

felix

The student newspaper of
Imperial College London

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News

News Editor – Andrew Somerville

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£384,000 skeleton in Union finance closet

Union's emergency fund spent on Beit Quad redevelopment

Andrew Somerville
News Editor

Union budgets are already under strain this year after an audit of the Union's accounts brought to light a mysterious lack of reserve funds. The deficit of £384,000 was traced to a decision taken two years ago to dip into the General Reserve, an amount designed to keep the Union financially solvent in the case of a catastrophe, in order to partially fund Phase 1 of the Beit Masterplan.

The Masterplan is the long-term redevelopment plan for the main Union buildings and Quad that started work in summer 2006, and is designed to update our ageing facilities. The decision to dip into the fund was taken two years ago by Union Council, which at the time was the supreme governing body of ICU, under the control of Union President Sameena Misbahuddin and Council Chair John Collins.

Investigation into this allocation of funds is ongoing, but there is confusion over how such an ill-advised decision was taken by the 2005/06 Sabbaticals with so little discussion appearing in the official minutes, and without a vote being taken specifically on the issue. The current Union Deputy President responsible for Finance & Services, Chris Larvin, has stated that this decision "should never have been authorised," as it has left the Union General Reserve with only £400,000 at present. The estimated "healthy" amount for the Union Reserve is just under £1million.

Revelation of this substantial financial hole so early in the year has hit the Union hard, and could affect spending for several years to come. "It looks like



The reaction of a Union official upon discovering where £384,000 actually came from to help pay for Phase One of the Beit Masterplan

we'll all have to tighten our belts this year", said Union President Stephen Brown. Spending controls are expected to be tightened across the Union following the news that it is considerably less financially secure than it was originally thought. Clubs and Societies are being urged to only spend if they are certain that they can afford the expenditure from their current balance.

How long it will take the Union to replenish its emergency reserves remains to be seen. The extent of the damage is still being calculated, and initial re-

ports on repercussions are mixed, but an air of caution pervades the Union until a full assessment is completed.

The hole was discovered following scrutiny of the Union accounting system prior to an updating of our currently arcane financial arrangements. Sources close to Beit Towers (home of the Union Sabbatical Officers) say that this lack of diligence by Council is precisely the reason that the Trustee board is being created and given supervisory control of major Union expenditure in the future.

"Pay up or the mascots get it"



Davey (back left) and Practise Davey (back right), the RSM mascots, pictured in CGCU regalia alongside Spanner (front), the CGCU mascot

Tristan Sherliker
CGCU President

In the first week of September, Engineers from the City and Guilds Union (CGCU) were responsible for the pilfering of the Royal School of Mines' (RSM) mascot, Davey the Davy lamp. This is the beginning of the revival of City and Guilds to its former glory days, after the poor management it saw last year.

The Rules of Mascotry, which has been all but dead for the last five years at Imperial, allow theft of the 'violate' mascots of the Unions for the purpose of raising money for Raising-And-Giving charities, in the form of a ransom demand payable to IC RAG. The rules exist to promote friendly rivalry between the colleges, all in the name of fun and sportsmanship.

Davey is being held to ransom for £200 (rising to £300 after 11th October), and is being stored in a secret and inaccessible location to prevent the miners being able to steal it back

without paying their dues. Alongside the monetary ransom demand came another humiliation for the RSM: to concede their loss, the historical society of the Geology department, "De La Beche Society", named after the RSM's founder, is to be renamed "GeoSoc" for one year.

The raid came only one week after David Charles, the RCSU's Vice President (operations), was heard denouncing mascotry as dead and claiming "nobody cares about it any more".

Initially, Davey's minor counterpart "Practice Davey" was also stolen, but has since been returned as it is inviolate and thus not allowed to be stolen, after meetings with Danny Hill of the RSM, in exchange for the return of the CGCU President's tankard to their place behind the Union Bar.

Davey and Practice Davey are pictured alongside Spanner, the 43-year-old CGCU mascot, a solid brass spanner weighing in at 64lb. The ends of Spanner are thought to fit the bolts of London Bridge.

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I hope you're feeling much better now Alice. We were all worried about you. Keep on truckin'. Be nice Jov.

LOLEATS



OFTEH WEEK

Southside “far exceeded our expectations”

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

The new Southside halls were handed over by contractors to College earlier this week. Wardens have already moved in, along with the “re-apps” (re-applicants, or students who have been granted another year in halls but in return they have to help out with running the residence) before around 400 freshers descend upon Southside this weekend.

On Wednesday morning Felix was lucky enough to be given a tour of Southside, namely the Falmouth-Keogh hall. The other two halls are also named after the previous Southside block – Selkirk hall and Tizard hall. Together, the three halls fall under the umbrella name of Southside. Felix met with Falmouth-Keogh warden Dan Read, who would be our guide on the tour.

Students gain access through the main entrance door via the RFID chip in their College ID card. Keys to rooms are also a thing of the past in Southside, however they are still required to access some things such as the mailboxes. Similar RFID security is in place when gaining access to students’ rooms, creating even more incentive for students not to lose their College ID cards unless they want to spend a night sleeping on the hard kitchen floors.

After passing through the main doors of the entrance, you are immediately swamped with bright red colour. It is stylishly lit with lights set into the floor and even the stair rail.

Felix was then taken to the fourth floor. Stepping out of the lift, it was apparent that the hallways are vast, po-



Left, the main stairwell in the Falmouth-Keogh hall's entrance. The stair rails contain lights to help intoxicated students clamber the steps back to their rooms. Right, one of the controversial “restricted view” rooms. The portacabins will remain in view until Eastside is finished in 2009



tentially raising the question whether this space could (or should) have been used to make the bedrooms larger.

Felix was shown a single en-suite room facing south. Each room comes with the standard items a resident would expect. There are tall, glass panelled doors that stretch from the floor to the ceiling allowing in plenty of light. The doors are locked however, preventing students from accessing the faux-balconies, presumably to prevent people from leaping to their death.

The next destination of Felix's whistle-stop tour took us to one of the communal kitchens. Brushed metal is the order of the day here. The kitchens are designed to hold a maximum of 24 students. Aside from the usual lockable

cupboards and various kitchen appliances, Southside halls have a specific area for recyclable waste. The kitchens are also fitted with infra-red lights that turn on and off depending whether someone is in the room. College has obviously been thinking green and whilst the kitchens may look the part, the old fashioned induction cooker hobs seem greatly misplaced in an otherwise very modern building.

Next up, Felix was shown one of the en-suite bedrooms facing north: the side with the much discussed view of the portacabins next door. The portacabins are in place until building work on Eastside is completed in 2009. Students assigned rooms with a restricted view have been given a £5.00 per week reduction on their rent, taking the cost of a single en-suite room down to £150.61. Over the course of a 38-week contract this equates to a £190.00 discount. The decision to reduce the cost of the affected rooms was made earlier in the month after negotiations between College's Commercial Services department and the Union, namely Kirsty Patterson (Deputy President Education and Welfare).

The views from the north side are certainly restricted, but plenty of light still fills the rooms. With the window open, the drilling of noisy builders could be heard but when shut, the double glazing was effective enough to ensure near silence.

Falmouth-Keogh is the westernmost hall and unfortunately Felix couldn't get access into Selkirk or Tizard on the day. This meant we weren't able to compare the portacabin view with views over the Eastside building site itself. If there was anything sinister going on in the other halls, it will become apparent in the coming weeks. Perhaps Felix was lucky in being spared the sight of some impressive builders' bums.

Finally we were shown a twin room and also a twin disabled room. The rooms differ in size depending on their location in the building and in this reporter's view the twin room we were shown seemed too small for two people. The pair of desks were situated side-by-side which seemed a bit too close for comfort and privacy. However, the twin disabled room was vast with a huge, fully equipped bathroom designed for wheelchair users. Pillows that vibrate during a fire alarm are also available for the hard of hearing.

From what we were shown, Southside looks good and far exceeded our expectations. Our tour was only of the Falmouth-Keogh hall so Felix was not in a position to search every nook and cranny of Southside, so our trip may have left a few stones unturned. The

main areas that we weren't allowed into are the unfinished areas, most notably the social room. Falmouth-Keogh, Selkirk and Tizard will each have their own common rooms and additionally there will be a larger social room capable of holding all of the students from one of the sub-halls. The social room

will not be finished when the freshers arrive this weekend. College has said that it will be finished during October.

Students lucky enough to get a place in Southside will be living in luxury accommodation. Whether £155.61 per week is too much for a single en-suite room in Southside is open to debate.



Communal kitchens are shared between a maximum of 24 students. Kitchens come equipped with recyclable waste cupboards and energy saving lights activated via infra-red when someone enters the room

Meanwhile in the Union...



Shock! Horror! The Sabbatical Officers were caught doing work, and at the weekend. The ICU President Steve Brown (top) and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) Kirsty Patterson (bottom) were part of a team repainting dB's. Instead of paying contractors £3,500 to begin the refurbishment, the Sabbatical Officers decided to take a more pro-active approach and save the Union some money in the process. Hopefully by Freshers' Week dB's will house some cosy sofas and be serving some tasty breakfast food.

Since we’ve been gone...

A lot has happened since Felix was last printed. Here’s a rundown of the main news from over the summer

Felix printing halted



Felix was stopped in its tracks last term when the Honorary Senior Treasurer, Dr. Sunny Bains, refused to allow any more cheques to be signed.

Felix printing costs are largely paid for using money generated from advertising, however, invoicing and payment for adverts takes place after an issue has been published. Consequently, Felix often operates with a deficit until advertising revenue comes through.

The last issue of Felix was printed on 11 May 2007.

Defamatory Policy passed



College took steps to protect itself from libelous or slanderous forms of student media. Council voted to pass the policy and as a result College now has the power to impound anything that it deems defamatory, even if the author or editor disputes the claims.

Defamatory material is helpfully defined as: “the publication of a statement that which tends to lower a person in the estimation of right-thinking members of society generally.” That should make crystal clear what you can/can’t rant about in the Comments section.

GSA Election farce



The summer saw a long and protracted election which sought to appoint the new GSA Chair amongst other positions.

10 people voted in the initial election and due to this abysmal turnout it was decided to rerun the election later in the summer.

Trustee Board takes shape

As part of a large and ongoing Union governance restructuring, the Trustee Board Chair was appointed. Ram Gidoomal has taken up the position. At the moment, the committee is an Interim Trustee Board whilst the rest of the board members are appointed before it matures into a full flavoured Trustee Board.

The Trustee Board was set up to be the sovereign and governing body of Imperial College Union. In short, the Trustee Board functions to ensure that the rest of the Union is running smoothly and successfully.

Before the formation of the Trustee Board, Council was the highest point of authority within the Union. This remains intact, along with the multitude of other committees but instead they are superseded by the almighty power of the Trustee Board. There is at least one meeting each term and anyone is welcome to attend. So come along!

Linstead closes its doors



Linstead Hall’s doors closed to students for the final time in June before its demolition which began the following month. At a small press gathering in July, the Rector took a sledgehammer to the entrance doors signifying the end of Linstead Hall and the beginning of the construction of Eastside which is due for completion in 2009.

Union hands over control of its finance to College



The Union relinquished control of its finances in exchange for £3.2million of funding. The money gained will be used to pay for the next phase of the Beit Masterplan which is seeing a number of redevelopments in the Union building being made.

Unfortunately, the deal made between the two parties has stalled because the College is unhappy with the current situation the Union’s finance systems. The second phase of Beit’s redevelopment will not happen until 2008 now. Head to the News section for more information.

Centenary Ball success



“Hella mash-up” was yelled louder than ever before at the 2007 Summer Ball. Tied in with the Centenary celebrations, the Summer Ball was the Union’s most successful ever and it even made a profit.

Regular tickets for the Summer Ball had sold out with a month to go until the event itself leaving the remaining Ents tickets to be snapped up. Some tickets even popped up on eBay.

Events at the Ball included the usual mix of sets from T4/Radio1 presenters, bumper cars, a human table football game and a merry-go-round the Rector couldn’t resist a ride on.

Sykes’ Successor



The next Rector of Imperial College London will be Sir Roy Anderson. He will take over from Sir Richard Sykes in the summer of 2008 as the 14th Rector at Imperial.

Currently, Sir Roy works for the Ministry of Defence but he has long term associations with the College. During the 60s he studied at Imperial obtaining a first class degree in zoology.

He went on to gain his PhD and then further down the line to become head of Imperial’s Biology Department. Presently, he is involved with Imperial as the Chair in Infectious Disease Epidemiology.

New Sabbaticals



After a successful trip to Bath for the annual staff day out, the new Union President Steve Brown took over from John Collins (pictured enjoying the amber nectar). Mr... Brown’s trio of Deputy Presidents and the new Medics’ President also move into their new offices. The full list of Sabbaticals: Steve Brown (Union President) Chris Larvin (DP Finance & Services) Alistair Cott (DP Clubs & Societies) Kirsty Patterson (DP Education & Welfare) Tim Wills (ICSMU President) Tom Roberts (Felix Editor)

Smoking ban



On 1st July 2007 the smoking ban came into effect. College set out its policy on smoking across campus. Beyond the restrictions imposed by law, College is not permitting smoking on major pedestrian routes such as the Sherfield Walkway and Dalby Court.

Most freshers hoping to have a cigarette will have to step outside into the street as College have ruled that nearly all halls rooms are smoke-free locations. Exceptions to the rule are single bedrooms in Fisher Hall, Pembroke Gardens and Wilson House.

MAY JUNE JULY felix summer 2007 timeline AUGUST SEPTEMBER

Felix returns



3,200 copies of the Freshers’ Special Issue of Felix were published last Friday. The issue was put into freshers’ welcome packs ready for them to read upon arriving in halls. Cradled in your hands now is the first “proper” issue of year. If you’re not fortunate to own a copy of the Freshers’ Special Issue, you can head to felixonline.co.uk where you’ll find a selection of the articles.

Aside from the new colour scheme and lots of cats at the tops of pages, Felix has a few new sections including photography, How To.../How Not To... and Challenge The Sabbs along with some old favourites. Watch this space.

HSBC graduate overdraft debacle



HSBC decided that it was going to begin charging students that have graduated from university 9.9% on their overdrafts.

Understandably, this rather sudden decision was jumped upon by graduates and students soon to finish their degrees especially since other banks had not decided to implement these charges.

However, thousands of students who kicked up a fuss on Facebook shouted loud enough for the banking corporation to take notice. Subsequently, HSBC reversed their decision.

NHS Imperial



In September it was announced that the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and St Mary’s Hospital NHS Trust will merge on 1st October to become the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

The newly formed Trust will be the largest in the UK and will form the UK’s first Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC).

The idea of the Super Trust is to bring together research, teaching and patient health care so that it benefits everyone. In theory, researchers will have a greater pool of people to learn from and patients will benefit from expert professionals.

GSA Chair elected, finally



Last year’s Deputy President (Finance and Services), Jon Matthews was finally allowed to sit on the Graduate Students Association throne after winning the rerun of the GSA Chair election.

Matthews had no opposition in the rerun aside from RON (re-open nominations). RON fought gallantly but Matthews pulled through winning by 58 votes to 42. The GSA Chair is there to represent postgraduate views and voice them to the Union and College.

Union awning



In light of the recent smoking ban, the Union has decided to construct an awning in Beit Quad. The awning (shown mid-construction) will provide a sheltered area for people to stand. Along with the nose warmers smokers will be puffing on, the Union intends to place patio heaters underneath the awning. It is hoped the awning will attract more people to the bars by providing a warm (and dry) area for people to gather outside.

Imperial students’ spelling ability questionable



Imperial genetic scientist Dr... Bernard Lamb, published spelling mistakes made by 75 different students. Also a member of the Queen’s English Society, Dr... Lamb said that he was trying to “put pressure on the education establishment.”

Dr... Lamb said that he often had to correct students more than once on the same mistake. Some common spelling mistakes include “son” instead of “sun” and “seamam” instead of “semen”.

Heathrow expansion protestors



Climate change protestors set up camp on Imperial College owned land in Harlington, near to Heathrow airport. The Camp for Climate Change protestors were campaigning against the expansion of Heathrow airport.

Imperial became involved because the protestors were camped illegally on land owned by College. The site in Harlington is home to a sports ground and a number of pitches used by Imperial students. Felix staff even ventured out of our dungeon and to the sports ground to take the picture above.

Brian May hands in thesis



Queen guitarist Brian May finally handed in his thesis after leaving Imperial College over 30 years ago. The rock legend studied physics completing his undergraduate studies as well as four years worth of postgraduate work.

However, he left the Blackett Laboratory for the music industry. In August May returned to complete the thesis he started all those years ago. Later in the same month he was awarded his doctorate. So, that’s Dr Brian May to me and you.

Hall prices increase



College increased the cost of halls accommodation by just under 5%. This increase was above the rate of inflation. Students staying in halls of residence will also have to fork out cash if they want to wash their clothes because College has introduced coin operated washing machines.

Not surprisingly, newly built Southside houses the most expensive rooms where an en-suite single will set you back a cool £155.61 per week. This hasn’t stopped Southside from being the most popular hall meaning that oversubscription has led to many freshers being asked to take up residence in one of the other halls.

A Royal Visitor



The Queen paid a visit to Imperial to present the College with its Charter Of Independence. The Royal Charter marked Imperial College London leaving the University of London and becoming a university in its own right.

A special event was held inside the main entrance to Imperial College. The Queen and the Rector both made speeches to staff, students and alumni before the very first Imperial degrees were presented to a number of important figures including the Duke of Edinburgh.



Comment, Opinion & Letters

Let us know your views: comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Letters may be edited for length and grammar purposes
Views on these pages are not representative of Felix



A. Geek

// I'm just as up for buying into internet-based group masturbation as the next student. //

Everybody's a Facebook loser

To get the most out of today's column, you'll need an internet connection, because I've got some interactive fun for you this week. What I want you to do first is surf to your favourite website. Really. Go on – actually do it, don't just read on and spoil the magic.

Now, be honest – are you on Facebook? If you're not, skip on a paragraph or two. Otherwise, put your right hand in front of the monitor, fingers spread out and palm facing towards you. Yes? Okay, then stare at the gaps between your fingers, and move your hand very fast towards you, so that it slaps you in the face, as hard as possible. Do it a few times, just to get the feel of it. Are you with me yet, or would it be easier if I created a "First Up Against The Wall, Come The Revolution" group and invited you to it?

Here are the things that terrorism is responsible for bringing into my life – occasional worried phone calls from my mother. And that's really about it. Here's what Facebook users

are responsible for bringing into my life – constant, unending badgering by others to join inane, curly-fingers-quotation-marks "political" groups about completely fuck all; page after page of pointless writing in the papers and on news sites covering "the power of the internet" as if email had never been invented; the dulllest conversation I have ever, ever had, involving the latest Facebook meta-gossip; Madeleine sodding McCann; and probably worst of all, the four-in-a-million retards who haven't joined Facebook, ostensibly as some ridiculous statement of personal integrity, but really because they can't trust themselves not to start posting photos of their nipples, who delight in impressing their "alternative choice" upon me every waking hour of every day.

Whoop-di-do. You discovered social networking. Here's how you find out what my 'Favourite Movies' are if you're a Facebook user – you become my friend. And I don't mean you click on a strip of text and write something in a box about me having really nice

eyes, or thinking you knew me from some club in north Wales. I mean you, you know, talk to me and get to know me and things. Don't get the wrong end of the meme here – I'm just as up for buying into internet-based group masturbation as the next student. But unlike the rest of the Imperial 'network' on Facebook, I've managed to contain my burning desire to share my relationship status with half of South Kensington and some moron from New Jersey. People I don't know aren't listed as my friends; do you see the subtlety here? I don't list my favourite music for my friends to see, because my friends already know what that is. That's why they're my friends. It's like how when a burly gentlemen standing outside Tesco at midnight asks you if you're on your own, you don't say, "Why yes, I have no friends in the immediate area and am a little bit lost. Also, maybe you'd like to know my top three Orlando Bloom films?" Instead, you walk on, because hey! That's kind of how society works.

I don't care if you think it's a good

way to meet new people. So is serving a jail sentence for indecent exposure, but we don't spend our lunch hours attempting that, do we? Nor do I care if you think it's an upmarket version of MySpace – at least the people on MySpace knew they were geeks with a self-respect lobotomy. Facebook is MySpace, but with any shred of entertainment sucked dry, replaced with a blue-and-white colour scheme, and given a copy of The Sun to read.

Honest to god, a cursory glimpse of my News Feed tells me that people I know – people I have been in the same room as – have joined a group for "Hot Chinese Girls". Now, there are literally millions of ways to connect to other human beings on this planet. Religion. Politics. Being born in the eighties. But no, we've actually chosen to hook up with people who have a thing for Far Eastern women in tights. Awesome. One up for the next generation.

But you don't care, and neither do I. Because frankly, if you're on Facebook for seven hours a day, at least I know where to avoid you.



Jennifer Morgan
President

Royal College of Science Union

A brief overview of the RCSU

It's that time of year again... In this edition of Felix we extend a very special welcome to the freshers! Good luck in your first few weeks and make the most of them! We'd like to encourage you all to come along to our freshers' events including a comedy night, a pub crawl, a classic sports day (egg and spoon races – wahey!), a bowling night and of course the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) Freshers' Ball at Zoo Bar & Club just off Leicester Square (£5 in advance including champagne reception, two free vodka red bulls AND a chocolate fountain!) For more information about these events, including dates and times go to www.rcsu.org.uk!

So, What is the RCSU then? Well, IC is basically divided into three facul-

ties. The engineers, the medics and of course, the scientists! Each faculty has its own constituent union under the big umbrella of Imperial College Union. The faculty union for the scientists is the RCSU, with over 4,500 students.

The RCSU was founded in 1907, following the merger of the Royal College of Science (RCS) with the Royal School of Mines and the City & Guilds Institute of London into the Imperial College. With the disappearance of the RCS as an independent institute, it was felt necessary that all students of the Sciences at the new Imperial College be represented by a union which carried on the name and spirit of the RCS. Despite a little disbanding which happened several years ago where the RCSU was split up (a silly period which we won't go into) however, we were

successfully reformed last year!

OK, history lesson over, what does the RCSU do? The RCSU committee coordinates events and activities for all of the science students, as well as providing an academic and welfare representation network. We also have our own publication called "Broad-sheet" filled with student news, useful info and generally things to keep you amused during your 9am lectures! We also have a national essay competition, "The Science Challenge" which was set up last year and proved hugely successful drawing in thousands of applicants from Imperial students and Sixth Form students from across the country. New to this year will be RCSU sports teams which you can register your interest in at our website.

We have a brand new office this year

on the Sheffield Walkway and we've applied for funding to revamp it with some new furniture and general office looking paraphernalia so it should be looking the business very soon! So come in for a chat so we can show it off!

Over the coming year the RCSU is going to use this column to keep you up to date with what we're up to (so long as Tomo lets us keep it!)

All science students are automatically members of the RCSU but if you'd like to get involved with the committee or if you have any queries at all please feel free to email me at rcsu.president@imperial.ac.uk.

Finally, I'd like to wish you the very best of luck for this year! Come and see us at Freshers' Fair and feel free to pop into our office at any time.



felix

Wielding the mighty organ

Hello strangers. Welcome (back) to Imperial. Firstly, a thank you to everyone who voted for me during the election in February. You've given me a fantastic opportunity and I intend to keep my side of the bargain by producing a quality newspaper for you to read throughout the year. I hope you all enjoyed the Maoam and lollipops!

Felix has undergone a bit of nip and tuck over the summer period. Hopefully you'll find that the cat is a sleeker beast now in terms of design.

This year's team is relatively inexperienced compared to previous years. A lot of the members that joined last year have risen through the ranks to become section editors and we also have a number of writers and editors who started this week.

That's not to say they're any less capable! The team is enthusiastic and we're striving to bring you a more creative Felix. We have a number of features in this issue, more for the following issues and some ideas in the pipeline as well. If you want us to dress up your club or society's tour reports just like the Fell-wanderers' one later in the issue, send your articles and some nice high resolution photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk.

The Felix website has also been updated with some of the content from the Freshers' Special Issue. Head to www.felixonline.co.uk to have a gander and take the Freshers' Personality Test where you can clearly define your character by answering ten easy questions. We'll try to keep it updated regularly with articles from the newspaper and of course the Horoscopes will be there so that you can get your weekly



The new Felix logo. Love it? Hate it? Let us know what you think of the redesign and the newspaper in general: comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

fix of insanity each er... week.

If you've got something to rant about, whether it's Union politics, something College has done or if you want to try and make people laugh, these are the pages designed for you. Everyone is welcome to write a piece for the Comments section so send in your diatribes

to comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Everyone has a right to reply too, so if you're on the receiving end of a verbal beating, get in touch and we can commence round two.

Tom Roberts
Felix Editor-in-Chief



Tristan Sherliker
President

Introducing the CGCU

This year the CGCU will be coming back. It's a true revival, and it has already started before term has even begun. We've spent the summer organising amazing events, busting a gut to get sponsorship for them, and worrying the other faculty unions.

Events
Coming up in only a couple of weeks is the first Engineers' Bar Night of the year, with free beer for engineers for as long as it lasts! It'll be from 6pm in the Union Bar (on the East side of the Union) and there will be ale and lager for all.

On Saturday 27th October will be the CGCU Centennial Celebration Dinner. In the marquee on Queen's Lawn, with a three course meal, drinks and coffee included in the ticket price, as well as a late night bar, music and dancing, it'll be a blowout party and not just for freshers.

