bogs, by some new recruits. Ewan is likeable, handsome and gullible; Ben is a neurotic RE teacher but "not a fucking Christian" and Damian is a sarcastic loser. This bunch of booze guzzling twenty-somethings are far from the Demon Headmaster. They walk through corridors swearing like troopers, whilst in the background little Bobby, little Freddy and tiny Timmy are all getting the shit kicked out of them. School is literally a riot for these kids. Children fight with medieval swords and another set of pupils even fire off a military mortar! However, if there was a school award for most childish member, the teachers would win it every time here.

At Summerdown, the bell is cer-



tainly a signal for the teacher, not the pupils; a signal for them to rush to the bar at 'The Orange Tree'. Here they rip the piss out of each other, constantly. Lindsay is "not pregnant, just fat!"; Bob has applied for a Thai bride on the internet; Ben becomes obsessed with OAPs and there's gay awareness week in which head teacher Claire tries to discover "what exactly is it that Lesbian's do". It's good to see Claire has survived from previous years. Cod-eyed Carol's clapping signals Claire's entry into the staff room: "Shut the fuck up" she announces to begin the new term; no changing the ice-queen then. Carol, on the other hand, has turned into an even angrier, twisted version of Golum. She grunts abuse at people, sprays disinfectant on old people's seats and particularly hates lesbians.

The old cast is still excellent and the new faces fit in pretty well too but I couldn't help feel that the creators were using Ewan, Damian and Ben to replace Simon, Kurt and Brian from earlier series. Damian and Ben are the idiots, several cans short of a six pack each, and Ewan is the attractive, slightly sharper pencil in the draw. This is a harder task than getting away with insulting a French teacher by calling her "une salope" to her face. Still, *Teachers* is still as stylishly edited and well scripted as ever; sharp and funny.

Tomo Roberts

AD-LIB BY TEVONG YOU

archives: <http://www.tevong.co.uk>



KIDS WILL BE SKELETONS

indie/electronica/post-rock/alt. hip hop/IDM

imperial
college
union

ic
a.m.
alternative music society

*STEVEN
LYNCH*

*PICARD (L.A.M.)
W/ OTHERS*

BLACK

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in: dBs, imperial college union
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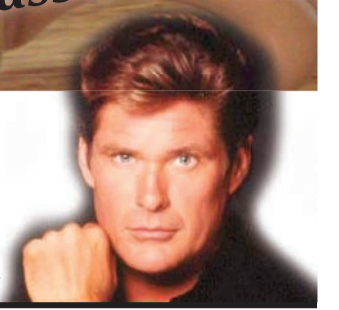
coffee break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

with David Hasselhoff

New Year, New Hoff

The Hoff is back for 2006, and he's going to get you laid. Thank him in kind.



David Hasselhoff's Sex Tips For Boys

So it's 2006, and what have you got to look forward to? Well, unlike we were promised, there'll be no flying cars, sexy robots and talking sandwiches. Instead we get £1.50 bus fares, dB's and another few months of Imperial-bloody-College. Now, despite being a 50-something Hollywood star, sex symbol, lifeguard, secret agent and crotch-model (not to mention my stellar singing career in Germany), I feel like I've remained in touch with my Imperial College roots. I graduated in '73, having enrolled

"It can be hard to concentrate when you're surrounded by so much *minge*"

as an easy way of dodging 'Nam. It was there that I met Devon Miles, Brian May and my lifelong friend and occasional lover, KITT. Imperial has played a huge part in my career, from my 1983 Knight Rider special "Danger: Your name is Sherfield", to my sponsorship of Imperial's (short-lived) Baywatch appreciation society, TitSoc. Now, writing Coffee Break, I feel like I'm giving something back.

For the New Year it's customary for people to make some resolutions. Typically you try to give up smoking, get fit or some other pointless thing that you'll probably give up after a week or two. Having spent half-a-dozen years at IC (I failed a couple of times - it can be hard to concentrate when you're surrounded by so much *minge*), I know what most of the guy's resolutions will be: to get laid. I appreciate it's not so easy for you lot as it is for me. I've been blessed with a thick mane of curly chest hair, good, strong calves, and an intimidating package. This week I'm going to do my best to help the

"Take comfort in the cold, metallic taste of their clit ring"

men get their end away.

Before you actually get down to the messy business called love-making, you're going to need to find yourself a lucky lady. The important thing here is to decide what type of woman you're after. A woman is a subtle, beautiful thing, full of complexities and nuances. However, as I'm The Hoff, I'm going to generalise, because hey, I'm David Hasselhoff and I don't play by nobodies rules.

