

page 18

Clubs & Socs  
Gliding Club

page 25

Film  
Scandalous

page 17



# felix

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of Imperial College

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# Sabbatical gets censured

First censure motion for more than twenty years passes against the Deputy President (Graduate Students)



Defending: Shama Rahman, Deputy President (Graduate Students)



Prosecuting: Jon Matthews, Deputy President (Finance & Services)

## What is censure?

This is the first censure against a sabbatical since 1981, when Danny McCabe (a former Deputy President) was censured by Council.

A censure motion is, as one officer put it, "an official slap on the wrist". It means that Council has accepted poor conduct on the part of the officer who is censured.

It carries no immediate effect, unlike a no confidence motion, which would have resulted in Ms Rahman's removal from the DPGS position.

The no confidence motion was written by Jon Matthews (Deputy President, Finance & Services), and has been held up in Union Court while various legalities were discussed.

The censure motion also requires that any new paper brought to Council about Ms Rahman's performance to be a no confidence motion. The new motion cannot be 'downgraded' to a censure.

**Andy Sykes**  
Editor-in-chief

A motion of censure was passed at Council on Monday against the Deputy President (Graduate Students), Shama Rahman.

Ms Rahman had initially faced a no confidence motion, but Council voted 17-10 to amend the proceedings to a censure vote. The censure itself passed almost unanimously, with only two of the twenty-seven Council members present voting against it. Since then, *Felix* has learned that one, if not both of the

votes cast against the censure motion were from Council members who were dissatisfied with the move to censure, preferring instead a motion of no confidence.

The proceedings opened with a lengthy speech by Ms Rahman in her defence, which Jon Matthews (Deputy President, Finance & Services), the paper's author, responded to before the debate was opened up to the floor, and an arranged list of speakers.

Council members were given a full rebuttal to Mr Matthews' paper, which ran to sixty pages, bringing

the total length of documents each member was expected to read to more than one hundred pages.

Ms Rahman brought a number of GSA Executive members to speak for her; however, most Council members seemed dissatisfied with their defence of Shama, which focussed on her GSA Chair role and very little on her Deputy President role (which requires her to work the same hours as the other sabbs, among other things). They praised her approachable and friendly manner, and the events that she had organised.

They raised the point about a postgraduate representative's fate being voted on by a mostly undergraduate body, even though Ms Rahman is a Deputy President, elected by the entire student body. Most of the Council rejected this defence, and the repetition of this point only served to frustrate some of those present.

Surprisingly, the controversial evidence that made it into the final paper (namely, the monitoring of Ms Rahman's arrival times, and the email evidence of an alleged premeditated 'sickie' as reported pre-

viously) was barely touched upon.

Most of the early discussion centred around Ms Rahman's poor timekeeping as described in the paper. Notably, these were failures to attend important College meetings, the absence from Management & Planning Group (a confidential staff/sabb briefing), and her running of the GSA stall at Freshers' Fair. Ms Rahman offered a number of excuses for these, and accept that her timekeeping was poor.

Continued on page 2



# College email fault

“System error” causes old emails to be resent to almost every student in the College, filling inboxes and raising tempers

The College email service had a brief fit last Friday, spamming almost every student with old emails from mailing lists.

The emails were from student mailing lists used by Union Presidents, as well as Faculty Union-wide mailing lists and College-wide lists. They began arriving late on Friday afternoon, causing a number of students' inboxes to overflow. The messages were arriving from previous Union President, Sameena Misbahuddin, previous CGCU President, Sid Singh, CGCU President James Fok, the Imperial College Health Centre, the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, and even the current President, John Collins. The emails concerned everything

from last year's sabb elections to mumps, and some even covered last year's NUS referendum.

The torrent of email trickled off by the end of the day, with only a trickle of emails arriving in this editor's inbox by 10pm, including two messages about an entrepreneur's challenge, and one from Mr Collins.

Mr Collins has received “a large amount” of angry emails from students who received his own emails, presuming him to be responsible. An exasperated Mr Collins could be seen stalking the corridors of Beit Towers on Friday evening, unhappy that he'd been given the blame unjustifiably.

Mr Collins also said ICT's conduct

had been less than satisfactory. He did not receive a full explanation for the error, and received no notification that there was a problem until he contacted ICT after receiving the angry missives of upset students with full inboxes.

ICT have now fixed the problem, it seems. When contact by CGCU President James Fok in regards to some of his past emails being resent, ICT Service Desk responded: “Due to a system error, many messages that were sent to some distribution lists were re-sent today. The monitoring of the system showed that this has now ceased. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused you.”



Our artist's representation of ICT fixing the College email server after the little, erm, mishap

# Sabb gets censured

Continued from front page

At Freshers' Fair, Ms Rahman was late in arriving to run the GSA stall, and was spotted drinking the bar when the other sabbs and volunteers were packing up at the end of the Fair.

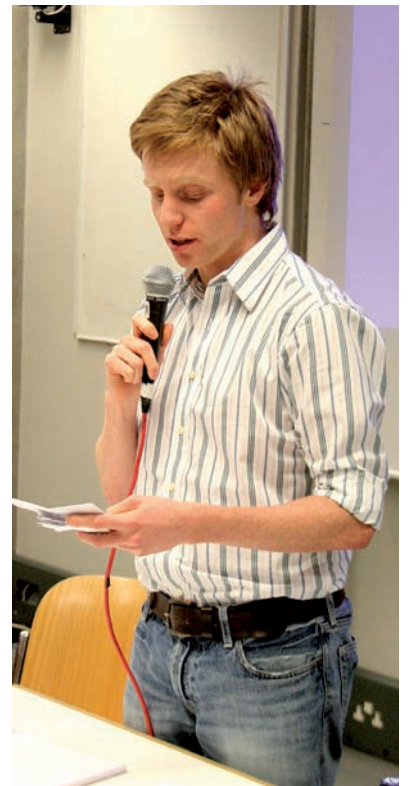
This antagonised a number of volunteer officers present, many of whom had been on duty since early in the morning, and stayed until later on in the evening to pack up. Also, questions were asked about Ms Rahman's problems with budget forms, with Council members pointing out that each of the 280 volunteer club officers are expected to be able to do this.

These points had been covered in a formal written warning issued by the President, and in the first draft of the no confidence motion that was leaked to *Felix*. However, Ms Rahman's late arrival to the important SEC (Strategic Education Committee) meeting, where she had been due to give a presentation about the PhD funding increase (which was later made by Ben Harris), and a failure to submit the GSA budget on time, both occurred after the no confidence motion had been submitted. Many of those present commented to *Felix* that this showed a lack of regard for her current situation.

Ms Rahman had many explanations for her poor timekeeping and attendance, citing building works and illness as two, and was very apologetic for some of the transgressions alleged in the paper, her voice almost breaking at times.

As the meeting continued, the questioning softened somewhat, with Council acknowledging the good work Ms Rahman has done in organising events for the fledgling GSA, and in promoting the GSA brand to PGs. As such, Ben Harris (Deputy President, Education & Welfare) suggested a move to censure, rather than no confidence.

Several hawkish Council members seemed unhappy with this – one pointed out that this wasn't the first warning Ms Rahman has received (there have been some verbal warnings, and a written warn-



Danny McGuinness, Council Chair, announces the voting result

ing), and that she had had enough chances.

The doves, however, argued that the removal of Shama might signal death for the GSA, which has only existed for two years. There were also concerns expressed over what message such a move would send to the postgraduate student body.

After an almost four hour meeting, the move to censure was approved by Council. Voting on the censure took place by secret ballot; Ms Rahman did not return to hear the result.

A number of Council members approached by *Felix* said they voted for the move to censure as they felt a no confidence motion would fall, leaving no official consequences.

Concerns over the functioning of the sabb team after censure seem, for the moment, unfounded. John Collins commented: “It feels like a great dark cloud has been lifted.”

**felix 1,372**  
Friday 09.02.07

## Gay adoption

“Christians, Jews and Muslims put down their Katusha rockets, grenades and holy texts at the end of 2006 for an afternoon of protest against the Labour government's Equality Act, due to come into force in April.”

PAGE 4

## Hydrogen power?

“The majority of research has so far proved unfruitful, leaving us with an uneasy choice between traditional renewable energy sources and nuclear power.”

PAGE 8

## Swan Lake

“The Royal Ballet has wonderful dancers at all levels of its ranks; it just needs a production that can fully do them justice.”

PAGE 12



## Skinnyes

“Ironically perhaps, yet although anorexia and obesity cause opposite shocking extremes in appearance, are they both manifestations of a sick culture?”

PAGE 13

## Oscar heavyweight

“Dench plays a battle-axe teacher, narrating through her diary the story of her developing friendship with new staff room addition, Cate Blanchett, and, as it turns out, Judi might be in it for more than the odd pint down the local, \*nudge wink\*”

PAGE 17

## Yummy Mario

First you'll want some kind of sickly sweet-based gift. Heart-shaped chocolates are boring, what girls really want is for you to show just how seasoned a gamer you are, so head on over to StrapYa! and you'll find a delightful set of Mario figurines, some with chocolate and a sound that plays when you tap them, some with hallucinatory drugs hidden in small compartments.

PAGE 19



GOING TO THE MOON, BRB



# Election candidate 'slate' causes stir

A group of Southwell Hall residents have allegedly formed a 'party' to stand for all the sabbatical positions

**Mark Tweedy**  
Facebook Watcher

Reports have reached *Felix* of a group of students who have formed a 'party' to stand for each of the available sabbatical positions in the upcoming elections.

The students, who are all residents of Southwell Halls, have been dubbed 'the Southwell Slate' by senior Union sources. They have also drawn ridicule from a number of Union officers, who have commented to *Felix* of the lack of experience that the group exhibit.

The group has even gone as far as to set up a Facebook group named "Giannuzzi 2007" after their Presidential candidate, Jules Giannuzzi. However, this group has been encouraging its members to vote for the Slate, breaking the election rules in the Union Constitution, as this can be seen as "campaigning prior to close of nominations". The maximum penalty for breaching this rule is disqualification from the election.

However, those involved have now been sent a warning by the sabbaticals after it was spotted by a Union officer, and the group has been cleared of any posts. It is unlikely any further action will be taken against the candidates.

The Facebook group now says "this group is in the process of closing down". The group at one point contained more than 60 members, including those who had been invited but not accepted membership.

Sources close to the group have told *Felix* that the Deputy President candidates are, in our source's words, "in it for a laugh". However, Mr Giannuzzi's Facebook status is rather provocatively currently set as "Giannuzzi is President and divine leader". It also appears the group may have recruited a member to stand for *Felix* Editor, though this is unconfirmed.

The current sabb team have also expressed concern over the lack of experienced Presidential candidates. It was expected that at least one seasoned officer would stand, but so far the majority of the candidates are unknown in Union politics. However, there were rumours that the current Deputy President (Finance & Services), Jon Matthews would stand; he was confirmed as a Presidential candidate just before going to press.

The other candidates standing for President at the time of going to press are Sophie Spillard, Diogo Gerald, Eric Lai (current Deputy President, Clubs & Societies), and Ben Schneider.

Nominations close on Tuesday 13 February, and campaigning will begin after this. *Felix* would like to remind readers that the Union Constitution requires that you think before you vote.

The candidates' manifestos will appear in *Felix*, and will be available on the web at the same time. Details of how to second candidates can be found at [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote).



The editor couldn't find a picture of Southwell Hall, so here's a ballot box instead

## Centenary balloon race ends



The Union's Centenary balloon race is complete, with the winning balloon being sent back from Oberzeuzheim, almost 350 miles from the launch point at Beit Quad. Other balloons made it as far as the Essex and Kent, though most ended up in East London.

## Union Executive discusses future of Deputy President (Graduate Students) role

In the wake of the censure motion against the Deputy President (Graduate Students), Shama Rahman, the Union Executive discussed the future of the role yesterday.

The Council has already voted not to elect a DPGS this year, in anticipation of a review of the position.

A paper jointly written by John Collins, Union President, and Ms Rahman was discussed by the Executive at length. The paper focuses on the current problems with the DPGS position, including the placement as a Deputy President, incurring both the responsibility of being chair of the GSA (Graduate Students Association, representing all postgraduates) as well as the usual day-to-day tasks of being a Deputy President.

It also focusses on the problems that have dogged the previous two incumbents of the post, Luis Hui and Ms Rahman. Both faced difficulty in getting training prior to taking up their posts, as they were completely their masters during the handover period in July-August, and could only spend one day a week (if that) at work.

The paper says that the DPGS po-

sition has faced "intense scrutiny" from the student media (in other words, *Felix* and *Live!*), as well as from senior volunteer officers, who feel the job does not warrant a full-time sabbatical position. 'Demoting' this position to a paid volunteer level should "reduce the level of scrutiny to that of a CSC [Club & Society Chair] or Faculty Union President level," as the paper puts it.

The paper suggests removing the DPGS post and replacing it with a number of paid volunteer posts. There would be a President of the GSA, subsuming one of Ms Rahman's roles, and two Vice Presidents (VP of Research Students, and VP of Taught Students). The significant sum of money given to the Union to fund the DPGS position in the subvention (around £28,000) would be used to pay these volunteer officers, with the extra being plowed back into the GSA to add to the current funding received from the central Union for events.

A number of those present at the meeting raised concerns over having paid volunteer officers; no other volunteers are paid for their work. Mr Collins outlined the reasons for

the positions being paid, saying that they would replace demonstrating and teaching work for the postgraduate officer concerned, and would pay about the same as the former would. This, he said, would encourage PhD students to stand for the volunteer positions. Many, including the CSC Chairs, vehemently disagreed with this proposal, arguing that it would create tension between the unpaid undergraduate volunteers and the paid postgraduate volunteers.

Ben Harris (Deputy President, Education & Welfare) explained that the DPGS role could not be removed without providing some equivalent support structure for postgraduates, or, as he put it, College would defecate on the Union from a great height. The drive for the DPGS position came from College, after a QAA review found that postgraduate welfare support was poor. Presumably, a failure to suitably replace the DPGS role would result in College removing the £28,000 from the subvention.

The Executive seemed resolved to removing the full-time DPGS position.



# Comment & Opinion

## Gay adoption – where's the crime?

With the Equality Act due to come into force in April, religious leaders have united to condemn one of the consequences of the act – the right of homosexual couples to adopt from public adoption services

Christians, Jews and Muslims put down their Katusha rockets, grenades and holy texts at the end of 2006 for an afternoon of protest against the Labour government's Equality Act, due to come into force in April. But it was no peace deal that brought about such an act of unity. Instead a common hatred, greater than that which compels these religions to murder one another and, for those lacking the sufficient funds, blow themselves up, meant they were on the same side of the protest fence.