Tickets prices are only £25 for engineers (£30 for everyone else) and we've subsidised it heavily for a really great night. Professor Mike Kelly (Chief Scientific Advisor to the government) will be our guest speaker. At the moment, tickets are by email from dinner@cgcunet or at our office on Level 3 Mechan-



Tristan Sherliker (second from left) and his Guilds minions

cal Engineering. Soon we'll have stands up around college so you can buy them during lunch.

Freshers
I should say the trwaditional welcome to freshers, and congratulations on choosing the best technical college in the UK. You should pretty early on get their City and Guilds Wristbands. These aren't just freebies to let you know what union you're in; they're going to be tickets to special freshers events like bar nights and cinema nights all through the year. Keep them!

Wear them with pride and let those around you know that you're an Engineer. Remember, it's the largest faculty, with the longest hours – but we get the best results!

Mascots
They said mascotry was dead, but we at City and Guilds know that it was just sleeping. We've been busy annoying the other faculty unions over the summer by nabbing their mascots, as you'll see from the news pages. As well as our very own Spanner and Bolt, we are currently in possession of Davey

the Davy Lamp (RSM) and two out of four parts of Theta the Thermometer (RSCU). We're working on the other half of Theta but it might take a while. Combined ransom money (if they manage to pay up) will raise up to £600 for RAG charities.

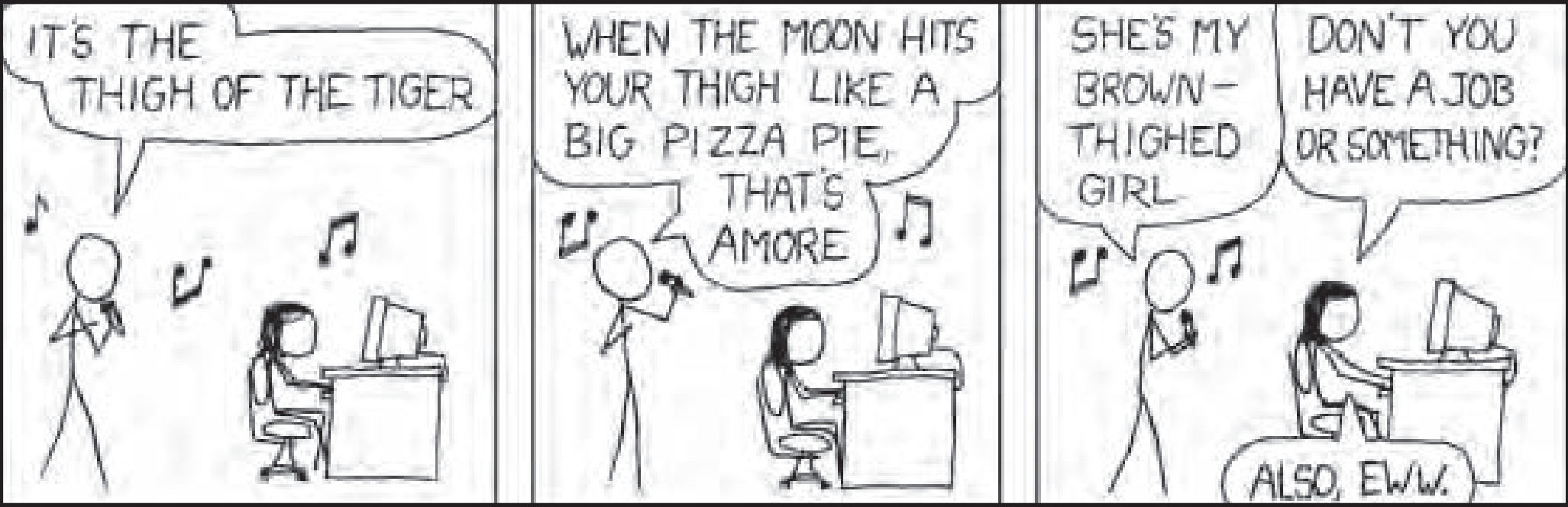
Elections
Soon we will be opening nominations for our unfilled positions. If you feel like standing for your Departmental society's position, or would like to be Honorary Secretary, RAG co-ordinator, or any other of the positions available on CGCU exec, please contact me at president@cgcunet. Whether or not you want to stand, you should have a vote when the time comes! Keep your eyes out for posters and other information sources.

Our plans don't end here. We've managed to accrue enough money to put on some stunning events for the rest of the year, but we just haven't decided what yet! A lot of our annual events are going to be bigger and better than before – for instance, the Egg Race, a small event for the last few years, is going to have some exciting prizes and be on a larger scale than it has been for a decade – it should be a real engineering challenge.

City & Guilds
College Union

xkcd

xkcd.com



Rayvon

Your comics here: comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk





Your Sabbatical Team 2007/08

Alistair Cott

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President

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The Sabbaticals are elected each year by you the students. They take a year out of their studies and work full-time for the Union as its most senior Officers. Feel free to contact them when you need help or advice or to raise issues. They can be contacted by email or by coming up to the Union Offices on the first floor of the Union Building, Beit Quadrangle, during office hours.

Welcome to Imperial!

Welcome (back)

If you are new to Imperial on behalf of the Sabbatical team I would like to extend to you the warmest of welcomes. Preparations for Freshers' Week have taken up a lot of our time this summer so it will be nice to see all the planned events finally go ahead. I would also like to welcome back all returning students and I hope you found whatever you got up to over the summer enjoyable. I am a bit gutted that my columns will now appear on the Union page rather than the "Felix" pages I used to write on when I worked for this beloved paper but I'd still like to take this opportunity to give you a brief rundown on what we have been up to and what we have planned.

Changes to Beit Quad

Over the past couple of weeks we have painted dB's to freshen it up a bit. This room is due to be renovated in due course as part of the Beit redevelopment project but this stage is still a few years off and we'd like to make the place as nice as possible for current students. The Executive Committee also decided that a free standing awning should be erected in Beit Quad to provide shelter/shade for people who wish to sit outside.

Freshers Fair

This is a wonderful opportunity for all students to join societies where they can meet like-minded new friends. It takes place on Tuesday 2nd October between the hours of 11am and 4pm all across campus so please come along. I am sure you will find that at least one of our 280+ clubs will be of interest to you.

Elections

It's that time of year again. Over the next couple of weeks there will be elections for a variety of positions on the Union Council, Court and our newly formed Trustee Board. This represents a great opportunity for everyone to give something back to the student body as well as giving you the chance to develop soft skills that will be incredibly useful for whatever career path you choose to take once you have left Imperial. Nominations open online at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote this Saturday but look out for more details on posters, in Felix or in the Union email over the coming weeks.

My manifesto promises

Some of you might remember two of my election commitments regarding discount cards. I promised to sell the NUS Extra discount card for £7 instead of £10 as I did not believe it was appropriate for ICU to profit from this scheme. Unfortunately the way the scheme is set up means that it is not possible for us to charge £7 on website sales so instead we are offering £3 in vouchers that can be used in all of ICU's bars & catering outlets. If you purchase an NUS Extra card this week you will receive them on the spot but if you have ordered a card online then you may pick up your vouchers from the Union Reception from Monday.

I've also been working on obtaining some discounts from local businesses that will be available with your swipe card so watch this space over the coming month for details once I have them finalised.



Stephen Brown

President
president@imperial.ac.uk

Are you finding it hard to get the answers you need?

IAC

Information and Advice Centre

The Information and Advice Centre is your free service for confidential, impartial, independent advice and information on academic, financial, housing, employment, consumer, welfare, personal safety and international student issues.

Go to the IAC, East Wing Basement, Beit Quad

t: 020 7594 8067

e: advice@imperial.ac.uk

Jenny Forrester
Imperial College Boat Club – Phw-OAR!
Think you’ve got what it takes to grace this page?
felix@imperial.ac.uk



Photograph by Vitali Lazurenko



$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + V(x)\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$$

Science

Science Editor – Ed Henley

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Shooting down shooting stars

Inspired by a wannabe Iberian knight, ESA takes a chivalrous approach to large lumps of space debris

Edmund Henley
Science Editor

ESA, the European Space Agency, certainly can't be accused of being faint-hearted. The recent appearance of a crater in the Peruvian Andes, widely attributed to a meteorite, may at face value seem to be an event so unusual as to remain permanently in the "Acts of God" category. Even if it turns out that the crater, said to have emitted noxious gases, was due to a meteorite, trying to do something to prevent impacts may seem to be a fool's errand.

It could be argued that, laying fictional concerns (Kryptonite) and solutions (Bruce Willis and a large nuclear weapon) aside, any realistic solution would hardly come cheap, and would use up valuable resources better spent on dealing with more frequent disasters.

But this down-to-earth (ahem) point of view is a classic example of our limited ability to deal with what Nassim Nicholas Taleb has termed black swans, in his recent book **The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable**. He takes the eponymous fowl as a rather innocuous example of our limited ability to deal with infrequent events – the European assumption, based on experience, that all swans were white seemed reasonable, until the discovery of black swans in Australia. (The pedants amongst you can object that young swans are grey, but if you're going to get picky, we're prepared to argue at length that they're cygnets. And besides, you're missing the point. Concentrate.)

Taleb argues our assumption that life never strays far from under the skirts of the bell-curve extends far beyond ornithology, and means we are unable to correctly assess the risks (or benefits) presented by many unlikely events, even if they have far-reaching effects. Crashes in the stock-market and best-sellers are two examples, but so are meteorite impacts – arguing that a meteorite impact powerful enough to wipe out humanity is so unlikely as to be negligible skirts over the



ESA's taking a tilt at asteroids, not windmills. But the latter are more photogenic. Well, easier to find

fact that, by definition, just one such event would be enough – statistical improbability is of cold comfort to an astronomer with a "dinosaur-killer" looming into sight.

Recent studies should limit such nasty surprises, and help improve

our understanding of the statistics of space debris. A worldwide network of astronomers is cataloguing asteroids with diameters above 1 km, and other studies are planned, so that up to 90% of all near Earth objects above 140 m should be being monitored by 2020.

Improving our knowledge of the threat presented by the smaller rocks is not an easy task, as it is hard to monitor their orbits (and hence predict their trajectories) from the ground, and as such they may represent a greater danger. However, we can take heart from

the fact that their size may make these objects easier to deal with, if observations suggest any are likely to collide with Earth.

This is all very well in theory, but actually knocking a threatening asteroid off an impact trajectory is likely to be significantly harder in practice, especially without prior experience of course alteration. Accordingly, ESA has been planning a mission to do just this, checking the effect present technology can have on an asteroid with a diameter of about 500 m.

Dubbed Don Quijote, an appropriate moniker given the approach the agency is considering, the mission will comprise two spacecraft, Sancho and Hidalgo, and if approved, will launch early in the next decade. Sancho would arrive at the target asteroid first, after travelling for a little over two years, and would spend several months monitoring the asteroid's shape, position, mass and gravity field.

Having taken a different orbit, Hidalgo would arrive later, and would use a high-resolution camera to steer itself towards the asteroid, impacting at a nippy 10 km/s. Sancho will record any changes in the asteroid's position with a high degree of accuracy, and will then release a small package of instruments, which would passively free-fall towards the crater left by Hidalgo, to aid in determining the chemical, thermal and mechanical characteristics of the asteroid surface.

A number of asteroid are currently contenders for the dubious honour of a run-in with Hidalgo, but the front-runner is Apophis, which caused a scare in 2004, as initial measurements suggested it might collide with the Earth in 2036. Although this was subsequently ruled out, the finding served as a sobering reminder that asteroids present a danger which should not be ignored, and which call for the bold approach espoused by missions such as Don Quijote. Taking a tilt at an asteroid may seem an act worthy of the Hidalgo himself, but the knowledge gained may well prove invaluable should a genuine threat arise.

At the end of their tether

Cosmo Kray

In other space-related news, an experiment on the ESA Foton-M3 mission has had partial success in an attempt to master technology just as significant for space science as Don Quijote.

The €2.7 million Young Engineers' Satellite 2, project (which went by the go-getting acronym of YES2) involved more than 450 students, who worked on developing the 36 kg payload in conjunction with Delta-Utec, the prime contractor. The aim was to deploy a 30 km tether from the satellite, the longest ever used in space.

In theory, tethers present an attractive way of manoeuvring payloads in space. The most outlandish designs call for thin ribbons built of very strong materials, extending from a planet into space. Known as beanstalks or space elevators, these cables would allow payloads to be lifted into orbit without

the use of rockets. Any giants (or Vermicious Knids) reading this can rest assured that unfortunately, there are several barriers to using these tether applications on Earth.

However, their satellite-based cousins look far more promising: as reported in Nature News this week, payloads on satellites can be returned to Earth easily using tethers, as they allow the payloads to be slowed sufficiently as they are lowered, without the use of retro-rockets.

To be light enough to be practical (a key consideration in all space missions) the tether needs to be very thin, requiring it to be made of very strong material. The tether on YES2, a mere 0.6 mm thick, used a polyethylene fibre called Dyneema, allowing it to weigh in at only 5.5 kg, slightly lighter than the 6 kg capsule and heat shield it was returning to Earth.

According to the preliminary mis-

sion report on the YES2 website (www.yes2.info), the first stage of the deployment went to plan: 3.4 km of tether were released, with software exerting considerable control on the deployer mechanism, to keep tether oscillations to within ~10° of the ideal vertical position.

The problem occurred in the second stage, as friction from unknown sources caused the rate of deployment to slow significantly, and led to 15-20° oscillations before the preprogrammed controls cut the tether. This meant that in total, only 8.5 km of tether were released. Although this was short of the target, the report concluded that the operation was still a success: it represented the first tether flight for over a decade, and achieved over half the mission goals. The team is currently looking for the capsule, thought to have landed in Kazakhstan, so as to improve future mission analysis. Ask Borat?



Not quite the sort of tether and payload they had in mind



Welfare

Welfare Editors – Nigel Cooke and Kirsty Patterson

Email Nigel on advice@imperial.ac.ukEmail Kirsty on dpew@imperial.ac.uk

Dealing with unhelpful landlords

If your landlord is refusing to repair something in your flat, be reasonable but don't get taken advantage of

Nigel Cooke
Student Adviser

So, your back! You have a house sorted with all your pals, you have looked round it; it's not a bad property apart from the dodgy sofa and the dodgy boiler the landlord has said they will sort out before you move in. So all that's left now is to organize the house warming party.

What happens if you move in and you find all is not what it seems. There are damp patches everywhere, the dodgy sofa remains in the front room and the landlord has gone to Tasmania for a month.

There are certain steps you can take if your landlord has not done something they've promised, and similarly if they are unwilling to carry out repairs on the property. The Information and Advice Centre (IAC) is here to help with these problems.

If your landlord is refusing to do certain repairs that are clearly their responsibility, the procedure is:

Phone the landlord or agent and take it up with them directly – Tell your landlord about the problem and what you would like done about it. Agree with the landlord when the work will be done by, and what it will entail.

Put it in writing – If the repairs



If your landlord refuses to replace the tatty old sofa in your flat, there are a number of steps you can take before the need for confrontation!

are not carried out in the agreed time frame then put the repairs you want done in writing ensuring that you date and sign the letter then send this to your landlords or agents address.

If the landlord still doesn't carry out the repairs, it's not advisable to withhold rent payment. Doing this puts your tenancy status at risk and you could be served with an eviction order.

Sometimes it is a good idea to get quotes for the repairs and say to the landlord you will be sending them the bill for the work carried out.

If the landlord still refuses then you can contact your local council's environmental health officer who will either come in and check the property or will be able to give advice on how to deal with the situation further.



It is important to put into context what the repairs are, for example if it is just a lightbulb that needs changing, then don't follow the above procedure, change it yourself. Also be realistic with how much time you give the landlord to do the repairs; 14 days is often a good guideline unless it is something urgent like a faulty gas boiler or your heating isn't working.

If you are not sure whether the repairs that need to be carried out are the landlord's responsibility, it is best to contact the IAC for further advice.

The IAC is here to help with any issues you have with housing and we can help not just with difficult landlords but also any other problems that arise through privately renting. Enjoy that housewarming!

Take a moment to think about your health

David Hayton
IC Health Centre Assistant GP

Welcome back! The start of term is busy for all of us, and for most of us our health is the last thing on our mind... but there are a few things happening at the Health Centre which you need to know about...

Meningitis and Mumps – Free vaccinations for under 25s

It is *essential* that all students have had the appropriate vaccinations against Meningitis C and mumps. These serious infections are most common amongst the student population. Vaccination is free up to 25 years of age. Many students will not have had these as they are not part of the standard vaccination schedule, so check you're covered!

For more information on our vaccination programme visit www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/hvaccinations

Making Appointments On Line

I am pleased to introduce our new system (catchily called EMIS Access) which allows you to book and cancel appointments on line, and also to keep your contact details up to date. To register for this service please see our website. Of course you can still come in or ring us for an appointment.

Where has everybody gone?

We do not share *any* information you



Check if you've had your Meningitis C and mumps vaccines! If not, they're free. For more information, head to the IC Health Centre website



give us with College. The reverse is also true: we do not have access to any information held about you by College. This includes your contact details, so if you have recently changed address (or bought a new mobile) please let us know. The best way to do this is online (above) but you can also email us or drop in to the Health Centre.

If you don't tell us you've moved, we will de-list you!

As you may know, we are soon to be moving to our new premises in South-

side (just round the corner). Due to NHS administrative bureaucracy, we may be forced to de-list you if we don't know your current address when we move.

We want you!

Whether you are a fresher or not, we are trying to encourage you to register with us *before* you need us. Even if you are "never ill" (and we hope you stay that way) we want to know about you

so we are prepared – just in case one day you are – and so that we can help you stay well. Knowing who our patients are helps us to plan our services to help you.

All students can use us during our

opening hours regardless of where they live.

For more information visit our website www.imperialcollege-healthcentre.co.uk

If you ever have personal issues, health problems, housing problems, difficulties with your finances or anything else, feel free to contact **Nigel** (advice@imperial.ac.uk) or **Kirsty** (dpew@imperial.ac.uk).



Culture & The Arts

Arts Editors – Mike Cook, Rosie Grayburn, Caz Knight and David Paw

Budding culture vulture? Write for us.
arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Michael Cook
Arts Editor

Don't panic. You enrolled in – or returned to – the right University. We really are a Science college, and generally you won't find an operetta, photograph or twirly moustache in sight along the walkways and in the lecture halls. Except maybe Physics, where the face fuzz seems to be popular. However, even the most laboratory-bound student needs to flex the other half of their brain from time to time, and that's where Felix Arts comes in.

A new year, and a new editorial team – so you can expect some changes to the section if you're not a Fresher. But change is good: this week we've got all of the usual coverage you'd expect of the exhibitions and events that are hitting London soon, as well as some brand new distractions, including Jane Austen emasculating one of our manliest editors, a glimpse at one of the biggest writing events you'll ever enter (and by god, you *will* enter it), and the beginning of a multi-part series on culture crawls and arty alternatives in London – a great idea if you're stuck for something to do in between getting drunk in the Union on a Friday night, or recovering in the Union on a Sunday morning.

To make Felix Arts a definitive source for London culture, though, we're going to need a crack team of writers. Surviving on a gruelling mix of tickets to press events of musicals and review copies of the latest books, they'll be what fills these lovely pages week in, week out, with anything and everything creative. If you think you'd like to review for us, write features or simply spew encouragement in electronic form, the email address you need is at the top of all of our pages. No experience necessary, bring your own twirly moustache.

We want Felix Arts to be exactly what Imperial wants to read, though, so even if you're not in the mood for putting pen to paper in the name of art, email us with criticism, suggestions and anything you really want to see on these here pages. Remember something from last year that you miss? Bored to death with features on a certain topic? Get in touch.

In the meantime, you should probably kick back and enjoy the slow beginning to another year of deadlines, discovery and depression. Just try not to forget, in between epsilon-n proofs and aerodynamics theory, that once upon a time you wrote English essays, used the word 'genre' in sentences, and sketched bowls of fruit. This year, we're going to get you creating again. And by Christ, you're going to enjoy it.

So flick through this first issue, email your thoughts in, and go finger paint something. We'll see you next week.

Hey there, I'm a philistine!

This week, **Michael Cook** wrestles Jane Austen for his manliness – and loses

This year at Felix, we want to get scientists reading again. Not textbooks or papers, but real things. And no, Sudoku doesn't exactly count. We want you to pick up books you never thought you'd read and go cover-to-cover with them. In our new section, we're going to run through some of the best-loved and least-read literary masterpieces, and tell you exactly why they deserve reading.

Thanks to Waterstones at King's Road, we've also got copies of our books to give away, too, so if you find our reviewers are as convincing as they hoped to be, there's a chance to bag yourself a copy for free each time, too.

This week, we cover Jane Austen's most famous social comedy, *Pride and Prejudice*. If you've just discovered a book that deserves its title of Classic, then jot down some words and send them into us – arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

To win one of three copies of *Pride and Prejudices*, courtesy of Waterstones, just tell us what century the book was first published in.

Either send an email to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk or drop in your answer on a bit of paper to the Felix office – downstairs in the Media Wing of Beit Quad. Be sure to include your name and some contact details – the closing date for entries is October 10th, and the winners will be announced in the issue following.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a young man in possession of a Jane Austen novel must be in want of some extra testosterone. There are books about spies, there are books about men punching other men, and then there are Jane Austen novels. When they're split off for their sex education in primary school, boys don't watch videos about puberty – they get taught that Tom Hanks is the devil incarnate, that wearing socks with sandals is a divine right, and that Jane Austen is for *girls*.

Here's why, and for the gentlemen reading, please stop me when you start to feel the urge to crochet. Jane Austen's undeniably famous work, *Pride and Prejudice*, is set in Hertfordshire and chronicles the lives of the Bennett family – the frumpy, class-obsessed Mrs. Bennett, the dry but otherwise uncar-



A couple torn apart by social pressures but ultimately united by the passion of their love. Yesterday

ing Mr. Bennett, and their five daughters – and those that they know, both locally and further afield. Beginning with one of the most famous lines in English literature, which I brutally tore up in the opening of this article, the arrival of a wealthy, single young man to the neighbourhood starts off a chain of events that leads to scandal, heaving bosoms and mostly happy endings.

With books like Austen's, what's often hardest is to get around the age of the piece. This sort of literature was considered entertaining a couple of centuries ago – but so were public executions, and they've fallen way out of style lately. Just because Austen understood the idea of a Novel well for her time, does that mean she deserves any credit on bookstore shelves these days?

Well it turns out that, mostly, she

does. *Pride and Prejudice* isn't a perfect read of course, at least not for someone raised, as I was, on Douglas Adams and that chap that wrote The Hardy Boys series. Austen likes to describe events and then make you read very long letters written about the same events, and even for a romance novel, conspicuously little happens besides elopements and marriage proposals. But you're reading Austen, after all, and so the trick is not to expect a plot to murder the President, or an off-the-wall parody of current events, but instead to accept what she was trying to do and really let yourself go in it.

If you can manage this, *Pride and Prejudice* opens up completely. Some of the characters can feel a little generic – although that's possibly because it's such a real portrait of the time, and so the fact that the men are almost

identical save their taste in women is well-deserved – but most of them, Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy in particular, are well-rounded and enjoyable. Austen's also incredibly quotable for the most part, and her narrative has a lot of subtle digs at the differences between the sexes. The play between the five Bennett sisters creates some really brilliant situations, and Austen clearly enjoys painting pictures of the different meanings of womanhood.

And so, yes. I ended up reading a book about heaving bosoms, and womanhood and things. There's a slightly dead patch where the plot seems to just give in on itself from the sheer weight of uneventful pages, but other than that things really do seem to move. Despite the fact I've had no dreams since of being proposed to by a tall, dark Englishman, there is a sense of excitement about the plans and schemes of the characters and how strong a force the social expectations exerted over people who succumbed to them.

It's not, in the main, an exciting book. I feel honour bound to point this out to anyone hoping for a no-holds-barred kiss-fest set in steamy Hertfordshire. But she does make something of it; she's able to show you why people read Romance novels, and how people write them. You can only use a cookie cutter to produce things before it starts to look a bit worn, but despite being responsible for almost every film Colin Firth has ever been in, *Pride and Prejudice* works hard for a place on the classics shelf. If you can bear with the constant bantering, balls and Britishness, you'll find a really good read.



Five women walk into a bar, and the tallest goes up and orders an innuendo. The Barman gives her one

National Novel Writing Month 07

Michael Cook believes you have a story to tell him. Are you sitting comfortably? Then he'll begin

The website of the National Novel Writing Month takes a rather softly-softly approach to its wording in order to attract quiet, literary types, so if you're one of the delicate ones I suggest you skip on right to the end where I've typed the site address in italics, and scurry along to the cool safety of what's known as NaNoWriMo by those that take part. If there's one thing I've learnt through three years of trying to get people to enter the damn thing, it's that no-one does it if you're nice to them. Everyone else should sit down, shut up, and read on.

Have you ever wanted to write a story? Bear in mind I'm not asking whether English is your first language, or whether you've taken writing lessons, or whether your mother and father nurtured your creative abilities from a young age, lending you lamp-light, quills, a steady supply of ink and a mentor named Albert. I mean, did you play make-believe games as a child? Did you ever think that your favourite TV show or film could do a bit better in some parts? Did you ever read a book that you thought missed something out? Because the funny thing is that most people do have a desire to write, and everyone – *everyone* – can.