Posh Totty

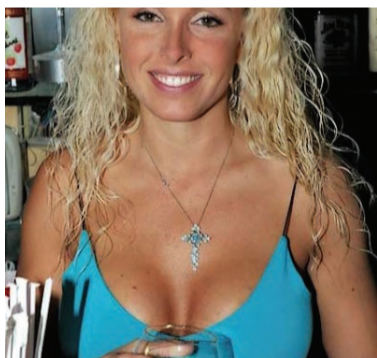


Breeding - that's what matters

- + Fucks like a horse
- Looks like a horse
- Can be found in Chelsea

One of the advantages of being in SW7 is the local talent. Posh birds are usually impressed by money, boats, and inbreeding, though if you can be authentically downmarket enough, she might fancy a bit of rough.

Australian Barmaids



Ignore the voice - Focus on the Tit

- + It's easy...
 - ...but you have to speak to them
- Found in Earls Court, Putney and Belushi's

Barmaids are fantastic. They listen to you moan, they're usually wearing something low-cut and they give you booze. Aussie barmaids, though a little bit annoying, have the advantage of being a little easier. Fair enough, it might be like throwing a hotdog down a hallway, but



I'm about to break!



Play your cards right, and this could be you

what more could you want?

Emo / Goth / Indie Girls

- + (Sometimes) Good Music Taste, 'Interesting' Dress Sense
- Mars Volta, Taking Back Sunday, Other Emo crap
- Can be found drinking Cider, not dancing

Should you be that way inclined, a nice Rocker chick can be a lot of fun. Unfortunately, you'll have to put up with the occasional 20-minute experimental Latin/Grindcore Fusion drum solo. And they do tend to enjoy moaning. But you can always take

"I like Desperate Housewives, and I'm straight."

comfort in the cold, metallic taste of their clit ring.

So, you've found your victim. The next step is to somehow persuade her to get into bed with you - This can be hard, especially if you're looking particularly Imperial that day. The trick is to convince her to see behind the acne, smell and general creepy aura you project, and to see the inner, beautiful person. Or failing that, get her drunk, so that maybe she'll mistake your inner pervert for an inner prince. Or maybe you could get her even drunker and it won't even matter.

What if you don't want unsatisfy-

ing drunken fumbling? Or you're too cheap to pay for a few Snakebites? Some situations call for a little charm, or as I call it, lying. Any married man can tell you that the one thing women want more than anything (Apart from locking you down, stealing your money and your soul, and ruining the rest of your life), is to be right. A girl who thinks she's right is a happy girl. So long as you say the right words you'll be fine. Good phrases include 'You're so right', 'I'm so wrong' and 'I like Desperate Housewives, and I'm straight'.

If you've been following these instructions, then you should have yourself a drunk and horny slag, on the brink of becoming a hungover and used shell of a woman. Well done. Now it's time for the important bit. This is where most people fail, as the fresh air, a sense of guilt or a sudden burst of self-esteem hits your lady, and makes her realise just how stupid she'd been. Don't let this happen to you - now's the time to splash out on a taxi and get her back to your gaff, ASAP.

Wait a second - you did prepare your room for the night of furious lovemaking that's in store? Are there pants on the floor? Is there an empty condom packet on the bedside table? Is there a girlfriend already in your bed? If you're not smart enough to deal with these things beforehand, then you probably shouldn't be at Imperial. Lock her in the toilet, clean your room,

and let her out, declaring 'The lock's a little stiff sometimes'. Emphasise 'stiff'. Trust me, girls love that kind of shit.

Well, it's time for the main event. Are you ready? Are your pubes trimmed and your balls shiny? Are you so drunk that this is going to be like stuffing an oyster into a slot machine? You need to focus your mind and clear all your doubts. Do, or do not. There is no try. Believe in yourself and you can do it. Doubt yourself and it'll be three minutes of old school missionary humping.

To help you out I'm going to share some of the favourite positions that I've picked up in my 'career'.

- Doggy
- Catty
- Cowboy
- Reverse Cowboy
- Reverse, Reverse Cowboy, no swap-backs
- The Dolphin
- The Surreptitious Indian
- The Chinese Burn
- The Isoceles Lock

That last one is particularly fruity. All you really need to know though is that if she falls asleep you're doing it wrong. But don't let that put you off.

