

# felix

The student 'news'paper of  
Imperial College London

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Felix looks back on Sir Richard's achievements and controversies. See pages 3 to 7





## News

News Editor – Andrew Somerville

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# Scientists preparing for protest at Imperial College

Church of Scientology sub-group, the CCHR, to picket Royal College of Psychiatrists' annual conference on 1st July at IC

**Tom Roberts**  
Editor-in-Chief

The Church of Scientology's anti-psychiatry sub-group, the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), will be coming to Exhibition Road next month, to picket an event being held at Imperial.

The event in question is the Royal College of Psychiatrist's Annual Meeting, which is being run on campus from 1st July until the 4th July. It's currently not clear whether the CCHR will be protesting for all four days of the conference.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is the professional and educational body for psychiatrists in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The organisation gives representation to psychiatrists and aims to improve understanding of mental health problems through research and education, according to its website.

According to Scientologists, however, and more specifically its founder, L. Ron Hubbard, "psychiatry is making people insane." This belief has been held within the Scientology community for decades, and in 1969 the CCHR was founded as a sub-group of the Church of Scientology, in order to investigate and expose "psychiatric violations of human rights."

Now it appears the CCHR's latest investigation will bring them to Imperial.

An official from IC has said that College is liaising with police to ensure that protestors do not enter the university's premises. The police are being supportive and any protestors will be kept on the opposite side of Exhibition Road away from the College's main entrance.

If members of the CCHR do turn up, they can expect a heavy counter-



The Church of Scientology's UK headquarters based in London

protest against their own rally from members of anti-Scientologist group, Anonymous. News of the CCHR's protest has spread quickly across internet forums and many Anonymous members have already declared that they will be making an appearance at Exhibition Road on 1st July.

Rumours that the new Rector, Sir Roy Anderson, will spend his first day in office out on the street protesting against the CCHR, whilst wearing a 'V For Vendetta' mask are completely unfounded.

## 2008 Colours Awards results

Imperial College Union's Council approved the nominations for the 2008 ICU Colours Awards on Monday night. In total, 67 people were awarded Colours out of 90 people nominated. Many of the winners will be presented with ties and given a hearty pat on the back from the Union on Wednesday, as a thank you for their dedication to ICU throughout the year. The full awards breakdown follows:

### HALF COLOURS

Eunice Agboola  
Shray Amar  
John Anderson  
Christos Argyrakis  
Douglas Blackie  
Hemel Bosamia  
Ruth Cattell  
Felicia Chang  
Dave Coolegem  
Jack Cornish  
Luke Dhanoa  
Sian Fogden  
Kilian Frensch  
Manish George  
Daniel Hill  
Matthew Hoban  
Joanne Horton  
Fiona Jamieson  
Andrew Jasudasen  
Eleanor Jay

Timothy Keating  
Jessica Longley  
Kartik Lotlikar  
Peter Mabbott  
Guy Martin  
Sotiris Mastoridis  
Hannah Monaghan  
Chris Namih  
Susie Ogilvie  
Shaimaa Orabi  
David Paw  
Ali Rauf  
Leila Serrao  
Kumaran Shanmugarajah  
Kadhim Shubber  
Rosie Smithells  
Andrew Somerville  
Amadeus Stevenson  
Daniel Wagner  
Yun Wang

### FULL COLOURS

Daniel Burrows  
Mark Chamberlain  
David Charles  
Rachel D'Oliveiro  
Viktoria Eriksson  
Andreas Esau  
Alex Grisman  
Mary Williamson

Robert Jarvis  
Jess Marley  
Jon Matthews  
Jovan Nedic  
Ian Preedy  
James Smith  
Ammar Waraich

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Shiv Chopra  
Jarvist Frost  
Alex Guite

Jennifer Morgan  
Luke Taylor  
Lily Topham

### FELLOWSHIP

Eugene Chang  
Andy Mason

Emiko Yoshikawa

### DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP

Ashley Brown  
Daniel McGuinness

Eirini Spentza

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Ashley Brown  
Hamish Common

Ram Gidoomal  
Thomas Roberts

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STREET  
LOL



OF THE  
WEEK



# Sir Richard’s impact on Imperial

What has the thirteenth Rector of Imperial College done since he began his tenure back in January 2001?

**Andrew Somerville**  
Deputy & News Editor

Sir Richard Sykes has only three weeks left of his seven and a half year term as Rector of Imperial College, succeeded by Sir Roy Anderson who officially takes over in July. He leaves behind him a very different College to the institution that he took over in January 2001. This week, Felix examines the impact that he has had during his time in South Kensington.

When Sir Richard was appointed as the thirteenth Rector, Imperial faced an uncertain future. Although IC was well respected academically, and regularly placed second or third in the league tables, College’s finances were in a mess, governmental subsidies were under debate and facilities were in great need of modernisation. College Council made the surprise choice of appointing not an academic, but a business leader to take care of these issues and plan Imperial’s future: Sir Richard, then CEO of GlaxoSmithKline, was picked to take control after Lord Oxburgh’s departure.

The changes that he brought with him were immediate, and his stated aims were clear. Sir Richard’s vision of the future of Imperial College was of an internationally competitive “university business” (as he referred to it), a world famous centre of lucrative research, modelled on the biggest successes in the US. As these pages show, he has more or less succeeded in these aims: Imperial is now fifth in the THES world rankings; the profile of College has indeed been raised worldwide, especially in Asia (he even appointed a Pro-Rector (International Relations)); College’s finances have expanded; outdated campus facilities are being refurbished and replaced; and research is now Imperial’s main strength. But these achievements have not come without price, and many have questioned whether the direction that Imperial

has taken under Sir Richard serves the university’s primary purposes.

Sir Richard himself has been almost constantly surrounded by controversy over the past 7 years, both within IC and nationally, due to his outspoken views and “authoritative” style of reform. He has attracted criticism from College staff, academics and students for his approach; ‘absence’ of consultation with the members of the university; his business focus (Sir Richard is also Chairman of the ‘Reform’ think-tank: a lobbying group that pushes for more private sector involvement in public services); support for top-up fees; and the magnitude of his salary, which at £348,000 is the UK’s largest for the head of an educational institution.

To get the full picture of the changes that Sir Richard has made since 2001, one needs only to look at the differences in College statistics between then and today.

## Since 2001

The most obvious changes that Sir Richard has made are in the student body and departmental research. It is in augmenting these aspects of the College that he has increased the income so greatly and safeguarded IC’s financial future. However, the changes are drastic, and have almost certainly had unforeseen repercussions.

The number of full time students at Imperial has increased by 22% over the seven years, from 9975 students in 2001 to 12129 students last year – a massive change in number. In addition to this, the makeup of those students has also changed drastically.