Oh, but you're worried about not being so good, right? Well, you're *not* good. Let's not be silly here, with your attitude you're probably terrible at writing right at this moment. But a month's worth of solid writing is going to change that, and it's going to change *you*. So here's what you're going to do this November – you're going to write fifty-thousand words of original fiction. You're going to do it because if you don't do it right now, right this year, right here at Imperial, then you never will. That's the what. You know what you're going to do. Here's why.

The why is very simple – firstly, we've established that you think it would be A Pretty Cool Thing To Do. Forget about the idea of writing almost two thousand words a day for a second, and imagine waltzing around in December with a novel under your belt, a novel that no-one ever needs to read, but that you can be proud of, and slip into conversation with the casual air of a young Jeffrey Archer. "Oh *golly*, darling, it's been so long! Yes, I *know*. You know, I would have, but I was just finishing off my novel, and you know what it's like when you've done forty-five kay already, mmm?"

Although it should be pointed out, most people don't do it in order to add a dash of smarminess to parties. The real reason for someone such as yourself to do NaNoWriMo is because now is the time you'll flesh out the person you are. You're more free than you ever have been, and yet not burdened with the full weight of decision-making. You're busy enough to justify the large amounts of free time that you have, but not so busy that the time is unusable. Most of all, you've got your dreams, and your chances to reach out for them are thinning out. Don't be fooled, those of you who dream of a high-paying job that'll retire you at thirty-five. It's now that you'll do the things your grandchildren will hear about, not then.

“one day, i'd like to write a novel.”

Announcing the end of the one-day novelist.

The idea began with just a few friends, but now spans the globe and will lead more than forty thousand people to the goal of fifty-thousand words this November when it kicks off for its ninth year. It's a group that's now organised, a fully-fledged charity that's set up children's libraries in Vietnam and Lagos thanks to donations from the people who were encouraged to write their first, then second, then maybe sixth novel. But at the same time, it's still a simple bunch of people working behind a simple idea – that writing is fun, and not enough people realise

“So here's what you're going to do this November – you're going to write fifty-thousand words of original fiction.”

that. To that end, they encourage, egg on and sometimes push you towards the goal that, at times, will seem even further off than it does now.

There are weekly podcasts, local meets with like-minded writers, and an online forum buzzing with orphaned novel ideas, experts on every conceivable topic, and people who are just as worried and confused as you are. And

yes, they probably got tricked by some student journalist too.

And if that's not your thing, then you can work in complete isolation – even the word checker that deals out your certificate at the end of November is entirely automated, and so if you want it to be a private thing, they're just as happy to have you. They have people writing by hand, writing in Greek, writing novels to get published or just *writing*. They don't even force you to donate money to their cause – they're just there to give you an idea to get started, and a reason to keep going.

This year, Felix wants to do the same. So we'll be covering the National Novel Writing Month in a series of short reports during November, as well as some warmup articles this October. If you've entered before, please get in touch with us and let us know more. If you're going to attempt it this year, we'd love for you to do the same. If you're not sure whether you can handle it, after all the mixed metaphors and poor pep talks I've attempted, I can only leave you with this – it's worth giving a chance. The feeling of accomplishment, the way the enthusiasm filters through to other aspects of your life, and the confidence it gives you in your day-to-day living is unique and unbelievable. Writing is a novel is something many of us say we will do, one day. There are thirty of those One Days coming up. Make sure you're ready for them.

To find out more about the National Novel Writing Month, visit their website at <http://www.nanowrimo.org>. If you're going to enter this year's competition, we'd love to hear from you – arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Are You Serious? – FAQs

Who will read my novel when I'm done?

Anyone you want. Last year, some people swapped novels afterwards and it was a hoot. But it's entirely up to you. No one will read your novel until you're ready for them to.

Is there a fee to participate?

There's no sign-up fee, but we do ask ably-financed participants to contribute something towards hosting and administrative costs. The amount is up to you.

When do I start writing?

At 12:00:01 am local time on November 1.

How do you win? Are there judges? What are the prizes?

The way to win NaNoWriMo is by writing 50,000 words by midnight on November 30. Every year, there are many, many winners. There are no "Best Novel" or "Quickest-Written Novel" awards given out. All winners will get an official "Winner" web icon and certificate.

Can I handwrite the novel?

Absolutely. We can't verify your word count, but verification is just icing on the NaNoWriMo cake.

What if I start and don't finish?

That's ok. Nothing ventured,

nothing gained, right?

Why are you doing this? What do you get out of it?

NaNoWriMo is all about the magical power of deadlines. Give someone a goal and a goal-minded community and miracles are bound to happen. Pies will be eaten at amazing rates. Alfalfa will be harvested like never before. And novels will be written in a month.

Part of the reason we organize NaNoWriMo is just to get a book written. For one month out of the year, we can stew and storm, and make a huge mess of our apartments and drink lots of coffee at odd hours. And we can do all of these things loudly, in front of people.

But that artsy drama window is woefully short. The other reason we do NaNoWriMo is because the glow from making big, messy art, and watching others make big, messy art, lasts for a long, long time. It changes the way you read. And changes, a little bit, your sense of self.

We like that.

How do you pronounce NaNoWriMo?

NAN-no WRY-Mo.

Oh, I've been saying it NAN-no WREE-Mo.

That's ok too.

Facebook meets the social worker

Citizenship and Chatroom hit the National Theatre – Caz Knight was there to give the verdict on both



The lighting and character arrangement is central to Chatroom's conveyance of the e-generation vibe. It deals with the rather abstract setting cleverly and powerfully

Chatroom/Citizenship, written by Enda Walsh and Mark Ravenhill respectively, are two short plays exploring a variety of teenage issues. Performed at the National Theatre on London's South Bank, the theatre shows over 18 plays

per year ranging from classics to new plays.

With a view to understanding teen culture Walsh gives us Chatroom: six mid-teens in cyberspace, "middle class, of varying wealth, in and around Chiswick". What starts off as a snappy, witty, laugh-a-minute exchange of ideas between members of the chatroom on teen culture turns into a depraved view at the sourest side of adolescence. That does not detract in any way from the profoundness and the issues explored and the messages which the play seeks to portray.

The play opens with a musical extract of the 'Oompa-Lumpa' song from the much loved Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) and a heated, but highly amusing, discussion about said film ensues, as well as banter concerning "Harry fucking Potter" and Britney Spears. The opening may lead us to believe we were in for an evening of no more than a few laughs at the youth of today.

Introduce Jim, suicidal, troubled and depressed following the flight of his father 10 years earlier. The other teenagers quickly discover the cause they have been looking for: to be there for Jim. The sordidness quickly escalates until the play deals with manipulation and even the possibility of public suicide.

Not only exploring some major issues which a lot of the (predominantly teenage) audience may be battling in their own heads such as bullying and teen angst, the play offers viewpoint on other ideas such as the media itself being a tool of manipulation, the safety and authenticity of the internet and religion.

Praise must be given for the truly spectacular performance of Jim, carried out by Steven Webb. Webb portrays the nervy, quirky, misfit with a 'thing' for penguins and cowboys flawlessly and with hilarity. He is so convincing that one finds oneself endeared to him and his eccentric mannerisms.

George Rainsford, playing the part of William, gives a comical if not slightly boisterous performance but keeps the audience laughing with his alternate ending for Willy Wonka; "they make shit out of him". All the actors showed talent and conviction in their roles right up until the closing scene, probably one of the most emotive and happy endings I have experienced in a stage production which resumes the initial mood of the play.

Citizenship, also a foray into the lives of contemporary teenagers, follows 16-year-old Tom and his quest to find his feet with regards to his sexuality. The opening scene of Tom having his ear pierced by Amy (after, of course, the mandatory four neurofen and vodka that precedes any do-it-yourself ear piercing) immediately reflects the setting of the play, which contrasts heavily to the middle-class backdrop of Chatroom. The play is set in a rather "ghetto" London comprehensive and one instantly recognises the according uniform of tracksuit bottoms, caps and baggy t-shirts.

Tom is highly confused about his sexual orientation. This confusion is brought about by a recurring dream in which he is unaware of the gender of the person he is kissing. Tom seeks advice in differing ways from his highly strung and stressed out Citizenship teacher, the internet, a Tarot card reader, his friend Amy and finally an attached gay man who he met online. These set of events lead Tom (and the audience) to continually swing between thinking he is straight and thinking he is gay. In a moment of confusion he and Amy sleep together which leads to the inevitable pregnancy of Amy and introduces the theme of parenthood (highly reminiscent of the recently released Knocked Up). A whole host of different issues are explored in the play which, as in Chatroom, are highly relevant to both teenagers and adults

alike. The title 'Citizenship' refers to the GCSE subject Tom is studying, the title of which ("What a multicultural society means to me") could not be more apt in British society today. Drug use, teachers, peer pressure and school are all topics which everyone has had to contemplate and ensures a fervent interest is kept in the play. The director (Anna Mackmin) pays attention to small details which teenagers would identify with such as Britney Spears and Amy Winehouse ringtones, myspace and two school children doing 'blow-back' with a spliff.

Citizenship saw acting talent of high calibre once more. Richard Dempsey carried out the role of "Sir", Tom's young teacher who is constantly on edge. Dempsey is extremely competent at portraying these qualities and is successful in breaking the stereotypical view of teachers so common in all types of media. Here, he is seen as a real person with all kinds of their own demons. Michelle Tate, as Amy, earned a lot of laughs with her aggressiveness paired with her "therapy" babble. However, she does not quite pull off the "sarf" London accent, occasionally slipping into Aussie. George Rainsford showed variety in his acting skills this time giving a side-splitting performance as Gay Gary (highly ironic), a stoner with an identity crisis. Some of the characters seemed to be slightly caricature but this only served to reinforce the light-heartedness and comedy. Slapstick humour, sexual innuendoes and crude gestures aplenty, this appealed to the younger viewers and indeed any of us with an immature side.

With a personal preference for the unceasing, upbeat comedy in Citizenship, both the plays have the audience enthralled from the beginning until the final applause. For the philistines out there who find the idea of the theatre daunting or boring, Chatroom/Citizenship is an ideal transition into the wonderful world of the stage and

guarantees a great time too. Currently on your, if you miss it at the National do try and catch it when it is showing at any of the other cities within striking distance of London (Oxford, Cambridge, Brighton amongst others). For tour dates visit: www.nationaltheatre.org.uk



Keeping up with the emperors

Caz Knight travels to the Olivier to see the latest in Voodoo theatre. But we can't think of any puns

Another fantastic evening out at one of London's most pleasant theatres, the National theatre on Southbank gives us *The Emperor Jones* by Eugene O'Neill. This play would have certainly had jaws dropping and eyes widening at the time O'Neill (an American favourite) released it onto Broadway for the New Yorkers and indeed those who flocked (and still do) to one of the world's leading theatre districts.

First performed in 1920, it saw the first black actor on stage, performing the lead role: of a leader. Certainly, this reflected the pioneer within O'Neill who would challenge political and racial assumptions in his work.

Although the play covers with the way in which black people were treated in 1920s America, racism is not a key issue here. The themes of dictatorship and tyrannical rule, leading to eventual downfall are more prevalent. (O'Neill wrote this play over a decade before the rule of Hitler and Stalin came to power).

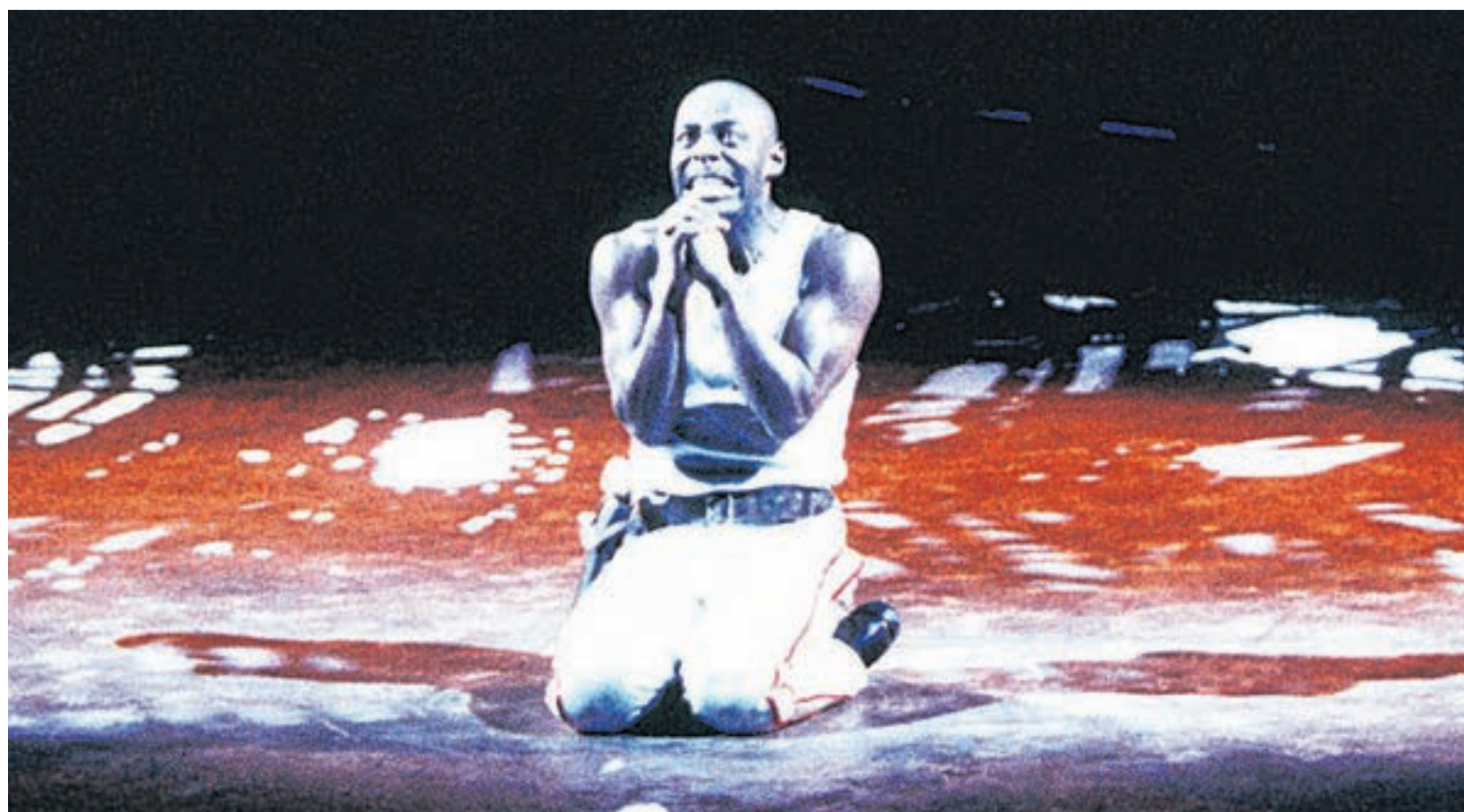
The play follows the self-proclaimed Emperor Brutus Jones ("stowaway to emperor in two years!") and his own tyrannical rule over the people of Haiti, after his escape from the States following the murder of a prison guard. Brutus' own self-importance blinds him to the hatred which is people feel towards him.

Paterson Joseph undoubtedly stole both the stage and the whole show in his captivating portrayal of Brutus Jones. What Joseph gives us is a completely convincing and highly comical interpretation of the self-important and cocky stowaway-turned-emperor.

The deep-south accent and Negro dialect (which at times becomes slightly "gospel") is pulled off flawlessly and unfalteringly. Joseph has us laughing throughout the play at Brutus' antics and witty banter, and also rigid in our seats as we take on his fear and desperation listening to his manic ramblings during his voodoo encounter.

We can only wonder at how Joseph maintains such vigour and energy in his role. One finds oneself growing very attached to Brutus as we share in his journey, feeling sadness and distress throughout his ordeal and final capture.

Huge praise must go to the director, Thea Sharrock and indeed the set designers, musicians and light technicians without which this mesmerizing



Unsettling even to watch, the visual effect of *The Emperor Jones* is undeniably impressive, made all the better by brilliant performances

production would neither have been possible nor so potent. Nothing could have created the illusion of voodoo magick better than the spectacular drumming which really brought chills down one's spine.

Another highlight of the production would have to be the pyrotechnics followed by the witch doctors impressive and slightly frightening display. The play certainly has a sinister and highly surreal- even "trippy" - edge to it and at times one felt as if we had stumbled in on an experimental theatre production which only furthered enjoyment and added depth.

Right up until the last deafening drumbeat, the audience is left spellbound as if, indeed, under some voodoo spell. Certainly one of the most powerful pieces of theatre I have experienced, those lucky enough to have seen it are truly blown away. The seventy minutes zoomed by and I urge ALL to go see it as soon as possible.

The Emperor Jones runs until 31st October.

Thought about outdoor sports?

Got a sense of adventure?

Find us & our free climbing wall all day in Beit Quad at the freshers fair.



UNDERWATER CLUB



IMPERIAL COLLEGE PARACHUTING AND SKYDIVING
IC-PARASOC



Imperial College Trust has been supporting worthwhile activities within the College since its establishment in 1968. The activities of the Trust are funded by donations and by the careful stewardship of existing resources and the Trustees meet on a quarterly basis to consider grant applications from members of the College. In recent years, the Trust has made a significant grant to the Imperial College Union to support the refurbishment of Beit Quad and has also made a number of smaller grants to clubs and to individuals.

Funded by ICU Recreational Clubs & IC Trust
www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc

ICU Recreational Clubs &



The Great Culture Crawl

Chapter One – Museums

The Science Museum, Exhibition Road

Originally founded in 1857 to house all the leftover bits from the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace, our most local museum is now a showroom of scientific artefacts from throughout history. For us scientists, it is a brilliant resource for background info on how science and technology has evolved through the ages. The museum has some suprising annexes too: The Dana Centre on Queens Gate is a cafebar venue for over-18's and hosts debates almost every night of the week about contemporary science and culture. Coming up is an evening with James Watson, the one who also discovered DNA. Cool.

Best bits:

They are just renovating the Launchpad which is the biggest hands-on exhibit in the place. This means lots of big buttons to press and disapproving looks from onlooking parents as you push small children out of the way in order to get a go.

Also coming up is a unique exhibition by celebrated film maker, Grace Weir and explores our scientific measurement of time, black holes and Einstein's theories of relativity.

Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road

South Kensington's museum of design houses collections from around the world and throughout history. Think ceramics, furniture, fashion, glass, jewellery, metalwork, photographs, sculpture, textiles and paintings. Some exhibits are a bit dated, but it is nothing a good bout of government funding won't heal. Apart from that, it is really worth a visit during those long lunch breaks. Go on – free yourself from the JCR!

Best bits:

The Jameel Gallery is a real gem. The Islamic Middle East collection has been lovingly relocated to this very atmospheric and beautiful gallery, thanks to some very rich and generous people. It really does credit to the objects displayed which originate from areas stretching from Andalucian Spain all the way to the northern reaches of Uzbekistan. A highlight is the the oldest carpet in existance which lies in state here (non-flying).

For all you cross-dressers out there, The British Galleries will be of great interest. There are several 'hands-on' exhibits which involve putting on hoop skirts and corsets on for fun and admiring your changed appearance in handy mirrors.

A sparkly-new exhibition, 'The Golden Age of Couture' has just opened. See our review in this issue for more information.

The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road

Difficult to miss if you've ever approached Imperial from the South Kensington tube, this magnificent building dominates Cromwell Road and even loops around to rub shoulders with the Science Museum. If you want a definitive exhibited history of this planet, it's all under one roof. Its proximity to the college is fortunate, because this'll take you some time to get around fully.

Best bits:

Go in the main entrance (on Cromwell Road) and the first thing you'll see is the museum's most popular resident – the enormous dinosaur skeleton that dominates the entire main atrium. But that's not all there is to offer – in every direction the museum plunges into the history of animals, nature and even humankind itself.

Be sure to explore towards the back of the museum, where a massive escalator will take you up to an earthquake simulation room, which is great fun as long as no-one's watching, and continues on to explore natural disasters and the escalating issue of our climate. It's Climate Change Season at the museum at the moment, which means the exhibitions all have a global warming twist, but keep an eye on the banners outside, as the museum's fantastic lineup is constantly changing.

British Museum, Great Russell Street

This humungous building houses thousands upon tens of thousands of antiquities that the British Empire stole from such cultures as the Ancient Greeks, Egyptians, Persians and others. It is a wonderful, varied and very extensive collection. Make a long day of it.

Best Bits:

The Egypt Galleries are a definate highlight and the Rosetta Stone has been famously on display since it's 'discovery' in 1802 and was most recently translated by Rachel Weisz in The Mummy Returns: a cinematic masterpiece.

The famous Reading Room in the centre of the Great Court in the museum, which has the dubious papier-mache dome and entertained those well-known bookworms Oscar Wilde and Karl Marx, has been expertly transformed temporarily into a tomb-like exhibition room to tell the story of the First Emperor of China, Qin Shihuangdi. He was an inspiring man – he buried the architects of tomb alive with him and created the Terracotta Army, some of which are on view at this must-see exhibition. You can see these warriors (all 8,099 of which are different) eye-to-eye which is quite humbling seeing as they are over 2000 years old and still seem as though they could beat you in a fight.

The National Cartoon Museum, Little Russell Street

Are cartoons for kids? Yes. Are you over thirty-five with a mortgage and misgivings about young people? No. So you're well within the age range to have some fun here. Students go free, and there's a lot of cartoons that vary from political to slightly less serious – though fans of Mickey Mouse might be disappointed. Well worth a look on your way back from The British Museum, which is just down the road.

Best bits: A huge archive of Punch comics, showcasing very definite styles of political satire – you might not get most (or even all) of them, but the visuals make it as appealing as a visit to the V&A. They also run classes both over the Summer and during term-time, so if you're bored of labwork and want to get out the colouring pencils again, it might be a good place to head for.

Just around the corner from the museum is the Gosh Comics store, which will serve your needs for anything more modern, too.

Design Museum, Shad Thames

A good 10 minutes walk across the river from Tower Hill lies a small, pretentious museum which charges you to see what is ultimately on display in the V&A shop. With a heavy emphasis on modern designers and up-and-coming talent, it has some nice, open design spaces. Not one for agrophobics.

Best bits:

If you're after freebies, the museum is currently playing host to London Design Festival until the 14th October featuring several Designers in Residence of the Design Museum. If you have a free day, Sarah van Gasteren's Big Dipper, to be installed in the Riverside Hall, mechanically creating 24 candle wax chandeliers by dipping strings of wick in heated wax and allowing a frame to build up over a period of 12 hours, inviting the viewer to witness the birth of a product: the Design Museums' equivalent of watching paint dry in slo-mo.

The Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road

Within walking distance of Waterloo station, the Imperial War Museum is a frightening collection of exhibits from numerous wars, including some particularly impressive collections of Second World War pieces. Large, but absorbing, the IWM also has some seasonal exhibits on – currently, a display of camouflage and it's effect on warfare.

Best bits:

There are a few unbelievable pieces hiding away in the museum – hunt out the replica of Little Boy, the nuclear bomb that fell on Hiroshima, as well as the bronze eagle that was taken from the top of the Reichstag in Berlin, bullet holes and all.

The Secret Agency exhibit is mostly entertaining, but the end is particularly good, showcasing a lot of recent events and asking some interesting questions. But for hard-hitting, you can't beat the photography on display in the Second World War sections. Incredibly moving images, presented in a thoughtful manner – well worth tracking down.

Dressmaking on stilts at the V&A

David Paw rubs shoulder pads with the highest of society to spy on the latest haute couture exhibition

Just to clarify – *couture*? The word inspires everything from hushed awe to vague mutters of appreciation, to confused squeals of enthusiasm from pink velour-clad plastics. Couture is the French term for “dressmaking”, and haute means “high”. Hence, the literal translation of haute couture is “high dressmaking”, in the same way the microscopic portions in your local Michelin-starred restaurant

are referred to as “haute cuisine”.

Haute couture is the pinnacle, the absolute peak of creative expression through the medium of dress (gents – the equivalent of a bespoke Savile Row three-piece with matching shoes, only at least three times more expensive and ten times more coveted). Haute couture combines untempered artistic flair with made-to-measure precision.

Commissioned by the wealthiest of

patrons and created by only the most skilled designers and their ateliers (workshops), couture is regarded as much as collectors items and museum-worthy pieces as clothes. Dolce & Gabbana? Not even close.

Even your relatively average couture gown would put all but the most special of wedding dresses in the shade – the most extravagant and elegant sit comfortably alongside the private jet and Lamborghini on the wishlists of fashionistas and romantics the world over.

Thus, to the V&A's autumn exhibition. The Golden Age examines in detail the period after the Second World War when Christian Dior introduced the now-legendary New Look, Cristóbal Balenciaga reopened his doors and the stellar talents of Hubert de Givenchy and Pierre Balmain rose to prominence.

The period is regarded as one of the most glamorous and remarkable in fashion history, not only for the extraordinary bloom of creativity that took place, but also for Dior's revolutionising of the industry and the swansong of an era that ended with the sixties and the advent of a mass market more directed to teenagers and prêt-à-porter (ready to wear).

The period and the New Look (rounded shoulders, nipped-in waist expanding into dramatically long and wide skirts) also saw a return to ethereal glamour and luxury after the austerity of the war.