You've had a wonderful night of faintly embarrassing love-making. The sun is shining through the window, and you can see just how ugly she was. Your cock is a bit itchy, and there's hair between your teeth - and it's neither of yours. Congratulations.

Dear Miss Confidentiality...

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Hey guys! Just a quick b-day call out to my lil mango!! Keep writing in, this week's prize is a invite for you and 2 friends to felix bar night, free booze, good company, what more could you want? Remember, agony.felix@ic.ac.uk for all your questions.

Miss C



Star Letter

It's raining it's pouring.....

Dear Miss C,
I have found recently that I am totally incapable of using an umbrella correctly, especially in crowds. I mean whenever I go out, I seem either to soak the people who are standing around me, or I get my own eyes poked out. Is there a proper way to use an umbrella? Soaked and poked

Dear Soaked and poked,

Hmmmm interesting, etiquette to using an umbrella. Well there are some rules that if you follow should help you out. Firstly, when walking with a group of people during some monsoon like rain if you have a gigantic umbrella (which are just extremely inconvenient and greedy when it comes to pavement space, don't get one!!) It should go on the top of all the umbrellas, if you have a baby one don't have

illusions off grandeur, stay on the bottom where you belong. Secondly the best place to be is always the bottom centre; otherwise you just get run off from other umbrellas spoiling your hair and outfit. As to the getting poked, well that mainly happens to me when I let someone taller than me hold the umbrella, and somehow it always ends up in my eyes, so moral of that story, hold your own umbrella, always pack a spare one for those people who are forgetful and puppy dog eye you for your precious umbrella space or threaten them with a painful death should they poke your eye out. Other handy hints, beware when opening umbrella for smacking someone in the face, also call me superstitious but don't open an umbrella indoors, you're just asking for bad luck. If all of this has you totally confused then just wear a raincoat and if all else fails, just refuse to leave the house on rainy days, which in England is most of the year so be prepared to become a hermit!

All by myself....

Dear Miss C,
My boyfriend has just broken up with me, he says he thinks its over but when I asked him if we'd ever get back together again, he said he wasn't sure. I call him all the time because I still really want to speak to him and I just can't bear the thought of him with someone else. I don't think I can live without him, how do I win him back? Crying In Chelsea,

Dear Crying in Chelsea,

Oh dear! You want my honest advice? Let it go and please for all our sakes, chill with the dramatics. He's broken up with you for a reason, and as hard as it is to break up with partners, you're really not making this any easier on yourself. It's as though your tormenting yourself on purpose, which is just stupid. You guys have broken up for a reason, and if you will ever have a chance to get back together all the reasons it didn't work out in the first place have to be solved. For that you both need time apart to think about whether it will ever really work again, but acting like a stalker

and haunting his every movement is not going to aid your case. If you blatantly came out and asked him if you will ever back together again only heartless bastards, who unfortunately do exist, would ever say no. In his credit he seems to be dealing with your hysterics pretty well, but that won't last long. If you value his friendship and honestly don't want to lose him, then I'd say step back, give the guy his space. If you need a pick me up, shopping spree and a wild girls night out seems to be the medication you need.

And then there were none....

Dear Miss C,
I am currently a first year in halls, and been having an ok-ish time. However last week I feel asleep downstairs in the common room and when I woke up I discovered I had no eyebrows. What do you suggest I do? Feeling mutilated

Dear Feeling mutilated,

Well as sympathetic as I am for your cause, I can't say you didn't seem to have it coming. Falling asleep in the common room during first year? You might as well be wearing a big flashing red sign saying play a prank on me!! As to what to do with the missing eyebrows, well there is always the wear a beanie hat until they grow back, its still winter so you could get away with that. Secondly you could resort to eyebrow pencil. If you can't bring yourself to walk in to boots to buy one, I'd suggest borrowing form a female friend's make-up bag, and then try and draw them back in. A hint from one girl to an eyebrow-less boy, sweep the pencil in one smooth stroke, but you don't want thin eyebrows so make them a little bit fuller! Remember less is more. You never know you might turn out to have a knack and be complemented for your skills with make-up. Thirdly and probably most effectively, just play it off as a joke!! People will probably respect you for being able to take a joke. But if all else fails, remember revenge is sweet, and a dish best served cold.

Mystic stars

Sagittarius (Nov 22nd - Dec 21st)



You tend to put up an emotional barrier which prevents others from getting to know you, as the week progresses you will feel more at ease as you let your emotions show.

Capricorn (Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)



Current lesions in your karmic fabric suggest an infiltration of dimorphic differences. Aim to settle this by doing away with your fear of confrontation.