The gays. Long condemned by the great Lord in the sky through His various messengers and their post humus biographers, and surely scurvy to all that humanity holds true and dear. It is quite likely that should these unhumans, who now have the right to form legal partnerships, have free reign to adopt any child they please, God (peace be upon Him and all the rest of it) shall conjure up a lightning bolt the size of the Crab Nebula and fire it upon the Earth, killing all those guilty of sin, and leaving their enlightened bretherin in but a slightly disfigured state.

Perhaps the greatest shame of all from this episode in sectarian squabbling, is that the Equality Act addresses everybody who could possibly be discriminated against, especially those so angered by it. In reference to the current dispute, Christian supported adoption agencies cannot refuse a Muslim couple on the grounds of religion.

The Church believes that gay couples are unfit to raise children. "The key thing we have to remember in all of this is the interests of the children" Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor said in his letter to cabinet ministers. Are all gays

really any less qualified than any man and woman? How can it be claimed that well educated, stable single sex couples are always fundamentally worse than a Mr and Mrs who drink Stella Artois and left school with one GCSE in Geography between them? Are there no homosexuals with steady incomes and reasonable judgment?

I don't imagine that all same sex couples will want to adopt; probably not even a majority. But those who do, deserve the same access

**"Are all gays really any less qualified than any man and woman?"**

and options. Cases should be on an individual basis, and genuinely for the good of the little scamper. The church should not have a legal exemption to discriminate.

That neither Christian nor Islamic scriptures were written at the time of their respective prophet's lives (in fact several hundred years after) and that interpretations of the word of God changes whenever is convenient for those in power must surely be seen in this 'enlightened' era, with increasingly easy access to information, for what it is. Was it not enough for Karl Marx to proclaim that religion was the 'opium of the masses'?

Christ fought the Romans and became the reasoning to crusade, the Jews united against the Egyptians, Canaanites and Philistines, and Islam was the tool of the caliphs to spread their power and influence



Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Conner, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams

across the whole of north Africa and into Spain.

Organised religion, specifically the monotheistic entities spawned in the unforgiving desserts of the Middle East, has been but the rules of leaders; Moses, Mohammad (peace be upon Him and all the rest

of it), Jesus; searching for clout and legitimacy. What better legitimacy then to come from our creator and destroyer. What greater impetus to martyr yourself than the promise of an afterlife of eternal bliss. What greater incentive to behave than the threat of divine wrath. For what

it's worth, this author believes that religion is and has been a good tool for human accomplishment.

But it becomes obsolete and unfortunate when those who wield power start to believe the very fairy tales designed to control the masses.

## Climate change, and what you can do to help



**Richard Blackwell-Whitehead**  
Pembroke Gardens  
Warden

Climate change is one of the most important issues in the modern world. We all know that the climate is changing and that this is a result of our activities. Science has established that climate change is a real phenomenon and the major cause, an increase in carbon dioxide, are directly related. There is no debate on the validity of these facts in the scientific community. The reality is that most of us will see the dramatic effects of climate change in our lifetime.

The problem is that we know all these facts, but what can one person do to help? Surely these are issues that can only be tackled on a global level? Well, yes and no. In reality, governments have to change the big things and we, the individuals, need to change the little things. Like the old proverb says, 'you climb

a mountain in little steps, not one leap'. If we are to reduce the effects of climate change we need to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we put into the atmosphere. This is not a difficult concept; even George Bush has conceded this basic relationship. The major contributor to human produced carbon dioxide is power generation, and a crucial step in reducing the amount of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere is to reduce the amount of energy we use.

So what can we do? Well, there are numerous ways we can all help save energy in our halls of residence, home or on campus. The obvious example is to turn off lights when they are not required, such as when we leave a room. Also, leaving your PC, TV, or CD player on when you are not using it wastes a lot of energy, and even on standby the power

usage can range between 10 and 15 watts or more. If you leave four devices on standby, it uses the equivalent power of a 60 watt bulb. Over the past year in the UK the Energy Saving Trust estimates that stereos left on standby have cost £290m in electricity and produced 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

We can also influence the policies of the shops we use and the places we work. Imperial is at the very forefront of environmental science, but if we look closer even here there are a few minor changes that could make a world of difference, possibly literally. In the communal areas of some halls of residence the lights are left on 24 hours a day. If this is the case in your hall, discuss this with the wardening team and the hall managers, possibly no one has thought of changing the lighting? If the lights can not be turned off because

they are needed for safety reasons suggest that timers, or movement sensors are used, and if the light is absolutely necessary make sure energy saving bulbs are used. In fact make sure your hall, home or area of campus is using energy saving bulbs full stop. In many areas of college these methods are already being used, but there is definitely room for improvement and a bit of positive encouragement never hurts.

Another effective step to reduce carbon dioxide emissions is to recycle things. Many items can be recycled for less energy that it takes to make a new item. So, use recycle bins where they are available. If your department does not have recycle bins then ask for them to be introduced. Little steps like these will help us save energy, save people money, and ultimately reduce the impact of climate change.



# Wielding the mighty organ



Andy Sykes  
Editor-in-chief

This week has seen the first censure against a sabbatical officer for more than twenty years. In a draining four hour Council meeting, we sat and listened to accusation, counter-accusation, defences, apologies, and what some present termed “untruths”. We debated, calmly and coolly (for the most part), on an elected officer’s conduct.

Though I’m sure the vast majority of the student population couldn’t give a flying fuck, it was actually an important moment. No longer could sabbaticals sit in their rosy little tower, safe from harm no matter how inept they may be (a certain ex-DPGS springs to mind). John Collins may have bleated in his governance review (no more!) about holding officers to account, but Monday was proof that this year’s sabbaticals and other officers are willing to take the steps necessary to prevent another Luis Hui (oops, named him) situation developing.

In Shama’s defence, however, she spoke well and confidently despite what must have been a harrowing ‘trial’, but often refused to accept what seemed to be indefensible points from the floor, earning her little respect from some present. Certain thorny topics, notably attendance and her (dis)appearance at Freshers’ Fair, may have turned many volunteer officers, who sacrifice a great deal of time for very little thanks, against her.

As far as I can see, the furore over the bars appears to have died down; it seems no-one took issue with John Collins’ reply to Mez and Jess’ article last week. Either that, or you’ve simply stopped caring.

It’s elections time again, as I mentioned a couple of weeks ago. This is now less a call for people to stand, and more a call for thinking before voting. I know that you may feel compelled to vote for a candidate you know, but that is a terrible reason to elect someone to an office where they have significant power.

Instead, look at the candidate’s record. If a person has zero experience with clubs, will they make a good Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), for example? Though many people imagine the sabbs to be ineffectual, pointless positions, and a waste of Union money, in day-to-day business they are incredibly vital, dealing with the crises that arise almost daily. If you elect someone with no experience, how can you be sure they’ll do a good job? If someone has spent four years as a club chair, then you can be sure they have a good understanding of how clubs work.

And don’t take the “that’s what training is for” line, as one of my opponents did when I was elected. Just like driving and sex, I’m afraid there’s no substitute for experience.

Right, I’m off to the bar. Have a good weekend.

felix

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# Chicken or the egg?

What difference can ethical careers make, asks Freya Summersgill

It’s that perennial question again, what came first, the chicken or the egg? Do individuals shape society’s beliefs and actions, or does society shape individual’s beliefs and actions? Why does it matter you may ask?

Imagine a situation where you have been accused of a crime you did not commit. Now imagine that there is no evidence, circumstantial or otherwise, to back your case. If found guilty, you are likely to face life in jail. Would you accept defeat? Equally important, would you want those who believed in you to give up? Now imagine if you may, injustices happening millions, no billions of times over... Injustice in pay, social exclusion, damage to the environment, human rights violations... Would you rather be the passive on-looker or the active advocate of justice and truth?

No, you do not need to go on street protests, chain yourself to fences or

hug a tree to be an active advocate of justice (unless that is something you’re into of course, in which case you may continue to do so). You can follow an ethical career that allows you to address environmental and social issues both locally and on a global scale. On the 21st of February, there will be an ethical careers exhibition here at Imperial, which will allow you to discover the potential that you are able to offer as an individual.

The idea of an ethical lifestyle often conjures the images of consuming fair trade coffee or chocolate and wearing organic cotton shirts. However, the possibilities to make a visible difference are endless. Ethical careers can be as viable in law, media, social development, government, engineering, enterprise and many more sectors. It is a common misconception that an ethical career will pay less, when in fact, such

jobs can be just as rewarding financially and even more so morally.

Additionally, the culture within your workplace is more likely to be friendly and open due to the nature of your job and like-minded colleagues.

Ultimately, choosing an ethical career is about choosing to be an active proponent of justice. You may not be the person who saves 800 million people from going hungry every day, but at the very least, you have realised that society is shaped by individuals and it is the individual choice that you make, which will lead to change and improvement worldwide.

The Ethical Careers Exhibition will be held on Wednesday 21st February, 11:30am-4:00pm, The Great Hall: <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/ethicalcareersexhibition/>

# Missives directed to the editor

## Guess who?

Sir,

One has to wonder whether Adil Hussein actually conducted any research before writing last Friday’s article. If so, he would have found that, regrettably, there \*are\* a great number of individuals and organisations calling for a Sharia state in Britain. This is shown by polls and research across the political spectrum, from the Guardian to the Policy Institute (neither of which can reasonably be dismissed as obscure). This fact should worry both secular Muslims and non-Muslims alike, but cannot be tackled by pretending that the problem (and it \*is\* undoubtedly a problem for anyone concerned with our social cohesion) does not exist.

Yours faithfully,  
Anon

*[Please note that I am at Imperial but would prefer to remain anonymous because, regrettably, even comments such as the above - which are intended to be a rational contribution to a very important debate - have had a tendency to be misconstrued by a small minority].*

## Outraged of Tunbridge Wells

Sir,

I would like to express my outrage (particularly in response to the letter from the “guys at office 307a” and the reply from a certain “pornographer-in-chief”) over the current state of Felix’s Page 3. Felix Page 3 was revolutionary when it began! No matter how ugly, pretty, fat or thin, male or female, as long as you could take off your clothes for the visual enjoyment of the rest of us, it was all to the good. No more! For the last three issues, Felix has featured ACTUALLY ATTRACTIVE PEOPLE! I ask you, what is going on??? Before, Page 3 was a wonderfully democratic and enjoyable

dig at the real porn industry. But now actually pretty girls (not even naked I add) drape themselves across our page in the manner of a lingerie advert, reinforcing all the negative connotations that the original Page 3 so successfully mocked.

Society degrades and sexualises women enough as it is; these values are not something that a student paper should endorse. The real pleasure of the old page three was its message that anyone could be sexy. Now we have reverted to the old, depressing view that impossibly beautiful women should take off their clothes for the base gratification of men such as “the guys at office 307a” and some arrogant twerp who seeks only “the most beautiful models” for his centre spread.

What a waste of a genuinely original and groundbreaking idea.

Disappointed,  
Ms Frances Smith

Andy Sykes replies:

*Ah, our first serious complaint about page 3!*

*Though the points you make a valid, you’ve taken the comment made in the paper a little too serious. That was written by me, and as a tongue-in-cheek statement (and written about ten minutes before deadline).*

*The truth of the matter is that we’re as democratic as ever - see the first Riding Club page 3 for an example of people who aren’t “conventionally” beautiful. We will take anyone who wishes to be naked, and portray them in the best possible light. You wouldn’t ask us to make them look bad, would you?*

*Just to reiterate the point; we will take anyone. The photographer this year is very talented, and uses both his lighting and his make-up artist friend to make the people look as lovely as possible, more for their benefit (isn’t it a good feeling to have photos where you look good?) than for our readership’s benefit.*

*They’re not supposed to be degrading, or only focussed on women. The truth is we’ve taken everyone who has applied so far this year; we’ve even had to run stock photos because no-*

*one was applying. We’ve had no males apply yet, though we’re promised one from the rugby lads (as is traditional).*

*I’m sorry you took the comment to be offensive; it certainly wasn’t meant to be.*

*And lastly, I had complaints when I removed the centrefold (because I wanted to... improve the tone of Felix, I think), and I have received complaints now I’ve bowed to public pressure and reinstated it. You can’t win, eh?*

## Imperial College is green? I think not

Sir,

I have an idea for you:

How about an investigation into how green imperial college is. I am sick to death of reading all these proclamations on the IC website and in the reporter staff paper, about how we are at the forefront of environmental science etc. In reality, there is barely any recycling facilities on campus, and energy waste is astronomical. I work at the charing cross campus and we have to do our own recycling and take it to the public bins.

Imperial should be setting the gold standards. Do we even have an environmental policy. Are all the new glass buildings environmentally sound? Do any new developments incorporate solar panels, wind turbines etc. Do on site franchises have to adhere to environmental policies?

Yours faithfully,  
Jack Kerr

Andy Sykes replies:

*You know, I was just thinking about this. While touring the campus distributing this mighty organ with a young American acquaintance of the female variety, she happened to comment on the dearth of recycling bins around the College. It seems that with Green Week approaching, now would be the time to ask what College is doing.*





# Nominations now open!

Nominations close Tuesday 13th February



**Did you know...?**

**The Deputy President (Education & Welfare)  
successfully negotiated with College a  
£2000 pay rise for PhD students.**

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## Buy Your Centenary Events Tickets Online!

Tickets are now on sale for two of this year's biggest events. The Centenary Ball is the biggest event of the year and takes place on campus on Saturday 16th June. A champagne reception will be followed by a three-course meal with after-dinner speeches by famous faces. Magicians, comedians and high profile DJ's will perform throughout the event, fairground rides, street entertainers and chillout venues and an exclusive alumni and VIP lounge. Tickets are available to students, staff and alumni and are currently at an "early bird" discounted rate, so make sure you get in early!

Also available are tickets to this year's Centenary Varsity Day; culminating in the Centenary JPR Williams Cup Match between the Medics and IC rugby teams. Tickets for the match and the travel to and from are available online now.

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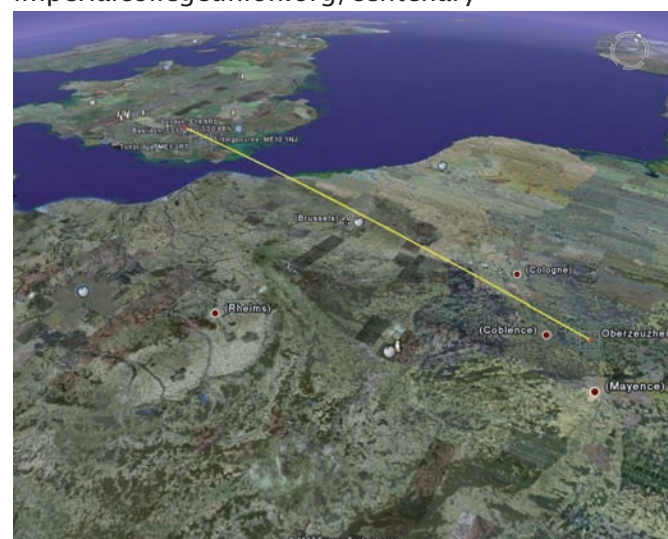
## Balloon Race Results Announced

On Tuesday 30th January 500 balloons were released from the Beit Quadrangle to mark the launch of the Imperial College Centenary. Since then over a dozen balloons have been found by members of the public and posted back to the Union.