95% of the exhibition is from the V&A's remarkable archives, but is also notable in that it includes original pieces from Dior's first collection and the painstakingly restored Zemire ensemble, which was previously only known to editors and researchers through photographs and recently rediscovered in a building on the banks of the Seine.

Stepping through the hushed spaces resplendent with the quiet stir of archive footage, it feels more like witnessing a private labour of love than waltzing through an exhibition. A room is dedicated to the process of creating a couture gown, from the preparatory sketches and material samples right down to the accessories and finished product; one could spend hours in this room alone.

Another is given over to the imagemakers favoured by the emerging international press, namely familiar publications like *Vogue* and *Harpers*. Where previously illustrations had been used, photographers such as Richard Avedon and Cecil Beaton dominated during the postwar years as the medium had a modernity that editors favoured.

The trend of showing the “face” as opposed to the whole figure emerged during this time as large cosmetics advertisers such as Elizabeth Arden began to take more space in the increasingly influential fashion press.

Lovers of all things Audrey Hepburn will be glad to know her favoured couturier is well represented – show-stopping Givenchy couture dresses are amongst the best of the entire exhibition – and a reel shows film footage of famous film fashion moments, including the aforementioned Ms. Hepburn's Parisian romp in *Funny Face*.

Most dramatic of all though is a room dedicated to the most achingly beautiful couture of the whole collection; the wealth of beauty on display here is worth the admission alone.



David asked to try this on, but they said they weren't big on that.

Pieces from familiar names such as Dior, Balenciaga and Givenchy stand alongside those from the less familiar such as Fath, Lelong and Schiaparelli. All are stunning.

The exhibition returns us round into the present with a timeline dating the emergence of major players and the establishment of the regulatory Chambre Syndicale, ending with three pieces from the most dramatic couturier of the present day, Dior's John Galliano.

Though the couture from British

dressmakers such as Hardy Amies is worthy in itself as to compete with their contemporaries on the continent, the vast majority will come to see the well-known names, though even the most avid couture fan will have something to learn.

The breadth and depth of research and effort that has gone into this exhibition is obvious and it shows – The Golden Age is a fitting tribute to a dying craft.

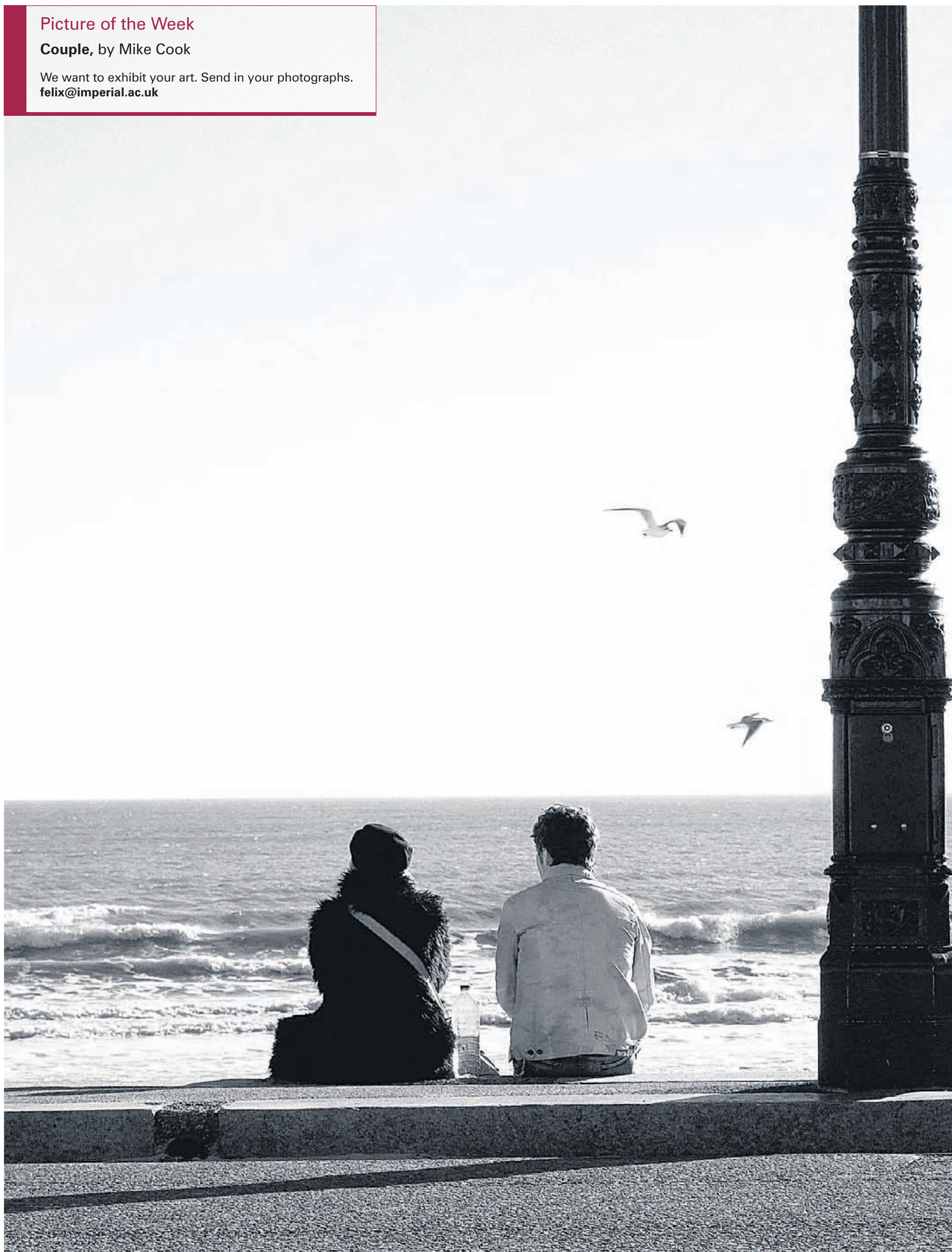
Sublime.



Picture of the Week

Couple, by Mike Cook

We want to exhibit your art. Send in your photographs.
felix@imperial.ac.uk



<http://www.ey.com/uk/careers>

Ernst & Young Imperial College Career Events 2007/2008

#	Date	Time	Event	Location*
1	09/10/07	18:00-20:30	Careers Presentation	Mech LT 342
2	25/10/07	18:00-20:00	"I work at Ernst & Young, but I am not an accountant"	Tanaka Business School
3	01/11/07	See website	Milkround Presentation	To be held at the E&Y London Office. For more information, please refer to our website
4	01/11/07	18:00-20:00	Ernst & Young China Presentation	Tanaka Business School
5	07/11/07	11:00-16:00	Careers Fair	Imperial, Queen's Lawn, Sherfield Building
6	08/11/07	18:30 - 21:00	Professional Services Forum	Imperial College London, 48 Princes Gardens
7	07/02/08	18:00-20:00	Assessment Centre workshop	Tanaka Business School

*Please register with the Imperial Careers Service or the Tanaka Business School Careers Service to confirm your attendance.

Imperial College Union

Freshers' Fair 2007



Alistair Cott
Deputy President Clubs & Societies

Want to find one of the 260+ clubs that Imperial College Union has, then read on. The day is all about visiting as many different clubs and societies as you can find. Then again, if you have a burning desire to find one club (such as the Handball club!) look at the index page and find them on the map. Once you've found them visit their stall and find out a bit more about the club.

As a rough guide, in the Great Hall you'll find the overseas societies. The large marquee on Queen's Lawn is full of sports clubs, and external stalls giving away freebies. There is also a stage setup in the marquee where you can catch club demonstrations and live music. While around the base of the Queen's Tower you'll find the motoring clubs and some of the larger objects that clubs own, plus all the media moguls you could ever want to meet. There will be tours up the Queen's Tower during the day, however places are very limited so get there with plenty of time. The Main Dining Hall (MDH) is stuffed with arts clubs and more companies handing out freebies. Inside the Junior Common Room you'll find the food and drink societies. The Sir Alexander Fleming building is the place for clubs run by the Medics Students' Union, and these are open to all. Follow the walkway ramp up from the Queen's Lawn to Upper Dalby Court. In this area you will find a variety of societies including the Royal College of Science Union and City and Guilds College Union, and all the religious and ideological societies. If you are into outdoor type clubs, then head over to Beit Quad, where there will be a rotating climbing wall for you to have a go at amongst other things.

The stalls are spread out all over campus and there will be volunteer officers walking around in red T-shirts who will be happy to help you. If you are hungry or want to take a break, there will be barbecues in the Quad and on the Queen's Lawn. To quench your thirst the Union bars will be open as well. Once you have finished for the day and you've decided which clubs and societies you want to join, just login to the Union website at imperialcollegeunion.org. There you'll find that each club has a page and a shop for you to buy individual lessons or membership for the full year.

Finally why not join us at the Union in the evening for a few celebratory drinks, there are entertainments on all night long!

- ABACUS
Aeronautics
Afro-Caribbean
Ahlul Bayt
Ahmadiyya Muslim
Aikido
Airsoft
Alternative Music
American Football
Amnesty International
Anime
Apple
Arabic
Archery
Arts & Photo (ICSM)
ArtSoc
AstroSoc
AstroSoc Telescope
Athletics (ICSM)
Backgammon
Badminton
Badminton (ICSM)
Badminton Net
Bangladeshi
Barclays Bank
Basketball
Basketball (ICSM)
Belly Dancing
Bio Engineering
Biochemistry
Biology
Blackwell Books
Boat
Boat (ICSM)
Boots The Chemist
Bridge
British Medical Association
Bruneian
Buddhist
C&G Motor
Canadian
Canoe
Capoeira
Catholic
Caving
CGCU Exec
Chamber Music
Chaplaincy
Cheese
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Chess
Chinese
Chinese Church In London
Choir
Christian Student Action
Christian Union
Cinema
CivSoc
Community Action Group
Computing
Conservative
Consultancy
Cotswold Outdoor Ltd
Cricket
Cricket (ICSM)
Croatian
Croquet
Cross Country & Athletics
Chinese Students & Scholars Assoc.
Cycling
Cypriot
Czecho-Slovak
Leonardo
Dance
Dance – Funkology
Dance Company
De La Beche
Debating
Debating (ICSM)
Department of Humanities
Dr. Bike
Drama (ICSM)
DramSoc
BQ14
Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Electrical Engineering
Endsleigh Insurance
Engineers Without Borders
Environmental
Erasmus
Every Nation Christian
Exploration
Fairtrade
Fashion
Felix
Fellvanderers
Fencing
FilmSoc
Finance
Fire Safety
Fitness

UDC35
UDC1
UDC11
GH18
UDC41
UDC42
QL64
BQ5
MDH19
QL14
JCR15
QL92
QL36
UDC43
QL4
SAF22
QL93
MDH26
QL90
SAF8
QL59
QL66
SAF3
QL91
GH2
QL45
QL67
SAF12
QL52
UDC2
UDC3
UDC15
QL35
QL75
SAF1
AR9
MDH20
SAF35
GH9
UDC50
QL83
UDC34
BQ3
QL55
UDC47
BQ1
UDC23
MDH12
UDC48
JCR8
UDC4
UDC5
MDH21
GH7
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MDH13
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MDH32
UDC6
MDH24
UDC7
UDC27
JCR4
AR1
QL68
SAF15
GH26
QL69
QL70
GH16
QL7
GH29
GH36
QL49
QL50
QL51
UDC14
JCR5
SAF25
MDH2
CP3
SAF29
MDH34
BQ14
UDC8
MDH36
UDC24
UDC31
QL60
UDC49
BQ7
JCR9
QL94
QL79
BQ4
QL42
MDH33
JCR6
CP1
QL23

Football – Mens
Football – Mens (ICSM)
Football – Mens (RSM)
Football – Womens
Football – Womens (ICSM)
Football Goal
Foyles
French
Friends of MSF
Fulham Havana
Gaming
Gazette
German
Gliding
Golf
Golf (RSM)
Gospel Choir
Greater London Middlesex West Scouts
Handball
Hastings & St. Leonards Excellence
Cluster
Hellenic
Hindu Student Forum
Hockey
Hockey (RSM)
Hockey Mens (ICSM)
Hockey Womens (ICSM)
Hope for Charity
IC Centenary
IC Diversity & Equalities
Opportunities
IC Health Centre
IC International Office
IC Library
IC LINKS
IC Volunteer Centre
Imperial College Aid to the Balkans
Ice Hockey
ICSMSU Exec
Imperial College Lodge
Imperial Entrepreneurs
Imperial Queers (LGBT)
Indian
Indonesian
Indoor Hockey
International Tamil
Internet & Gadget
Iranian
Iraqi
Islamic
Italian
Japanese
Jazz & Rock
Jazz Big Band
Jewish
Jiu Jitsu (Aiuchi)
Joint Maths & Computing
Judo
Juggling
Ju-Jitsu
Karate do Shotokai
Karate Shotokan
Kendo
Kenyan
Kickboxing
Korean
Kung Fu
Labour
Lacrosse (ICSM)
Latin-American
Lav
Lebanese
Leonardo
Liberal Democrat Youth & Students
Linux Users
Live!
London Nightline
London Philharmonic Orchestra
Mah Jong
Mainliners
Malaysian
Mathematics
MatSoc
Mauritian
Meat Appreciation
Mechanical Engineering
Medical Defence Union
Medical Education
Medical Humanities
Medical Protection Society
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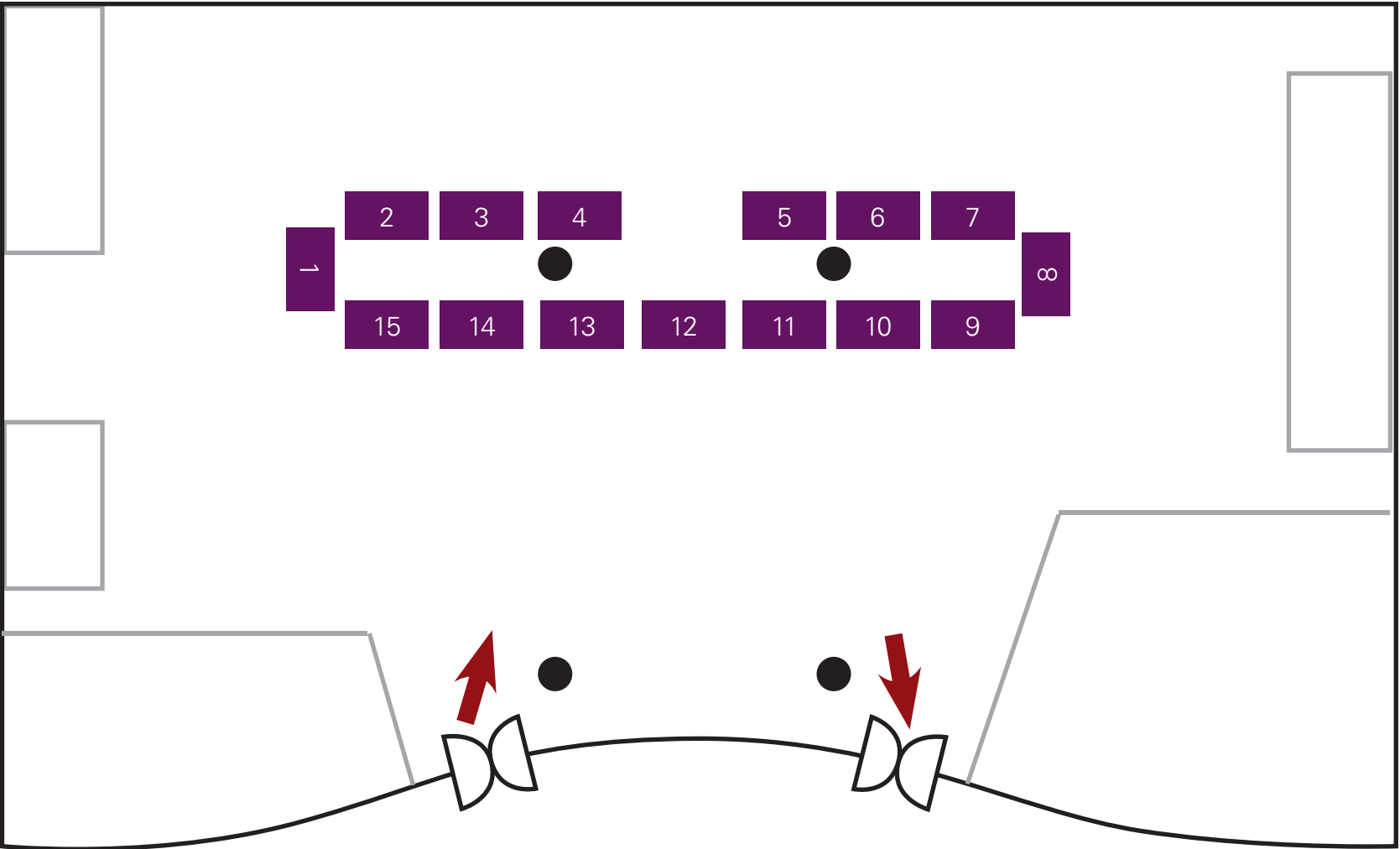
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Save The Children
Scandinavian
Science Fiction
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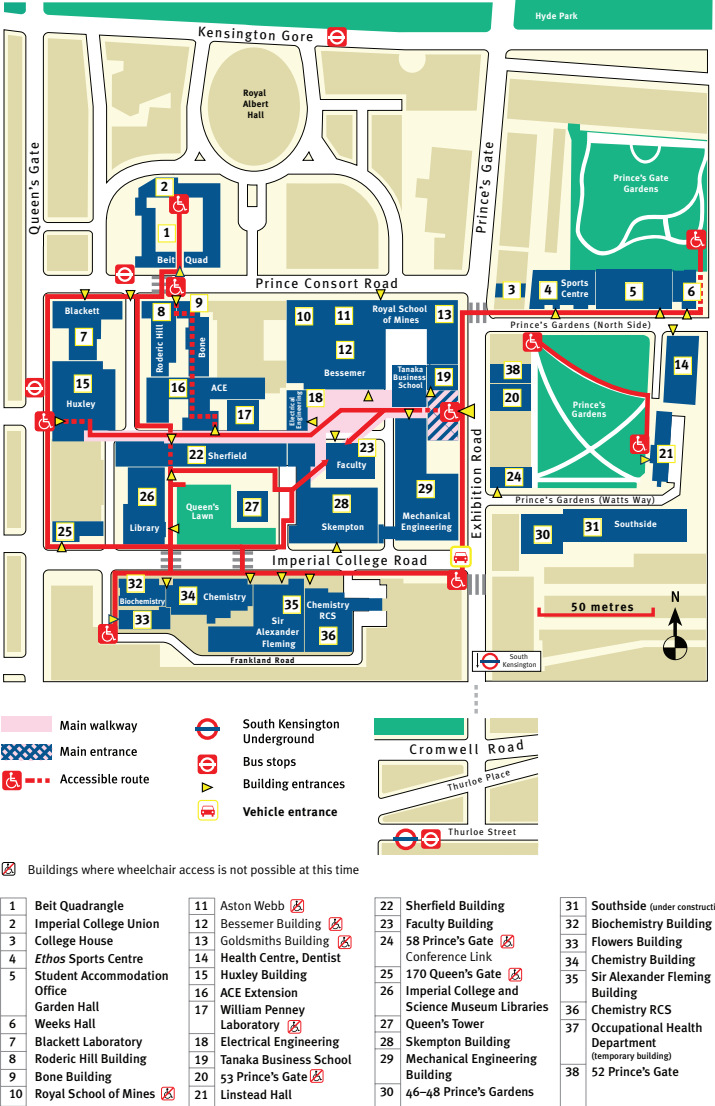
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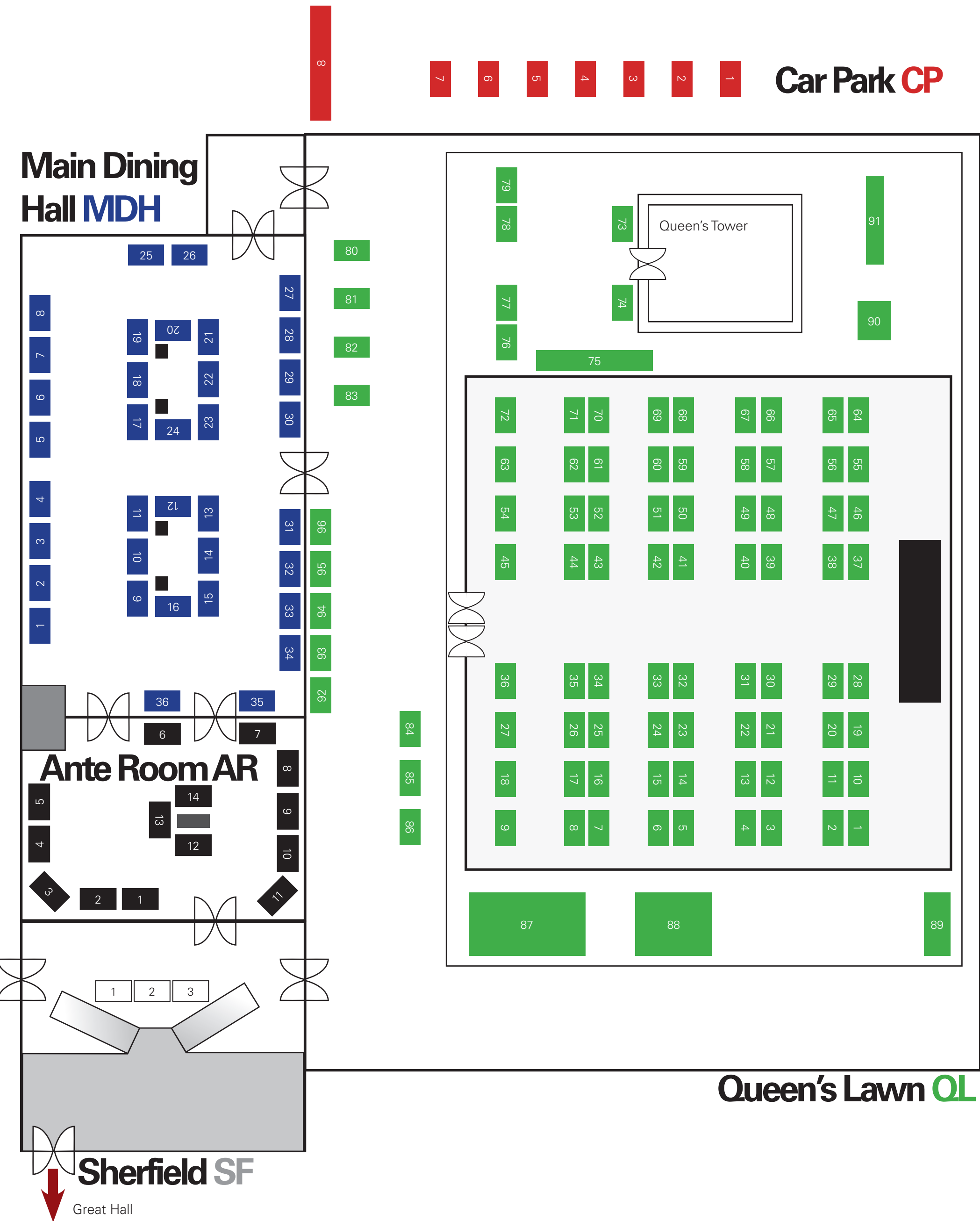
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Synchronized Swimming
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Union – Elections
Union – Welfare
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UoL Air Squadron
UoL Officer Training Corps
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War Games
Waterpolo (ICSM)
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Great Hall GH



Junior Common Room JCR





Competition time!

Win a once in a lifetime trip to the Birthday JD Set in Lynchburg, Tennessee. Entries by 10am Monday, so be quick!

Thanks to the courthouse fire that destroyed his birth certificate, no one's really sure of Mr Jack's exact birthday. All we know is that it was sometime in September 1850. Which is why we celebrate all September long, culminating in a spectacular Birthday JD Set gig at the distillery.

Just 200 people are invited – you and a friend can be amongst the lucky few to attend this one off gig which will take place at the oldest registered distillery in the United States where every drop of Jack Daniel's is made.

A stellar line up of rock artists including the legendary Patti Smith, alongside Juliette Lewis from The Licks and Shingai from The Noisettes, will give a once-in-a-lifetime performance backed by the New Silver Cornet Band, a group of local session musicians. This band includes David Hood and Craig Kampf who have played with legends like Primal Scream and the Rolling Stones.

One winner and a friend will fly to

the Jack Daniel's homeland for an incredible rock and roll weekend with flights and accommodation included. Birthday celebrations will include an authentic, southern style BBQ and a personal tour of the distillery followed by the main event, the Birthday JD Set, where the celebrations really begin.