Aquarius (Jan 20th - Feb 18th)



This week you will truly find your winter wonderland. It's time to search for a special wardrobe, and I don't just mean clothes.

Pisces (Feb 19th - Mar 20th)



The new year is feeling dark and dismal and so are you. You feel that the stars are not shining on you, in fact these days they don't seem to shine at all. Trust instead in the benevolence of the moon.

Aries (Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Your confidence and self esteem are growing... Go on show off a bit. By the end of the week you'll be dancing away to PCD and turning a few heads... 'Won't Cha?'

Taurus (Apr 21st - May 21st)



With Mars receding from the sun your moods have become slightly black of late, even thought you portray a sham face. Compensate by focusing on your neighbour.

Gemini (May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Your extroverted nature begins to wain and you may find yourself questioning self motivation. Just ride out this bumpy week and soon the path will be smooth and ice. Just wait and see.

Cancer (Jun 22nd - Jul 22nd)



Your normally unassuming placid nature may soon backfire. Others are getting tired of your noncommittal attitude. You cake have you cake and eat it too... make up your mind.

Leo (Jul 23rd - Aug 22nd)



Now the second moon of Jupiter have moved into your alignment it is time to make a start on the endless pile of tasks that have been put aside for that elusive rainy day

Virgo (Aug 23rd - Sep 22nd)



Someone from your past resurfaces, much to your surprise and shows you that there is more to life than the boring routine you've adapted of late. Be open-minded.

Libra (Sep 23rd - Oct 22nd)



Having reached a plateau in your social affairs the movement of Venus suggests that curtailing your busy lifestyle would allow you to visualize the pathway to your inner most desires.

Scorpio (Oct 23rd - Nov 21st)



Your susceptibility to the opposite sex is brought into question as we get closer to the sun. You must become focused and realise you must protect your heart even if you must still wear it on your sleeve.



Police, camera, action!

Imperial students train with boys in blue

Serb Alexandru

Airsoft

Members of the IC Airsoft club joined fellow airsofters in Cardiff on the weekend of 26 and 27 November for a totally special event: the armed police training weekend. The session comprised of two days of intensive training in many aspects of combat with special emphasis accorded to close-quarters combat. Police officers instructed the eager trainees in room clearing, hostage rescue, recon, target practice, moving and covering in disciplined formations as well as team-building and communication. The teams used Airsoft electric air-rifles and gas-propelled pistols, as well as flash-bang grenades for the various stages of the session.

The most difficult tasks to accomplish during the session were: achieving full control over our reflexes and instinctive movements as well as developing a method of non-verbal communication between the members of the squad that reached telepathic levels. Truly amazingly, at the end of the weekend we did not have to shout commands at each other any more as we could automati-



Not just crazy kids with guns, but responsible trainees

cally determine when and where we were needed, by merely assessing the given situation briskly and putting our newly gained experience in motion. As for our reflexes, we had a good chance to see for ourselves that instinctive reactions are not always the best alternative and that a well controlled response can deal with a challenge much better. Moreover, we also had a good chance

to practice our sniping skills by shooting small metal targets with all sorts of guns and scopes, ranging from the humble pistols (Glocks etc.) and their sights, to long range rifles (MP5, AK-47 etc.) and their sights and laser or red-dot scopes. It was really rewarding to see that, with each new try, the same or better results could be achieved with less and less ammunitions.

The entire training session culminated with the final exercise where we were expected to use our recent training to clear a building, totally new to us, from three police officers playing the role of 'terrorists' and rescue two other officers in the roles of 'hostages'. After less than 15 minutes, 8 rooms were cleared without casualty either among hostage squad members.

It must be said that extreme safety measures were taken. Wearing protective masks was mandatory throughout the entire practice session while ear-muffs had to be worn throughout the flash-bang grenade tutorials. Protective gloves were also worn as hits in the fingers cause quite intense pain. Furthermore, during hostage-terrorist scenarios

"we were only allowed to fire targets depicting armed people aiming at us"

shooting a non-hostile target was severely penalised as ethically incorrect, and therefore deemed as failure. We were only allowed to fire targets depicting armed people aiming at us solely and exclusively. That applied strictly despite the fact that the leading two members of the squad storming a room have only a fraction of a second to scan the room, decide whether a target is an immediate threat and then pull or not pull the trigger. It is important to know that we are not just crazy kids with guns, but responsible trainees.

Postgraduate Ceremonies 2006

The 2006 Postgraduate Awards Ceremonies will be taking place on **Wednesday 31 May**.