In 2001, 20% of full time students at Imperial were Overseas students, coming from countries outside of the UK and EU. This was similar to the proportions within comparable universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Harvard and Yale. Last academic year, however, the picture at IC was very

## Sir Richard’s increasing pay compared to the previous IC Rector

University	Total pay
Lord Oxburgh (2001)	£158,000
Sir Richard (2001)	£243,000
Sir Richard (2008)	£348,000

different. 30% of full time students are now from outside the UK and EU combined, a massive proportion for a relatively small student population. UK students make up only 40% of the total, and according to statistics, students from China now make up approximately 15-20% of the students at Imperial College. IC now has a larger proportion of Overseas students than all of the comparable UK and US institutions by a significant amount.

Similarly, when we examine the increase in the total number of students, we find that there are 2154 more students at IC now than when Sir Richard entered as Rector, but of these new places only 514 have gone to Home and EU students combined. The rest have gone to Overseas students. Over the last 7 years, for every Home/EU student place created, there have been more than three Overseas places created.

This trend is reflected in the balance sheets, and thus the financial planning of the College. In 2001 fees from Overseas students accounted for 5.6% (£22m) of College’s income, and in 2007 this increased dramatically to 10.1% (£56m) of the total income. This suggests that Imperial’s financial stability now relies almost twice as heavily on Overseas fees. This sum has not just been increased by recruiting more Overseas students though. The fees charged have also increased dramatically, with an increase in the average from £11,055 to £15,427 between 2001 and 2007 (compared to the average Home/EU of £1,578 to £1,894 – probably largely due to Top-up fees).

However, this 22% increase in the total number of students is not matched by a proportional increase in spending on teaching. The number of academic staff has decreased since 2001 from 3531 Full-Time-Equivalent staff to 3067 FTE staff. Similarly the average academic’s proportion of teaching time has decreased from 22.6% to roughly 18.5% in 2006. This is again significantly lower than either of our main UK competitors, Oxford (23%) and Cambridge (21.5%), especially given the distribution of teaching load per subject. This is especially significant since science subjects require far more teaching time than the humanities which will certainly affect the Oxford and Cambridge averages.

It would appear that our academics are, under Sir Richard, spending far less time teaching than they used to. This decrease is matched by a massive rise in the average amount of time spent on research, increasing from 44% to approximately 53% over the 7 years.



The 13th Rector of Imperial College London, Sir Richard Sykes, steps down from his position in July, succeeded by Sir Roy Anderson

## Worth it?

As was previously stated, Sir Richard has undoubtedly achieved his aims as Rector of Imperial College, rebranding and all, but the statistics lend weight to the arguments of his critics. Whether his business-like attitude and focus on the corporate nature of the College is best suited to its primary purpose of education and research is still very much under debate.

From the experience of being a student here, and from the statistics themselves, it appears that criticisms of this approach are valid. Students seem to be

paying more for their degree, but receiving less and less teaching. The support structures and social aspects of the College appear ill-equipped to cope with such a radical demographic change, leading to a divided and isolating campus which feels, to many students, remarkably impersonal and uncaring.

What is certain is that the focus at Imperial is no longer on students. Whether this trend spreads across the country as universities struggle to compete for funding and elite status, or reverses with the incoming Rector and his more academic experiences, remains to be seen.

## Student nationality statistics of leading international universities

University	Total Number of Students	Overseas Students as percentage of total
Imperial College (2007)	12129	30.0%
Imperial College (2001)	9975	20.0%
UCL	16504	23.6%
Oxford	18635	21.9%
Cambridge	18077	19.5%
Harvard	20042	19.5%
Yale	11454	16.0%

Overseas students are defined as nationalities outside the UK/EU zone for the UK universities, and as any non-US nationality for the US universities

## Average annual cost of tuition per IC student

Student type	Average Cost in 2001	Average Cost in 2007
Home/EU	£1,578	£1,894
Overseas	£11,055	£15,427

## Average time spent on teaching per academic

University	Time allocation %
Imperial	18%
Cambridge	21%
Oxford	23%

# Sykes' Imperial: Jan 2001 – Jul 2008

Next month, the 13th Rector of Imperial is due to hang up his lab coat and hand over his test tube tongs to Rector-elect Sir Roy Anderson. Felix charts Sir Richard's comments, controversies, and the changes he's brought to Imperial during his seven-year stint as leader of our dear institution. Bottom's up etc, etc

## May 01: Major faculties reshuffle

After four months in office, Sir Richard Sykes made his presence felt by ordering the biggest shake-up in the College's history, when he completely reshuffled the make-up of Imperial's faculties.

Biology and Biochemistry were merged into the Faculty of Life Sciences; Medicine remained unchanged; and Engineering swelled as the Royal School of Mines was completely swallowed by new the Faculty of Engineering, much to the dismay of hundreds of Miners. The remainder of departments formed the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Further dramatic shakes-ups were outlined for the Finance, Security, Registry and Personnel departments who were asked to make 10% cuts to their funding, otherwise, they would have to justify their budgets.

Sir Richard also made clear his enthusiasm for "blowing up Sheffield", although he admitted this was infeasible. Instead the building would be refurbished at a cost of £6m to "encourage greater communication." Before this refurbishment would happen though, he promised priority to be given to building a new sports centre in Prince's Gardens and the refurbishment of the crumbling Southside halls.

Jan 01: Sykes appointed  
13th Rector of IC

Feb 01: Sykes merges Biology  
and Biochemistry departments

Mar 01: Rector says  
universities should  
charge top-up fees

## Aug 01: Intl. Brand manager appointed

Sir Richard made his intentions for Imperial even clearer when he appointed the very first Pro-Rector (International Relations).

Professor David Ewins was appointed and tasked with promoting Imperial abroad to industries and potential students. The Rector wanted to make Imperial's brand much stronger, in order to pull in more funding to help remedy the financial problems College had back at the turn of the millennium, and so that Imperial could compete better with the world's leading institutions.

May 01: Rector gives first  
talk to student body and  
attends Union Council.  
Suggests top-up fees are  
"burden" on students

Oct 01: Rector sighted  
in Felix office!

Nov 01: Rector writes for Felix,  
promises: "close contact with  
staff and students"

## Nov 02: Imperial-UCL merger called off, sigh

After four weeks of discussions, the spirits of thousands of Imperial students hoping for a well-balanced university lifestyle were crushed, when it emerged that the proposed merger bringing Imperial and University College London (UCL) together as one 'uber-versity' had been called off.

Sir Richard claimed that it had "become clear that the best interests of our two institutions are not served by a formal merger."

However, this was more of an assumption on the Rector's part; one senior academic from UCL told Felix about IC's political intention, describing the proposals as a takeover rather than a true merger. The academic referred to the situation as "more of a rape than a marriage."

Ultimately, the merger crumbled since many UCL academics feared that it would leave many of their scientists without jobs, whereas Imperial's staff would suffer far less.

Jan 02: Rector announces  
intention to make IC  
independent university

May 02: Sykes steps down as  
GSK Non-executive Chairman

Oct 02: IC-UCL  
merger on the cards?