For further information on Jack's birthday go to:
www.septemberisjacksbirthday.com

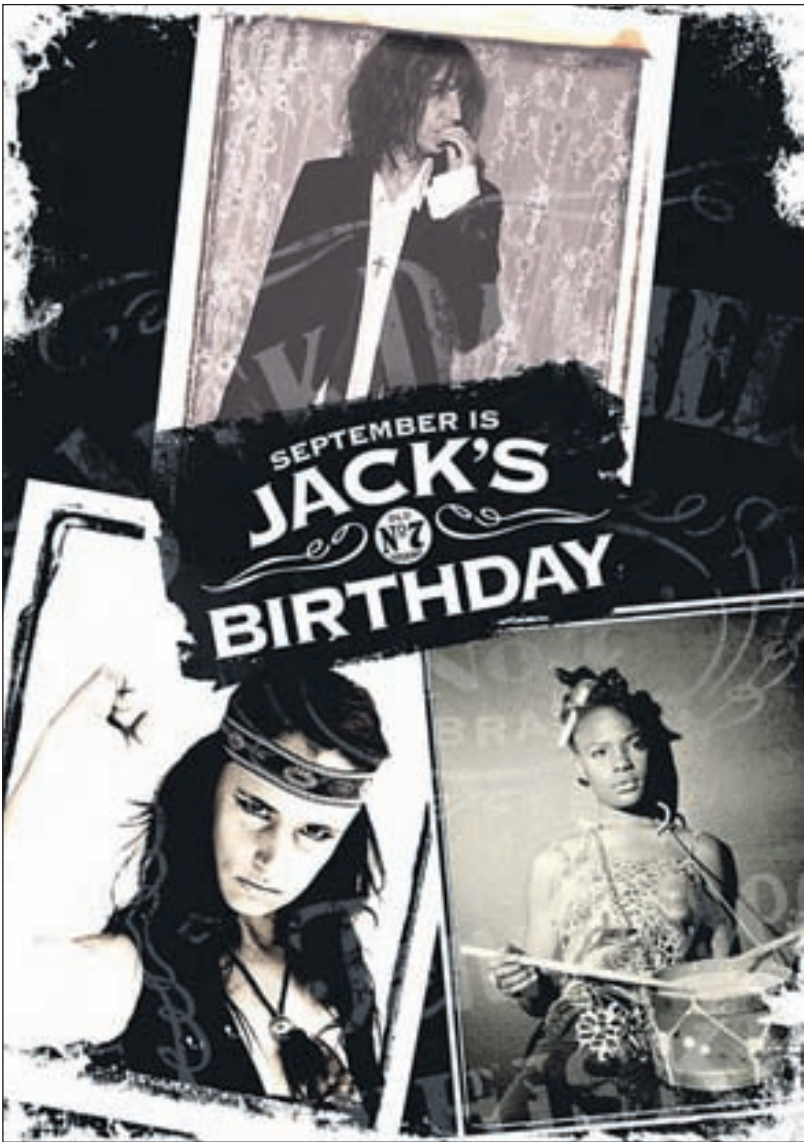
Make Mr Jack's birthday a memorable one. Please drink responsibly.

To enter the competition simply email your **name, proof of age, address and telephone number** to felix@imperial.ac.uk with the subject "Mr. Jack's birthday prize draw".

Entries must be received by **10am on Monday 1st October**. You must be **21 or over and hold a valid UK passport**. Proof of age should be in the form of a driver's license or

passport photocopy. Alternatively, you can come to the Felix office on Friday afternoon or Monday morning with proof. The editor promises not to give out any of your personal details.

Good luck!



BROWN-FORMAN BEVERAGES UK, LTD
THE BIRTHDAY JD SET
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The promotion is open to UK residents aged 21 or over only excluding employees of the promoter, Felix, their families, agents and anyone else connected with the promotion. No purchase necessary. To enter, email in your name, proof of age, address and telephone number to: felix@imperial.ac.uk, with the subject: "Mr. Jack's birthday prize draw", to be received no later than October 1st. Only one entry per person. The promoter accepts no responsibility for any illegible entries or those which are delayed or not delivered. Proof of posting is not proof of delivery. There is one prize: a 2-day trip for the prizewinner and a guest to Lynchburg, Tennessee to enjoy the Jack Daniel's birthday celebrations. The prize includes return flights from London to Nashville departing on 12th October and returning on 14th October to arrive in London on 15th October; 4 star hotel accommodation in Nashville to include breakfast for two nights; return ground transfers from Nashville airport to the hotel; tour of the Jack

Daniel's distillery; evening meal on Saturday 13th October; free attendance to the birthday JD set on Saturday 13th October with transport to and from hotel. The performance line up may be subject to change. The promoter will book and pay for each prize as agent for the prizewinner and their guest, who agree to be bound by any terms imposed by third parties including, without limitation, any relevant tour operator. The prizewinner and guest must hold valid UK passports and will be responsible for any administration associated with the prize including without limitation, any immigration requirements for entry into the USA. All additional expenses including, without limitation, spending money, travel to and from Gatwick Airport and any additional insurance cover, if required, are the responsibility of the prizewinner. The prizewinner and their guest will need to confirm they are over 21 before taking up the prize. The promoter reserves the right to select an alternative winner, should the original winner and guest not validate their identity, age or compliance with us immigration requirements for entry into the USA within 24 hours of notification. The prize draw will be supervised by an independent person and will take place on October 1st. The prizewinner will be the first name drawn at random from all valid entries.

The prizewinner will be notified within 24 hours and receive further details of their prize within 2 days of verification of their age, as required above. The winners' details can be obtained for 6 weeks only by sending an sae to "Jack Daniel's / Felix, birthday JD set prize draw", Spring PR, 301 b/c Aberdeen House, 22-24 Aberdeen Grove, London N5 2EA. The prizewinner and guest may be required to participate in future publicity. Each prize is as stated, is non-transferable and there is no cash alternative. The promoter reserves the right to withdraw or amend this promotion in the event of any unforeseen circumstances outside its reasonable control with no liability to any entrants, the prizewinner or any third party. The promoter also reserves the right to award an alternative prize of equal or greater value, should the advertised prize become unavailable for any reason. The decision of the promoter in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entrants are deemed to have accepted these terms and conditions by participating in this promotion. Promoter: Brown-Forman Beverages Europe, Ltd, Regent Arcade House, 19-25 Argyll Street, London, W1f 7TS. Know when to unplug. Enjoy Jack Daniel's responsibly.



Free Greggs savoury for every student!

To celebrate the autumn launch of Greggs best ever Cheese and Onion Pasty, Greggs the bakers is giving Imperial College students the chance to try one of the Pastytastic savouries* – for free! Just cut this coupon out and take it to your nearest Greggs.

With the winter nights drawing in there's nothing more satisfying than a delicious, freshly baked Greggs pasty or Sausage Roll. With choices such as the Steak Bake, Chicken Bake, Cheese and Onion Pasty and the Sausage and Bean Melt, customers really are spoilt for choice.

The new cheddary gorgeous Cheese and Onion Pasty boasts mature cheddar cheese, wrapped in a light golden pastry and contains no artificial colours, flavours or hydro-genated fats.

Greggs pasties and sausage rolls are freshly baked in-store throughout the day, so you can guarantee

a fresh and tasty treat will be ready when you are!

For more information about Greggs visit www.greggsthebakers.co.uk



Terms and Conditions:
Offer subject to availability. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Limit of one coupon redeemable per visit. Coupon is valid until 12/10/07. No cash alternative offer available. Coupon will be retained. No photocopies accepted.
*The Pastytastic savouries include Sausage Roll, Steak Bake, Chicken Bake, Cheese and Onion Pasty and Sausage and Bean Melt.

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Reading Festival vs. Pukkelpop

Felix braves eight-hundred miles of driving and two major festivals to investigate rumours telling of cheap entry, decent line-ups, good food and campsites not made up of mountains of festering rubbish

Honey Munroe (Photos by Greg Mead and M-A)

With similar line-ups and just a week apart, both are loveable and fabulous in their own right, but this year Felix went the whole hog and bowled into Europe just in time for one of Belgium's largest music festivals, Pukkelpop, and then ambled back in time for British summer's last hurrah at Reading Festival. You could be forgiven for thinking of Pukkelpop as Reading and Leeds' younger though physically bigger cousin, but I have a feeling if you scaled Reading Festival up the same capacity many might not survive to tell the tale! Reading held 80,000 people where Pukkelpop had 130,000 and 194 bands! Yet there is something about the sloping intimacy of the Reading site that makes it seem absolutely overflowing with people as well as bigger than it actually is while somehow though larger, the layout of the Pukkelpop site was such that it did not seem the 10acres bigger and the stages always seemed moderately packed but not rammed.

For those of you who do not know anything about Pukkelpop, the Belgian

“The Smashing Pumpkins reunite to headline almost all major summer festivals”

festival began life with one stage hosting seven bands and just three thousand people on a football pitch in 1985. From humble beginnings to having seen almost all major names in alternative rock of the past twenty years, the festival has been going from strength to strength with a burgeoning dance presence in the last decade. This year of 2007 saw The Smashing Pumpkins reunite to headline almost all major summer festivals worldwide, making their third appearance at Pukkelpop since 1993.



Kings of Leon



Paul Banks from Interpol, playing an early evening slot on the mainstage. Kings of Leon guitarist, giving the gladeye



The main site of the Festival is pretty huge and very heavily sponsored. Mobile phone banners and Coca Cola emblems are everywhere but at least it is on the whole tastefully done. A lot of time, money and effort has obviously gone into not only the organization but also the construction of the site. The stages are huge and the tents are enormous and boast sound quality you can only dream of experiencing back home. The Dance tent was the most awe in-

spiring thing, as big as an actual club back home in London and fully fitted with screens at intervals that dropped down along the ceiling and the most incredible scalectrix track of moving green LED lights above you this was perfectly designed and certainly the most ubertastic dance tent I have ever been in at a festival. The second dance arena was almost as big, an actual tent with funnelled tops and an impressively and decorated inside with enormous glass baulbaults splattered with random coloured paint markings and balloons hanging form the top.

The attention given to the dance areas clearly mimics the popularity of dance music and I have to admit it seemed if not the most popular genre, as popular as the rock music side of things. It makes Reading's dance stage look like a muddy tent in someone's back garden by comparison and really made me think how shameful it is that after all this time Reading and Leeds have not revamped their tents, or at least invested in some really well laid ones with decent flooring which could transform the atmosphere entirely.

The Campsite was situated on a massive area of fields that had been transformed, for the duration of the festival, into sea of tents. You had to physically leave the festival site and cross a busy main road to get there, but Police were on hand at all times to halt traffic at intervals allowing a safe passage to and from your tent. This minor inconvenience was soon forgotten once inside

the camping area however. Ample space was kept ordered with many a steward directing campers into spots so that the site would fill evenly and leaving clear pathways for access to the well thought out cleaning areas and well as slightly less frequently placed toilets. There was a large shower facility, with even larger queues, and on the opposite side an area designated for hanging out and cooking.

The fields were in better condition generally than those at Reading,

“The most incredible giant scalectrix track of moving LED lights”

with good drainage, and much more thought had been given to the welfare of campers in terms of how easy it was to keep clean, access chill out areas and cooking facilities.

It is also worth knowing that Pukkelpop made no separation between guests, press or regular punters when it came to camping, and any fears we had about being kept awake all night by ignominious drunk revellers were quashed once inside where the Europeans were all fairly civilized and well behaved by far.

were on the whole more sober, but I was irked as I can drink neither wine nor beer and feel that should I wish to drink spirits I am responsible enough to decide how much I can drink before becoming a threat to society. I also believe people should always be given a choice, as one can always use proportional pricing to guide buying toward the favoured option anyway. This particularly European attitude to sociable drinking translates to very

“Bands that were good at Pukkelpop blew your mind at Reading”

amicable people and the crowds were enthused and happy enough, certainly polite and well spaced, with none of the moshing or crowd surfing you find at similar British festivals. If you want to get right to the front of any stage, it is as surprisingly easy as just weaving your way over there and people generally tended to move around a lot from stage to stage rather than camp out in one place to keep their spot or to see the whole line-up at one tent or stage. This fluidity was wonderful and meant you didn't feel pressured to rush to each band if times clashed as you knew you would be able to view the bands as comfortably from the beginning as arriving mid way through.

Bands received attentive though underwhelming reactions from the crowd and it was somehow rather deflating to be around people who appear so utterly unfussy over what they are experiencing. Just one example would be watching The Kings Of Leon who were on at mid-afternoon at Pukkelpop and for whom there was a modest crowd who sang along and bopped a bit I the sunshine to their set. Cue reading, where

they co-headlined the main stage to a packed and eager audience Pukkelpop I was able to get right to middle of the front barrier of the main stage for the Saturday night headliners The Smashing Pumpkins during the changeover from the previous band, something I could only dream of doing had I been glued there to the barrier staking out my space form about early afternoon at Reading

The one thing I did find slightly bemusing and overall a tad exasperating was the lack of joy and excitement there was for the bands. For as annoying as being crushed to death at your favourite band is, or not being able to get within 50 yards of a stage or even inside a tent, it undeniably lends each experience with a feeling of passion and of uniqueness, of being present for a life changing event , something everybody around you is just as fired up and desperate for as you.

On the whole the one place where Reading really surpasses Pukkelpop, is in atmosphere. Love it or hate it, the British music fan's unswerving passion for whatever genre of music has won their heart is unbeatable. Nothing gives you the same feeling of having been to a life-changingly awesome gig as being there with 60,000 people all screaming for more along with you.

Less homogeneous and with far more hard core music fans, Reading's punters can be in some way sorted into the pre-university set, the musos, the rockers and the festival diehards. Indeed, the festival was packed as ever and full of kids who don't look old enough to get into most gigs, mostly just fresh form GCSEs or A-levels and absolutely ready for the action and the next big thing. Musically, this means they were all trying to get into the Carling Stage when Kate Nash played, and it was so full you could hardly see the stage, let alone get within 50 feet of the tent. Tea cloth scarf wearing boys swung from the tent ropes vying for a better look and groups of girls in threes giggled and waved the flags that had been stra-



Raise your hands if you can see the sun

tegically left around. The mood was happy and like most of her songs, triumphant. It's a slice of 'the kid's' world, but it was not thankfully, the main vibe and trend permeating the festival

Bands that had been good at Pukkelpop just blew your mind at Reading. Nine Inch Nails were tremendous and the Pumpkins set and light show was a real spectacle. The artists feed off the crowd and that in itself helps make the shows so good. This year Read-

ing did it's best to be as music forward as possible and featured a new stage, The Alternative Stage, which took over the Comedy Tent on the Saturday night from about 7pm. The Stage was curated by Transgressive Records, a small yet mighty force in new indie music right now. Bands from their label as well as peers in the audio visual world gave the modest but eager crowd who made it over a feast for the eyes and ears. Jeremy Warmesley, Battle and

played with Three Caged Tigers being a top highlight of the evening. Reading Festival will always have a place in my heart as it took my festival virginity and has delivered me some of the most rocking moments in my band loving and gig watching life. Pukkelpop was a fantastic voyage into a world of super awesome festival sound and clean camping. But the dirt and the grime and the down right rock and roll wins every time... Long Live Reading!



Billy Corgan of Smashing Pumpkins and Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, shortly before destroying the stage



Nightlife

Nightlife Editor – Greg Mead

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Gregory Mead Nightlife Editor

Hello! And welcome to Imperial College if you're a new fresher, and congratulations on not failing all your exams if you're a returning student. My many regular readers will know that this page is the place to come if you're interested in a great night out, so I suggest you cast an eye over them, if you're new, I'll introduce myself. I'm Greg, your friendly nightlife editor. I make these beautiful pages you are stroking with your eyes, if you cast your eyes upwards, that's a photo of me. Regular readers will notice it's not my usual picture so feel free to cut it out to add to your collection/pin board/wallet.

Now, those who are new to London I suggest you don't go straight out and take a load of drugs and rave for the next six weeks. I'm going to take a U-turn on my usual jaded opinion of the Union and suggest that you check out as many freshers events as you can. Even if you think they are a bit cheesy for your tastes, they are a really great way of making new friends, and are much more suitable for chatting about what A levels you took, what school you went to and why you didn't choose Oxbridge than a pumping 3000 capacity club miles away from College.

Anyway, enough with the patronising. Once you've settled in, made some friends you'll be ready to go out and sample the delights of London, and there are lots. Read our wonderful article to the right for some starting points, and check out our regular page for reviews, interviews and previews on all things nightlife. You could always enter our regular competitions for a chance to win a free night out!

Now all I need to say, is enjoy freshers week and good luck for this year.

Welcome to London, newbies

Congratulations, you've moved into what is arguably the best city in the universe for clubbing, music and general nocturnal activities, so here are some suggestions

Gregory Mead

Since you may have just joined IC, and not be from London, or even from the UK, then we've been kind enough to write a little list of club nights we might visit throughout the week, either because they are good or cheap. Either way, I suggest that if you don't like Indie or Electro then destroy this article now.

Monday

It's the start of the week, so what better day to start your week of excess, we suggest DURRR at The End, run by the lovely ex Trash DJs (Where Erol Alkan made his name) Here, you'll hear a delightful mix of post-punk, old (real) indie and pumping hard electro. You will be swiftly removed from the queue unless your clothes and musical taste are up to standard (fashion show Indie).

Tuesday

Ignore that hangover from last night, and make your way over to The Roxy on Rathbone Place for Panic! a perfect student type Indie/Electro night sure to please all but the most snobbish of you with £1.50 drinks all night.

Wednesday

Venture over to Notting Hill for Death Disco, with Dan McGee at the Notting Hill Arts Club, get there before 8pm and you'll get in for free, which coincides with the start of happy hour. Expect to hear an eclectic mix of Indie, Post-Punk, and a bit of Electro. They also have live bands.

Thursday

Get over to Candybox at Moonlighting, if you fancy a horrible night of Indie cheese. The questionable choice of music is balanced by the £1.00 house



Reach for the lasers, it's time to rave. Make the most of it before you die from your extreme workload

spirit and mixers, so turn up with £20 and leave totally wasted.

Friday

You absolutely must go to And Did We Mention Our Disco (See article below) at Hub Club in East London, simply the coolest electro/disco party in town, they regular host nights with the likes of Justice, 2ManyDJs, Headman, Erol Alkan and many many more. Hub club is a London Met student bar, so the drinks are very cheap too. Get there early.

Saturday

Afterskool, the best student Indie

club night in London, hosted at LSE's student union is a great option, the DJ's are good and the drinks are quite cheap. Other options include irregular club nights at The Barfly (live bands) and maybe something good at the Union, if you're very very lucky.

Sunday

Sleep, or do some work (hah!).

If these suggestions don't tickle your fancy, then have a look at our wonderful list of competition prizes we've got to giveaway on the next page, they could give you some inspiration.

We suggest though, that you go out and explore this wonderful town, who knows, you may discover something

that nobody else knows, such as the most awesome club in the world. Grab some flyers on a night out, that'll give you some ideas. Around Old Street, in East London is a great place to find up and coming events, it's packed full of cool cafes and bars with millions of flyers on display, they play good music and are a great place to hang out before heading off for a heavy night out on the town.

If you're into extreme raving till your brain explodes of lack of water/overheating/other, then warehouse parties are probably your thing, look out in *Felix* for previews of the our favourites, they are a great night out, and usually allow you to bring your own drinks!

Now go forth, and party.

Our Disco is back. Again!

Our Disco is back! No, we don't mean *Our* Disco, we mean *And Did We Mention Our Disco*, also briefly known as *And We Didn't Mention Our Disco*. Confused? Good, now pay attention.

This was literally the best club night in the entire world (along with Bugged Out) before it was savagely kicked out of its long standing home at Plastic People.

It made a few awesome appearances at Canvas and it has now settled into a new home at Hub Club in East London, boasting an awesome sound system, ultra cheap booze and a constantly great lineup, you couldn't ask for anything more on a Friday night.

Regular readers of *Felix* Nightlife are probably getting bored of us going on about this place, but we don't care because we're the editors and we decide what goes in, not you!

Make sure you get there early for a big name night, it always sells out fast. Check out www.ourdisco.com for further information and lineups.



Here is a lovely photo we took at a previous Our Disco. Isn't it nice?

Nightlife needs you!

Felix Nightlife needs new writers and an assistant editor!

If you want free entry to clubs and events in London, and are capable of stringing a few words together in English, then you can be a reviewer or editor! No experience is needed to join. Just email us or visit Felix at Freshers' Fair.

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Is all gloom doom?

What do you do when you fall in love? How about when you lose your job, your boyfriend and your house? Feeling Gloomy?

Honey Monroe

From the moment you get into Feeling Gloomy club night at the Carling Islington Academy you know that, as famously over quoted by the Labour Party, things can only get better. And that means that however pissed off, heartbroken, broke or just generally pissed off you feel it won't be long before you have drowned your sorrows in some cheap vodka Red Bull and are ready to get over to the dance floor and throw some crazy shapes.

Be careful on entering to tell the girl at the box office which night you have come for as the Academy also hosts a cheesy Essex girls and hen party filled night called Le Grande Fromage, and to be honest, if you felt your life was in the gutter you'd be wishing it was over if you chanced to find yourself in that room.

Feeling Gloomy is anything but a dour night out and I have to say, in a modern world where more and more frighteningly I leave indie establishments on their regular indie nights thinking I may just have left a twilight zone version of Top of The Pops, the sound track is genuinely indie alternative and full of people who genuinely love indie alternative and rock and roll. Not to say there isn't a decent smattering of the greatest hits of new rave and electro, but they are kept in their place by DJ's Leanord and Cliff who really know how to get the audience to party and enjoy themselves. This place has no shame, because as Beth Ditto recently told a London crowd at The Forum, there is no shame in having a good time tonight.

So you won't find girls and guys that are all hair, bright tights, tight jeans and big shoes standing around and looking cool, but you will find the coolest mot-



Man dies of Nu-Rave poisoning

ley crew of music lovers letting their hair down to forget their troubles and really move to their favourite tunes. I went with my sister to the club night's 2nd birthday and there was cake and nibbles, a fun loving crowd, an air guitar band 'The Miserablists' and free T-shirts for everyone at the end of the night. We danced and we laughed and we did air guitar, chatted to some nice people, some drunk people, some very random people and danced with whoever was shakin' their thing our way. It was probably the most fun I have had in ages and the least self-conscious or overly self aware place, great for people like me who rarely get up and dance so readily.

The Bar Academy, where the night lends itself really well to the vibe, being small enough to get to know people's faces over the night and get from the dance floor to smoking area round the back without too much strife. Not too

hot and not too long a wait at the bar and the toilets were clean enough. And not a bad price at £5 entry for students on the door and £3.50 in advance online.

Plus, on most nights they have 'Speed Hating' where you can rant for three minutes to someone you have just met in return for listening to their rants afterwards. Perfect.

If you are looking for a place to kick loose, jump around to The Smiths and Pulp, scream along to Total Eclipse of The Heart and the like, then this really is for you.

If these days it seems we are all meant to feel grateful rave has been so colourfully revived and everybody around you seems to be underage or to have fallen out of a box of Hoxton lookalikes, then salvation is close at hand.

Saturdays at the Academy we thank God for Rock and Roll and reasons to feel less gloomy.

Album launches galore

The End goes mad and hosts two album launches at once. **Layo & Bushwacka!** and **Will Saul** take over next Saturday

Changes are afoot at Olmeto. Layo & Bushwacka's superb monthly party is The End's flagship Saturday night, and throughout 2007, Olmeto has set aside AKA for the sumptuous sounds of Will Saul and his label Simple Records. However, from September onwards, they mix things up with Will and guests taking care of The End's lounge, whilst Layo & Bushwacka! continue to flex their muscles in the main room. Into AKA goes Freerange, a label much loved by both the Olmeto and Simple chiefs. Freerange head honcho Jimpter will be bringing his label's deep and melodic sounds, plus specially selected guests, to AKA each and every month.

After a month bedding into the new format, October's Olmeto takes on special significance with the night acting as a vehicle to launch not one, but two major albums. First up in the main room, Layo & Bushwacka! will be marking the release of their first mix album in nearly four years. Global Underground – champions of the mix



Here they are, waiting to pleasure your aural system

album format with a back catalogue that reads like a DJ Allstars list – have bestowed the honour of mixing the latest instalment, 'Global Underground Rio', upon the pair. As with all GU albums, it's a two-disc affair, and as with their last mix album 'All Night Long', the boys wanted to represent both the old and the new. CD1 represents the finest music of the past 20 years with many

personal favourites from the likes of Ellis D, Francois K and Lil' Louis, whilst CD2 covers the very best of their current sets, taking in tracks from cutting edge talent such as Phonique, Tiga, Guy Gerber and Henrik Schwartz. Joining Layo & Bushwacka! in the main room is one of Germany's most exciting new talents, Daso, who will be performing one of his wild live shows.

Competitions galore

Oh my freaking God look at the prizes we've got for you this week! You'd better enter, I had to do unspeakable things to get hold of these.

Simply email us saying which prize you would like, and why!

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Fabric Week!

Two double passes over 3 nights for a special Fabric week in October. You'll see **LCD Soundsystem** playing a special DJ set on Thursday October 25, **True Playaz** night on the Friday (26th), and then the usual Fabric stylings on the Saturday the 27th. See www.fabriclondon.com for more info.

Album Launch at The End

One double pass for the Layo & Bushwacka! album launch and the Will Saul Simple Sounds mix launch, both on Saturday 6th October, PLUS a copy of each album! See article for more info.

Halloween at Turnmills

Three double passes for the Together Halloween fancy dress special at Turnmills with Groove Junkies, SebastiAn and more on Saturday 27th October.

The Synergy Project

One double pass for The Synergy Project at SeOne on Friday 5th October. A huge event, over nine rooms, you'll hear Psytrance, IDM, Hi-NRG, and all other forms of electronic music as well as spectacular visuals and even cakes. See website for more information: www.thesynergyproject.org

Egg Club

One double pass on Friday 28th September for **ALWAYZ FRYDAZE** at Egg Club. Listen to club and funky house all night long.

felix needs you!