If you are eligible to graduate, you will receive an invitation by post in mid February. Please ensure your address details are up to date with Student Records by emailing studentrecords@imperial.ac.uk.

In order to attend the ceremony you must book your place by **Friday 7 April 2006**. Further details regarding graduation can be found at www.imperial.ac.uk/graduation.

We hope you enjoy your graduation

The Events Team
graduation@imperial.ac.uk

Felix Travel will be here every fortnight. Been somewhere? travel.felix@ic.ac.uk

Brown on Sport

Stephen Brown
Sports Editor

Happy new year to all the loyal readers of *Felix Sport*. Lots to look forward to this term, most notably Varsity day which provides a good excuse for pointless abuse of medics.

Just a quick comment on the above article. *Felix* does not condone the use of guns in a so-called sporting context. Guns were not designed to provide amusement in the same way that golf clubs and squash rackets were, they were designed to kill. The way the pro-gun lobby are currently hijacking our successful Olympic bid in an attempt to overturn the ban on the private ownership of pistols under the guise of "concern" for Great Britain's 2012 medal prospects in shooting events is shameful. These sanctimonious, self-appointed "law abiding citizens" want the ban overturned so that they can resume the practice of their favourite past-time. They should just accept that they'll need to find another hobby much in the same way as those who were partial

to watching a spot of cock-fighting. Their warped thinking extends to a variety of activities that most right-thinking people find unacceptable. I'm sure you're all familiar with their standard reactionary whinge; "The police shouldn't be there to stop a law-abiding person like me shooting/speeding/driving home from the pub half-cut. They should be out there arresting burglars/moving on gypsies/rounding up illegal immigrants." Grows tiring, doesn't it?

As the author states, this was a training weekend organised by the armed police and served to illustrate the importance of having well-trained officers working within armed response and does not intend in anyway to promote or glorify the use of guns. With British landmarks and citizens facing new threats in increasingly violent animal rights terrorists and disaffected young losers, it is vital to the national interest that we have highly trained professionals to respond to violent criminals. Events such as this serve an excellent purpose, ensuring transparency within the force itself as well as a method of obtaining new recruits.

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



sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

No surrender!

2nd XI shock troops overcome half-time hurdle

Richard Parasam

Men's Football

Imperial College 2nd XI 4
LSE 2nd XI 3

Every now and then we are reminded of the greatness of Sport, of the way it creates and moulds character and of the way it can bring a collection of individuals together and create something spectacular. Everyone present at Berrylands Sports Ground last Wednesday saw a true example of this. Coming into this match with their sights firmly fixed on promotion as well as the top position in their BUSA league, the IC 2nds knew a difficult match awaited them, due to the reverse fixture having been a tense encounter that had resulted in a narrow 2-1 victory.

LSE settled first, however, and began to start passing the ball around, exerting some pressure on the IC defence. They won several corners and a cross from one of these was (allegedly) handled in the penalty area by IC's centre-back, Sami, resulting in a penalty that was duly converted. The first goal really took the wind out of IC's sails and the home team began passing the ball about with ease as Imperial struggled to gain control of the ball for any significant length of time.

Following an IC attack, with most of the team out of position, a long ball down the right wing gave LSE's striker a run at goal, with Sami in close attention. As the attacker shot from inside the box the ball deflected off Sami's leg, over the



Winners: Imperial College 2nd XI

unfortunate James Haugh and into the goal.

LSE really began to dominate at this point, (Masters would have been proud) punishing (steady Masters) Imperial's midfield's inability to string passes together, by spreading the ball to their wingers and playing direct football. When Richie P attempted a risky square ball in midfield it was intercepted and the winger ran halfway up the pitch unchallenged and slotted the ball into the bottom corner. IC were looking dead and buried at this point, lacking any imagination going forwards and appearing shaky at the back. They were lucky not to concede another as a header was cleared off the line by Leon just before half-time.

At 3-0 down at half-time it would have been easy to simply give up, but the true character of the side emerged as the 2nd half began. In crisis situations like this teams rely

not only on grit and determination but also individual brilliance and this was provided, not for the final time in the match, by MOM Chris Parrott, Directly from kick-off Chris ran past two LSE players before hitting an awesome left-footed drive from twenty five yards directly into the bottom corner. This display of footballing genius stunned the home side and gave the IC team the belief that they could take something from the match. They began playing excellent football, running for each other and working as a unit to close down their opponents as soon as the ball was lost. Every player in the team raised their game and the match had performed an about-turn. Chris Parrot was causing havoc for the LSE side every time he touched the ball and he was being well supported by the Gas Man.