Balloons have been retrieved from a variety of locations across East London, Essex and Kent and the students and staff who sponsored these balloons will win prizes ranging from iPod Nanos to Centenary Wine.

The first prize weekend break in Paris for two goes to the student who sponsored Balloon number 239. This special balloon somehow found its way to Oberzeuzheim, 590 kilometres away from London in West Germany, outpacing its rivals by over 500 kilometres.

Congratulations to all those who took part. The event raised in excess of £1800 for the Centenary campaign. And remember, you can still buy early bird discount tickets for the Centenary Ball at our Imperial College Centenary Ball website [imperialcollegeunion.org/centenary](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/centenary)



### And The Winners Are...

Roochi Solanki  
Eirini Spentza  
Richard Jones  
James Millen  
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Weekend break in Paris  
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Centenary Wine  
Centenary Wine  
Centenary Wine  
Centenary Wine  
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## Tell Your MP What You Think Of Top-Up Fees

Are you worried about student debt? Completely fed up with paying £3,000 fees? Worried about the prospect of even higher fees? Do you want to tell your MPs exactly what you think?

The Aldwych Group – which represents students in the UK's leading universities (including Imperial) – is organising a lobby of parliament to let MPs now exactly what students think of Top-Up fees. As part of this we are looking for 10 Imperials students – and especially freshers – who care about the fees they pay to join us in Parliament to make their voice heard.

The lobby will happen on the afternoon of Wednesday 21st February, so if you're interested please contact Ben Harris for more information.

The Union will make sure you get to Westminster and back in one piece, and we'll also give you advice on how to make the most of your time, and get your MP to listen to you.





# Look outside! Global Warming!

A solution to the world's energy crisis, and global warming, brought to you by the letter H and the number 2

Krystyna Larkham  
Science Editor

As the weather gets weirder, news reports get gloomier, and even David Cameron decides to join in the fun, it seems that when it comes to fossil fuels and climate change, we're pretty much screwed.

Barring those who have had their heads buried firmly in the sand for the past 12 months, virtually everyone has grasped by now that in order to avert the most serious effects of global warming, it is time to reduce our carbon emissions, and fast.

But for all the promises of a hydrogen future, the majority of research has so far proved unfruitful, leaving us with an uneasy choice between traditional renewable energy sources and nuclear power.

Help may be at hand however, in the form of a collaboration between Professors Tsuchida and Komatsu from Waseda University, Japan, and Imperial College London.

The scientists used the tools of synthetic biology to synthesise a

large molecular complex, made of the blood protein albumin and haem component porphyrin, which can use solar energy to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen.

At present, the most commonly discussed methods of producing hydrogen to fuel a hydrogen economy are electrolysis, which is so energy-intensive as to make it economically unviable, and extraction from natural gas. As natural gas is itself a fossil fuel, this process is also ultimately unsustainable.

But by replacing the iron atom normally found at the centre of porphyrin (involved with carrying oxygen around the body in the blood as a component of haemoglobin) with an atom of zinc, the team managed to modify the structure and chemical behaviour of the molecule. On fusion with genetically modified albumin protein, the resulting complex was found to possess remarkable hydrogen-generating powers.

"It's very exciting to prove that we can use these biological structures as a conduit to harness solar energy



With pressure constantly mounting to find sustainable energy, is this a sign of the future? (It better be snowing outside otherwise that title is going to flop...)

to separate water out into hydrogen and oxygen," says Dr Stephen Curry, a structural biologist from the Division of Cell and Molecular Biology at Imperial College London. "In

the long term, these synthetic molecules may provide a more environmentally friendly way of producing hydrogen, which can be used as a 'green' fuel."

Imperial College's Alexander Fleming once changed the course of history with his little discovery, Penicillin. Could it be that we are about to do it all over again?



All the talk about Polonium-210 became rather intense

Edmund Henley

Polonium-210 was on the menu last Thursday evening at the Dana Centre, with a panel of experts serving up the audience plenty of food for thought concerning this singularly unpalatable isotope, once again in the news as further claims in the Litvinenko case emerge.

Yet who did what to whom was not at issue – indeed, one of the panel, Dr Michael Clark, the science spokesman for the Health Protection Agency (HPA), was naturally very loathe to discuss these sorts of

details, as they related to an ongoing case of his. Instead, the aim was to elucidate the science of the case, from the source of the poison, how it affects the human body, to details of clean-up operation.

Professor Dennis Henshawe (Bristol), started the presentations with a few basic facts about this isotope of Polonium. Although it has a short half-life (roughly 130 days) it's maintained at a constant level in the environment, as it's produced by the decay of uranium, which has a half life of 4.5 billion years. In fact, as uranium's relatively common in

the crust, at a few parts-per-million, polonium's as ubiquitous as radon, and contributes to half of the background radiation dose.

Building on this introduction, Professor Nick Priest (Middlesex) continued to the effects on the body. He pointed out that since Po-210 emits alpha particles, which have a very short range, it has to enter the body before it can do any real damage. Litvinenko seems to have taken it up in a cup of tea, a rather unlikely poisoned chalice.

Yet this mode of entry was well-suited to Po-210: whereas other alpha-emitters are relatively poorly absorbed in the gut (1 part in 10000 for plutonium), as Po-210 passes through up to 60% is absorbed into the bloodstream. Once there, it circulates around the body, causing especial damage to parts which produce new cells, such as testes, hair, gut and skin cells.

Litvinenko's dose was so high much was concentrated in his liver, leading to jaundice too. Both Priest and Clark, who spoke later, highlighted the difficulty in identifying poisoning by Po-210. The initial symptoms – feeling nauseous within hours – were far more likely to be due to gastroenteritis. Only as other symptoms slowly emerged were other possibilities investigated.

Po-210 was finally diagnosed due not to its emissions – the hospitals aren't set up to detect the short-range alpha radiation – but due to the symptoms of Acute Radiation Syndrome (ARS) Litvinenko exhibited. Priest noted this was the first case of ARS from an alpha-emitter; the Curies had also died from exposure to alpha radiation, but years later.

Numbers aplenty were provided by Dr Paddy Reagan (Surrey) whilst he examined provenance. He pointed out that since the alpha particles are very energetic, compared to the

chemical bonds they damage within cells, very few suffice to provide a lethal dose. A deadly 500 million Becquerel (decays per second) can come from a few microgrammes – an invisible speck. To create this, the most likely contender would be a high-flux nuclear reactor. Exposing a sample of (stable) bismuth-209 to  $10^{14}$  neutrons per second would convert a sufficient quantity to Bi-210, which decays to Po-210. This is relatively easy – even he'd made some with this method!

A further advantage is that as only Bi and Po are present in the sample, there wouldn't be a geographic fingerprint; it would be impossible to pinpoint the source of the poison. These advantages would outweigh the difficulty in separating the Po-210 from the rest of the sample swiftly, before too much decays.

## A deadly 500 million Becquerel can come from an invisible speck

Yet if creating it yielded difficulties, cleaning up after was fraught with even more, according to Mike Clark. Once police advisers had identified Po-210 as the culprit (using methods he didn't care to discuss), the HPA found a trail of contamination in the hotel rooms, bars and offices Litvinenko had visited before being hospitalised. Large numbers of staff, including nurses at the hospital, had potentially been caught in this messy wake, and the problem of ensuring their safety was compounded by the lack of a standard monitoring procedure – almost no-one works with Po-210.

In the ensuing discussion, he singled out the HPA's medics as play-

ing a key role in interviewing the naturally concerned staff, and in getting them to provide crucial 24hr urine samples.

It transpired those most affected, other than the victim, had been Litvinenko's family and some of the bar staff. They'd received doses of 10s of milliSieverts (a measure of radiation's effect on the body), not an unusual dose. In fact it's impossible to distinguish its health effects as it's equivalent to the accumulated dose from 10 years of living in southern England.

But humans weren't the HPA's only responsibility. The trail had to be cleaned up by contractors, as affected materials, effectively low-level nuclear waste, need to be stored for a few years until they're no longer a danger. Yet why was the trail so messy?

It seems Po-210's a keen traveller: not only does it spread by touch, but also by a process known as recoil. A glass of Po-210 in solution, though it initially seems inert, will swiftly contaminate a whole room through diffusion: the significant energies imparted to the solution as decaying nuclei recoil allows others to escape the glass too. This property, shared with tritium, means Po-210's been used to practise training with difficult materials

The discussion closed on a chilling note – although melatonin, used in treating jetlag, had been mentioned by the panel as a possible treatment (it's an anti-oxidant capable of entering the cells and mopping up damaging free radicals created by the alpha particles) Litvinenko's dose was far too high for this to be of any use; once in his gut, nothing could be done.

And though Po-210's messy trail makes it by no means a perfect murder weapon, it's undoubtedly a nasty one, more than enough to put other dissidents off their lunch.



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# Reviews

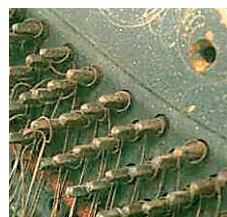
MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Do, Make, Shins Think?

This week we take a look at the new Do Make Say Think and Shins albums

### album review



#### Do Make Say Think

You, You're A History In Rust (Constellation Records)

★★★★★

Drummers, drummers, drummers.

If you have ever been in a band or tried to form a band, you'll know that trying to find a drummer is like trying to find reason amongst a group of fundamentalist Christians. When I stumble across a group with more than one (good) drummer, it really does make me ponder how long it must have taken to find skin beaters of such quality in a non-singular amount, or in simpler terms, wow.

Another thing I am a sucker for is horns, and I love me a good horn section like a pig enjoys wallowing in its own muck. If horns and two drummers collide, only perfection can come from it; go listen to Soeza (from Bristol and on Gringo Records) and you will understand my point completely. Do Make Say Think employ both the use of two drummers and a mighty horn section and make the kind of triumphant music that if those aforementioned Christians played it to you, you'd be converted in an instant and demand the rapture.

Do Make Say Think are part of the Constellation Records collective which exist out of Montreal and contains many a band that has something to do with Godspeed You! Black Emperor. However, Do Make Say Think – of Toronto, Ontario in Canada – have very little to do with Godspeed, and this makes them rather refreshing amongst most of the Constellation gathering. For those who like their Canadian indie-pop, key-players in Do Make

Say Think, Ohad Benchetrit and Charles Spearin are also in Broken Social Scene. Therefore, Do Make Say Think actually know about creating one of those things they call, erm, melodies.

Enough scene-setting, I want to talk about this album. *You, You're A History In Rust* is Do Make Say Think's first album in about 4 years and what is remarkable about it is that it contains vocals, but you are probably wondering why this is remarkable. Well, in the past, Do Make Say Think were lobbed – understandably in some senses – in the genre pit they call post-rock because they made instrumental music that in some instances rocked. However, where post-rock can be seen to be miserable semi-competent musicians pummelling away at the same riff until their hands fall off (see Mono's last album), Do Make Say Think were inventive and inclusive in their instrumental rock calling upon the Jazz gods and the spirit of Can. Now with *You, You're A History In Rust* they are incorporating vocals, but only on two of the six tracks, and it really does make sense.

It makes sense because if you go and listen to their previous albums, you notice that there is a cohesive sound to the music: *Goodbye Enemy Airship* *The Landlord Is Dead* has an angular, repetitive cold texture to it which truly reflects 2000, also the year of Shellac's *1000 Hurts* which sported a harsh and cold sound; & *Yet & Yet* sported a brighter and looser jazz feel at a time of fear in North America (early 2002), this album reflected a move away from harsh and simple tones to more improvisation-based music with sample manipulation in the underground scene inspired by bands such as Tortoise, and more closer-to-home acts such as Four Tet getting recognition; *Winter Hymn* *Country Hymn* *Secret Hymn*, released in 2003, hinted at more pastoral and folk-inspired tones yet retained a harsh edge as heard on *Goodbye Enemy...* with a string



Do Make Say Think in their natural abode: the house of Jazz

section becoming more prominent with hints towards the work of Six Organs of Admittance who was gaining stature at the time. Do Make Say Think albums seem to be both introverted in that they reflect the progress of the relationships in the band, but they are reflective and seem to absorb the musical environment around them.

With their new album, they appear to have taken on board many of the ideas and feel of the recent resurgence in folk-inspired music, both psychedelic and lo-fi. Akron/Family make a high-powered (and occasionally loud) folk racket and they seem to be an inspiration and key collaborator (I imagine they sing the vocals) on this album. So, acoustic guitars and loose, and quick waltz-time drumming is the order of the day and oh, how delightfully they do it. The range in dynamics also invigorates the music where *A With Living* has hushed acoustic guitars and group singing and *The Universe!* has foot-on-the-monitor riffs up to the eyebrows. This album is both raucous and delicate like a load of folk musicians piled up into the back of your local pub and pissed out of their minds whilst two blokes in the back hit as much stuff as they can.

When they were recording this album they were recording a community giving each other a big musical hug and sloppy kiss. Fun, yes fucking fun! Something you will never hear uttered in the same passing phrase as post-rock is the word fun, and I'm not saying, "Blink 182 are fun," I am saying this is uplifting and feel-good in a non-guilty way.

For those who would call me pretentious for liking this, I can't emphasise just how much fun this album is. It is not miserable fluff like so much rubbish around at the minute, it is a load of friends digging deep, strapping their guitars on and making essential music.

So for those who did not know, fun is two drummers and a huge horn section.

### album review



#### The Shins

Winning The Night Away (Transgressive Records)

★★★★★

The Shins are an odd lot, in these times of every group having a hook, or as Mark Thompson would say, an 'ident', it is unusual to come across such an outstandingly bland band.

*Winning The Night Away* is The Shins third release distributed by the hip Transgressive Records label, in a roster including Lady Fuzz and the equally dull Young Knives. All the same listening to the album is not offensive either and is best described as a dull Sunday morning – where the Velvet Underground would be classed as the good version.

Tracks like *Red Rabbit* drag on, the cheery vocal sound of James Mercer is marred by a droll set of lyrics and a group behind him who sound like a band of hippies who have only just been able to afford all the milky delay pedals they had wet dreams about. The result? The album has no punch or feel, the bassist should have just not bothered, the drummer makes a drum machine have groove and the guitarist, well we have already covered them. The album seems 20 years too late, the jangly prog approach apparently wooed critics when the Shins debuted but why have some modern attempt when you can pick up the real deal? In truth some people will like this album, those mellow, pubic hair combing, merkin knitters will probably drive Prius hybrid cars, smell their own farts and talk with their eyes closed they are so smug.

Matty Hoban



### Matty Hoban Trencher Lover

Well, well, well I bet you missed your music section haven't you? What? No, you didn't? Well, that just hurts in so many ways you'll never understand. Anyway, we'll kick back into action with two pages of reviews and an interview with some band called The View. I hear they are the NME's next best thing since last week, so I will probably following their career with great ignorance.