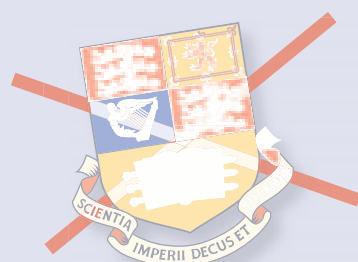
## Jan 03: Imperial rebranding fails to impress

Continuing in his attempts to push and increase Imperial's global presence, Sir Richard entirely re-branded College, ditching the traditional crest for today's more corporate, minimalist blue logo.

Back in 2003, the logo was branded "embarrassing" by students, who felt it smacked of "Welcome to London Polytechnic!"

New signs were initially constructed, "Blue Peter style", as College staff members sticky-taped new signs over the old ones. The rebranders declared "the white is an important colour in our clean, modern [society]." However, the clean look was severely hampered only eight hours later when one sign outside Huxley began to peel off.

College also introduced new writing guidelines to help members "understand" the branding, including the discouragement of using 'IC' instead of 'Imperial' and that communications ought to be "authoritative, not dictatorial."



**Imperial College  
London**

Nov 03: College senate debates  
leaving University of London



## Jan 04: Top-up fees Higher Education Bill scrapes through

Students feared it for years, but eventually Tony Blair's Labour government got its way, and in January of 2004 the latest Higher Education Bill was passed by a margin of just five votes.

The Bill which allowed universities to charge variable Top-up fees of up to £3,000 per year was successful with 316 votes to 311. These votes were accompanied by 18 very significant abstentions.

Back in 2004, ICU greeted the proposals with protests, and when the Bill was finally passed the Union remained resolute. "There is still plenty to fight for" commented ICU's Deputy President (Education & Welfare).

University officials welcomed the results, and the Rector's hopes became reality. "I'm extremely pleased that attempts to derail this vitally important bill have not succeeded," Sir Richard told Felix. "I'm convinced that it will prove to be a positive move both for universities, which desperately need extra funding to maintain standards, and for young people ... who will have access to the world class teaching we provide."



**Feb 04: Rector given pay rise of 15%, 9% higher than average for UK university heads. Total emolument hits £294,000**

## Mar 04: Rector insults "third rate" Luton University

Whilst criticising the government's target to ensure that 50% of school leavers carry on into higher education, Sir Richard managed to single out Luton University as a "third rate" university. The Rector said that "third rate" institutions are a drain on better universities, stating that "a penny spent [at Imperial] is a hell of a lot better than a penny spent at Luton for the economy." He gave further criticism saying that "it costs more to teach those kids [at third class institutions] because they've never been taught."

The comments landed Sir Richard in a spot of bother with university heads from around the country, not just Luton's Vice Chancellor. Some Vice Chancellors called for him to resign from his position on HEFCE (the Higher Education Funding Council for Education).

However, Sir Richard later retracted the comments and wrote to both HEFCE and Luton's Vice Chancellor, apologising for his "ill considered and clumsy" comments.

**Jun 04: Tanaka Business School and College's new main entrance opens**

**Aug 04: Wye courses to be transferred away from campus**

**Nov 04: Imperial ranks 14th on THES World University Rankings**



## Oct 05: Rector dents Southside to commence demolition

Sir Richard climbed into a small, orange mechanical exoskeleton and chiselled away at the old Southside complex, marking the beginning of the end for the fondly remembered halls of residence.

The ceremony signified the realisation of two things: firstly, the Rector delivering on his promise of a reconstructed Southside, and secondly, the beginning of Imperial's status as a permanent building site.

The building was scheduled to finish construction in October 2007, at a cost of more than £50m. College almost delivered on this promise, but their record of finishing nothing on time actually remains intact. Many rooms lacked furnishings, toilet seats were left unattached and some students still had their windows boarded up with dust sheets.

**Oct 05: Imperial ranks 13th on THES World University Rankings**

**Nov 05: Life & Physical Sciences faculties merged**

## Nov 05: College attracts international media attention with plans for dress code

College decided it would be sensible to introduce a dress code, applicable to all staff and students, to help "maximise our chances of detecting anyone who shouldn't be here."

Members of Imperial were required to wear their swipe cards at all times, and to refrain from wearing clothes that obscured the face such as veils, scarves or hooded tops.

The decision, which attracted worldwide media attention, was one which the College has never really lived down since. Only recently, the issue was raised at Union Council. College later revised the code, explicitly stating that cultural or religious garments were allowed and that students only need to be able to present their swipe cards.



## Jan 06: Ethos finally opens



Ethos eventually opened its doors, four months after it was originally scheduled to finish. Students flocked to make use of the free facilities leading to a huge waiting list for gym inductions.

The opening was very well received, although some unfortunate students had to be evacuated, dripping wet, during the first week after the fire alarm was activated.

**Dec 05: Plans to turn Wye campus into £1bn bio-fuels centre for BP**

**Mar 06: Sykes' salary rises to £305,000**



**Sep 06: Development of BP bio-fuels centre at Wye campus halted**

**Oct 06: Imperial ranks 9th on THES World University Rankings**

## Jan 07: Rector cuts cheese Centenary cake

College marked its 100th birthday with a year's worth of celebrations, beginning with the Rector cutting a very tasty birthday cake.

Later on in the evening Sir Richard gave his Centenary lecture in which he talked about the history of the South Kensington campus. He even managed to slip in a small gibe about Felix. When holding up a copy of the paper from 1957, he commented: "This was back when Felix was a good newspaper."

We love you too Dickie.



**Jun 07: Rector takes sledgehammer to door of Linstead Hall. Work on Eastside begins**

**Jul 07: Sykes' successor announced: Sir Roy Anderson**

## Oct 07: Rector goes off on one about "Mickey Mouse" degree courses

Sir Richard continued in his outspoken manner in October of last year, when he slammed the UK's education system, not for the first time.

The Rector criticised so called "Mickey Mouse" courses (ie: David Beckham studies), saying that "the system has to change. It will then make people think twice before they go off and do those damn silly courses that are no good to them and won't get them a good job at the end of the day. It would mean university is not just a nice four years off."

He also made clear his support of increasing Top-up fees to £5,000 after the 2009 review.



**Nov 06: Sykes says lifting top-up fees cap is "absolute nonsense"**

**Apr 07: Marquee invasion begins**

**May 07: Speculation over Rector's replacement mounts. Early contender, BP's Lord Browne, lies in court over relationship with gay escort. Search for the next Rector continues**

**Jul 07: College takes control of Union finances in exchange for money to fund Beit Masterplan**

**Oct 07: IC NHS Healthcare Trust created**

**Oct 07: Southside halls open, unfinished. Only £155 per week including glorious view of portacabins**

**Nov 07: Imperial ranks 5th on THES World University Rankings**

## Oct 06: Imperial to pull out of University of London



College had been discussing moving towards independence from the University of London (UL) for years. In 2006, talks finally became reality when Imperial felt it was big and ugly enough to fly the UL nest.