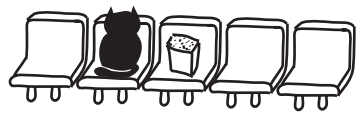
Felix is written by students for students. We need your contributions so that we can report on news stories and keep everybody entertained during the most arduous of lectures.

Felix needs an **army of staff writers** with the freedom to write for whichever section they feel like that week. Get involved. Come down to the office and play table football in the **West Wing of Beit Quad**.

More specific roles required are:

- **News reporters** to get out and about on the prowl
- **Feature writers** to research and create unique articles
- **Crossword setters** to set cryptic or quick crosswords
- **Design editors** to lay out lovely looking pages
- **Comment columnists** to rant, rave and write entertaining pieces
- **Food and fashion contributors** to enlighten people
- **Copy editors** with an eagle-eye for grammar mistakes to form part of a crack team

Come and see us at **Freshers' Fair next to the Queen's Tower**. Don't worry if you miss us, you can always email: **felix@imperial.ac.uk**



Film

Film Editor – Alex Casey

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Much more than just a Flighty Tart

She's back and she's black, but does Angelina still have the acting chops to pull off Mariane Pearl's story?

A Mighty Heart ★★★★★

Director: Michael Winterbottom
Writers: John Orloff, Marianne Pearl

Cast: Angelina Jolie, Archie Panjabi

Alex Casey
Film Editor

A year ago, this was perhaps the most talked about film going into production but now that it's finally released, it has slipped under the radar a bit. Whether it was controversy over Angelina being "blacked up" to play mixed race Mariane Pearl or whether it was the world shifting into its orbit around, eugh, Brangelina, early pictures were everywhere and the focus was immediately taken from the powerful true life story itself.

In a move so typical of the celebrity worshipping world of today, Angelina's story grabbed the limelight while the courageous story of Mariane Pearl whose husband, journalist Daniel Pearl was captured and beheaded by a Pakistani militant group, was pushed to the back. Months on and Brad and Angelina are old news while their take (with Brad as producer) on the Pearls' story gets a chance to shine. But the main problem is the film doesn't fit well in the cinema mould.

It's a deeply personal story, one

woman's struggle to find her husband in Karachi whilst heavily pregnant and is based on Mariane's memoirs of the tragic events. Here the story is out of Mariane's hands and, whilst dealt with skillfully, doesn't quite keep an audience hooked for the running time. The problem with taking such a recent story is the intrusiveness of the whole thing makes an audience feel like uncomfortable voyeurs and whilst Mariane is not one-dimensional, the story is fundamentally hopeless and would better suit a documentary than a dramatisation.

Saying that, were it not for the dramatisation, it would be without Angelina's performance which should quieten critics and replace "actress" on her CV alongside "publicly vilified scarlet woman". Her accent holds up and her performance is not based in tears and dramatics like it could have easily been directed. She plays a stronger woman than that and does so with conviction, whether or not it was right to cast her when many mixed race actresses would have killed for a role like this. The fact that boyfriend Brad was producing doesn't imply a large search went on for the best actress for the role but it would have been much easier to bring the race card down had she not carried it off. As it stands however, Jolie seems capable of getting that edge back, and with her turn in *Beowulf* approaching it's hard to see her signing on for *Tomb Raider 3*.



Jolie goes back to school and learns how to act again...

Where a movie star begins and ends

Stefan Carpanu goes in search of something beyond a star to explore the great charm of Charlize Theron

Most Hollywood actors are the same nowadays, right? Big bucks, tonnes of fame, good physiques, on occasion even talent – all the prerequisites needed to be a "star". But of course, stars shine up on the sky only because light is shed upon them and while we may still see them during clear nights, they might have actually died out years ago. The question is, what can an actor do to redeem himself from the infectious disease called Hollywood and its utterly commercial aspects before it's too late?

Charlize Theron is just one of several examples which show how being a Hollywood star must not necessarily imply that you have to sell out on all your values.

Born 1975 and raised in a small farm community in South Africa, Theron's childhood automatically sets her apart from most Hollywood actors. Beside the fact that she was born in a country where a profound humane crisis was taking place, Theron witnessed her father's death at the hands of her mother – in self defence – at the age of fifteen. Just one year later, she moved out on her own to pursue a modelling career in Milan. A trip to the US and several painstaking years into the future, Theron is discovered by an agent while yelling her lungs out at a bank in Los Angeles.

The year 1996 marked her first major role in a film co-starring James Spader,



What's that coming over the hill? It's no Monster

Two Days in the Valley, a rather ludicrous but fun picture about money, murder and vendettas. In years to come, Theron kept being type-cast as the beautiful, bitter/sweet blonde who always managed to get herself (or someone else) into trouble.

Of course, Hollywood only acknowl-

edged her work once she did a complete makeover of herself for *Monster* (2003), a performance which saw her garner not only heaps of praise, but also an Academy Award for Best Leading Actress (she was nominated again for *North Country*, in 2005). You might think at this point that perhaps it was

time for Miss Theron to more carefully choose the films she accepts to star in and it would only make sense, after she herself said in an interview something along the lines that 'she'd never be able to go back to doing something ordinary again' after the experience of making *Monster*. *Aeon Flux* and *Head*

in the Clouds, two films extremely different in most regards, but similar in terms of cinematic experience (unsatisfying, to say the least) came as quite a blow to both Theron's own words and most people's expectations.

Yet, it would be erroneous to say nothing has changed. The roles taken up in *North Country*, *Monster*, even *Head in the Clouds*, show a penchant for deeper, more complicated and in the same time more heroic characters, for people who stand out in an adverse society. Theron just recently produced a film called *East of Havana*, a documentary about three young rappers in Cuba, and her next three pictures are themed around human drama (*Ferris Wheel, In the Valley of Elah*) or social activists (*Battle in Seattle*). The fact that she's signed on for the sequel to *The Italian Job* only shows that, in the end, it's still Charlize Theron we're talking about, an adventurous, beautiful woman of the 21st century.

So what does it take to gain immunity from the Hollywood virus? Well, it takes self-consciousness, and while most stars nowadays go for a "greener" lifestyle and mime social awareness, it's still rare to find someone who actually looks at the world and aims to become an integral part of it. Charlize Theron, although she's still got a long road ahead, is venturing herself in becoming more than just a product in the film industry.



New term, new trends, new style

London is the new New York, apparently. Let that thought comfort you as you hand over the cash for a £6 sandwich. Although there are many things about London that suck; expensive food, tourists swarming the pavements, the tube. At least London's got style. Well, not the chavs walking around the outskirts of London. But in the pretentious arty parts; East London & Soho.

Agyness Deyn is the clichéd example of edgy london style. Clichéd but still ridiculously in fashion. Steal some of her style by wearing a colourful hoodie under a leather jacket. Completing this look are skinny jeans, which are still in! Anyone who says otherwise is someone too fat or old to wear them who's just wish fulfilling. But black

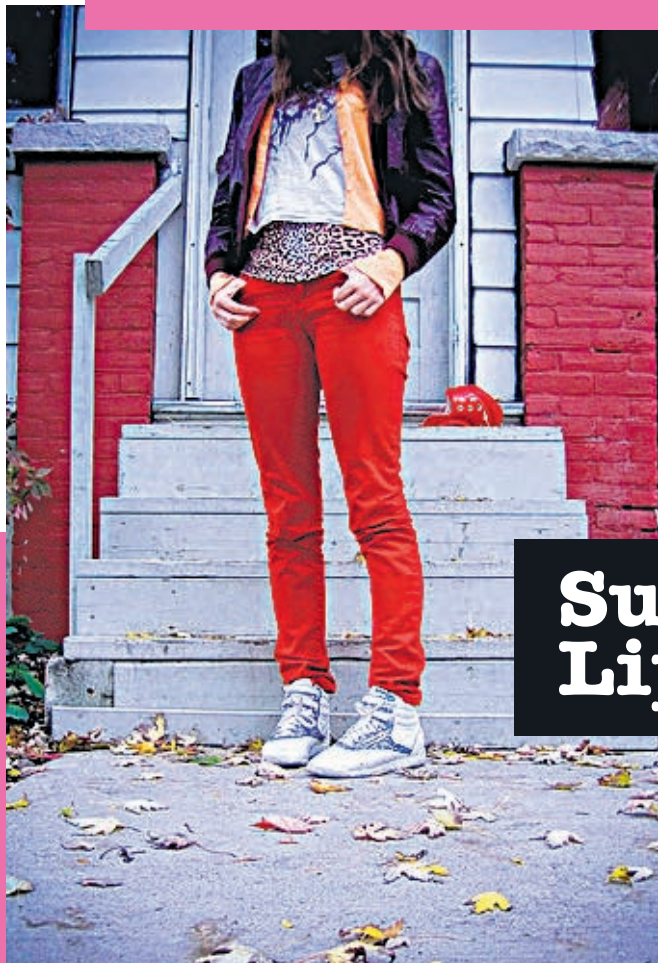
skinnies are tired, and the new thing is a pair of classic blue skinnies. Worn exquisitely by skinny indie/emo/nu-rave/whatever guys with white hi-tops. Superdry do a good version, although you may have to sacrifice the circulation in your legs.

A great look for going out is either coloured tights with patent black shoes, or opaque black tights with fluorescent shoes. Opaque coloured tights are better than sheer, which can give the illusion of being some sort of alien-human hybrid.

In make-up think simple pops of colour. Bright lipstick is hot, especially John Saunderson's new collection for 17, which includes hot pink and fluorescent red.

The No. 1 trend which will pop up in seasons to come is flashes of super-bright colour!

Leather Jackets



Super-bright Lipstick

SuperSuper Magazine



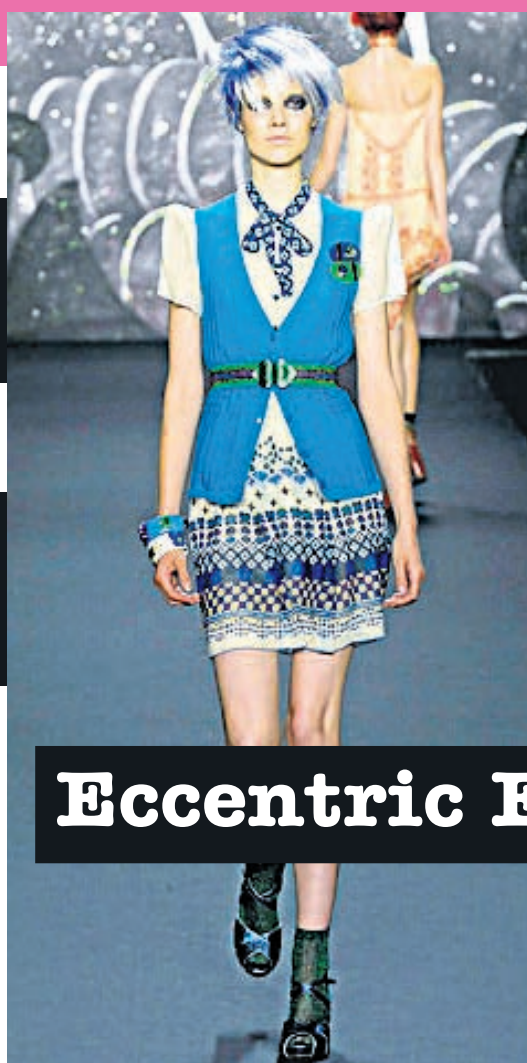
Coloured Tights



Super-bright shoes



Eccentric English Style



Felix Fashion needs contributors. Can you write in English about things tenuously linked to fashion? Email: fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

London Fashion Week gets ethical

From organic cotton Tees to fairtrade shoes, eco-fashion was the word on everyone's lips at LFW

Katherine Hamnett's back with her ground-breaking statement T's. Tackling issues as diverse as war, religion and the environment, these classic boyish T-shirts have been seen on everyone from Lily Cole to Liz Hurley. They're available online or from most Urban Outfitters stores.

Save the Rainforest T-shirt £40
www.katherinehamnett.com



This gorgeous printed leather bag is handmade in Nepal by survivors of the human trafficking industry. It's even got dinky posckets inside to hold your mobile phone.

Large Sage Green Flower bag £49.95
www.getethical.com



Following their successful collaboration with Katherine Hamnett, the Environmental Justice Foundation has teamed up with reknowned designers Betty Jackson, Luella Bartley and Christian Lacroix to create 3 exclusive T-shirts. The EJF works to highlight the hazardous conditions cotton farmers face- all proceeds from the sale of these items supports their campaign work.

Luella T-shirt £30
www.ejfoundation.org



People Tree is one of the best-established ethical brands around. All its clothes are 100% Fair Trade throughout manufacture (and 100% wearable). Look out for it's new Capsule Collection tailored to the needs of today's fashion crowd. It's available online and in Topshop's flagship store in Oxford Circus.

Pleat Dress £85
www.peopletree.co.uk



Kate in Junky Styling
www.junkystyling.co.uk

Hannah Theodorou

I don't know why it's so exciting when the ticket to London Fashion Week drops into my inbox. The word fashion seems to grate nerves at the moment – disposability seems to be the key with everyone from Primark to Asda spewing out catwalk copies at rock bottom prices. Primark sold a quarter of a million military jackets in 2005 while Tesco sells 30,000 pairs of £3 jeans a week. Charity shops can no longer deal with the rate at which items are turning up at their doorstep, some of which are unworn. These cheap items are hard to shift however – when people can buy them for next to nothing at the supermarket next door few want to rummage through overburdened rails at Oxfam. The rate at which these unsellable items are turning up on the doors of charity shops is unprecedented – the fact that charity shops are turning clothes away is a sign of the bad shape the industry is in. When clothes aren't on rails or in wardrobes they end up in landfill.

All these reasons and more mount up to the reason I am tired of seeing the Victorias and Paris' flaunting the latest trend. And why I applaud those who appreciate a good investment when they see one. Why buy 5 soon-to-be-binned items at £5 a pop from Primark when the same can be spent on a versatile organic T-shirt which will see you through at least the next 4 seasons? It's time to question how we can buy jeans for £3 when we know the people who made them were bullied into making them for next to nothing.

When I trotted round the exhibition stands at LFW in my never-out-of-fashion because it was never in fashion dress and vintage boots it was interesting to see how people responded when they saw the title "FELIX – THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE" emblazoned under my name if I had forgotten to strategically cover it (mental note – must get last section removed for February). Most screwed up their nose and feigned an interested smile while they peered over my head for Vogue's style editor instead. Not so at Esthetica, the Ethical fashion exhibition now in its third run

at LFW. It showcases designers who have put thought into more than just securing their place at the front of the fashion pages. That's not to say they're not worth a fashionista's attention. The brands featured have been seen on the likes of Lily Cole, Liz Hurley, Keira Knightly and Natalie Portman. They've all earned their place at the Esthetica kstands through attention to things like the source of their materials, the rights of the people who made them and how long they will stay in a person's wardrobe before being turfed out.

Leading the crowd was Katherine Hamnett whose iconic T-shirts have been making headlines for years. Each 100% organic cotton top is made in India where workers receive a fair wage. So if you think 'Leaders Suck' or that you should 'Choose Life' head down to Urban Outfitters or visit her website to get your hands on one.

Highlighting the hazards of the cotton industry, The Environmental Justice Foundation campaigns for safer working conditions for cotton growers. Cotton makes up 40% of world fibre consumption, but it is also one of the dirtiest. Its heavy reliance on hazardous chemicals poisons farmers, soil and water.

Other brands such as 'From Somewhere', 'Worn Again' by Terra Plana and 'Gary Harvey' work almost entirely with recycled materials giving a new lease of life to factory leftovers and candy wrappers. Now there's food for thought.

Fancy mingling with the fashion crowd? And perhaps stocking up on a few freebie samples... We're thinking of holding our very own Ethical Fashion Show with some of the brands featured here. If you'd like to get involved in organising the event email ic.esoc for more details.

All that glitters makes up the best of the rest

Dolly Delaney

This winter the catwalks are all pointing towards the masculine office suits, military coats and the strong silhouette. With all the male orientated apparel gracing our wardrobes, the only way to keep your look from drowning in testosterone is to add a few choice pieces of bling. London Fashion Week was the perfect platform for budding jewellery designers to exhibit their wares. Alex Munroe was the clear winner when it came to elaborate design. Inspired by his love for wildlife, the Autumn/Winter collection is a must for anyone who wants a little bit of the great outdoors, in their small indoors.

Clara Francis is another designer to look out for. Her innovative use of beads to form various animals as necklaces, which not only look chic but also modern, is something that I thought couldn't be done. The ex-West End

performer decided to teach herself old beading techniques, during the long gaps between performances. Francis' collections have recently featured in Elle, Cosmopolitan and Vogue.



Heart Locket Necklace £150
www.alexmunroe.com



Tiny Bird Earrings £72
www.alexmunroe.com



Hummingbird necklace £85
www.clarafrancis.co.uk



Games

Games Editors – Azfarul Islam and Sebastian Nordgren

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Heavy & Friends
Temporary Editors

Greetings, folks. It's the Team Fortress 2 team here, personified by a mystery editor while this year's Games team gets themselves into formation. What have we got for you this year? Nothing. Because we're fictional. Even if you *can* do a hilarious impression of The Heavy.

However, Felix Games has a lot in store for you this year. We've missed some of the biggest releases of the year during Summer – Team Fortress 2's beta is well underway, Halo 3 comes out the day this first issue goes to press, BioShock has already split opinion across the gaming world, and Super Paper Mario finally found his way onto the Wii.

And there's more to come – Portal and Episode 2 will follow Team Fortress 2's official release this October, there's the fallout from Halo 3's multiplayer impact on the scene, as well as the usual Christmas rush that'll be packed full of games you want, but can't afford, and then buy anyway and go without food for a month. It's the way of the gamer.

For those new to Imperial, and for those whose memories of last year are hazy, Felix Games would love writers. We want anyone who's able to put pen to paper – you don't need to be well-established journalists, you just need to have a passion for gaming and a willingness to take criticism. If you'd like to write features, comment pieces, reviews or other stuff for us, drop us a line on the email address at the top of this page.

We're hoping to branch out this year. Not us personally, obviously, because of the fictional thing still, but the section as a whole. We want gamers from every walk of life to take part in Felix, to keep things interesting and arrange events for us. We'll still be working closely with Imperial's Computer Games Club (CGC) to keep you abreast of their upcoming tournaments, and we might even get some gaming sessions of our own arranged.

However you're playing this Winter, we hope Felix Games has something to offer you. If there's something you want to see more of, or if you're sick of the sight of something we're doing already, please email us and tell us. We might be too busy playing Halo 3 until our eyes dry up, but someone will eventually read it and do something about it.

As for the guys here, we're off to 2Fort to call people nubs and shout pewpewpew whilst generally spamming and pissing everyone off to the highest degree possible. You might be familiar with our work in every single online game, ever. We hope you enjoy it here too.

See you online. Normal service will be resumed next issue.

Good Doctor! Good!

‘Alo, ‘Alo, ‘Alo, What's This?

Azfarul Islam peers through gold-tinted visors, and pines for Mountain Dew

“Stop killing me you [censored] noob!”

The grand finale of a coveted franchise, millions of fans in the making and presumably more spent in marketing will have culminated in that one sialoquent outburst hissing through your standard issue Xbox Live headset.

Halo 3 has arrived riding upon one the largest proverbial waves of hype and fervour easily surpassing that of *Metal Gear Solid 2* when it wowed gamers oh-so long ago.

But the thing is, in recent years, flagship titles have become so much than videogames; they're standard bearers of the interactive medium, they represent financial gains exceeding those of other forms of media and more significantly, they are the deities of the new wave of culture.

For newcomers and hardcore, beer-chugging *Live* acolytes alike, let us look upon the raison d'être of Microsoft's entire games division, *Halo 3*.

Anyone with sufficient spelling skills and functioning fingers will already have browsed the necessary information pertinent to the world of Halo at their local Google search. We'll save the rest of you the trouble by summarising the basic gist of the series.

Halo is the veritable *Stars Wars* of the thumbstick generation. A science-fiction space opera of suitably epic proportions, Halo places you in a world where the human race is, quite frankly, getting their asses handed back to them by an (painfully) obviously technologically advanced kindred of aliens called the *Covenant*. To combat this threat, the free peoples of the world unleash the *Master Chief* – a genetically enhanced soldier destined to scrape Covenant entrails from his military-issue Spartan boots. His overture adventure landed him on the strange ring-world of the titular Halo where he battled the alien threat, made some startling discoveries and found a group of repugnant failed experiments called the Flood. In the end, he somehow managed to destroy the sinister artifact but the fight was only beginning... The second escapade saw the Master Chief return to defend Earth against the Covenant blitzkrieg. Fans were also surprised that the Chief's story was one part of a dichotomy that would become a point of dissent for many. The other half of the story was proffered by the Arbiter, one of the Covenant Elites who discovers that his side are suffering from severe family dysfunction. Combined, they weaved a narrative that impressed the wide-eyed and presumably drew all-knowing chuckles from anyone who bothers to watch the news. That's Halo in a (somewhat ripped apart) nutshell.

Where



There's subtlety, and then there's a genetically-enhanced supersoldier with half an army in his backpack

does this leave us with Halo 3? Upon the precipice of a great battle, one that is critical in determining the fate of the human race. The apocalyptic revelation about the true nature of the Halos doesn't make things easier to swallow. If you've been living under a rock, the Halos are basically the planetary equivalents of WMDs (yes, I went there)... the only difference is that they actually exist... and there are *six* of them remaining. Yikes.

Criticism aside, Halo's storyline comes across as an inspiring, epic escapade, snugly entrenched within an intriguing universe of its own creation. Despite having the depth of the common garden hose (same colour, too), the laconic, resilient Master Chief is veritably an All-American™ icon of liberty and fraternity, with equality being damned to heck. He's an elite soldier after all.

From a gameplay perspective, Halo has made significant contributions to the shooter genre, al-

beit in some cases thrusting previously used mechanics into the limelight and making them seem fresh and new. Thanks to Bungie, shooters after Halo can boast the strategic armament of only two weapons, re-charging shields/life bars and a general broadening of the FPS spectrum. These changes have allowed for enjoyable shifts in pacing and strategy, and to be honest, we're all the more better for it. Significantly, the design of the combat in Halo gives weight to the characters, making them tangible targets in space rather than erratically spasmodic polygon models that curse so many other games. FPS titles of the current ilk are strongly indebted to the evolutionary, and oft revolutionary, machinations of Halo.

However, all these pale in comparison in light of the multiplayer component. From a offline, limited player experiment in Halo, the second game burst onto the scene with an all-singing, all-dancing multiplayer mode that has become so prominent and pervasive that it is the very definition of online console gaming. Nice.

Even within the offline space,

Halo 2 offered a robust, holistic communal experience that relentlessly entertains three years on. It's fair to say that Halo is a fantastic multiplayer series with a solid single player patch and an entertaining fan-fiction attached.

Bungie have truly transformed a risky business undertaking into an entire culture. Cutting a swathe through the PR excretion that is the current marketing drive of Halo 3, we can see how far and wide the previous titles have taken the Xbox. Not only a significant part of the gaming life of countless university students (moreso in the USA than here), Halo is also the base for one of the most popular *machinama* on the Internet. (Machinama is the art of using videogames to create visual media like shows and films.) *Red vs Blue* completed its century-episode run sometime near the end of June this year. Wildly popular, it was a relatively aimless sitcom that starred a motley crew of personable characters making up either the eponymous Red or Blue teams. Both start out in conflict with each other but soon, things get a little messy and largely hilarious. A film is currently in the making (with myriad setbacks), but the fact that they have *Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson onboard as a producer gives him to the scope and ambition of the project.

Recent nods to the world of Halo are less than savoury boiling down to mass market, shameless advertising ranging from the Master Chief-themed Mountain Dew Game Fuel to a figurine-based montage clearly aimed at swaying the hearts of an impressionable public. There was also the Halo-themed Ferris wheel at the Games Convention in Germany if the pictures online are to be believed and stomachached. However, it's safe to say that fans of the series will overlook these embarrassments and plough on towards their Canaan... and it's really one pilgrimage you wouldn't want to miss as well.

At the end of the day, Halo 3 will go on to break record sales, entrenching itself within the gaming community and finding juxtaposition as a premier videogame, a poster child of the interactive medium. In a year that saw the graceful ending of the similarly gargantuan *Harry Potter* franchise, one wonders what honour awaits the Master Chief.



Beware The Jabberwock, My Son

Michael Cook goes in search of shadows, splicers and scares in Bioshock – and likes what he finds

Reprogramming – alright, *hacking* – is something of a joy for me in Bioshock. It's simple why – no matter what flavour of hell is breaking loose around me, hacking brings everything to a standstill, and propels the players into something reminiscent of the Amiga classic Pipe-Mania. You move some tiles around, the flow of electricity is rerouted around the machine, and the puzzle gets solved. Deep breaths. You're back in the room.

So I leave from hacking my latest conquest beaming, the soft green light and gentle whirring being roughly as close as I can get to an actual friend out here in the godforsaken medical asylum I'm wading through. I notice some bandages lying on the floor, and my health's a little low. Instinctively, I'm down on the ground scratching for them. But there's a second packet just on from that – maybe someone dropped it. Or... *dropped* it.

It doesn't matter, it's all useful – I'm picking it up as I see the third packet. Somewhere in the space between the monitor and my left hand, I remember every episode of Tom and Jerry I ever watched. But by the time I remember what happens to the hapless cat, the door slams behind me, and there's a burst of frothy, white steam. Everything goes pale, I'm blind, and on both sides of the game something screams.