Enough morose behaviour, I was tired of bad music getting coverage and not enough attention being given to good music, so I reviewed the new Do Make Say Think album which is out on Monday. I hope you aren't put off by my hyperbole but if you have followed the successive albums they put out sporadically then you should be excited. They tip-toe across the line between self-indulgent improvisation and tight pre-rehearsed melodic and rhythmic punches, and pretty much always come out with the goods.

There may be a chance that you haven't heard of Do Make Say Think before, but their music is available in different means and is worth checking out. But this week, I have been thinking about instrumental music and its nature. I know a lot of people when they first hear an instrumental band are stricken by the lack of vocals and can't get past it. It just shows that with a lot of modern music, an emphasis is put on the vocals, lyrics and 'front-man'. All I know is that if I listen to a band with vocals and the backing music is un inventive and uninspired and precisely that, backing music, I am turned off.

It appears we have never moved on from the 50s and 60s band formation such as Jerry and the Pacemakers. I don't want to hear the instruments buried in a mess that necessitates the lead singer, I want to hear bands working as a whole. This tenuously describes the difference between Do Make Say Think and The Shins: Do Make Say Think make music through a communal effort and there are many brilliant layers, whereas The Shins struggle to move beyond simple structures, ideas and layers. The Shins first album showed both their scope and their pinnacle.



(Insert sexual innuendo in the form of a riding joke here): The Shins

Nick Simpson



# The albums, they are now aflowing

## album review



**Jamie T**  
Panic Prevention  
(EMI)  
★★★★☆

At the tender ages of 20 Jamie T should be pretty impressed with the amazing amount of hype and speculation that has been surrounding his debut album *Panic Prevention*. I first heard his debut single *Sheila* over the summer when it amassed a simply staggering amount of airplay on the likes of XFM and Radio 1 since which the Jamie T bandwagon has been growing at an alarming rate with his latest singles *If you ain't got the money* and *Calm Down Dearest* only served to further fuel the hype.

Armed with his acoustic bass guitar and some of the freshest, sharpest, most observant lyrics around at the moment Jamie T has managed to combine elements from a wide range of genres. Fusing funk, hip-hop, punk and reggae he manages to create a fairly unique sound, at least in the more commercial music scene, that will only help to cement this young man into the British music scene.

Lyricaly speaking Jamie T takes his inspiration from his surroundings of grimy London bringing in aspects of teenage life in London to most of his songs such as *Sheila* and *XXX*. Discussion of teenage life is something Jamie T certainly doesn't shy away speaking openly about girls finding love behind the bike-shed and drunken bar fights doesn't seem to phase this youngster.

Speaking volumes about teenage life in Britain *Panic Prevention* will no doubt strike a chord with it's intended audience across the country almost certainly making it a huge seller.

Tom Whitson

## album review



**Snoop Dogg**  
Tha Blue Carpet Treatment  
(Geffen Records)  
★★☆☆☆

Who can bring together Nate Dogg, The Game, Dr Dre, Ice Cube, George Clinton, Akon, Stevie Wonder, Damian Marley and R. Kelly on a single album and still call it his own? Its the Snoop dee-ooh-double-gee of course!

It was over 10 years ago when Dre produced Snoop's debut, Doggy-style – a record that has since gone quadruple platinum shifting over 6 million units in the US of A alone. Since then the Dogg has had moderate sales, ever popularised by the white middle class of America who



Jamie T looking down at you, you worthless worm

are responsible for the rise of NWA and gangsta rap in general. Touring on Lollapalooza and working alongside popstars such as Justin Timberlake and Pharrel, Snoop has certainly being playing the PR game in the last few years although R&G still struggle to mimic anything like the success of his first 1993 release.

Opening with *Intrology* you soon realise Snoop is back on top of the game, oozing attitude before cascading into *Think About It*, one of the few tracks on the album when Snoop flies solo. The album demon-

strates the high production values of R&G along with the classic rap album structure. *That's That Shit* feat. R. Kelly covers smooth 'titty style' content while *Gangbangn 101* is clearly the uzi spraying niggaz track of the album.

Past this, there is not much to say about this album, it is generic but fresh, it doesn't step on the toes of anything before but then again it doesn't push the boundaries of the genre either – *Tha Blue Carpet Treatment* offers good entertainment, but don't expect the world.

Nick Simpson

# A view to an inter-view: The View interview

The 1st of December, Christmas on the way, term nearly over. Not a bad day all in all but just to add to it, *Felix* sent me to meet The View. Sounds almost mystical in a way but sadly it's not really, The View are a band from Dundee in Scotland, they play what you would normally call 'indie' music and they are going to be huge!

After a wild goose chase to Camden, we meet up with Keiren (bass player and songwriter) in a Holiday Inn at King's Cross. He starts by asking where we're from and after being told, politely declines being sent a copy of *Felix*.

**So you're playing Brixton Academy tonight then? Looking forward to it?**  
Yeah, its Brixton academy [sic] man! Great venue.

**There a couple of weeks ago weren't you? With The Fratellis?**  
Mmm, was good. We played in Cardiff supporting peaches [sic], then jumped in the van, drove from Cardiff to Brixton. Supposed to be onstage at 11 and we showed up at five too [sic], but when we went on stage it was great. There here [sic] loads of people there to see us an [sic] stuff.

**Well, we enjoyed it. Are you playing the Winter Wonderland shows for Xfm?**  
Yeah up in Glasgow, it's [sic] that not on Thursday?

**I have no idea man, your playing it, not me!**  
Yeah yeah, it's on Thursday.

**So you're doing two nights at Brixton, then where are you off to?**  
Astoria! Our headline show! Biggest headline show we've done to date, Sold out!

**Well you've created quite a bit**

**of hype, when did you sign with 1965?**

February or something, but we knew we were going to sign (with them) before that. I think probably from fireworks night [sic] last year we knew we were going to sign with James (Endeacott, one of 1965s two owners, discoverer of the libertines, strokes [sic], etc) but we never actually signed until just after we came off the Babyshambles tour.

**We were a bit overwhelmed by the fan-base you've managed to accumulate when we last saw you at Brixton.**

Yeah it was fuckin [sic] cool, we didn't know what to expect having never been to Brixton before. All the carling academy's [sic] are sort of the same but that ones [sic] a bit different really. I mean just the chants, when we arrived it was all run run run, an [sic] grabbing guitars. But you could hear [the crowd] chant, an it was great to jump on-stage. I can't wait to play it again tonight, a [sic] tomorrow will be better cause [sic] it's the last night of the tour. It'll be messy tomorrow.

**When you signed with James (Endeacott) there were a couple of other labels after you I think, why choose them?**

Aye, aye there was. Met a guy from EMI, he was a tosser, and virgin [sic] too. James was the first out of any label to get in touch with us. Our manager had said that wed [sic] better start thinking about who we wanted to sign with cause [sic] we have different offers, an [sic] I was thinking im [sic] just gonna [sic] sign with the 1st company that comes along an [sic] gives you some money! But he pushed us to say so I said rough trade, id [sic] like to be with rough trade [sic] which is who James was with at the time. An [sic] then he left rough trade [sic] to start up 1965 so.

He flew up to come to a gig in Dundee, loved in [sic] an [sic] partied all night long then went back down to London the next day. We had a gig in Glasgow the next night, and he fuckin [sic] flew back up again met with us there and was like 'surprise!' an [sic] like pogoing at the front of the gig. The guy from virgin [sic] was like 'I signed the kooks' [sic] that was the end of that!

**About a year ago I think you had a small EP out with a local label in Dundee?**

Yeah our manager runs a really small label, I think that ep [sic] is all they've ever released. Came out in January.

**That was just when you were playing The Doghouse (small venue in the middle of Dundee) wasn't it?**

Yeah just The Doghouse and a couple of local pubs and stuff.

**There a few crazy stories about why you were thrown out of the first pub you wrote and practiced in, the Bay View I think?**

It just got a bit outta [sic] hand, Kyle (lead signer) his cousin owned it an [sic] was just as much of a nutter as me an [sic] Kyle about the band. An [sic] we used to just sit up and drink the place dry. I mean there's a story about us driving a scooter along the bar, but its [sic] wasn't a fuckin [sic] Harley Davidson, it was just one of them push scooters we went along on and jumped onto the dance floor! It was mainly cause [sic] we kept stealing drink that we got chucked out.

**You were originally a cover band I think weren't you?**

Yeah we were, but we stopped doing that when we were seventeen. We used to play caravan parks for money, it was quite cool.  
**What kind of stuff did you play?**

About sixty percent of the set was oasis [sic] songs an [sic] the rest was kina [sic] split between t-rex [sic] and the Beatles

**You were in town last night. Get up to anything much?**

We were playing with Babyshambles last night (at one of the anti racism gigs) it was really funny. There's was [sic] no sound check or anything, typical shambles [sic] gig.

**How long you been touring with Primal Scream now?**

Bout [sic] 3 weeks ago, 17 dates.

**You've got the album coming out in the new year sometime? All recorded?**

25th of January its [sic] coming out I think, its [sic] all recorded an [sic] mixed were just trying to get the artwork an [sic] stuff right. I'm fuckin [sic] ecstatic with it man

**Going straight onto the album tour when that's out? Or are you having a break?**

We'll not get a break, I was under the impression we were getting one over Christmas but we only have the 22nd and the 25th off! An [sic] then on the 1st of January were going to America an to Japan in a few weeks.

**Have you done any overseas gigs before?**

We did a festival in Italy over the summer and we did Ibiza rocks. That was fuckin [sic] great man. Its [sic] like a big pub but it don't [sic] have any roof on it or anything! An [sic] the backstage areas is up a level an [sic] right on Santonio bay. You can watch the sunset while having a drink! Their trying to cash in on the indie bands over there, but thiefe [sic] still got a dance attitude to it, the [sic] don't get the whole thing. Their [sic] putting loads of

dancers in bikinis on stage with us, they've no idea what to do!

**What was it like working with Definitely Maybe producer, Owen Morris?**

Ah, its fuckin [sic] great man. Owens [sic] like my mate now. He's just mental to work with. Defiantly [sic] the craziest person I know. Just after we finished recording we went for a drive in a field in his jag to see what it sounded like. An he's like 'you drive, you drive, chase that rabbit' an [sic] as we where [sic] chasing it the bumpers fell off, then driving home it broke down, something had happened to the engine an [sic] it was a write off. His wife came out on the last day an [sic] went mental cause he'd obviously blamed it all on me.

At this point Keiren leaves to attend the night's sound-check, a novel experience for him at the Brixton Academy. So, having no more band members to interview, we depart.

The View played that evening to a crowd who already knew them despite the lack of released material and the fact that everyone there should have been there to see Primal Scream.

They play songs that make you want to dance and sing along, while that's not particularly unusual for me, it seemed that many people felt the same way. Minor technical difficulties were experienced for a good 20 minutes however, but unfazed by roadies running left, right and centre they pulled through to finish the set.

All I'm going to say to you now is this: the album *Hats Off The Buskers* comes out on the 22nd of January, if you do not own it by the 23rd you will already have missed out on something.

Sam Lombard  
Richard Ware



# The fairytale of frustrated love

The Royal Ballet's performance is sold out but *Felix* managed to catch a look at this most famous of ballets

## Swan Lake

Royal Ballet at  
The Royal Opera House  
Until February 27th  
Day seats only

I realised, not very long ago, that you don't really go to see *Swan Lake* for the story – it is, after all a fairly simple fairytale: 'Once upon a time, there was a Prince, he was sad and unfulfilled, he meets a mysterious Princess who is also sad and unfulfilled, he vows eternal love, he accidentally breaks this vow, Prince and Princess commit suicide and live happily ever after in the after-life'. It reads like a somewhat macabre horoscope. No, you go to see *Swan Lake* for the dancing and the music, and you won't be disappointed at all by what's on offer from the Royal Ballet in its current run of performances.

On opening night, Roberta Marquez and Ivan Putrov danced the roles of Odette/Odile and Prince Siegfried beautifully. Ivan Putrov is a very young Prince, not so much melancholy as a rich boy who has not yet found much in life, but wonderfully attentive and enamoured of Odette, endearingly earnest in his declarations of love and enough of an innocent to convince us that he could be deceived so completely by the machinations of Von Rothbart and his daughter.

It is often said that the dual role of Odette/Odile is one of the most challenging in the classical repertoire for a ballerina; she has to embody all the qualities of the swan princess and those of the enchantress's daughter, captivating both the prince and the audience. In this, Marquez succeeds more in her interpretation of Odile – here she is out to dazzle the Prince, playing with him, delighting in her mastery of the situation but knowing all the time that he never stood a chance. Her pas de deux with the Prince is calculated, she really looks like she is enjoying the whole deception, trembling a little and flicking her arms in a cool imitation of Odette's wings, giving him just enough rope



to hang himself on. As Odette, Marquez is lovely and sorrowful but not quite majestic enough to be a queen and needed a more melting quality in her movements to really convince us of her plight.

There were excellent supporting performances all round. Belinda Hatley, Laura Morera and Yohei Sasaki performed a lively and uplifting Act I pas de trios, Alastair Marriott was a suitably menacing Evil Spirit and later, a stylish, Mohawk-adorned Von Rothbart and Iohna Loots and Michael Stojko provided a perky Act III Neapolitan dance. The corps was well drilled and particularly mesmerising in

the white acts and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House played with passion and subtlety under Pavel Sorokin. If only the production itself was as even.

This production mounted by Anthony Dowell is set firmly in Russia, rather than the Germany that is suggested by the characters' names, which is fine as it fits Tchaikovsky's music better. But in some Acts, notably the non-lake-side ones, the scenery is overpoweringly fussy. Acts II and IV are reasonably restrained and the final tableaux, although very traditional, is genuinely beautiful; but in Act I, I can never understand why the

Prince decides to hold his birthday celebrations in a gloomy forest, with bits of tinsel and baubles hanging from the branches and apparently on the edges of a mist-enveloped swamp.

When the curtains open on Act III, you would be forgiven for thinking that they had made a horrible mistake and taken us to Von Rothbart's castle instead of Prince Siegfried's, as it is so full of dangling wires, red lighting, oppressive bits of metal and an enormous staircase that would not look out of place in a particularly high-camp production of *Phantom of the Opera*. If anything, it distracts the eye and makes the

dancing harder to see, not something that is particularly desirable in a ballet production.

The Royal Ballet is in the fortunate position where it has wonderful dancers at all levels of its ranks; it just needs a production that can fully do them justice. It may not be the cheapest company to see but you can get tickets from £11 sitting and £5 standing from the box office on the day, and its an effort that would be well worth it. As someone once told me, 'our Olympians of dance' are on top form, in a sold-out, if imperfect, production of this most famous of ballets.