IC were rewarded for all their pressure when after around 60 minutes, Pricey clipped a lovely ball over the

top for Parrott, who squared the ball for AK who hit a cracking shot off the post from the edge of the area.

AK made some changes at this point, swapping Leon for a waxwork figure of CP, as LSE were now terrified of going anywhere near him (or was it his twin brother Graeme?) and Gas Man for Robert Pires, who'd been kept on the bench as a secret weapon. They both immediately looked effective, with Graeme Parrott almost setting up his brother with a lovely cross from the right wing, forcing a great save of the goalkeeper from close range. The pressure continued to mount, the fruit of which came to bear after IC won a corner on their right wing.

Pricey whipped in a corner to the edge of the penalty area where Richie P leapt above the defence to score a bullet header which hit the crossbar and went in. Or rather he scrambled it in from one yard using his hip, although the LSE contin-

gent felt rather strongly that the ball had not crossed the line. Bearing in mind the fact that it hadn't, it's easy to sympathise with the players who were cautioned in the rush to implore the referee to reconsider his decision.

No matter, IC scented blood and with twenty minutes to go they set about the deflated home team like a pack of hounds and were causing problems all over the field. CP slipped Pires through but he was unable to beat the keeper. By now the LSE team were hanging on, hoping to salvage something from the game and were sitting back inviting pressure on themselves.

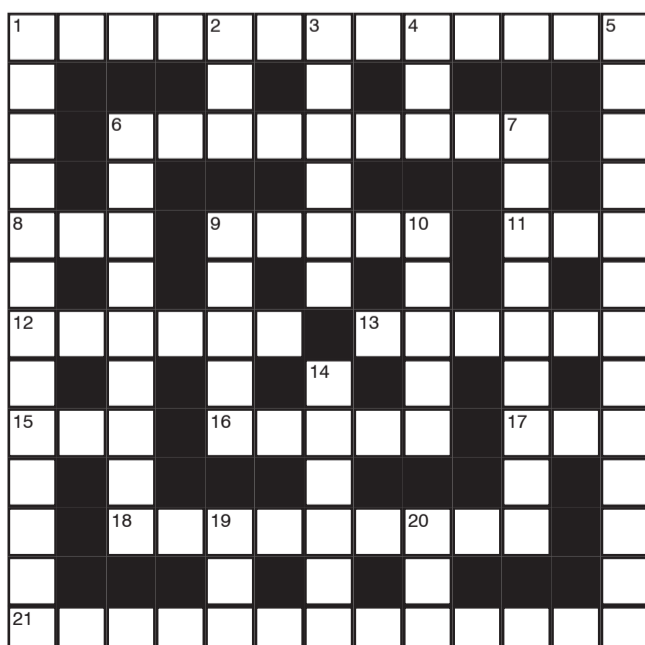
GP won a free kick on the right wing and it was whipped in by Pricey, onto the head of Milad who saw his header hit the bar and fall to the head of Pires who, with the goal gaping and the 'keeper nowhere, unselfishly decided to head the ball back off the crossbar and give GP the goal instead.

He obliged and the IC team found themselves ahead for the first time. Rather than sit on the lead they continued to press forward and create chances, with Pricey being unlucky to head over the bar in the closing seconds.

The final whistle sparked scenes of jubilation and allowed the 2nds to bask in the knowledge that they had pulled off one of the most memorable results in history. They had shown heart and courage in the face of adversity and may that be a lesson to all sports teams. Never give up chasing down seemingly lost causes, never stop applying yourselves even when the easy option would be to lie down and accept defeat.

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

1. County in southern England (13)
6. Pile of waste (9)
8. Vase (3)
9. Grievance (5)
11. Rowing implement (3)
12. Continent (6)
13. Fleet (6)
15. Unit of resistance (3)
16. Young dog (5)
17. Charged particle (3)
18. An officer who keeps records and takes minutes (9)
21. The most popular song in a particular week (3,2,3,5)

Down

1. Belgian detective (7,6)
2. Hair (3)
3. Type of popular musician (6)
4. View (3)
5. Fun (13)
6. Ailments (9)
7. Swear word (9)
9. Appear suddenly (3-2)
10. Ahead of time (5)
14. Talking (6)
19. International standard country code for Central African Republic (3)
20. Curved line (3)

Crossword
setters
required!

felix@ic.ac.uk