Confirmation that IC would leave UL came at the University of London's Council when the terms of the withdrawal were agreed.

Students who started university whilst IC was part of UL were asked whether they wanted a degree from Imperial or the University of London, the main difference apparently being the colour of your graduation gown. Oh, and continued admittance to some of UL's facilities such as the library.

Postgraduate students who began in October 2007 are now only eligible for Imperial degrees. UL degrees will no longer be available to any students enrolling as of next year.

ICU soon followed in IC's footsteps by leaving UL Union, saving itself around £80,000 per year.

## Aug 07: IC student satisfaction in freefall according to GUG

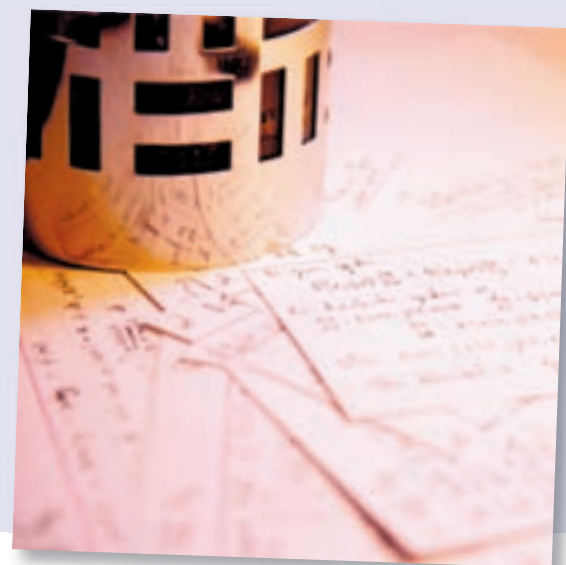
Despite most recently ranking 5th in the Times Higher Education Supplement's World University table, Imperial still can't resolve the perennial problem of an unsatisfied student body.

Back in August 2007, the Good University Guide (GUG) published its latest data, revealing Imperial as the third best university in the country. However, taking the student satisfaction criterion out of the results pushed Imperial into first place. Conversely, taking out all the criteria except student satisfaction placed Imperial in 68th place.

Since then, students have become even more miserable, with Imperial slipping to 87th place in the student satisfaction stakes, according to the GUG 2009 statistics, which were published in April of this year. Reducing the student satisfaction weighting to zero in this latest data sees Imperial in second, compared to the previous year's first place.

In comparison, Cambridge ranks first place for student satisfaction this year, with Oxford in 6th and UCL in 33rd.

Whether Oxford or Cambridge are better institutions than Imperial is debatable, but the dissatisfaction amongst Imperial's student body is clear to see.



**Jan 08: Ethos to remain free to students for foreseeable future**



## May 08: Rigging in National Student Survey tables. Are we a happy bunch afterall?

## Jun 08: Rector announces IC may set entrance exam

Last week, Sir Richard announced that future IC applicants may have to go through yet another exam if they want to study at Imperial. The Rector described the difficulty in differentiating between students since so many achieve four or five necessary A-levels.

The announcement was accompanied with a wider attack on the UK education system, in which he said it was “frightening” that 40% of Imperial undergraduates came from the 7% of the student population that attend private institutions. He said that drastic action is needed to “save” the other 93% of children who are not getting the education they deserve, and one method for doing this is to remove these pupils from state schools and then put them into private institutions with government funding.



## Mar 08: Rector receives annual pieing for charity

Once again, the Rector received a plate full of shaving foam to the face because he just happened to be walking along the Sherfield Walkway on that unfortunate day in March, at that unlucky time of day that he somehow manages to repeatedly find himself in each year.

The 'pie' was dispatched by the City & Guilds Hit Squad during RAG Week which raises money for various charities every year.

Rumours that Felix ordered the plan to be laced with chloroform after the Rector's comments during his Centenary lecture are completely unsubstantiated.



Written & designed by Tom Roberts

# Jul 08: A new era dawns. Where next for Imperial?

Imperial's 14th Rector, Sir Roy Anderson, is due to start his tenure next month in July. Felix had hoped to bring readers an interview with Sir Roy this week, however, he cancelled at the last moment, citing his busy schedule travelling the globe saving humanity from numerous diseases, and that he will "unfortunately have to move the meeting to July, when [he] has become Rector."

Professor Sir Roy M Anderson FRS, FMedSci to give him his full title, is currently a member of the Faculty of Medicine, more specifically the Epidemiology department. He graduated from Imperial with a degree in Zoology and after completing his PhD he spent much of his early career working at Imperial before obtaining his Professorship in 1984.

Sir Roy went on to work for numerous organisations outside of College, notably as a governmental advisor when he was put in charge of controlling the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak during which he controversially ordered the culling of approximately 6 million cattle.

Eventually, after a three year secondment to the Ministry of Defence as Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Roy returned to College as Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology in October 2007.

Compared to the current Rector, Sir Roy is much more of an academic, lacking the heavy business experience of Sir Richard, but excelling in both research and academic policy. He will have to quickly gain the trust of the student body and staff, following Sir Richard's divisive approach to "the university business."

With Imperial currently languishing close to the bottom of the UK's student satisfaction tables and widespread concerns that Imperial has lost its student focus and become business-like, Sir Roy will have his work cut out to make IC a more enjoyable place in which to learn and study.

It will be interesting to see whether the incoming Rector will follow Sir Richard's authoritarian approach to governing a university, or whether Sir Roy will adopt more of a hands-on approach, engaging the College in a bit more discussion over its direction.





Friday 13 June 2008

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felix

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International

# Headlines from around the globe

## The world beyond College walls...

Counter-Terrorism Bill

United Kingdom

The House of Commons has narrowly passed a bill to extend the number of days terrorism suspects can be held without being charged. The limit, which is currently of 28 days, may potentially be raised to 42 if the bill is passed by the House of Lords. The debate over the extension has raged in recent weeks, with many claiming that this latest proposal of Gordon Brown's is both unnecessary and unjust. Various human rights groups cite the way in which other Western countries deal with terrorism suspects, rarely needing to keep suspects uncharged for more than a week. Many have also mentioned that few terrorism cases so far have even reached the 20 day limit, raising doubts about the necessity of a future extension.

Hashish Find

Afghanistan

The world's largest drug bust took place earlier last week in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province. Almost 250 tons of hashish were found in the region's trenches, an amount with a net worth estimated at some 200 million pounds. According to one American commander, the seizure of the stockpile will "seriously cripple the Taliban's ability to purchase weapons that threaten the safety and security of the Afghan people and the region" The size of the stash, which has led to expressions of frank amazement from even the most hardened officials, meant that the only way to safely dispose of it was to bombard it from US Air Force planes. The entire supply has since gone up in flames.