Lily Topham

## Art for the masses at the NG

### Manet to Picasso

National Gallery  
Until May 2007  
Free

From time to time large galleries like the National, Portrait and Tate Britain advertise re-hangs or exhibitions aimed at bringing in the crowds and heightening the profile of the gallery.

Manet to Picasso is one such exhibition, and with almost nothing of interest to anyone with a basic knowledge of the primary colours, it is more or less just a tourist trap.

Don't be deceived by the impressive list of works on display here. Yes, you can see Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, Renoir's *Boating on the Seine* and Monet's *The Water-Lily Pond* just a few feet away from each other, but you won't experience anything from them in the dark and

cramped Sainsbury Wing. In fact you probably won't even see anything new, as these are some of the most famous paintings in the world. This exhibition has simply no depth or direction, and you're more likely to come out (like me) thinking that you've just wasted a good half-hour elbowing your way through hordes of tourists with their screaming children.

It does have a saving grace. Seurat's *Bathers at Asnières*, a favourite painting of mine, is placed with a collection of Seurat's studies. This nod to the artistic process is sadly unique in this exhibition. If you do insist on going, I find that most galleries tend to be devoid of all but the most die-hard art students on Tuesday mornings, possibly the only time you could really enjoy these pieces.

You're much better off heading

upstairs to look at the highly underrated religious paintings of the 13th and 14th centuries. It doesn't seem fashionable to show off these excellent medieval works in our largest galleries, but for me they're some of the most moving and inspiring art you can see in London.

Don't let these galleries tell you what to like. A lack of knowledge of art is not a reason to lack an opinion. Sure the Impressionists revolutionised painting, but that doesn't mean that you have to appreciate them, and there are plenty of interesting artistic movements that are frequently overlooked for this kind of show.

London has such a wealth of free art at your disposal, these no-brain exhibitions are almost an insult to our rich heritage.

Emily Lines  
Arts Editor



Claude Monet *The Beach at Trouville, 1870*  
© The National Gallery, London



# Anorexia: a media problem?

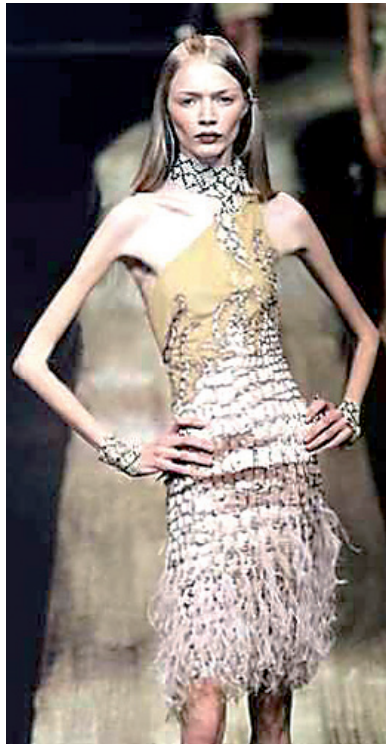
Is the eating disorder a major concern or just an excuse for sensationalist journalism?



Sophie Dahl: before...



... and after



Jodie Kidd: before ...



... and after

**Sarah Skeete**  
Fashion Editor

Anorexia and obesity are the health problems currently garnering the most attention. Ironically perhaps, yet although anorexia and obesity cause opposite shocking extremes in appearance, are they both manifestations of a sick culture? Are the sensationalist articles justified in saying disordered eating is on the rise and are unrealistic images in the media responsible?

The pacific island of Fiji had been isolated from television until the 90's, after it was introduced in 1995 there was a sharp increase in symptoms of eating disorders. A survey of teenage girls showed that 15%, an increase from 3% before the arrival of television, reported throwing up after meals.

The survey also showed 74% of girls reported feeling "too big or fat". So supposedly media does have an effect on disordered eating. But

does the media have any responsibility towards these vulnerable teenage girls?

The model Giselle said of anorexia, "I never suffered this problem because I had a very strong family base. The parents are responsible, not fashion." Anorexia isn't just a disease, it's a symptom of wider mental health problems. Obviously it's not responsible to publish photo's of blatantly anorexic models. However if a girl is a natural size 4 (equivalent to American size zero), should she be stopped from modelling?

Why are painfully thin girls used in fashion advertising in the first place? Is it a case of aspiration selling? You can never be too rich or too thin. Designers focused solely on the bottom line should think about working with bigger sample sizes.

Surveys have shown that women are more likely to buy products advertised by a model who is size 12 rather than smaller sizes. All de-

signers currently make their sample sizes size 6. The sample size is what models wear on the catwalk, and so models are pressurised into being a certain size. Making a wide range of sizes, while being politically correct, is expensive.

So why shouldn't designers make the sample size larger, do they prefer working with slim models? The truth is, it's just easier to design clothes around girls who are 2-D dimensional. It's easier to transfer designs from paper to model without those annoying curves getting in the way.

Rates of obesity in England have been increasing steadily for a while, and soon we could be giving Americans a run for their money. Well, figuratively. The reason England has one of the highest obesity rates in Europe is that it doesn't have a culture of food comparable to countries like Italy and France. In part this is the fault of feminists.

Cooking has traditionally been

passed down families; the mother teaches her daughters how to cook, and they then cook for their husband and teach their daughters. With feminism came also microwave meals and liberation from the kitchen.

While this liberation can only be a good thing, it has meant generations of families growing up without knowing basic nutrition and how to cook outside of microwave meals and toast. The unhealthy modern diet has meant an increase in obesity or other disordered eating. If you don't want to be fat, but don't know how to eat healthily and don't exercise, then the solution for some people is not to eat.

If people had the knowledge of how to eat healthily and got of their arses and exercised then we wouldn't need a traffic light system. It's sad that it's actually got to the stage that the government needs to class food as "red" "amber" or "green" because people don't know how to eat.

## Autumn 2007 catwalk highlights



Yigal Azrouël



Lacoste



Yigal Azrouël



Erin Fetherson

# COOL



### Pocket watches

Get yours from £8 at Brick Lane Market. While you're there, stop by Spitalfields market, and Hurundeki, a vintage shop on Commercial Street.



### Cheeky Wink Shopper

Supercute! From Urban Outfitters for £20, though if you're artistically talented, do the math and make your own.



### Galibardy

Awesome pop style acrylic and silver jewellery. Find Galibardy at Spitalfields market on Sundays, opposite Elemental furnishings store.



**Toni Maticevski**  
WTF? Seriously.

### Dairy

Why do people drink cow udder secretions? It's cancerous and gross.

# LAME





**Sasha Himiceva,  
biochemist**

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temperatures soaring?  
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www.imperial.ac.uk/artsfest2007

### Monday

6pm: Battle of the Bands (Great Hall)  
8pm: Screenings of Filmsoc / Q&A session  
( Huxley 311 )

### Tuesday

12pm: Loops & Lines : Visualising Music (Tanaka Foyer)  
7:30pm: Jazz & Rock ( dB's )

### Wednesday

Blyth Gallery Art Exhibition Opens  
2 - 5pm: Workshops: Dance (ICR)  
ART (UDH), Drama (UCH)  
6pm: Charity Concert (Tanaka Foyer)  
8pm: Valentine's Jazz Club (MDH ante room)

### Thursday

6pm: Chamber Concert (Read Lecture Theatre)  
8pm: Jazz B's Band ( dB's )

### Friday

7:30pm: Finale Concert ( £3 / £6 Great Hall )  
10:30pm: ARTS FEST AFTER PARTY ( dB's )

### All Week

122pm: Busking (SAF, Tanaka, Sherfield, Union, ICR)  
Centenary Exhibition ( Mech Eng Foyer )

# ARTS FEST 2007



# Dench cranks up the freak factor

Is the film adaptation of Zoë Heller's 2003 novel really worthy of the Oscar nominations it has received?

Alex Casey

Three years ago, UK movie production was thrown into chaos by tax reforms that threatened to kill the industry in this country. Stalwarts like the Bond franchise were going to decamp to Eastern Europe to save money, and the Harry Potter films had an uncertain future. A sad time indeed for the country that raised Hitchcock, amongst other greats.

But then something changed, and as 2006 passed and 2007 set in, it seems that we might be back on track. *The Queen* is at the forefront, leading her people towards Oscar victory, but this was never going to be a one woman assault. Along with Kate Winslet, there is a third, and there's plenty fight left in good ol' Dame Judi Dench yet, as *Notes on a Scandal* proves.

For those of you who haven't seen the preposterously thorough trailer, the premise is an intriguing one. Dench plays a battle-axe teacher, narrating through her diary the story of her developing friendship with new staff room addition, Cate Blanchett, and, as it turns out, Judi might be in it for more than the odd pint down the local, \*nudge wink\*.

Temptation of a different persuasion entirely takes Blanchett however, in the form of one of her new pupils, despite her husband, Bill Nighy, waiting at home. If the scandal of the title has not yet grabbed you, rest assured that Patrick Marber's script in the hands of such capable actors definitely will.

This is a film based on youthful

traits that the characters just can't leave in the classroom: infatuation, desire, dissatisfaction with life and revenge. Blanchett longs to define herself outside her family while Dench longs to find someone. Innocent enough it seems, but some children just can't deal with not getting their own way. And therein lies the game...

Dench is one of the greats, with an ability to lift characters that seem one-dimensional to an unprecedented level. Without her, *Mrs Henderson Presents* would surely never have been made, never mind seen. Her character in *Notes* is not an easily likeable one, scheming to the end and relishing in malevolence, yet Dench lets us understand her desperation and so elicits the slight sympathy that would have escaped a lesser actress.

Blanchett also surpasses her rôle in *Babel*, as a conflicted teacher born into a middle-class family during the age of teenage rebellion and now trapped in the monotony of a family life that she struggles to identify with. Her foolishness is not as easily accepted by the audience as the loneliness of Dench's character, but once caught up in everything, she holds her own. Bill Nighy plays Blanchett's cuckold in the final piece of the acting showcase here, capturing my attention in a way I hadn't expected between the two fearsome female leads.

The real star here is Patrick Marber's screenplay though, adapted from Zoe Heller's novel, as it completely envelops you. This is eloquence that eludes Hollywood and



Blanchett could swear she felt someone looking at her

strikes a blow for the Brits in film-making. It is by turns comical, bitchy and sinister, especially Dench's narration, which leads to the most stellar moments. The schoolyard analogy propels the story forward as basic adolescent emotions usurp reason throughout life, and its col-

lection of fantastic one-liners mean my money lies here for the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar.

The film isn't perfect, I grant you. It seems to cut itself short at the end and for only 90 minutes running time this seems a shame. Also, if you've seen the trailer, I don't

know how much is going to surprise you plot-wise. The treat here is not simply the story, nor Dame Judi's bath scene, but the words that tell the story.

This is expression as only the Brits can do – Hollywood hasn't won yet.

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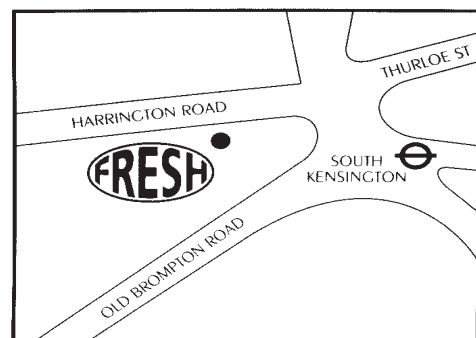
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## I, Gamer



**Michael Cook**  
Games Editor

**G**aming chat-up lines. They must exist. There are mathematical formulae that more or less prove their existence. But after an hour and a half of drafting, in between bouts of getting my lesbian rejected by her clearly confused co-worker on *The Sims*, I've not come up with much better than the kind of joystick innuendos that even we wouldn't print.

I'm sure there's a *Zelda* one somewhere, though.

It's Valentine's Day soon, of course – imminently so, in fact, and if you haven't already planned out what you're going to do on the fourteenth (and yes, muttering swear words whilst drowning your sorrows at the Union does count as a plan) then you're cutting it a bit fine.

Fortunately, we've got everything you could possibly need to make the most of the year's most impressive non-holiday. Looking for gifts? We've got Princess Peach costumes and Mario chocolates. Still looking for that *Zombie* of your dreams? We look into picking up chicks in *World of Warcraft*. Trying to get as far away from it as possible? Well...

You're a gamer. Use your imagination.

For the record, however, we're not entirely sure that a trip through Azeroth counts as third date material for the Electrical Engineer you met at the start of term, and we'd also like to suggest you exercise caution when giving kinky game-related paraphernalia to the girlfriend who's worried you love *Gears of War* more than her.

In fact, if we admit it, Valentine's isn't a day for per-pixel shaders and +5% rebuffs at the moment. But one day in the future, when everyone's given up with sunshine and kittens and things like that, we're fairly sure that gaming will be the ultimate expression of love.

Then who'll be laughing, eh?

In the meantime, probably best to find something to occupy yourself with. *Test Drive Unlimited* is doing the trick for some of us at the moment, as you can read about in our latest *Endurance* feature.

Wait, wait, I've got one.

"Are you up for some multiplayer? It's just you've been pushing my start button all night."

Email your results in, it's a flawless line. Failing that, just give her the old, 'Left Triangle Bracket Three' line. She'll get it eventually.

<3 Your Valentine

# This Week In Relationships

Stuffed toys, chocolate, and the 2007's first releases. It'll all be over by Christmas

**T**empting though it is to turn this week into a faux-love advice column, we felt we couldn't do it when the console war was still so depressingly gory.

The latest *good news* is that you can now pre-order your very own Playstation3 in the UK at HMV online. They've only got 5,000 pre-orders available to fill at the moment, but they're excited to be able to offer them to gamers.

The downside, of course, is that it requires you to buy a PSP alongside it, and the entire package sets you back nearly £700. This news was announced at the weekend just as analysts forecast price drops in the US because of poor sales. God knows what HMV are trying to do, but we're unsure it's going to be all that successful.

Thankfully, the PC market is much calmer, with the release of Windows Vista making things calm, peaceful, and inducing a trance-like loving mood amongst all of PC-kind.

Ah. Well, it did for a little while, anyway. The box looked nice, the features looked shiny, but before you know it the internet is exploding and lawsuits are flying.

At the time of going to press, nVidia are still under the threat of legal action after failing to provide adequate support for Vista. After an update of their drivers failed to provide any for the new operating system, several lawsuits were allegedly filed against them, though support has since been promised. See [www.nvidia.classaction.org](http://www.nvidia.classaction.org) for more information.

But class action lawsuits are a small distraction compared to the claim that nine out of ten PC games from the pre-Vista era will refuse to run on Microsoft's latest. Despite claims of new hardware being 'Vista Ready' and various software solutions having been in place for months prior to beta testing, a major game publisher claimed that due to botched digital rights management, and complex attempts



Love, yesterday. This was going to be a dig at geeks, until we realised he's wearing a Firefox tee. Git

at keeping system security, most games will be rendered unplayable on the next-generation OS.