I don't play a lot of 'scary' games. I played the FEAR demo and enjoyed the atmosphere enough, but Half-Life 2's Ravenholm section was mostly charged through, shouting loudly, and the less said about my progress through Doom III, the better. That's partly because I like to think, and I like to shoot, and the aforementioned screaming tends to distract me from these things. But it's also because horror has become manufactured in a lot of 'scary' games. Ravenholm was a city of zombies. That was about as clever as the fear got. And Doom's ingenuity stops short of the main menu screen.

Bioshock's slickness of presentation, and brightness of concept, drew me to purchase it. But in truth, I knew nothing about the game. It's setting sounded dark enough, but I was completely unprepared for how much it tried to scare the player. Somewhere between the brutal murders and drug abuse, I realised this wasn't going to be all sunshine and frolicking. It was going to be the other thing. Tortured botox patients and demonic little girls with hypodermic needles.

But Bioshock's horror is different. It's more natural. It's more subtle. After the steam clears, only two things have changed in the room – which turns out to be a dentist's office – that I notice from before. The first is that a small red box has been placed on a desk. It's a diary entry, and it's next to the genetic power-up I came for. The diary entries – a trademark of Ken Levine, who



New look centrefolds for 2007! Steampunk! Divers! Thinly-veiled Freudian-esque paedophilia! Ban this sick filth now at onlyajoke.felix@ic.ac.uk

designed both Thief and System Shock 2 – are left by many of Bioshock's inhabitants. My favourite – Tenenbaum – records her discovery of the technology that now powers both mine and others' amazing 'gift'. Other diary entries show you the slow degradation of life in the underwater metropolis of Rapture. Some chart the destruction of lives. Failed experiments, broken dreams and occasional flashes of gory fates. They keep you alert, make sure you're never fully settled. The white noise of terror. The background hum of pant-wetting. Even when I'm hacking, they're still playing on.

The second item that's appeared in the room is a corpse on the dentist's chair. It's charred, bloody, and looking a little depressed. Instinctively, I set it alight, leaping around and shouting. But whoever it was, they weren't in a position to complain. And being burnt alive was probably a preferable fate to the death they received anyhow.

I rush over and play the recording. Some doctor is discussing the ethics of his work – something of a thorny discussion, and I later find "First, do no harm" written in blood on the floor. Just as he gets around to talking about art, or flesh, or something, there's a hiss of gas and suddenly I'm sucking white again.

But this time, nothing happens. So when the mist clears, I pick up the Plasmid canister – a powerup for my crazed abilities – and turn around, flexing my muscles and fingering the trigger to my shotgun. As it turned out, I chose the right weapon.

The key is the setting. We're in a city. Admittedly, it's an underwater city populated by crazed, pipe-wielding psychopaths, genetic freaks and Irishmen. And its moral code read like Beezlebub's own suggestion box. But it's still a working city, with real people that have desires and needs, mostly revolving around getting out or surviv-

ing. You're all trapped in Rapture – the will to survive grips the player just as tightly as any of the AI, and so the fear you have of the shadows is twinned with your own exploitation of them. The horror of gene harvesting is mirrored by your own quest for the fuel that powers you.

It's clever, and it's exciting – the fear is a two-way construct. For the first time I can remember, I'm not being put onto a fairground ghost ride. I'm not being told there's scary things ahead. My level of control over the situation determines the balance of the fear. Sometimes it's in my favour. As I spin around to come face to face with a scalpel-wielding surgeon three inches from my face, I realise that now is not one of those times. The trigger snaps close, and the crazed knife jockey gives the room a much needed splash of colour. I try to think of a quip, but nothing comes – no-one's going to hear it but the turrets anyway.

I have high hopes for the future of Horror in videogames, and Bioshock is one of the reasons for it. It doesn't need to jump out at you, but it will. It will do a lot of things, if they're necessary to scare the crap out of you. But these things are always – always – secondary to what the player wants to do. He wants to play. The game builds itself around me, and that's the way it should be. Long after the Orange Box is released, soon now, we'll get a chance to play Valve's Left 4 Dead, a co-op 'Zombie Sim' with a director that tweaks the level to keep the players on their toes.

That's the source of truly terrifying gaming. Not from forcing the player to crawl along the floor, whacking on some violins, and setting off a jack-in-the-box in their face. But from giving the player free rein, and having them know that, however they play, the game will come. And the game will find a way to frighten.

Now there's a scary thought.



Fellwanderers Tour of Mont Blanc

Tim Scarbrough and his fellow fellwanderers go for a quick walk around the base of Mont Blanc and find themselves taking a slight detour on their way

The morning after the end of the undergraduate term heralded the start of the Fellwanderers Summer Tour; our destination: Mont Blanc. To be precise we weren't about to join the thousands to the summit of Europe, but to embark on an entire anticlockwise circumnavigation of the Mont Blanc Massif. The Tour du Mont Blanc would lead us from France into Italy and Switzerland, before reappearing back into France, twelve days and several kilometres later. The TMB is one of Europe's most popular long-distance mountain walks; however with much snow still lying, this was the beginning of the season and the trails would not be full. We planned to camp for the majority of nights to keep costs down, but interspersed with a few refuges for both convenience and comfort.

It was a clear day in Les Houches in the Chamonix valley where nine of us convened at the campsite, surrounded by jaw-dropping snow-capped Alps. By chance, the town festival was that very evening, so our tour kicked off in style with celebrations around an over-zealous bonfire, music and a BBQ.

Day 1 began under blue skies and the group's first (of many) tastes of my pre-mixed cocaine-look-alike Readybrek mix. Col de Voza (1653m) was breached at midday with tremendous views up to the Bionnassay glacier. Fond previous tour memories came flooding back once the mountaineer's lunch of hunks of bread, large blocks of cheese (which featured considerably) and dried sausage were got out. We refuelled at a cool water trough, drenched our caps and refilled our water pistols. During the final stretch along the Montjoie valley Monica was requested to extract the first-aid kit, and it transpired she had brought self-powering

hair-straighteners on tour! A Fellwanderers first!

Day 2 had undecided weather as the trail wound among pastures, rocks and then snow fields to our first serious pass – at 2329m Col du Bonhomme was quite a chilly place. Just before reaching the higher, second pass of the day the weather came in, with thunder threatening us. We successfully navigated off the col through the cloud and practically stumbled on the planned night's refuge appearing eerily out of the mist. We arrived in the nick of time: two minutes later golf ball sized hailstones bombarded the landscape!

The weather had not improved overnight, and day 3 saw two inches of fresh snow. Consequently we took the longer but lower route via Les Chapieux. By mid afternoon we crossed the Col de la Seign (2516m), on the Franco-Italian border, where the weather was a little unforgiving with strong winds. Following the map rather than snow-prints we quickly descended to snow fields, pausing just long enough for Al to plunge head first (with rucksack!) down the slope. We'd intended to camp by the Refuge Elisabetta but with the howling wind and rain/snow, and the option of a dry bed for €17, only Chris was foolish enough to pitch. With an easier day following, the beers flowed (especially in Anna's case).

After Al had finished prancing around in a toga and Anna's hot pants as Party Boy, day 4 included a balcony path, which afforded us excellent views down the valleys Veni and Ferret, and across to the cloud-clad Aiguilles Noir. The path rose and fell over streams, snow fields and past lakes, at one of which we lunched on more local cheese. The campsite that afternoon was sunny and had enough space to play Frisbee! The cold wind after dinner forced us to keep active, right until the frisbee had to be hilariously salvaged from a tree using a telephone pole!



Day 5 was finally the blue skies and sunshine we'd longed for. Once in our supplies town of Courmayeur, siesta put paid to us obtaining supplies, so we were forced to eat ice-cream in the sunshine. Boy, was it tough. Finally stocked up with pasta and more cheese, we began climbing a steep zigzag track amongst the cool shade of trees until Courmayeur was a toy village, 700m below. Rising over a final bluff we had a stunning view of Mont Chéti, and, from the camping ground above a refuge (2000m), finally views of Mont Blanc itself. Just as we set up camp, a farmer drove his cow herd around our tents until we were surrounded!

Day 6 promised fine weather so the alarm was set for sunrise to see Mont Blanc. We reached the peak of Tête Bernade (2534m) for eleven hours and found a suitable patch of snow

for a snowball fight. It had stupendous 360° views to Col de la Seign (crossed on day 3) and onwards to Grand col Ferret (tomorrow's target). Lunch concluded with sledging down a snow field on survival sacks. The climb to the second col was interrupted by our first sighting of an ibex; Wilfred's super zoom lens was quickly put into action. We wandered down Val Malatra and stayed the night in the luxurious Rifugio Bonatti.

Charlie set us a good pace on day 7 along a stunning contouring path above Val Ferret. By midday it was pretty damn hot, not helping the steepness of the climb, so we lunched on a glorious spur with valley and glacial views just below the Grand col Ferret (Swiss-Italian border). The unending descent that afternoon tired us all out, but Honorary Morale Officer Al brought the spirit back to the group with a good ol' sing-song. Tired and weary we arrived at La Fouly in time to meet Matt and Martin who arrived on the bus. We wine and dined out at a restaurant to celebrate the week's achievements thus far and to say farewell to Monica and hello to newcomers.

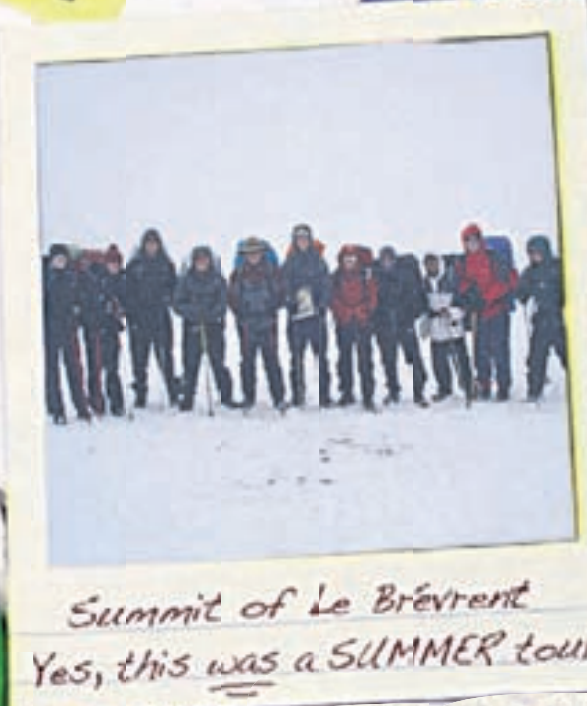
After a rest day and our numbers now swelled to 11, day 9 was an-

other 'easy' route to break the newbies in. At the very serene Champex Lac, and with only the merest hint of sunshine, Al, Dave and Anna couldn't resist a dip, whilst the rest of us explored the extensive local patisserie counter. Once camped at we cooked dinner (which included dried onions, more on these later) and heard that bad weather might thwart the next day's crossing of the Fenêtre d'Arpette.

Day 10. The pre-5am alarm signalled a long day – we would attempt the highest, toughest crossing of the TMB before the weather turned! In the calm morning we made steady progress up the valley, with the view behind improving with every step. It was around this time that the consequences of the previous night's meal were solidifying (or not). The cause of excess flatulence among all members of the party was the inclusion of too many onions in said meal. We were dying an onion death in this windless valley (although it was powering us up the mountain). Al even blew a hole in his shorts. Upon reaching the tour's high point of 2665m we were sadly rewarded with little view and worsening rain. Tired, wet but happy we arrived at Le

Peuty, and sold out to €10 dry beds. There was one remedy for our cold and damp state: we ate custard!

Rain, high winds, snow on the passes and low cloud tempted us to seek alternative transport for day 11. We decided to walk, but some turned back and took transport. On the remaining seven of us got into our stride the rain turned to snow and then to hail. We made it to the refuge at the Col de Balme (2191m) (Franco-Swiss border) and quickly scrambled inside; it was warm, cosy and smelled of tasty vegetable soup. Unfortunately all good things come to an end and we



had to face the blizzard outside. After dusting snow off our bags we stepped up the pace and stomped it down, making record time to reach the planned night's refuge in Montroc, where the others caught up with us.

Sadly Day 12 offered more bad weather, and so the ridge walk was abandoned in favour of a valley walk to Chamonix and a cable car upwards. The gondola and cable car combo ascended us into cloud to Le Brévent at 2525m. Fresh snow was falling and five inches lay on the ground; the group photograph looks more like a winter tour! After snowball fights we gingerly picked our way to the Refuge Bellachat (2150m).

The view from it was magical with the clearing cloud.

The final day began encountering an ibex at close quarters on the trail. It was an incredible sight to see such a large wild mammal fearless of us. On continuing, we descended into lower-lying cloud and the group briefly split, re-meeting further down to all stroll together to the campsite we'd left 13 days before. Now it was time to celebrate! After some beers we ate like kings in a local restaurant. Over dinner it transpired that Chris, the black spot game's instigator, was the one with the spot left in his bag. His forfeit was our entertainment: a streak through the village in Anna's hot pants and bikini whilst chanting pro-environmental slogans.

Completing such a circular route evoked a mixture of emotions – elation of completion that the entire snow and glacier-covered massif has been circumnavigated, but also that after such

a long trip we were still in the same place!

Over the fortnight we'd crossed ten mountain passes, four of those standing at over 2500m, covered 164km of tough terrain, accumulated a height gain of around 8,800m and loss of 10,250m, and all carrying not inconsiderable rucksacks – some over 20kg.

We encountered weather extremes of 30°C sunshine and blizzards to deal with, as well as significant snow fields to cross. Several high-level balcony paths provided feelings of being on top of the world, and for me, although it is difficult to choose, the high level variant route we took on Day 6 was a real highlight – spending the entire day above 2000m, and enjoying panoramic views on top of two summits.

Memories such as this one (and all the rest) will last a lifetime.

Photographs taken by: Wilfred Yung and Charlie Rogers
Designed by Alice Rowlands



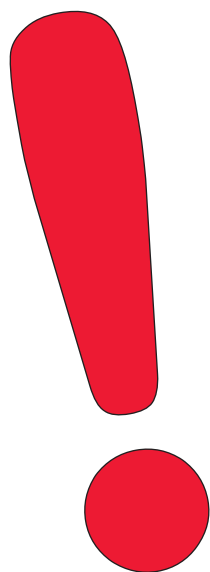
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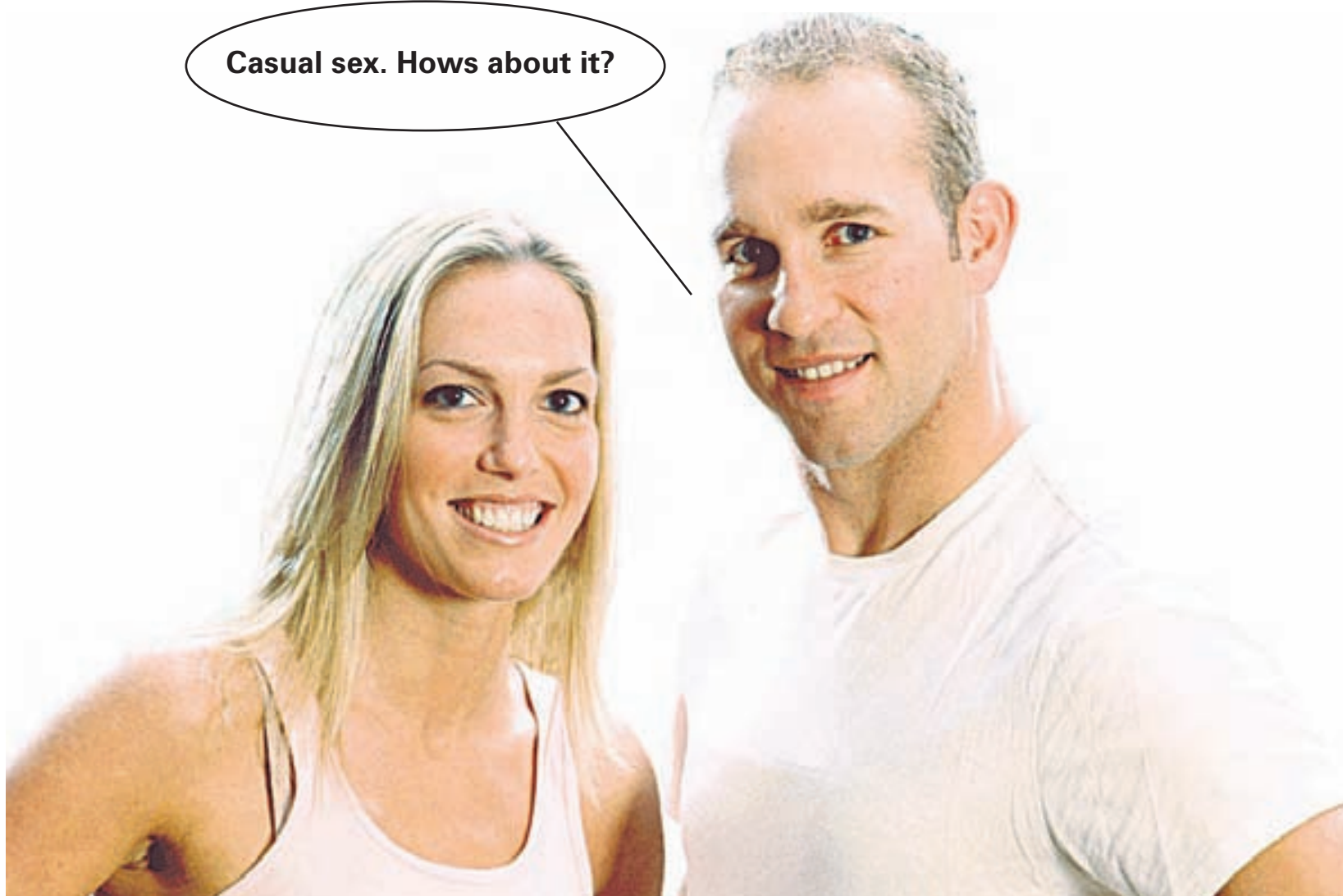
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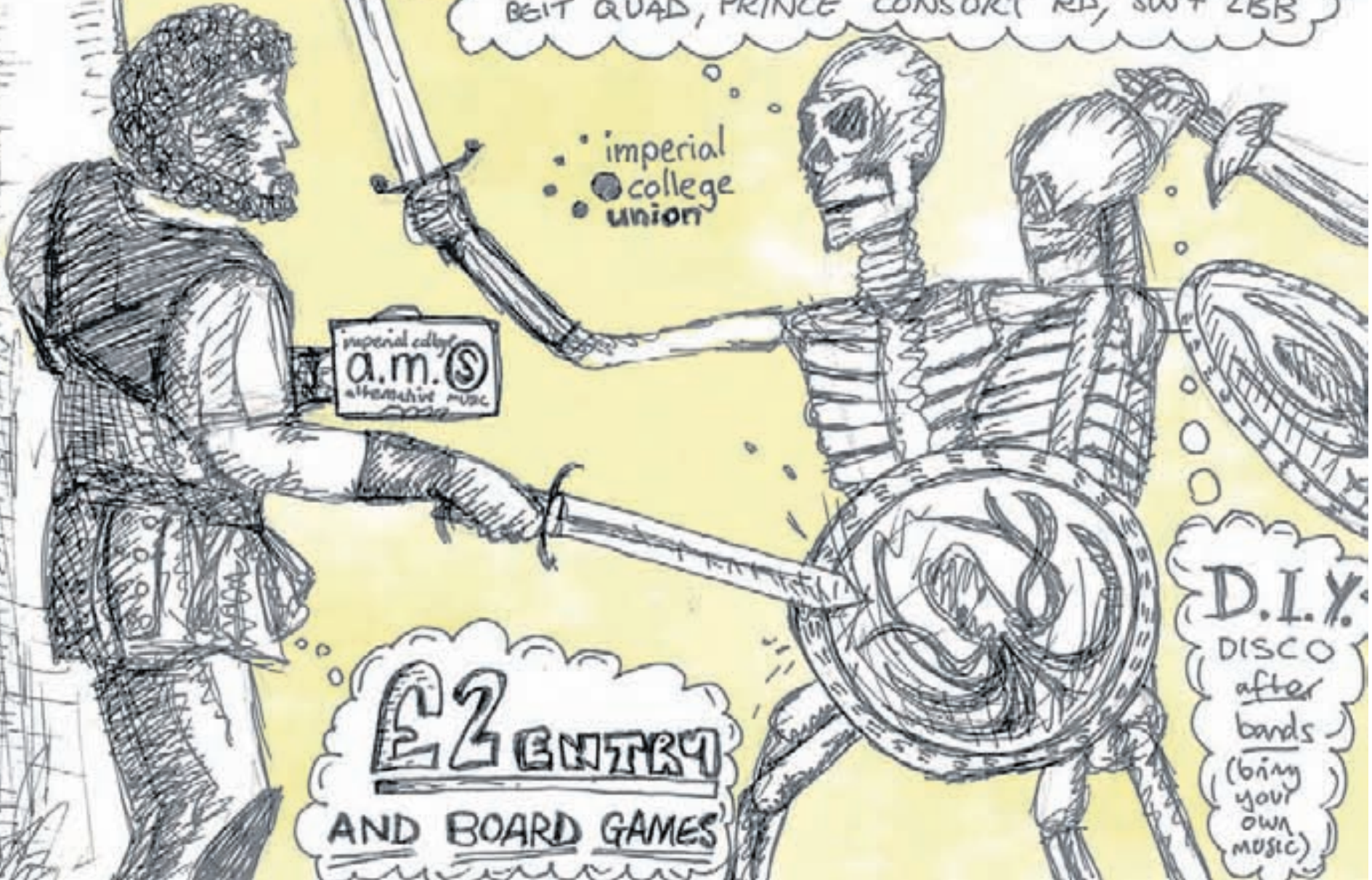
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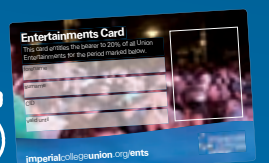
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Wordoku 1,380

	M				Y			
				B	H		A	
A	E		C		M	Y		
		E		M				H
C			Y		E			A
U				C		E		
		Y	T		B		E	M
	B		H	E				
			M				U	

Solution to 1,379

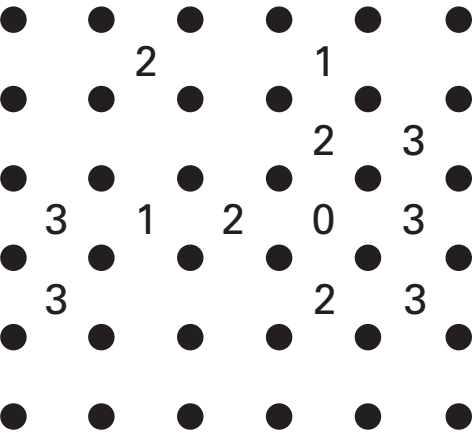
U	G	O	P	H	C	S	M	N
P	M	S	N	G	O	C	H	U
H	N	C	S	U	M	P	O	G
O	H	P	U	N	S	G	C	M
M	U	N	G	C	H	O	P	S
C	S	G	O	M	P	U	N	H
G	P	M	C	S	N	H	U	O
S	O	H	M	P	U	N	G	C
N	C	U	H	O	G	M	S	P

Wordoku is identical to sudoku; we've just replaced the numbers with letters. Once you've completed the puzzle, there is a hidden word to find. Email in your answers to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

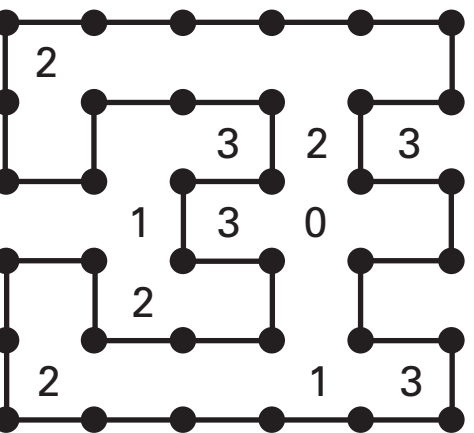
The winner of Wordoku 1,379 was no one. Don't come to the office and pick up your prize.

Slitherlink 1,380

Slitherlink 1 – Normal



Answers for Slitherlink 1*

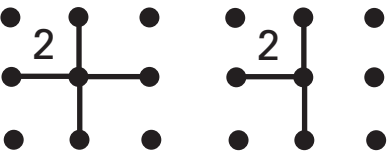


How to play:

Crudely speaking, Slitherlink is similar to Minesweeper mixed with a dash of Sudoku. The object of the game is to draw lines between the dots to create one long, and most importantly, looping line. It should have no start or finish; just like an elastic band. Each number indicates how many lines should be drawn around it, for example:

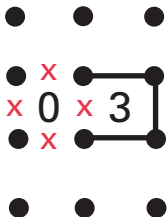


Cells which don't contain a number can be surrounded by any number of lines. Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:

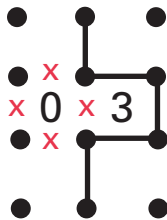


Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink. So, where do you start? The most common place to start on a Slitherlink grid is by drawing crosses around any zeros. Drawing crosses is purely done to so that you know where there can't

possibly be a line. So, take the pattern below as an example. Begin by drawing crosses, then by filling in some lines:



Now the lines can only continue in the following directions:



The Slitherlinks on this page are basic 5x5 grids. Get practising because you can expect some 10x10s later in the term and perhaps even some severe 25x30 grids when we're feeling really mean. Email us to let us know how you got on with these ones. If you're wondering how there can possibly already been an answer to a Slitherlink, it's because Slitherlink 1* was in the Freshers' Issue. So, ner.