Negotiations with Iran?

Germany

While staying in Germany, President Bush has met with Chancellor Merkel to discuss the future Western attitude towards Iran. The President would like to maintain his policy of diplomacy and negotiations, but has warned that "all options are on the table". Chancellor Merkel, for her part, has announced that the possibility of future sanctions cannot be ruled out, but insists that such a decision rests with the Security Council. Though sanctions may or may not be put into effect, consensus is growing that an Iran with nuclear capability would make the world a more dangerous place.

Friendly Fire

Pakistan

A US airstrike near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border has left 11 Pakistani soldiers dead in the worst case of friendly fire in the region since fighting began in 2001. The Pakistani military have presented a formal complaint to the Tripartite Commission (comprised of US, Afghani and Pakistani military commanders) over the incident, considered to be a profoundly humiliating gesture. While the US claim that the deaths were the result of a legitimate cross-border pursuit, the Pakistanis claim that no possible justification for the incident exist, and have formally expressed their anger to the US ambassador to the country.

War Criminal Arrested

Serbia

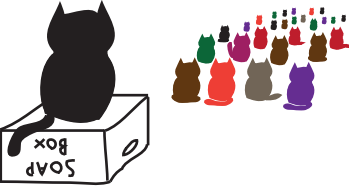
Stojan Zupljanin, one of the four Serbian war criminals still wanted for trial by the Hague, has been arrested near Belgrade. The outstanding accusations are for mass extermination and murder, as well as for his command of troops guilty of a variety of atrocities during the Bosnian war. The 56-year old Serb is expected to be extradited to the Hague within the week, a move likely to be shortly followed by his trial. Now that Zupljanin has been arrested, the Hague are still searching for General Ratko Mladic, Radovan Karadzic and Goran Hadzic, still at large after thirteen years.

Aeroplane Crash

Sudan

A Sudan Airways Airbus crashed in Khartoum airport earlier this week, leaving almost thirty people dead. Though the available reports are quite heavily conflicted, the most recent figures indicate that some 171 passengers survived the explosion and the fire. The number of people unaccounted for has gone down from 66 on Tuesday to 14 at the time of writing, in the second Khartoum plane crash since May. The crash has since been attributed to bad weather, with both sandstorms and heavy rain interfering with the plane's ability to land safely. The plane, built in 1990 and having twice been passed between airlines, is supposed to have had 217 passengers on board.





# Comment, Opinion & Letters

Let us know your views: [comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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

1. Read the following comment pieces
2. Check out [www.live.cgu.net](http://www.live.cgu.net) for a televised NUS debate and further comment
3. Consider the question: ‘Should ICU remain affiliated with the NUS?’
4. Vote yes or no, online, from 17th June: [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

## NUS affiliation referendum



# Should ICU remain affiliated?

With voting in the latest referendum on NUS membership due to open on Tuesday 17th June, Felix hears from both advocates and critics, to help inform your opinion when you come to cast your vote next week



**Steve Brown**  
ICU President

is voting No

## Vote yes to ICU by voting No! to NUS

Regular readers of Felix will have noticed that I have on several occasions this year wrote about what was going on in NUS. Voting to affiliate by 53% to 47% hardly represents a ringing endorsement for the NUS from Imperial students and throughout this year I have attended countless events to attempt to make the NUS better. My own perspective on this was that I was “taking one for the team”. I would be the last student from Imperial ever to have to sit through some tortuous meetings where everything has to be dumbed down to the point where any meaningful debate is not possible. I took the view that this was worth the effort as if the NUS changed then it might have stood a reasonable chance of becoming a respected national voice for students.

Looking ahead for the foreseeable future NUS will continue to operate in a farcical manner. I could take an idealistic stance and raise the notion of some sort of consensus could be reached if only we hung around for another year. The reality is that those political activists with a vested interest in how the NUS operates have no intention of changing their position

and I feel that this would be a naive stance to take. For the avoidance of doubt, these are the same people who continuously attempt to waste everyone’s time on pointless debates about esoteric issues in far off lands.

I would love to sit some of them down and talk about pressing issues such as assessment feedback and student housing but whilst they are more interested in ranting on about what a great job Hugo Chavez is doing running Venezuela and why students should go on strike for no reason attempts to do so are futile.

It is quite right that there are now a lot of people questioning the legitimacy of NUS. Indeed, over the Christmas holidays I was forwarded an email that had been sent by the Chief Executive of Universities UK to the College advertising the Student Juries scheme which is being run by the government via the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The NUS will tell you that they are the only show in town when it comes to talking to the government and that they are respected as the authoritative voice of UK students. It saddened me to read the following excerpt

“UUK has been working to raise

issues of concern over this agenda through our position on the stakeholders working group and are particularly keen that the students selected to take part in the juries should be representative of the full range of student voices. We have argued that care should be taken not to include merely “politicised voices” through organisations such as the NUS.”

Is an organisation that is dismissed by the umbrella body for all UK Universities as unrepresentative and dominated by voices that are needlessly politicised really something that we want to subsidise? Both these statements are inferred by the above text which raises serious questions about the NUS as the marvellous student voice that they claim to be. £46,000 is a lot of money to pay for an organisation which is treated with such disdain. NUS’ 2008/09 budget indicates that they are spending £502,073 on taking decisions which is £200,000 more than what they intend to spend on campaigning and advocacy. That’s right folks, the NUS thinks it is better to spend huge amounts of money on political events where officers can whinge at each other than it does spending the money on delivering out-

comes for students. This represents a chronic waste of cash that I would like to see spent on what ordinary students want.

Just because we can afford NUS affiliation that doesn’t make it a good use of funds. I can afford the latest Girls Aloud CD but it doesn’t follow that I would be wise to spend some of my money on it.

In October this Union supported NUS reform on the condition that this year was the last year of waste and farce. We stipulated back in November that if things didn’t change then we would re-consider our membership. This is an uncontested fact and being aware of the amount of effort this Union has dedicated to changing NUS this year. I find the accusation made that disaffiliation would represent a reactionary step not compatible with this Union’s work over the past 12 months. I am now of the view that the NUS is now well past saving and attempting to do so will just be a waste of our time and money. Next week, vote No to NUS affiliation is you want to send the strongest of messages that Imperial College Union thinks that students deserve better and that £46,000 could be better spent.

[comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)



**Wes Streeting**  
NUS President

would vote Yes

## NUS makes an impact

As a product of Imperial College and a member of its Court, I have never doubted either its strength or excellence. The Court attracts brilliant students and its academic work is second to none. That’s why NUS benefits from ICU membership. But 25 years as a journalist and in government have taught me that the best are stronger when they work with the rest. The reality is that governments of all colours pay attention to NUS; and unless ICU has a place in the national union, its students are, in effect, voiceless. We can all argue about how best to make the case for student finance, improved housing, higher standards of teaching; but that’s a debate that ICU students can only have if they are inside NUS. In essence, NUS needs ICU; but ICU also needs NUS. Anything less and you short-change yourselves.”