As an example, the ESRB ratings protection that has been built into Vista was cited as another example of badly-implemented 'user protection'. The system, supposed to allow parents to set levels of games that can be played on children's accounts, hasn't been fully implemented across the gaming world, meaning that almost every internet-based game is blocked by the technology, regardless of the rating level set. Obtaining ESRB

rating for a single game costs \$2500 – not something that the average internet developer is going to be attempting any time soon.

The dust is still settling on the release, and problems were expected with a software leap of this magnitude. But with Gates' dream of an integrated 360 and PC platform riding on the success of Vista, it seems that Nintendo are the only ones having a good week.

It's been a slow January, but it seems like publishers have realised that the New Year has begun and finally decided to start throw-

ing some games out. First up on the recommendations list for this week is the brilliant *Okami* for the Playstation2 – a weird yet wonderful game with beautiful visuals and a strange platforming-cum-rhythm-action hook.

Every *Extend Extra* and *Bomberman* arrive on the PSP if you're looking for a quick distraction over the Love Season, or there's the more engaging *Battlestations: Midway*, a tour of the great naval and aerial battles of World War 2, out on Xbox 360 and PC. The month is looking to be a good one, with Supreme Com-

## \$13.5bn

US Videogame  
spending,  
Jan 2006 – Jan 2007

## \$13.5bn

US Valentine's Day  
spending,  
Feb 7 – Feb 14 2006





# Beta Focus – Test Drive Unlimited

Adam Omar takes Atari's latest racing effort out for a spin on the information superhighway

Welcome fellow PC Gamers, to the finest driving game ever. Notice I said the "finest driving game", and not the "finest racing game". This is a key point, since the foremost goal of *Test Drive Unlimited* is amassing vast amounts of wealth and buying lots of seizure-inducingly expensive cars. Why am I reviewing the beta version, some of you might ask? Well the game was released for the Xbox 360 last year and (thankfully) Atari have allowed six months of fine tuning for the PC version. It's as good as done with only very minor bugs to wrinkle out.

*TDU* was a revolutionary game first released for the Xbox 360 at the end of last year, and is revolutionary in that it is a driving MMO. You have the option of playing through the game using a single player or a multiplayer profile, the main difference being that in online mode, the island's random NPC racers are replaced by human players.

An island? *TDU* takes place on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. The entire island and its roads have been meticulously recreated in game, and scaled so that 1km of in game road will take you 1 minute to traverse if you're going at 60km/h (i.e. it will take you the same amount of time to drive round it in game as you would in real life, assuming you have a 600bhp car in real life).

Graphically, it's a lush paradise, with softly swaying trees and wavy grass and a blinding sun, all bathed in a warm coating of HDR lighting. It feels wonderful, coming in from the cold to be greeted with *TDU*'s sunbathed highways.

But of course, the real stars of the game are the cars! *TDU* boasts over a hundred cars and motorcycles, coming in the exotic wallet-nuking variety (Lamborghinis, Ferraris, McLarens, Astons), the affordable but likeable (Audis, Nissans, Lotuses) and the obscure wonders (Koenigsegg, Ascari, Spyker).

Each car is exquisitely detailed. Each grill, each intake, each brake pad has been lovingly modelled. The interior of each car has been given the same tender care. Seats so well made you feel comfortable just by looking at them; proper textures for leather, wood, and plastic;



A Koenigsegg tears through the lush Hawaiian streets. Just out of shot – Top Gear presenters, experiencing multiple orgasms

adjustable ride height and distance from steering wheel; and colours according to each manufacturer's actual specifications. The cars are indeed beautiful things, that island paradise I talked about above simply pales in comparison to whichever car you're driving.

A key aspect about *TDU* that's different from other racing or driving games is that much more emphasis is placed on how the car feels, rather than how it performs. Each car feels different, and takes getting used to. This is a rather abstract thing, and is best experienced first hand. It plays an important part in the game, helping you choose cars, and win races.

A Ferrari requires your full undivided attention and precise manoeuvring, for example, while a Lamborghini feels rock solid but not as nimble. These are the sort of things you can 'feel' in each car. Races are won more by knowing

how a car performs and knowing which car to use than knowing how to drive it well. But rest assured, the level of driving aid is adjustable, and these beautiful machines can be as easy or as hard to drive as you like.

Obviously, getting your hands on these Things Of Never-ending Beauty™ will take some effort. Your chosen character arrives in Oahu with nothing but enough cash for a house and a car. You begin by buying those, and then proceed to go out and look for work.

Work comes in the form of races, time challenges, speed challenges, and delivery missions. The latter gives the most cash, but takes the longest to complete. You can also participate in official or player created online challenges against other people.

Or you could simply drive up to another player and flick your headlights. If he/she accepts, you then

agree on an ending point, and away you go on an impromptu race.

After collecting enough money, you can either buy another house (when your current one runs out of garage space), buy a car, or upgrade or repaint an existing car. This is done by driving to the appropriate building somewhere on the island. The car and bike dealerships are spread out and the tuner shops are hidden until you drive by them. Since this island is huge (1000 miles of road), you can teleport to any location you've been to before.

This compulsive circle of race, buy, race some more should be enough to keep all but the hardened car-hater stuck to the game for some time. As I've said, the point of the game isn't the racing, it's the ownership and driving of nice cars.

Interestingly, the game's performance is not affected by you playing online. The whole game is, in a way, offline except for the other human

drivers, in that the game is still run locally from your computer, and not from a far-away server. Your internet connection will hardly affect the game. It's you and other online players 'populating' the game.

PC users need not be turned off by the prospect of playing this on a keyboard instead of a gamepad. The controls are simple and effective; with a full range of options should you need to alter your steering or something else.

As of this beta, the only existing bugs that I've encountered are errors in the race positions counter (quite rare) and graphical glitches when starting the game. Both bugs have been reported and will most likely be fixed come release day.

This is undoubtedly one of the best car games the PC has ever seen. If you'll excuse me now, I've got to go and stare perversely at more beautiful, shiny, luxurious, powerful, fast, cars.





# Hey, will j00 b3 my V4l3nt1n3?

My darling reader; Roses are red, violets are blue, all of my base, are belong to you. Make your love

Nick Virago

Gamers need love too. No matter what anyone else says, the signs are all there – the second unused port on a SNES. That co-op mode that *never gets played*. The extra saddle on your steed? We can see it, we know it's a cry for help.

But then there are the gamers who've already found love. They've got their party formed and locked, they've found their henchman, Player 2 has entered the game. And so on, and other slightly strange metaphors.

Whether it's Lara Croft or the girl who's always late to Monday afternoon lectures, everyone needs some love on Valentine's day.

So here's our complete guide to a perfect day of love. If you're in the mood for something more virtual, we've got that covered, too, with a tour of World of Warcraft's most romantic locations, just over the page.

But for now, it's time for gaming to show it's pinker side, as Felix Games delves into the murk and brings you the lovey-dovey centre hiding behind the geek facade. We're all traditional romantics at heart, really.



See? It's not all guns and women in ridiculous clothing and stereotypes. We can be romantic, too, you shits

As everyone knows, the basics for Valentine's day are simple – chocolate, a card, and something romantic. Since the average gamer has spent all too much free time collecting coins, hostages and small fruits, we're sure that a little searching should be no trouble for you.

First you'll want some kind of sickly sweet-based gift. Heart-shaped chocolates are boring, what girls really want is for you to show just how seasoned a gamer you are, so head on over to StrapYa! and you'll find a delightful set of Mario figurines, some with chocolate inside mystery

boxes, some with sound effects that play when you tap them, some with hallucinatory drugs hidden in small compartments. All cute enough to give to your special someone.

Then there's the card. Naturally, you could make your own. But let's face it, you probably don't have the time, and your colouring skills sort of hit a peak in Year 4. The next best bet's a Hallmark job, but... well... it's a little impersonal, and it just doesn't say 'leet' enough. Right? Right.

Felix has this one sorted for you, however; as we pioneer the Videogame Valentine's Card. Grab it from

our Flickr (<http://flickr.com/photos/felixgames>), and do with as you wish. Pure romantic genius, you're well on your way to getting some co-op action.

Now you've got the giveables, it's time to take the romantics up a notch. We all know about looking smart, washing the hair and whatever, but what really impresses people on a day about love is dressing up as characters from Mario Bros.

Essentially, it's the Pride and Prejudice of our day. Mario – a down-and-out plumber with a dysfunctional brother and edible friends – seeks to save the pure

Princess Peach from the tyranny of a giant turtle. If you can't see the metaphors in that, then there's no hope for you. It's a timeless love story wrapped up in a narrative that mainly involves Freudian pipe-sliding and eating mushrooms.

With that in mind, you'll want to take a look at sites such as PinUp-Girl in order to look the part when you give your gifts to love interest come the big day. Moustache optional for the Princess Peach outfit, of course, but you might like to add it in anyway to really mix things up.

Alright, you look the part and your inventory is full to bursting with fire flowers. Time to get some events organised. Here's the tricky bit – instinct tells you to try dinner, long walks and possibly some kind of cultural event. Sure, instinct served you well on de\_dust last Thursday evening, but instinct when it comes to love is just no use at all.

Two words – multiplayer gaming. It's essentially a one-way ticket to the High Score screen. Open up with a heartfelt rendition of "Tonight I'm Gonna Rock You Tonight" on Guitar Hero, just to get everyone in the mood, before settling down to get a good few hours in on Final Fantasy IX co-op, maybe finishing up with a whirlwind tour of Azeroth (see, "You're My World (Of Warcraft)" for the quick guide) before proclaiming your love to the mournful OST of Ico.

If that doesn't get you a well-earned boss battle in the bedroom, then you've obviously not followed our advice closely enough.

Of course, not everyone's lucky enough to have an extra controller this Valentine's, so if you're stuck with just the AI (we're not sure where this metaphor's gone now – is that pornography? I don't know who I am.) then that's okay too – there's always a way out.

Naturally, it'll be easier if you're based in Japan, the centre of the tacky soft-porn world.

First off, how about a dating simulator? Sure, there are a lot on that website you 'accidentally' stumbled across whilst 'researching' about 'Japanese culture', but this is 2007 now, and it's fine with everyone if you want to delve into some obscure Eastern niche genre.

Our pick has to be the soon-to-be-released LOVE x2 KISS, for the PSP, which will take you and your completely fictional girlfriend on a holiday to the States, where you'll have to make a series of decisions correctly in order to please the lady of your dreams. It's just like being in a real relationship! Except with the game, you can remember which answers were wrong for next time.

Don't get us wrong, we've got touch-screen Hentai games for the DS and a quite frankly bizarre maid-management simulator for the mobile. But we understand if you feel a bit too sordid.

Because at the end of the day, the only decent way to escape the terror of Valentine's day is to escape to a happier place, and there's no happier than the country that spawned a mushroom-eating Italian who only sees in primary colours.

The Orient holds a many kitsch delights, if you know where to look. Cosplay cafés and hotels with Maids dressed up as the most minor of minor characters from every anime and mecha-game under the Rising Sun, or just a simple Love Hotel that's been souped up with rentable Playstation3s.

Whatever approach you take this February, just remember that it's not just about chocolate and roses. So if it comes to the evening of Valentine's Day, and after it's all over you find that it's not working out between you and that girl that seemed so perfect not that long ago, remember that you knew Tomb Raider was going to go downhill when you bought *Legends*. Serves you right.

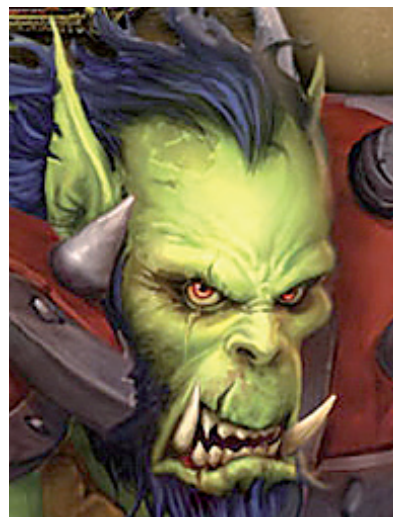


It's not that we're against fun trinkets. It's just the 'sweets' inside look a lot like smuggled ecstasy tablets



# Gal, you're my world (of Warcraft)

Everyone's favourite green casanova **Nogdush Vregdush** provides tips to get the orc of your dreams



Lean, green, and **HULK SMASH**

**N**ogdush know what you thinking. You thinking, "I look no hott like Nogdush, how I get nighty-fun-times like Nogdush do many moontimes?" Well, it like Papa Vregdush always say, "Vrasubatburuk ug butharubatruiuk." Papa Vregdush quite the joker.

But serious now, meatsacks. If you want baby-making and you no got's club to get lover with, then there only one way to get in the lovesheets – treat a lady nicetimes. Go to these place and do right thing, and lady will like you. Take Nogdush word.

First Nogdush take you to Outland. Outland not the nice place you could go, but at least it not all clean like those stone meatsack castles. Outland sandy, with rocks, like Mama Vregdush make her soup.

Nogdush not sure why planet floats in bits like that, or why people still like go there, but one thing Nogdush does sure of is what makes the ladies love Nogdush, and Outland skies are full of pretty stars and big planets that make Nogdush feel sick.

Maybe ladies like feel sick?

Nogdush not know, it not matter, just take lady on nice walk under stars and then leave sandy place for better world with more eatable things.

Wetlands might seem like smelly swamp place full of mud and bugs, and that because it is smelly swamp

place. But Nogdush know that many lady like nature, and elfing not only people that know what a flower is. Nogdush eat many flowers, and like them too. Some lady like looking at flower and tree, though, so try not to eat them all – Nogdush made that mistake already! Eating mangrove tree not same as night at restaurant for first date.

Apparently.

Anyway, wetland good in evening, with moony-moon out and no-one around to see Nogdush show his axe. Next place please.

Darnassus. Hmm. Nogdush not really like the pointy-eared, tree-shooting catfacts, but he guess Night Elves doing something right because everygirl says Darnassus is pretty place. Nogdush not like it. Too much water. And where are spikes and red dust? Nogdush like spikes. It remind him of home, and childhood.

Darnassus okay for loving place. It a bit like shopping centre – strange plants and silly water features, but good place to pick up chicks if you not like Nogdush and not have Or-cish charm. It hard to get to, but no-one ever there and that mean plenty of places to sit and spit at fireflies.

No-one really like elfing. Darnassus just tourist place. Better place to go is Deeprun Tram. Okay, lots of meatsack get in the way of orc-love. But train ride is fun, and you catch rats for special lady! Everyone love special rats. Nogdush called Love Rat all the time.

Deeprun sometimes make Nogdush sweaty, so Nogdush normally go out to forest for meaty food and air. One time Nogdush came to Mulgore. Mulgore okay but too much blue sky. But this time Nogdush see many tiny people with banners! Darkmoon Faire came, and Nogdush went for much free drink.

Nogdush also see many ladies here. Ladies come for prizes and buying things that kill, but also some like Nogdush, so he take them around the Faire and show them good time.