H to the o, r, o, sizzle copes – it's the Horoscopes



Aquarius

Before all you fucking pedants start getting in a hissy fit because of the slight error Mike Cook made

last week in the Freshers' Special Issue, take a minute to breathe. So what if he got Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy mixed up. Shit happens. Let's just sweep this one under the carpet and ignore the gigantic bulge.



Taurus

The recent weight you've put on is nothing to worry about, 95 kg is a standard weight for elite sports players.

Although how the extra 3 kg got there from last week is baffling! Just take solace in the fact that there are people that are a lot heavier than you, the majority of which can be found across the Atlantic.



Leo

The Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations had just finished giving a speech, and walked out into the lobby

where he met President Bush. They shook hands, and as they walked the Iranian said, "You know, I have just one question about what I have seen in America. My son watches this show 'Star Trek' and in it there is Chekhov



Scorpio

This week you vomit after kissing a girl at the Mingle. Your vomit begins to consume you and the projectile

liquid consisting of beer and various other booze becomes a capsule for you to fly around the room in. Suddenly your life turns into a reconstruction of the film "Flight Of The Navigator". How fucking cool is that?



Pisces

Getting coffee for people all day is not something to be embarrassed about, someone's got to do it. The fact

that there might be people younger than you working in the office is the worrying thing. At least you're getting some experience and maybe even a career for the future. Mine's a grande mocha when you're ready!



Gemini

Ако разумеете ову реченицу, онда ви сте из Србије! Si vous pouvez lire ceci, vous êtes français!

Wenn Sie dies lesen können, sind Sie deutsch! Se lei può leggere questo, lei è italiano! Si usted puede leer esto, usted es español! If you can't understand any of these, then you're dull!



Virgo

who is Russian, Scotty who is Scottish, and Sulu who is Chinese, but no Iranians. My son is very upset and doesn't

understand why there aren't any Iranians on Star Trek." President Bush laughed, leaned toward the Iranian ambassador, and whispered back, "It's because it takes place in the future."



Sagittarius

Moving house is never easy, especially when you've moved into a new place 3 weeks ago and now have to move to one

of the most dull and boring places on Earth. Its just stupid, all those bloody grid systems and sod all busses or useful pavements, why would you purposefully create such a city. You know the city I'm talking about.



Aries

This week your brand spanking new Arts Editors start work on their first issue. This week your brand spanking

new Arts Editors' work gets deleted, on their first day in the office. This week you offer yourself on a platter for a royal brand spanking because you deserve it for making some many people's lives a living misery.



Cancer

WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT GUY SMOKING?! This is strictly an english language only zone. Some of

the shapes in those weird alphabets look like freshly defecated Alphabeti Spaghetti after I've washed it down with a tall glass of extra-flaming vindaloo sauce, followed by a Flaming Lesbino. This does not amuse me.



Libra

I sense its your birthday, but people will forget that fact because its England vs Tonga and its crucial because if

we don't win, we go out. Afterwards we'll go to another birthday anyway, even though her birthday was yesterday! You know who you are, still you're 21 so its more cause to celebrate than being 23.



Capricorn

Hmm... I'm sat here, at 5:38 am on Wednesday night and I'm wondering whether I should play the "Ooo..."

Look at what this horoscope picture looks like" Horoscope. Is it too soon? Will I be dropping another clanger like that time I asked your mum if she preferred one or two in the stink?t Tune in next week to find out.

Hockey club success on Cyprus tour

Fiona Jamieson

Continued from back page

party was to celebrate the two Rich's degree results. The acclimatisation continued the following day with some of us hitting the beach and others playing mini-golf, we were trying our hardest to take in the local culture! We tried our hand at beach volleyball but were rubbish and when swimming in the sea both Chaz and Ellie stepped on sea urchins. Already we had candidates for the muppet award!

The evening took a slightly different course than predicted as whilst playing a game, Chaz managed to hit a rock and get a huge gash in his foot. After much struggling we dragged him to hospital for five stitches. Maybe not the best start to the tour! So whilst the others enjoyed the first of the karaoke nights, three of us waited in hospital while Jack and Sammy had an evening out with their water pistols for comfort. Whilst Mary, Bacon and Doug had been in a bar open until 6am, the rest of us played buckaroo with Harry; we managed to tie his hands and feet together, put a boat, a wig, Willy, pom-poms and an entire goalkeepers kit on him before he woke!

Finally on the Wednesday we managed our first game, with Ollie as captain, against Styx, a British Army team. We got off to a shaky start, with the Styx scoring within the first two minutes. I think we were all struggling with the heat, and that includes the cripple crew who, thanks to Chaz's injury, had grown to three, however this may have been because Sammy and Fi undertook an alternative warm up; 8 drinks from a man who looked like Howard the Halifax man. But how could we resist at a pound a drink? And anyway, Sammy's cheerleading was much improved by it! Team tactics changed throughout the match and it was decided that we should change from playing rolling subs to swapping the entire team, leading to a little rivalry between team A and team B. This caught the opposition off guard and allowed Kavit to show us that he deserves to be promoted into the 2s next season as he was a little running, scor-

ing machine. The final score was 7-5 to IC, our first win on tour in three years! The goal scorers were Kavit with 3 and Jack, Bacon, Rob and Andreas with one each. Man of the Match had to go to Kavit for his amazing goal scoring and Dick of the Day went to Chaz for being a completely useless umpire. We headed back and quickly had our fines circle before splitting into two groups. One lot were going for an "early night" and ended up staying up til 4am playing naked cards. Mary was sober for these frivolities and the quote of the night came from her "I'm naked, I'm sober, give me a beer!". The rest of us headed out into Agia Napa. We started in Bedrock where we were joined by the army guys. Francis tried his hardest to chat up the blonde from the opposition only to find that she had taken more of a liking to Fi than to him! Moving on from there we worked our way down the road to Senior Frogs where we met a family from Doncaster out with their 12 year old kids at 2am! Jack caused Fi to have sticky tits and Ellie once again claimed to have perfect breasts. This saw us on our way to River Reggae, an outdoor club with a pool, surely mixing alcohol and water was not the best of ideas? Anyway no one had come in their swim stuff so underwear it was! The fun continued 'til the sun came up when we left to go to bed and the army guys left to go to work! It was here that the sharking really started.

The R&R after our first match was spent at Europe's largest water park. This was what Myra had been waiting for. It was a great day out and once again the lurid green t-shirts proved useful as you could see us from the top of the rides! You were also able to hear Myra's screams all round the park; who knew someone so small could make so much noise?! The evenings entertainments were provided by House Blackie and their karaoke attempts. Fi ran the bus many times, much to Mary's disappointment, and Francis once again proved why he deserved his title as he stropped when playing cards, probably still devastated because the pretty blonde turned him down.

We left Agia Napa to move onto the capital Nicosia. We sampled local culture by going to the north of the island.



Group photo with the British Army Exiles team after a convincing 5 – 0 win in Limassol

Not only is it occupied by Turkey, but we discovered that the beer was much cheaper too. That went down well as there were more exam results being collected that day.

The mixed tournament we were due to play was cancelled due to the extreme heat, so instead we played against the English School, ESOBGA; Andreas' and Alex's old school. The match got off to a much better start than the last one, maybe because James lead us in dynamic stretches. However the final score to this was only 2-1, both goals again being scored by Kavit. Man of the Match was originally awarded to Shiv but, as she didn't actually play that well, Fine Master over-ruled this and it went to both Myra and Sarah for their great defending. Dick of the Day went to Richard Francis for playing air hockey and completely missing the ball in the D and hence missing out on a goal. Special mention has to go to Luke who decided to take the keeper on and managed to floor him, and also managed to get a fairly impressive war wound to show for it.

As it is so hot in the capital the locals retreat to the coast, which is what we did. Alex arranged a fantastic boat party for us so after sampling the local equivalent of McDonalds, we headed aboard the boat. We set sail into the Mediterranean Sea and partied hard. The best dancing must go to Sarah who danced like a loon with the glow-sticks and her and Sammy managed to break a bench by getting a little carried away. Apparently Alex proposed to Sammy too, but I missed that one, possibly because Harry spent about 10 minutes trying to persuade me to put a glow-stick down my throat. She didn't. The freshers couldn't stand the pace with Kavit, Mala and Sammy all taking naps at the end. Though Sammy may have been faking and just using it to get close to Ollie. More sharking?

After a collective 50 hours sleep between us all, we turned up to the match on the Sunday a little worse for wear. Everyone was tired, apart from Andreas who had been boring and not come to the party. This match was against the Lions, who had just won the league, they were to be our toughest opponents and it happened to be when we were at our worst, but we put

up a fight. If we hadn't been so tired/hung-over and if the umpires didn't need to run off for a TC, we could have done better, but the final score was 3-6 with Kavit once again proving his scoring abilities by getting two and Jack got the other. Man of the Match went to Luke for being one of the few people that could actually run and having far too much enthusiasm considering how little sleep we'd had. Dick of the Day went once again to Francis, apparently for playing badly, but he claimed it was all Mary's fault. I think someone is in denial.

The post match celebrations were falling asleep and were a little lame compared to normal. The evening saw another fines circle in which we were the first to the pub at 9pm. We also managed to find another IC student hidden away in there.

The final leg of our tour took us to Limassol, once again on the coast of the island. On Tuesday it was Ollie's birthday, so we started off with some culture and went to an ancient amphitheatre, it was there that Jack had an unfortunate incident with a hole. This was followed by a trip to the beach which proved to be the perfect warm up for our last match.

Our final match was against another British Army team, this time the Exiles. This was an important match; all three injured members were allowed to be on the pitch, making sure that everyone had actually played on tour. Kavit once again got the game going by getting us off the score sheet. Fi came on the pitch to goal hang and managed to set up a goal for Mala. In the second half Sammy took over the goal hanging and Chaz also made it onto pitch. Bacon, Andreas and Joe all got goals to see the final score being a whopping 5-0. Not a bad way to end the tour. Man of the Match and also Champagne Moment goes to Francis for putting in a vital tackle in defence and if that wasn't enough he ran half the length of the pitch to get there. A rare sight. Dick of the Day went to Sammy who managed to put her foot through one of the benches in the grandstand.

The last fines circle of tour was messy with the usual fines and traditions being carried out back at the hotel. Special mention to Chaz who was the

most annoying member on tour at that point and proving why he'd earned his Grandmaster title. The frivolities continued inside with Bacon proposing a game of 3-man. If this wasn't enough he won the game and was very smug in the process.

The last day of the tour was spent chilling by the pool making the most of the sun and playing mini-golf, showing that we are all very serious about sport, no matter which one. Bacon won again.

For the final evening we went to a restaurant and had a seafood meze which, whilst being tasty to some, wasn't for everyone. Its amazing how much fun can be had with prawns and battered fish. Dinner overlooking the sea was the perfect place to give out the tour awards. Harry won the Nudist Award for his willingness to get naked at any time, Sammy won the Drunk Award, pretty self explanatory, Chaz won the Muppet Award, once again no explanation needed and Kavit got Top Scorer. Woman of Tour went to Myra for being so enthusiastic and Man of Tour went to Andreas for all the work he put in. Tour god went to Fi but the most import award was tour couple, which went to Bacon and Francis for sharing a bed for a week and complaining when they got split up in Limassol. It must be love.

It just has to be noted that there was rather a lot of bed hopping whilst away, including from those who you would least expect it. Shiv only spent one night in her own bed and, by doing so, kicked Fi out, Sammy tried her hardest to shark Ollie and hence swapped with Bacon. Whilst it was just Fi and Bacon that went to sleep in one room, it was Fi, Bacon and Sammy that woke up together and no one knows how! Ollie was locked out in Agia Napa and slept on a chair outside his apartment and Kavit made a bed out of three chairs when he couldn't get in.

That concluded this years summer tour for the Hockey Club. I would like to say a huge thank you to Andreas and Alex for all the work that they have put in because without their knowledge and hard work Fi would have been so very lost. Also to the IC Trust for sponsoring our brilliant kit and to the Hockey Club for their help and support.



First night meze with the unmistakable lime green t-shirts

Upgrade yourselves!

Mr. Muscle teaches us the finer points of making yourself fit



Chiraush Patel
Mr. Muscle

So the start of the New Year beckons, another year full of wild nights out getting pissed, take away food, promiscuous sex (ok maybe not in Gimperial) and some studying for good measure. Sounds good right? Wrong, because while you may look like top dog now, years from now it isn't a 6 pac you're going to see in the mirror, rather a keg! Overweight and unfit you can always convince yourself that you need fat to convert into muscle.

Alternatively you're the 55kg guy who, despite the complete lack of muscle bulk and definition, remains confident in pulling off a wife beater in college... I admire your confidence, now put a jacket on.

Truth is, no matter who you are, exercise and fitness should be an important part of your life. If competitive sports are not for you, and you don't want to be tied down to non flexible sessions run by the various societies then you should be heading down to that place called Ethos. If you don't know where it is by now don't carry on reading this article.

So bin the excuses for this year because we have all heard them before. Ladies, don't tell me you don't want to go to the gym because you hate people looking at you, because the only person I want to look at is myself. And fellas don't be scared of looking like a

sissy because you can only pump 6kg weights, because we all were there once. We all want to get fitter, lose some weight or even put some on, but often too apathetic to take the next step. Write down your goals for your body today! Identify your ideal body and work towards it, because at the end of the day it's all on you. Yes, your partner may say that they love you just the way you are, but it doesn't stop you from wanting to be something better!

It's all on you and that is the beauty of working out; your time, your place, your rules. But if you're feeling a little lost don't be scared of asking for help. Email me and I can address the week's popular topics.

Just starting off at the gym? Try this balanced workout to help you build muscle and improve overall strength, getting you ready for more advance workout later on. Best performed 2 times a week for 4 weeks along with other workout days. Aim to work out 3 times a week at least, and never the same muscles twice in two days.

Every work out should consist of a 5 min warm up on the treadmill followed by at least 1 warm up set of your first exercise. If you looking to get 'big' work for the burn, the burn which lets you know you're really working. If you wake up stiff tomorrow and it isn't because of that porno you saw last night, then pat yourself on the back because you're well on your way to upgrading yourself.

Exercise	Sets	Reps	Rest time
Squats	4	8,8,6,6	1 min
Bench press	4	8,8,6,6	30 sec
Romanian deadlift	4	8,8,6,6	1-2 min
Dumbbell row	3	8,8,8	1min
Barbell curls superset with rope pull down	4	8,8,8, to failure (of each)	20 sec

I shouldn't need to explain the squats or bench press; because lets face it we should all know what they are.

Romanian deadlifts, as exotic as they sound are a simply a variation of the bodybuilders favourite exercise, the deadlift. This exercise targets glutes and hamstrings, but acts as an all around body workout.

Stand erect holding the barbell just outside your hips with your feet hip width apart. Using an overhand grip lean forward by pushing your hips backwards as the bar slides down your to mid shin level and your upper body approaches parallel to the floor. Reverse the action by pushing your hips forward as you exhale at the top.

The final exercise will give your arms an amazing pump... a sign of things to come if you keep at it! Using the cable machine with a bar attachment perform sets of 8 reps of the bicep curls. Once you complete that move straight into rope pulldowns, focusing on spreading your arms apart in the final half of the movement. The final set should be completed to failure... i.e. when you physically cannot perform the exercise.

Enjoy the work out, revel in the burn, and soon you'll be reaping the reward in the mirror.

Felix takes no responsibility if you break yourself in half whilst trying to lift weights that are clearly too heavy for you. Man up!

Sports league

This year, Felix Sport is going to run a league table for all the sports team at Imperial. It will hopefully encourage a bit of friendly rivalry between the teams and the clubs, and at the end of the year, an overall champion will be declared. Below is the league table where all of the teams competing in BUSA competitions are included, so

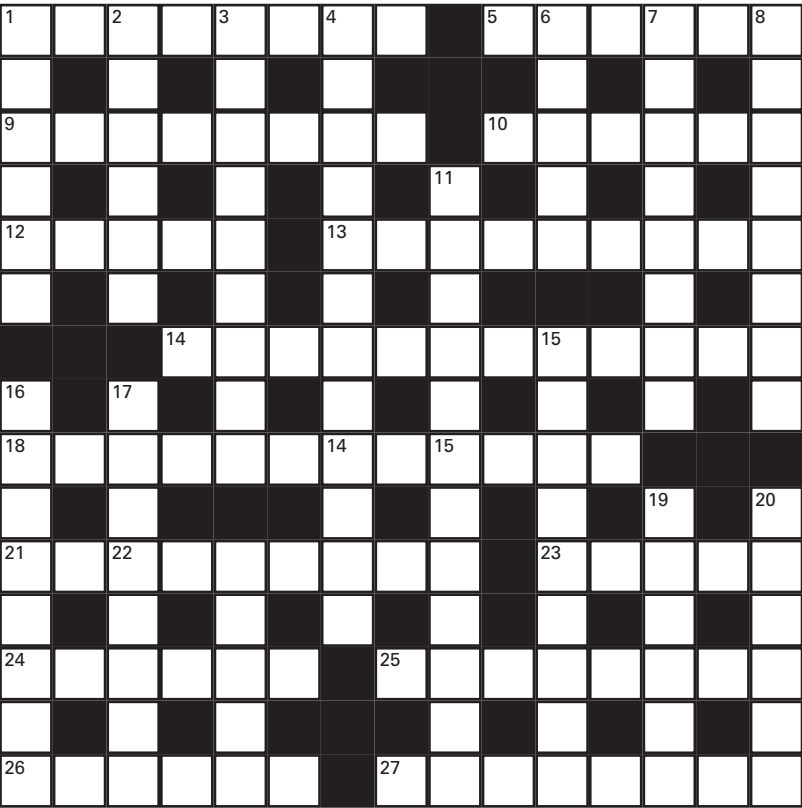
if you want your scores to be counted, please make sure you send you results in to BUSA.

The ranking of the teams is based on the Felix Index (FI), which is calculated as follows: $FI = (W*5) + (D*2) - (L*3)$. Only teams with 5 games or more will be considered in the overall championship at the end of year. Good luck!

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	%	FI
1	Cricket Men's 1st	5	3	0	2	926	678	60.00	7
2	Badminton Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Badminton Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Badminton Men's 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Badminton Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Badminton Women's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Basketball Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Basketball Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Cricket Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Fencing Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Fencing Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Fencing Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Football Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Football Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Football Men's 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Football Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Golf 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Hockey Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Hockey Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Hockey Men's 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Hockey Men's 4th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Hockey Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Hockey Women's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Lacrosse Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Lacrosse Women's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Netball 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Netball 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Netball 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Rugby Union Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Rugby Union Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Rugby Union Men's 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Rugby Union Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Squash Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Squash Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Squash Men's 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Squash Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Table Tennis Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	Table Tennis Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	Tennis Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Tennis Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Tennis Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Tennis Women's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Volleyball Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Volleyball Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	Water Polo Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Crossword No. 1,380

We need crossword setters! Email: sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk



ACROSS

- 1 Horse protects one tiny boy from seas (8)
- 5 End of 24 with twitch is crude (6)
- 9 As in Sargeant's love of seaweed (8)
- 10 Seen about place, vented organ (6)
- 12 Very little to the greeks? (5)
- 13 Harass to bring in a French one (9)
- 14 Strangely, my nut looms up to heaven (5,7)
- 18 Patriot with extra commotion spoken in many forms (12)
- 21 "Heed it well" almost created generator (9)
- 23 Three bases around state pot (5)
- 24 Highflying Greek suffering meltdown (6)
- 25 Forge? It rhymes (8)
- 26 Ginseng cocktail without first badge (6)
- 27 Beginner picks up at arms length for alarmist (8)

DOWN

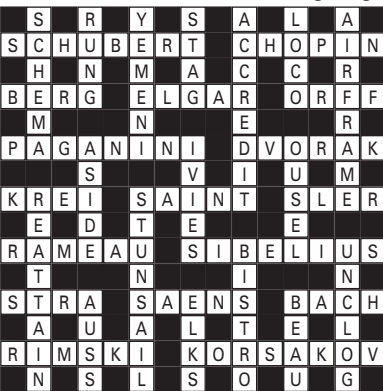
- 1 Doctor puts South Africa before college pattern (6)
- 2 Oddity finds it in headless messy array (6)
- 3 Change ram's front (9)
- 4 Ram sign after girl changed particle for religious workers (12)
- 6 At university by means of higher degree (5)
- 7 Depressed in these (3,5)
- 8 Study raised possession for Italian lady (8)
- 11 How far can you go legally? (2,2,3,5)
- 15 Infant mixes oyster with antelope (9)
- 16 Roast over flames for fighter (8)
- 17 Best clothes from happy tatters (4,4)
- 19 Tedium, a learner finds, is a result of North wind (6)
- 20 Solicitor goes west in strata (6)
- 22 Squeezed or tolled I hear (6)

Just like the best of the BBC's programming, we're going to bring you something straight from the archives. That's right, until we can find ourselves a crossword setter you're going to be able to relive those halcyon days from yesterday with a crossword from 2002.

This one is courtesy of a grid setting legend known simply as Boris the Inquisitive Goat. We hope you enjoy it. Answers to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk for kudos.

Pseudonym

Solution to a Crossword from ages ago





Jovan Nedić
Sports Editor

Felix has been away for several months, but now we're back, with a new look, new style and what promises to be a very interesting and action packed sports section.

This year, more emphasis will be based on sports news, as well as the regular match reports. Some new sections have also been introduced this year, there will be a Mr. Muscle section which will give tips on how to upgrade yourself and get in shape. A new sports league has also been introduced and work is under way to get a prize sorted for the winning team at the end of the season. There will also be a weekly roundup of sports results and fixtures, covering the games played from the week.

The sports edition will only be as good as all of you make it. If no reports are sent in, then the sports section will only be a page long. So please do send in your reports so that we make sure the sports section is as exciting and as interesting as it should be.

Deadline for reports is 8.00 p.m. on a Monday and any pictures must be high resolution and sent as separate file to sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Teams or clubs that require specific sponsors logos should also send the relevant artwork. Please do try and send them in on time as failure to do so may result in the report not being published and pushed to the following week.

Scorcher!

Hockey tour

This year saw 23 members of the Hockey Club join our two favourite Cypriot members in their home land for 10 fun filled days in Cyprus.

The tour got off to a shaky start when the kit still hadn't arrived on Sunday evening, but it miraculously turned up less than 10 hours before we were due to depart. Fi not having a clue and a last minute nature were going to be themes of our tour. We were scheduled to play four teams over 10 days during our tour of Cyprus: First stop was Agia Napa.

Our adjustment to the heat was swift as we hit the beach on the first night, all wearing our beautiful lime green t-shirts, there was no way we were going to lose each other. The

Continued on page 42



Pre-season training week a hit IC better than medics, fact!

After on going talks between the Athletics Club Committee (ACC) and Sport Imperial over the summer break, a pre-season training schedule was agreed upon for the sports teams from the ACC from the 24th – 28th September, to be held at Ethos as well as Hyde Park.

The event was a massive success with nearly 70 players attending the week long event, and it will hopefully put them and their teams in good stead for the forthcoming season. From noon,

every day, the teams would have a 2 hour conditioning session with the Sport Imperial staff, after which the teams were given free time for personal training and sport massages. Several social events were organised as well, including a dodgeball tournament on the Friday for all the individuals that attended.

With only 80 places available each day, due to capacity constraints in the sports hall and availability, it was considered to be a hit for those that at-

tended. However, it was disappointing to see that there were certain clubs that didn't sign up at all, and that there was not a consistent turnout from those that did. Those who attended seemed to think that the week was a great idea and that they would like it to be repeated next year.

Ethos staff organised and ran the sessions and facilitated the demands from the ACC for the pre-season week. The fact that Sport Imperial were willing to encourage sporting ability within the college, and were more than happy to help, is a testament to them. Although as always, there would be a financial implication to the clubs to take part.

The majority of the costs were covered by the clubs and their members, with the ACC contributing a disclosed amount and Sport Imperial covering the small remainder from their Developing Excellence Scheme.

Hopefully next year Sport Imperial and the ACC will be able to organise another pre-season training, and that there will be a greater uptake from the sports teams themselves. As always the question that should be raised is why sports clubs have to pay their own university to use their facilities, especially when the college is trying to improve the standard of sport?

Imperial College Union has been ranked above Imperial Medicals in a recent league table of all the sporting institutions in the United Kingdom. Imperial were ranked 29th in the country whilst the medics could only manage 104th, ranked between Central London and Winchester. The ranking was determined by the British University Sports Association (BUSA) in their annual overall championship points, in which Loughborough came top with 5015.5 points, followed by Bath and Birmingham with 3505.5 and 2601 points respectively.

Imperial can not however claim to be the best sporting institution in London, as that crown belongs to Brunel West London who came 23rd with 926 points, compared to Imperials 735.5 points.

With the ever increasing support from Sport Imperial, and the high levels of enthusiasm from the ACC and ICSM SU, Imperial can expect to climb the league table in years to come.

For those medics that are finding this hard to believe, visit the BUSA website: www.busa.org.uk



The dreaded bleep test being carried out in the sports hall