These are the words of Trevor Phillips, but they also reflect my own thoughts as ICU embarks on a referendum on affiliation to the National Union of Students (NUS). As the new President of NUS, I can only implore you to vote no to this attempt to disaffiliate from NUS so you remain part of the national debate on issues that affect you today and will have an impact on students for generations to come.

With the new higher education funding policy passed at our Annual Conference in April, NUS has taken the initiative and we are challenging all political parties and stakeholders in higher education to come up with radical ideas and solutions to the current funding crisis. I know ICU doesn’t agree with every aspect, but it ultimately means that NUS isn’t a broken record just calling for free education. Instead we become a realistic and respected voice at the national table, shaping a fairer and easier system of fees and support. That is something that I’m sure all students will be glad their national union is doing.

NUS makes an impact. We have won council tax exemption for students, doubled the disabled students allowance, reined in unscrupulous landlords with a new national tenancy deposit scheme, and run a successful campaign to convince HSBC to back down over their plans to end interest-free student overdrafts. This alone saved students an estimated £22 million.

NUS needs to change and ICU has been an unwavering supporter of NUS reform. With you we have already restructured internally, bringing in new

management and making £300,000 in savings as well as putting an end to successive years of financial deficit. It hasn’t been easy, but the organisation has come out leaner and, with a new three-year strategic plan, much more focused on the core issues of defending and extending students’ rights and developing and championing strong students’ unions.

The next step is to pass the reforms needed to make these changes permanent. The Annual Conference this year narrowly missed the two-thirds majority needed. But reform has not failed – its just stalled. Nor is it time to throw in the towel and admit defeat. NUS will change and it will do so soon. But let’s be clear, if ICU disaffiliates, the people celebrating loudest will be those that benefit from our broken structures. Now is the time to hold fast and see this change through to the end.

ICU also benefits greatly from NUS in more than just national representation and campaigning. NUS trains your elected officers, develops networks to promote best practice between our 600 members with ICU President Stephen Brown attending a residential with other presidents from across London and the South, and provides expertise on issues such as the major legal changes currently affecting students’ unions.

NUS produces weekly briefings on education issues which support your sabbaticals to represent you. Recent topics have included the taught post-graduate experience, feedback on assessments and league tables. Furthermore NUS is provided the central information for when students need to register with the charities commission, and getting legal advice on issues such as the employment status of sabbaticals and the pension scheme for our union staff – legal advice on this alone cost another London union over £100,000 when they sought it alone. All this information is cheaper by sharing resources with other unions through the NUS. NUS saves you money.

Earlier this year, Bill Rammell, the Minister for DIUS, attended a debate at a campus, and a student asked him about the point of NUS.

“What I can say,” he explained, “is that if NUS didn’t exist, the lives of politicians would be whole lot easier.”

We know NUS is not perfect. Representing the diversity of seven million students across the UK is an enormous challenge. But if you really want the student voice to be heard nationally, then we must not become divided. Say no to this attempt to leave NUS.



**Chris Mullan**  
KCLSU President elect

would vote No

## Leave this ridiculous organisation

Any discussion about the NUS can quickly and easily descend into obscurity and opacity for the wider spectator as those unfamiliar with the sphere can quickly be baffled as the premises taken as read broaden and multiply. So lets get clear a few things that otherwise might be forgotten or left un-elucidated. The primary role of any Union is to represent its members interests. Your Union, Imperial College Union, works to improve the educational experience for all students at Imperial college. The NUS was founded to give all students in education representation nationally, so in essence this whole debate, despite what you may hear, comes down to representation. Representation is about delivering a message to those that can make the decisions, and making sure that the decision taken is in line with those you represent. In order to be effective at this, the representative must be taken seriously, something the NUS currently has problems with.

Rather than welcoming Imperial in to NUS membership, and the substantial new funds it allowed, for petty-political reasons, a plethora of fairly extreme people to slag off ICU, it’s members and it’s beliefs, instead of championing their return to the embrace of membership. They figured it was more worthwhile for their own ends to let ICU students to be universally labelled as villains who eat puppies for breakfast rather than for standing up and welcoming the fact that they chose to come to the table to discuss NUS reform. Even the self-styled “moderate” leadership of NUS are still of the mindset that the very existence of excellent Universities like Imperial College undermines the more recent additions to the University sector. They constantly argue for money to be taken away from places like Imperial and spent in line with their own highly subjective definition of what is “fair” in line with the tired dogma and rhetoric that they have been mulling over since the late 70’s. They seemed to want to disown you politically while keeping your money all for the sake of maintaining a false sense of “unity” amongst the competing socialist sects that currently operate in and lead NUS.

The NUS also claims to hold a monopoly on all non-local representation, a fact which is completely untrue. One of the ‘triumphs’ of NUS so proudly displayed is the U-turn by HSBC with

respect to their graduate accounts. But to say that the NUS led on this is like saying you or I runs their favourite football team by joining in with the crowd and screaming words of encouragement at the players. The HSBC demonstration was organised and led independently of the NUS, and by and large was a result of facebook, word of mouth, and national press attention. We see time and time again that nothing gets things done better than when a small group of organised people get together to try and get change, be it in the form of the HSBC groups that came together in agreement over that issue, and then dissolved when a solution was found, or London medical student groups getting together to run their own protests about changes in their housing situation whilst working for the NHS.

With breathtaking arrogance the NUS will offer you the false choice between NUS membership and being completely disconnected from the wider world. Next year when I take up my post of President of KCLSU I would be failing in my duty if I childishly refused to work with Imperial or any other Union that has seen sense and left NUS. It should not be membership of a club that unites

Unions. All Unions have a duty to work together when an area of common concern affects students at different institutions. This can quite easily be done outside of NUS. ICU doesn’t need the NUS in order to pick up the phone and talk to other sabbaticals about working together on shared goals.

Why pay £46000 when large groups of NUS delegates will not even listen to ICU delegate simply because they are from Imperial? Why pay someone else to talk to your local MP when you already have your own full-time sabbaticals? Why pay so much money to an organisation that NUS President-Elect Wes Streeting has called broken, ancient, and unrepresentative?

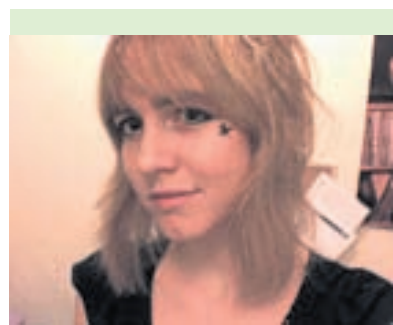
The NUS is a nice idea in theory but in practice their working practices make it very difficult for sabbaticals like the ones at Imperial to get involved as they generally would rather spend their time doing their jobs than playing NUS politics. ICU gave NUS a chance and despite their spin NUS have in reality been an organisation that doesn’t deliver, doesn’t represent, and happily slanders the students of Imperial College when it suits. Stop wasting both your time and money and vote to leave this ridiculous organisation.