Everyone love the Faire. Nogdush got fortune read and got told about eating beef. Nogdush never forget.

Nogdush not like sand at beach. Red sand okay. Sand and water get in nasty places not made for sand.



She look lonely, lost in wilderness, needing love-love, eh? That mean it probably okay to club her now

Some meatsacks like Steamwheedle Port, Nogdush think, because of water and sand. Maybe ladies like also? Nogdush never go there. But Nogdush guess it might look nice if you had less hair than Nogdush.

Nogdush prefer hair. Nogdush prefer snow, too, so Nogdush never go to Steamwheedle – he go to Alterac instead. Not nice people up there – tiny crazy, with lots of talking about shadows and slaves.

Nogdush not really notice, as he too busy building snow-orcs, and making ladies laugh at his sexy jokes.

Some people up there not so nice, but Nogdush usually throw them off mountain or at rock. Ladies not like that so much, but he know that there is the right orc out there for him who understand him better. Nogdush just want peace, quiet and things to axe.

Nogdush do his best to teach you

love in Azeroth, but practice make perfect. Always remember how Nogdush works, and never forget famous line, "Amal shufar, at rrug". It very beautiful, but not work on most lady.

Nogdush off to get ready for date with himself now. It lonely being beautiful.

Translated with help from Michael Cook, Ronin and Aos





# Transmogdefier fusion puzzle time

So... have we ground you into the ground yet with our assault on your logic? Or do you want more! MORE!

## Sudoku mania!

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

Look

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

Tough

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

All the way!

## Kakuro – round 5

		12	6			30	12
	4				16		
24				28			
13					11		
					19		
32							
14			7	24			
		10	7			19	16
	7				16		
					7		
	21						
9							
3			15				
12				4			

The numbers indicate the sum of the digits in the row or column indicated. For example, the square with 7 and 11 in it means “the numbers you write in the row below must add up to 7, and the numbers in the row across must add up to 11”. You may use each number only once within a row of cells (called a ‘run’), like sudoku.

Any spare cells are available for research into prevention of testicular torsion.

## Hexadoku IV – The Bitch of Holborn

		E	2				3		D			8		A	6
3			4	2				5	A	9	6	F		7	
B	8		7	6		D	9	1		4	F	3			
5	C		F		1	A		7		2		4	9	D	
F			8			5	D			B			A		C
0	9	7	5				4		C			E		B	
					6	B	8			0	D				5
		3					7				A			6	F
		F			A	8	E	4			9	D		2	
6		5	E	4						A			C	3	7
2		0	9	5		C	B	3		E	7	6		8	
1		8		F		7				D	C	9		5	A
D		C		E		2			6		8	B	3	0	
	3				7	0				F	E			4	
E				8	9	3	A				5	C			D
		4		C			5					A			



Sudoku 1,372

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. E-mail your solution to **sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk** by **Tuesday 9am**. We will randomly select a winner to receive either a 128MB USB stick or a crate of beer. You must claim your prize within a week.

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

Solution to 1,371


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

The winners this week are **Dominic Bradley and Ellen James** who we must assume are Siamese twins.


Jotting pad

This Week’s Philanthropes

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

 Yeah, you see that guy over there? No, not the guy with the Mastadon T-shirt, the other guy. D’you know what he’s thinking about? Yeah, he’s thinking about touching you. No, not there, just next to your... yeah, you got it. I hope you like creamy pastries.


Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

 I was once allowed to touch a small child, but only in an emergency. I was sat outside that creche for 12 days until I saw that little bastard choking. And that, my friend is the story of how I got my first tattoo. This week, you will find love.

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

 This week you will come into some money. This habit is disgusting and unhygienic for those who will have to handle your banknotes. So, you better shape up, ‘cause I need a man, and my heart is set on you. You’re the one that I want ooh ooh ooh.


Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

 “No Way!” “Oh No He Didn’t!” “You better recognise!” “You’re in for a reality check!” These are just some of the phrases you will find in my new book, *Insults in Ghetto N’am sayin’*, Edition 3 by Cecil Custard-Smythe available in hardback and humpback whale.


Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

 Toilet paper, fabric softener, orange juice, cereal, sliced ham, baby wipes... just some of the items on your parent’s shopping list in the next month. Yeah, I know what you’re thinking: “How did he do that?” Well, I just use my penis as a divining rod.


Aries (21 Mar – 20 Apr)

 And the Lord descended and He spoke to the thronging masses, and He said, “Ooooh eeeeh blimey I tell thee, it ain’t half borin’ in ‘eaven like. Full of poncey goody know-it-all. Here, have some raining sulphur! Oh crap, I mean sugar. My bad!” – *God: Outtakes 21:2-3*


Taurus (21 Apr – 21 May)

 Girls Aloud will be appearing in your lounge tonight! Well, maybe. I mean, well, it could happen, but chances are, it won’t. Here, have this novelty mug! Look, when you put hot water in it, her bra comes off! Erm, you will not have sex for at least 0.005 seconds.


Gemini (22 May – 21 Jun)

 You go back home this weekend and your mum tells you to go through your stuff in the attic. After you descend, you find that apes have taken over the world and you are forced to construct a house out of pate de foie gras. Happy birthday Smithers for Monday!


Cancer (22 Jun – 22 Jul)

 After realising you are not Gemini, but in fact, Cancer, you are perturbed by the last horoscope. You e-mail *Felix* only to get a response saying, “Fuck you, I’m the boss!” You think nothing of this, and forget about the incident. We fucking wish, leave us alone!!!


Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

 I would do anything for love, I’d run right into hell and back. BUM BUM. I would do anything for love, I’ll never lie to you and that’s a fact. BUM BUM. And I will do anything for love but I won’t do ass-to-mouth. BUM BUM. Okay, maybe just once.

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sept)

 No, because like, you know you better watch your back because it’s a dog-eat-dog world, and, my friend, you’re a three-legged blind puppy with excema. So, buy a rape alarm and a fucking huge gun that goes POW BOOOM. This week Mars is in Uranus. HAHAAHA!

Libra (23 Sept – Oct 22)

 It’s the age-old question: Are you a breast or a arse kind of guy? But, what is the ladies’ version of this? Are you a bum or cock type of girl? This is easy as penises are very ugly to look at. This is why patriarchy existed for so long: the ladies just had no choice.

Felix Crossword 1,372

Stedman

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
						11								
	12													
13												14		
			15	16				17						
18		19										20		
						21		22		23				
24														25
26											27			
28								29						

Send your answers to **sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk** or bring this page down to the *Felix* office in the West Wing of Beit Quad by **Tuesday 9am**. Each week, we’ll choose a winner and print their name, thus providing them with almost unlimited kudos and self-satisfaction. The winner this time is **Catherine Bufton**. Everyone who provides us with a correct solution will get an entry into our prize draw at the end of the year.

ACROSS

- 1 Previously, his bite lost its ends when on show (7)
- 5 Divorce thanks to new League of Nations’ problem (7)
- 9 Ate then died, but found point (5)
- 10 Rimmer is on course for baptism, but loses head and switches (9)
- 11 This cock will be removed (9)
- 12 Straight off at right angles (6)
- 14 Regresses in food web, but only slowly (3)
- 15 Molesting a circle of devices? (9)
- 18 Glass loses slow start state (3)
- 22 Race to source of volcano (6)
- 24 Anti-Darwinsists apparently reproduce (9)
- 26 Masturbate to get into first place (4, 3, 2)
- 27 Produce large numbers of game pieces (5)
- 28 She feels queasy with flesher (7)
- 29 He wishes to remove their fathers? (7)

DOWN

- 1 Provide with property he once owned (5)
- 2 Work for Mrs. Palm? (4, 3)
- 3 Ambled into chaos (6)
- 4 His last day was longer than expected. (5,3)
- 5 The ultimate in England, but mostly in London (6)
- 6 Menorahs recycled for cavalry (8)
- 7 The limb protected with only a metal ring? (7)
- 8 Dutiful American title in Commons (8)
- 13 Raised surface pains ears (4,5)
- 16 African Research Institute makes quick weapon search (3,5)
- 17 Came to Islam and once again turned green (8)
- 19 Give money for confused porn emergency (7)
- 20 Part of London Spring Festival (7)
- 21 & 25 Flat boats looked after by Spooner and two fools (4, 2, 5)
- 23 Guy overtakes mate, but fails to attend (6)

Firstly, apologies for last week’s crossword. Even for a first attempt that came out worse than I’d hoped. However, it did result in one of the highest responses ever, and special thanks to those who went so far as to suggest a clue for the one I’d missed out. Really, I appreciated it even though you got the word wrong.

Moving onto this week, I hope that it comes out as something a bit harder this time round. In honour of international ‘That’s What She Said Day’ next week, some of the clues have a mild innuendo theme. Others are just blatantly vulgar and rude. Try not to be offended.

Stedman

Solution to Crossword 1,371

A	C	C	L	A	I	M		C	O	M	P	A	R	E
S		H		B		O		R		A		D		N
S	N	A	K	E	B	I	T	E		G		L	A	D
Y		M				S		P		I		I		E
R	I	P		B	A	T	H	E		C	O	B	R	A
I		A		U		E				C				R
A	N	G	R	Y		N	Y	S	T	A	G	M	U	S
						N		T		E		A		R
E	Y	E	S	H	A	D	O	W		P	R	O	O	F
G						E				H		E		N
O	F	F	E	R		S	H	O	O	T		S	E	A
T		E		O		L		R				H		U
I	L	L		U		U	P	S	E	T	T	I	N	G
S		I		N		M		E		U		N		H
M	I	X	E	D	U	P		S	U	B	J	E	C	T



# at the union feb 9th - feb 16th

## WEDNESDAY 14TH

# SIN CITY

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BLACKTHORN

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Blackthorn  
only £1.30 a pint!  
Reef Bottles  
only £1.75 (all flavours)

# KNIGHT RIDER

valentine's  
PARTY

## FRIDAY 9TH

# FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

White Elephant

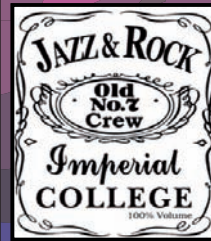
*Lucy Larain*

death penalty

CATO ST CONSPIRACY

*Reality Cheques*

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8pm - 2am

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## FRIDAY 16TH

# ARTS FEST 2007

## After Party

### ALSO ON

Fri 9th

Tue 13th

Wed 14th

Thu 15th

Fri 16th

Jazz & Rock Band Showcase

Telegraph Pub Quiz & Jazz & Rock in dB's

Fight Club - Knight Rider Valentine's Party

Jazz Big Band

ArtsFest 2007 After Party

imperial  
college  
union



# Clubs & Societies



## Imperial Gliding Club winter tour

On a wing, a prayer and a diet of haggis and deep-fried Mars bars, icGC enjoys ridge soaring and waves

**Andrew Cockerell**

Every winter, Imperial College Gliding Club (icGC) has a tour to a ridge site in the UK, so that our members can experience the soaring we don't get at our home club, Lasham. The time of year does, however, mean the length of flying that occurs can be very varied.

Learning our lessons from last year, we decided to venture north to Portmoak again over New Year, but this time for 7 days, in the hope that we could do better than the 2 out of 4 days flying we got. Despite the trailer for our own two-seater

breaking a few weeks beforehand, our CFI kindly agreed to part with their DG1000 for a week. So 12 of us, including four instructors, arrived complete with our two single-seaters (a Discus and an ASW-24) and the DG1000. Now all we needed was the weather to be on our side.

Well, to be fair, we can't complain. We got 6 days, and the only thing that stopped us on the other day was that great excuse "it was too windy to rig". I'd have settled with that, however the weather was better than that – there was wave to be had. We had one classic wave day, which resulted in a Silver Height,

a Gold Height, and our resident "mountain goat" getting to 14500'. Even the DG went to 10000' numerous times (and a record 11.7knt average climb). Our captain, however, was only able to manage 2800', though he was shown the error of his ways later in the day.

Every day the ridge was working like a train. As a result, even the most inexperienced in our party got to experience ridge soaring (and the occasional running silliness), as well as continuing their training. Ridge soaring for the first time is like nothing else, weaving in and out, following the contours

of the hill, often less than a wing-span away from the side of the hill. Those who could fly the single-seaters were able to hone their soaring skills on the ridge, or escape off and try to explore the wave; most days there was something to be found.

By staying on-site, not only did we have direct access to Irene and Steve's wonderful food, it also meant we could fall out of bed and start rigging before it was even properly light (though this was too early for some). It's a nice feeling sitting down to breakfast knowing that you're ready for a good day's soaring.

The other advantage of winter tours at Portmoak is its proximity to various towns. This came as a relief last year, but I can't say it was needed it this time. We did nevertheless have evening outings in both Perth and Edinburgh.

The only downside to the tour were our Hogmanay celebrations. Originally we planned to go to the Street Party in the capital, but by the time we had been diverted round to Kincardine (the Forth Bridge was shut due to high winds) all the celebrations were cancelled, not to mention numerous trees down, wheelie-bins and even a trampoline on the roads as a result of the 90mph winds.

So New Year's was spent sat round a TV in one of the member's houses. In a way it was a relief, as everyone was so tired from the previous days' flying that an early night was just what we needed. We did return to Edinburgh later in the week though, for the traditional Scottish meal of haggis, neaps and tatties, followed by a deep-fried Mars bar (and a pub crawl).

The other evenings we stayed at the gliding club, where you're guaranteed a friendly atmosphere, with everyone sharing experiences of the day's flying and the occasional strange conversation. It's one of the few places I've flown where the locals make you feel so welcome (must be the Scottish hospitality).

So many years in the past we come back without actually flying at all. Thus the fact that everyone managed at least 3 hours flying is all the more impressive. Having had an exceptionally successful winter tour, what does hit you is just how far away the summer soaring season is. Oh well, there's always uni in the meantime.



IC Gliding Club preparing to take to the sky over Portmoak in Scotland



# A close encounter of the footy kind

Men's Football	
KCL Medics 5ths	4
IC Men's 6th	6

## Nam Nguyen

The improvised team was led on to the field by captain Mooknellay, who maintains a bizarre attraction to women of the 'terminally pregnant' variety, although let us not underestimate the effects of gravity! Like a drug fuelled rave, the game kicked off in the usual frenetic fashion and despite the lack of artificial drugs, the referee was certainly a dope worth shooting.

With King's taking advantage of our 'settling period', we relied on the defensive efforts of Henrik, Peter, Cody, Rob and Sang to deny them any leverage. A cross from the left served as the catalyst for our equilibrium when a penalty was awarded for an alleged hand-ball. The spot-kick was nonchalantly converted by top Bola Bola seed Hamish, whose thirst for booze is so intense, theories of how he used to spike his mother's shoulder boulders during breast feeding are now being realised.