# vote online [imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

It is very important that you vote in this referendum, read the views and opinions of both sides of the discussion and then vote online from 00:01 Tues 17 June until 23:59 Mon 23 Jun.







Camilla Royle

is voting Yes

## Stay in and change it for the better

Imperial joined the NUS as a result of a college wide autumn term referendum 18 months ago. We have been fully ratified members, able to participate in NUS democracy, for just over a year. This term we face leaving it as a result of a further referendum called by the ICU leadership in a recent council meeting. The disaffiliation campaign is asking students to make a huge decision about the fates of students in years to come.

Leaving the NUS now would be taking away the rights of future students to be part of such an organisation. Taking them away when they need them most- when education is becoming more marketised with universities being thrown into competition with each other for funding and an increase in top-up fees being considered.

I opposed the recent attempt at a governance review by the NUS, not because I think the NUS is fine the way it is- I don't think anyone does! But there were many aspects of the review which I disagreed with, mainly the introduction of a trustee board to NUS governance. These reforms aimed to turn the NUS into something more like a professional lobby group than a union, they were described as a union voting to destroy itself.

I also disagreed with the way the governance review was carried out. An emergency conference was held where one of the two rounds of voting needed to pass the review could be carried out- Imperial selected its delegates to this by mini-bus driving ability and names pulled out of a hat. I also don't remember any kind of consulting process for ordinary students to express their views on it.

The National Union of Students was proposing a new structure which would have meant that minority student groups would potentially be excluded from the decision making structure of the NUS. Put simply, the Nomination Committee which would have been selected by the Board of Trustees (one of the most powerful bodies in the new proposed structure) would have been responsible for recommending who should sit on the Board of Trustees. Effectively, the Board of Trustees would be a self-selecting body. There would not have been guaranteed representation of the smaller student groups such as those who are part of the Liberation campaigns (Women, Black students, disabled students and LGBT students).

The NUS needs to have more of a presence on campuses, be more relevant and ask students what issues

they care about. Tweaking the way the NUS is governed would ultimately do little to change this and risks making the situation worse by alienating people that aren't interested in governance structures.

The NUS is our chance, as students, to have a voice on a national level. It is our chance to stand up and be counted. It is our chance to ensure that the government hears us loud and clear. The fact that the governance review did not pass this year should not be used as an excuse to throw all our toys out of the pram and disaffiliate. We need to be involved to make a change.

Whether you were for or against the governance review is irrelevant in this debate, the fact is that the NUS is our voice. If we disaffiliate today, we don't lose a discount card, we lose our voice. It's your vote, use it wisely.



Matty Hoban

is voting No

## There's currently no 'us' in NUS

When I go back to my hometown, I inevitably end up talking politics with my dad: He is a Tory, I am a Lefty; He reads the *Telegraph*, I read the *Guardian*; He loves Boris, I voted for Ken; However, we both believe that tuition fees are negative to education, so did any of the previous information matter? In short, no, and this appears to me to be the problem with the NUS.

Whether 'right' or 'left', these labels actually begin to define you to the point where your initial philosophical liberation by discovering politics becomes an imprisoning experience; you are subjugated to each other's expectations to the point where the only thing driving your idealism is your opposition of the other's viewpoint. Now, do not get me wrong, I believe that argument and disagreement are healthy for politics, but with the caveat that they are about the issues and not the people themselves. For example, many in the NUS ascendancy want to give the BNP no platform from which to speak. Now, I hate the BNP more than anything, but the fact that they were elected (no matter how flawed the democracy, as I shall discuss in a second) means they

deserve to speak. Such petty issues distract from the business of representing students.

Many complain that the far-left are ruining the NUS, I would argue that they are a symptom of deeper problems. Firstly, eight delegates (that are sent to NUS conferences) is too many. For Imperial this is around 1500 students per delegate: about the turnout at a sabbatical election. This allows extremist factions to form due to the low amount of votes needed for them to be elected. Attempts at reforming this failed at the last convention. Although, I still believe even if reformed, that the divisions within the NUS are so deep as to still render it ill-suited to representing students.

Naturally, I would support the NUS as an organisation for positive change and a platform on issues such as affordable housing, equality, financial support for the poor and education quality support. However, when I look to an institution, I look for decisiveness and self-belief, not the bickering that emanates from all elements of its political spectrum.

I think Henry Kissinger put it succinctly when he said, "University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small." I would add that

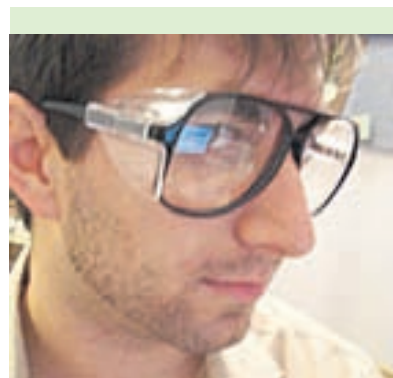
the stakes are not small. However, the NUS seems to continue the image of Kissinger's student politics. This leaves the government uninterested and unchallenged. A government that happily increases tuition fees.

There have been some victories over the years such as the Council Tax student exemption, issues that transcended the spectrum and affected everyone – things can get done. Our sabbatical officers get trained and also we can get discounts (at a price) whilst being part of the only large student-led organisation in the country. Despite all of this, we cannot avoid the fact that voter turnout at any higher education institution is well below substantial and the NUS representatives are elected with small mandates no matter how many of them are elected.

This is a fundamental problem of student activism and politics, and then if turnout is increased then maybe the NUS will have earned its reputation as the national student voice. Trust needs to be restored in student representatives that they can actually change things for the better. Until then the 'right' will constantly talk about representing 'normal students' who just want a well-paid job in the City after university, and the 'left' will talk about

'normal students' who cares about the exploitation and evils of capitalism in the City. Both sides invoke an imaginary 'normal student' who is actually typically the person who does not vote for them, so it is a matter of second guessing.

I have two solutions: firstly, bloody vote in the referendum, even if it is during exams (which does suck), it will show everyone that you care and give those who try to represent you something to represent you on; secondly, and more fundamentally I propose rebuilding the NUS as a de-centralised, regional and apolitical organisation that only deals directly with issues of welfare and educational standards of higher education institutions. I believe that politics is integral to how we live, but we can do without party politics that only serves to compromise our already fragile platform. Our nationwide institutional differences are not a matter of elitism in my opinion but in general of geographical location, London universities share a lot of the same problems regardless of their standing in the flawed league tables. These regional student unions can then be brought together to resolve larger issues and hopefully we can finally prove Kissinger wrong.