We subsequently took command of the match, with James Platt applying a neat finish to double our lead. Moments later, the ball was effortlessly worked down the right allowing me to play a neat ball into Damien to shoot straight at the Kings No.1. Fortunately the keeper developed an instantaneous bout of H5N1 as he flapped wildly at ball but to no avail.

3-0 up in the opening 25 minutes came as both a blessing and a curse as complacency began to creep in. The medics put up a fight by slotting home a goal when their lone striker was cleanly played in. Kings were allowed further reprieve when they

were awarded an indirect free kick in our area when Henrik allegedly held onto the ball for longer than 6 seconds. Kings' placed attempt crept into the bottom corner and it was not long before they eventually levelled it when their striker was played in again to somehow dink in a third.

The comical Medic comeback was complete as our composure took a combustible form. However I must now prohibit the progressive prostitution of this particular portion of prose since it is prone to provoke proclamations that my proverbial prop and much prophesised procurement of promiscuous ladies are mere propaganda.

A half time score line reminiscent of the FA Cup final meant everything was still to play for. However, given the depth of tactical knowledge within the team, such a half-time outcome had been prophesised only days earlier, allowing us to employ the strategy often used by cannibal's, whereby male victims are shown porn in the hope of enticing additional sustenance. The bait was set, and while Kings offered little in the way of 'additional sustenance', the approach played out to perfection.

Several opportunities were carved out along with potential penalties for blatant hand balls. Such was the consistency of penalty claims that it was clear the medical practice for testicular cancer awareness was merely to disguise their fondness for fondling balls in the box. And it was not long after the restart that the ball was scrambled into the air before falling to the head of Chris Killin to nod towards a scarcely defended net, only for a deliberate hand ball to deny us the lead.

Inevitably a penalty was awarded with their player narrowly escaping a red. Mooknellay, whose penchant for sea mammals can only be described by Hooke's Law, whereby



Oh look, a sports team huddled around a table consuming beverages, how quaint

stiffness is directly related to load, once again calmly converted. Kings predictably pulled another goal out the hat when a near post cross was flicked into the back of the net.

The referee, whose logic would persuade him to kill for a Nobel Peace Prize and whose grumpiness voiced many a lonely night playing peek-a-boo with the one-eyed monster started to get agitated as Frampton was shown the yellow for some wholly deserved back chat.

We once again took the lead via a free kick, lofted deftly into the box by James from the right hand corner of the box. Kings' offside ploy backfired when several of our player came charging into the box without a Kings player in sight. The ball ultimately came off Tim and crept into the bottom corner of the

net much to our relief.

With 15 minutes to go, we eventually finished the game off when Damien broke down the left side of midfield to carry the ball down the line before cutting inside to deliver a devastating finish.

The Mook had the opportunity to complete the hat-trick when he too broke free down the left leaving him one-on-one with the keeper. Unfortunately he placed his shot almost as wide as some of his most recent conquests, who along with being capable of whistling bass, bring a whole new meaning to the 'Miss World' competition.

Kings eventually began to tire, with their breathing becoming so heavy, even Hamish was getting aroused. Their demoralised and out-classed disposition gradually

developed symptoms when Damien pulled away from the last man and chipped the keeper who made every effort to play the man and was subsequently sent-off. Several further yellows were awarded to the opposition for their petulance before the final whistle.

The ten goal thriller did much to bolster our waning confidence and provide an opportunity for me to dedicate this report to Mooknellay, thus ensuring my complete exile from 6th team football, and rank No.2 in his hit list, behind Jamie Oliver.

As if student humour is limited to crude innuendo and shallow prejudiced views based on appearance. Shame on you! Besides, match reports aren't meant to be entertaining!

# IC Women's Rugby are great in the scrum

Women's Rugby	
Royal Holloway	12
ICUWRFC	15

## Samantha Pemberton

This week saw us driving to Egham to compete in our penultimate ULU league game of the season. Our opposition: Royal Holloway, who turned out to be quite a large side and clearly unfit shown by their request for 30 minute halves! The match was played with uncontested scrums, after our lack of experienced props following injuries 2 weeks previously in a clash against the Royal Vets.

The game got off to a good start with a kick from Roxanne and the first try being scored in relatively quick succession by Jess, who broke free and ran the pitch to score in the corner of the try area. Score: 5-0 to us. The kick back to us went far down the pitch meaning full-back Jess had to run to collect it. At this point she managed to kick and fumble with the ball, before falling



Oh look, a sports team huddled around a table consuming beverages, how novel

over her own feet. Happily, the half finished 10-nil up, after a brilliant off-load from Olga, allowing Louisa to run free and score, although next time Louisa please score under the

posts when there is no-one preventing you from doing so! The second half started off with a very clean catch by Helen, allowing us to run back at them with some force.

Unfortunately, Royal Holloway were obviously looking to even the score and fought back hard, managing to score and then convert a try taking the score up to 10-7. This

was followed shortly by a second try from the home side making the score 10-12 to Royal Holloway. At some point during the match, Roxanne expressed her feelings quite openly to their coach, who was shouting very loudly from the sidelines and leading to a lot of confusion as to what the ref was or wasn't saying! Thankfully, he calmed down a bit following this outburst from a rather red-faced Roxanne.

Eight minutes towards the end of the game, the Virgins were fighting back excellently, which led to a virgin try from outside centre Zoë. Score: 15-12 with 5 minutes left to go.

Then followed a nerve-racking 5 minutes where the Virgins managed to hold the home team away from our line in a strong contest for the match. Thankfully, the whistle blew for full-time allowing ICUWRFC to relax and enjoy the hard-won victory, before heading off to the pub to celebrate and enjoy the free-food laid on by Royal Holloway.



# RSM Hockey tour of Holland

Ben Gates

Friday, January the 19<sup>th</sup> saw the RSM mixed hockey assembled at Stanstead airport as ready as they ever would be for their tour to Holland. It would prove to be one hell of a trip! With hockey high on the list of sports played by the Dutch(second only to football), we were under no illusions that the game would be an easy one.

Under the watchful eyes of Sam and Sammy we found our way to the hostel and the following day to the playing grounds known as the Liedseplene. We had all made our own preparations and run through set pieces including the bubble gum and haze moves ready to face The Bulldogs.

It was a shaky start for Steve and Kate, being new to the sport; But they found their legs quickly while the old hands Mikey and Charlotte drove forwards and set the pace.

We were unlucky not to score early on considering the territory we had over the opposition. Ben started to regret that ridiculously over-sized Burger King the night before – but only briefly judging by the equally large meal consumed post match.

Unfortunately after the initial forward drive, the Dutch picked up their game in a way that suggested some sort of stimulating drugs. Just 15 mins in, a goal was slipped despite Kieran's best efforts in goal and Ally's impressive determination in defence.

This set back caused a few of the RSM to let their chins drop at first but Alice made the call to look back up and restart the drive. It was a difficult few minutes but Tim made a



8 people standing, 1 person flying? 8 people flying, 1 person standing? I just can't understand the orientation of that photo on the right

break up the right wing leaving the ground behind him smoking; RSM were back in the opposition's half.

After much vocal activity from forwards Katie and Elly, the ball was in scoring territory and with some of the best support seen all weekend, Mikey was able to roll a beautiful one in at the back post.

The rest of the half saw some good play from everyone but no more joy was seen. Going in at half time drawing one all, we were in relatively high spirits. As we all took on water during the break, Ben and Elly decided that in the absence of orange wedges, which Susie bluntly described as "f\*\*\*ing disgraceful", bananas were clearly the way to motor forward.

As the second half began the girls found a seemingly magical hole in the defence and tunnel vision ensued. This focus resulted in Pete getting a screamer in the top corner as if that white ball was drawn in by gravity. Once again Charlotte made a push forward, setting the standard with a long sprint, the type which makes you feel like you're going to vomit. A quick one-two with Katie resulted in our third goal and Ally kindly fetched the tired Charlotte some water.

The Dutch team were obviously starting to lose faith in themselves with silly mistakes becoming common unfortunately RSM's lack of fitness meant we were unable to

score again. Still, when the final whistle went we were the victors; 3 points to 1.

Achieving this result in a foreign country where the RSM is almost unknown means we will be proud for years to come.

The only appropriate way to celebrate the victory was, of course, in the "traditional" RSM manner-getting wasted and "drinking" lots of "coffee"... or something like that anyway.

## RSM Hockey in cup semi-final for the first time

Men's Hockey	
Barts London 2nd XI	1
RSM 1st XI	4
RSM 1st XI	2
St.George's 2nd XI	2
(5 - 4 after penalties)	

Beyoncé

RSM have progressed to the semi-final stage of the ULU Men's Reserve Cup for the first time in bloody ages, thanks to two stunning victories against those unpleasant viral outbreaks known as 'medics'. Following our league success against Barts 3rds the same week, the gentlemen's club that is RSM Hockey went into the first round full of confidence (and port). The addition of Richie D to the side meant the mid-field resembled that of a World XI, with star players from across the country coming together in an orgy of hockey brilliance.

Barts 2nds could only stand and watch in awe as silky interchanging play, 'sixth sense' movement off the ball and Ben's charging runs down the left wing tore their defence to pieces, and 28 microseconds into the game Leon scored off a perfectly-executed short corner routine. More was to come as consistent and unrelenting pressure lead to cor-



Hurrah for team photographs! Good ol' dependable hockey teams. You can write in again

ner after corner, and when Mikey flicked the ball over a stranded keeper the Miners began to sense that victory would surely be theirs. However, to Barts' credit they managed to earn a shortie of their own, and (mostly out of compassion) we conceded. This was to be Kiran's only lapse in a come-back performance that Wilko himself would have been proud of. The second half saw more great work from a dynamic defence, well-oiled midfield and aggressive attack; Tim fired a free hit in for Leon to deflect through the keeper's legs, and Mikey put Barts' Cup hopes to death with a fourth. Cue post-match celebrations, more port, streaking, and a few tears from the Barts captain.

Another week, another round, and RSM found themselves up against an in-form George's side - unfortunately, a little too much fun the night before meant that RSM defence lacked its usual finesse, and Tom seemed to play the first half for the wrong team.

Man of the Match, Jackson, held things together, and we were fortunate to concede just two soft first-half goals. A half-time half-bottle of port sorted Tom out a treat, and a rousing (arousing?) team talk from El Capitan put the fire back into the side. Timmaay slotted the first

in from a short, and Sam 'thieving bastard' Lloyd latched onto a shot from TFC to square things up. A few frantic minutes in our own D kept the game alive as the whistle blew for full time, and the supporters nearly wet themselves with excitement at the prospect of a penalty shoot-out.

Captain's first choice was Mikey (who, given his previous record for Cup flicks, probably wasn't such a good idea), followed by Tom, Pete, Sam, and The Great Man Himself. Mikey duly lived up to his reputation by putting his shot so wide it nearly reached the sideline. Ade in goal did us proud with some fine saves, but after five each the scores were tied at two apiece. The tension mounted as the shoot-out entered the sudden death stage. Mikey fluffed his second attempt but sent the keeper the wrong way and got it on target; the crowd went wild as it trickled over the line. Tom and Pete had no such trouble and Grobbelaar-like distraction tactics by Ade ensured that the opposition Captain cracked under the pressure. Hail Victory and look forward to more enticing Cup action on February 18th!

Special thanks to new guys Adam and Steve, Ben and Tom for making the effort, Pikey for playing with a broken wrist, Pikey for not playing with a broken ankle, Pete for travelling down especially, etc., etc., you know who you all are.



# Clay pigeons duck for cover



If you are wondering how to get your picture on the back of *Felix*, try looking a little scary and being pretty handy with a gun!

**Tim Aplin**

At 8am on Saturday morning, while most of the readership were still in bed, or just getting back to it, fourteen intrepid members of the IC Rifle & Pistol Club's Clay Pigeon teams left campus to take a trip to Bristol & pitch our best against what they had to offer.

The shooting on their side was respectable, but neither our 1st or 2nd teams were interested in slacking back and took the lead in both running totals from the start. At the end of the first part of the competition the IC 2nd, comprising James Fok (2nd's captain), Alan, Alex M & Jose, had taken a strong lead with a

score of 101 against the 81 of Bristol 2nds. IC 1sts (Ayman, Paul, Dave, and Pantelis), however, were being made to work for victory, finishing only 12pts ahead of Bristol 1sts (118 to 106).

The second part of the competition was Bristol's chance to make amends and they were eager to try, setting aggressive benchmarks for IC to achieve. However, dominant shooting pushed both Imperial teams further ahead with IC 1sts finishing on 168 to top Bristol's 158 and IC 2nds' 158 completing their railroading of Bristol 2nds (128).

The story of the day has to go to the Bristol 1st team who, desperate to leave with some dignity, went out

a second time to shoot the second part of the competition in an effort to beat IC's highest score in that section of 55/80. Credit to them: they returned to applause from both sides with a score of 61/80. However Ayman (Clay captain) was unhappy without a whitewash and proceeded to dispatch half of the graduate team out to give the Bristol cohort a masterclass. Tim, Geoff, Alkesh and Timur duly obliged, taking down 65/80 of the clay pigeons to settle the matter once & for all. Incidentally, the graduate team of IC also beat all others with 169, pipping the IC 1st team by a single point.

Fun was had by all who attended & as an indicator for the BUSA na-

tionals it bodes very well. Thanks go to Ayman for arranging the details and Tim & Geoff for coaching all the guys. Shooting is an expensive sport by any measure and the club has been very lucky in recent years to maintain alumni connections to coach newcomers to the sport, which can cost upwards of £55/hr. If you want to try this sport at an affordable price while you still can we'd love to hear from you! The closeness of scores between the best of Imperial and the best of the graduates shows the tremendous progress the club has made bringing the standards of shooting up. Good luck to all those competing next month at BUSA.

## Sports results

<b>Badminton:</b>	
Men's 2nd	6
University of Reading 1st	2
<b>Women's 1st</b>	
Reading 1st	2
<b>Fencing:</b>	
Women's 1st	129
University of Kent 1st	106
<b>Football:</b>	
Mens's 1st	3
Queen Mary 1st	1
<b>Men's 2nd</b>	
Buck'shire Chilterns 2nd	1
<b>Men's 3rd</b>	
Imperial Medicals 2nd	0
<b>Men's 4th</b>	
King's 3rd	2
<b>Men's 5th</b>	
Royal Vets 1st	2
<b>Hockey:</b>	
Men's 1st	17
King's 1st	0
<b>Men's 3rd</b>	
University of Kent 3rd	1
<b>Men's 4th</b>	
Uni of Hertfordshire 2nd	7
<b>Women's 1st</b>	
University of Brighton 1st	5
<b>Women's 2nd</b>	
King's Medicals 4th	0
<b>Netball:</b>	
Women's 1st	23
Royal Free 1st	37
<b>Rugby:</b>	
Men's 1st	24
King's 1st	24
<b>Men's 3rd</b>	
King's Medicals 2nd	72
<b>Squash:</b>	
Men's 3rd	3
UCL 2nd	0

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