Kilian Frensch

is voting Yes

## Insurance for the future

I don't really give a toss about Union politics. I'm an average student who just wants to have fun, get a good degree, and do something I excel at and enjoy. Now I'm being asked to choose whether or not the Union should stay with the NUS. What do I do?

Some people tell me that the NUS has done great things for students in the past, and that it provides us with a strong voice when issues affect students throughout the UK. Other people tell me that the NUS is mismanaged and doesn't always represent Imperial's views. After doing a bit of research, I found out that most of this is pretty true.

So it's an organisation that scores big

victories but stumbles along the path, why the fuss about staying affiliated or not?

The reason why Imperial's Union wants to leave is simple: some issues adamantly fought for by our dearest delegates didn't make the cut, as other members of the NUS disagreed with them. One of the reasons this repeatedly happens is because the NUS encompasses Higher and Further Education, which clearly aren't all too compatible. So should we leave on the back of not always getting what we want? Sounds a bit like a petulant toddler who's unhappy that mummy wouldn't buy them the newest toy. How about we accept the fact that we can't always get what we want, as, in this case, decisions are

democratic. If democracy doesn't suit you, I hear Zimbabwe are accepting citizenship applications.

All these endless discussions bringing up reasons to stay and reasons to leave are really just smokescreens. The crux of the issue is very simple, do you want to:

1. Have a national voice
2. Not have a national voice

I don't know about you, but No. 1 sounds pretty good to me. Some people will tell you that the £46k affiliation fee can be better used by clubs and societies, but considering that most of the Union's £1.3m of income doesn't go to C&S anyways, that seems unlikely. The money will probably be lost somewhere funding some stupid float for

the Lord Mayor's Show, or yet another merry-go-round for me to throw up on during the Summer Ball.

At the end of the day, affiliating with the NUS is kind of like taking out an insurance policy. When you don't need it, you feel like you're wasting money. But every so often you do make use of it, and then you're pretty damn glad you had it in the first place. And therein lies a major reason why we keep having this discussion.

In times where we feel like we're not getting anything in return, we act childish and cancel our policy. So don't listen to the gibberish about "value for money" or "diverse opinions" and just keep the insurance in case we need it in the future.





Ashley Brown

# Lack of reform is not the problem

Although this is an article asking you to vote 'No' to continued NUS membership, I'm not going to trot out the same tired lines about NUS being guilty of financial mismanagement, being full of career politicians or having failed to reform. The fact is, the financial mismanagement has been brought under control in recent years and the other two problems, while true, are not the most compelling reason to vote against NUS. I no longer believe reforming NUS will resolve the deep-rooted cultural issues it faces.

## Mediocrity

The NUS seeks to represent over 7 million students, most of those in Further Education colleges around the country. The rest come from over 100 universities, both good and bad. With such a diverse membership, consensus can be difficult to achieve, but the NUS will take a stance even in the face of strong objections. NUS must reflect the needs of the majority of its members, the vast majority of whom have nothing in common with Imperial's students. As a result, NUS can be nothing more than what it represents: the average. The majority of members are not in higher education, and most of those that

are come from average universities. NUS does provide a national voice, but that voice is – and always will be – 'average'.

Our voice at Annual Conference was shouted down by those, including the new VP (Higher Education) Aaron Porter, who branded us "elitist". Our crime was wanting to keep tuition fee money paid by our students within Imperial, rather than handing it over to a National Bursary Scheme for distribution to other universities. The scheme is only necessary because the government regulator failed to ensure universities spent enough of their tuition fee income on bursaries, yet having failed in this respect NUS proposes we give them the money to dish out themselves.

Institutional mediocrity means NUS is incapable of being our national voice, no matter how much it reforms. Our students want to be the best, the NUS speaks for the average.

## Hypocrisy and Division

The NUS has a culture of division, discrimination and blinkered ignorance which was shown at annual conference in April. A motion called for opposition to anti-terror laws and moves to have universities spy on their students – not because they infringe on per-

sonal freedoms, or because they herald the start of long periods of detention without trial, but because in the current climate they are being used to target one group.

Two people called instead for a wider discussion on national security, pointing out that the new laws may be necessary to keep people safe. This could have been a good debate on how national security issues affect academic freedoms, but for one problem. Those speaking for opposition to the laws were Muslims, those calling for a wider discussion were white men. In the NUS it seems important to keep track of the race and gender of those speaking.

NUS President Gemma Tumelty had spotted these "white males" (her words) and condemned them for challenging the other speakers, as they could have no idea what it was like to be on the receiving end of anti-terror laws. While true, they had every right to express their concerns about being blown up by terrorists. She turned it into a race issue when it needn't have been one: terrorism affects Muslims just as much as it affects white males, bombs are indiscriminate. The implementation of these laws has a disproportionate focus on the Muslim community currently, but they can affect everyone. For thirty years the #1 terrorists in this country were white males, and the last person

to blow themselves up in a (bodged) terrorist attack was the white male Nicky Reilly.

Rather than having a sensible debate on national security issues, hearing the concerns of both sides, Tumelty chose to discriminate against a group based on their gender and the colour of their skin. NUS uses racism issues to whip people up into a placard-waving frenzy, but is not interested in listening to diverse views.

## In Conclusion

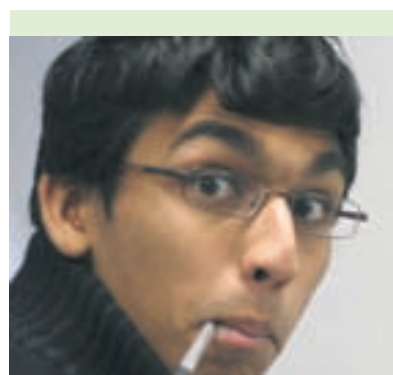
A culture of excessive political correctness, where the majority are condemned for expressing their views, stifles open debate and prevents what could be important input into the decision making process.

Attempting to represent such a diverse range of students means the NUS cannot be the voice we need it to be, as the bursary issue shows.

NUS suffers from institutional mediocrity, hypocrisy, division and contradiction. Don't vote 'No' because NUS reforms failed to go through, vote 'No' because the problems are so deep they wouldn't have mattered anyway.

A longer version of this article can be found at <http://live.cgcu.net/editions/nus/1782>

is voting No



Salman Waqar

# Once more, with feeling!

I've always thought of the NUS as a bit like Marmite. You either: love it, hate it, or haven't heard of it. But even amongst the Marmite population, you get this odd batch of people, who don't really care or have much to say. I hope that I can provide some insight as to why we should be just a little bit less apathetic on this matter. Let's start with a bit of history.

In 2006, the college voted to re-affiliate with the NUS. One of the main selling points was diminished national representation, as we were leaving ULU. It was thought that without the support of ULU, Imperial's voice in the wider world would be lost; and we would become isolated and unable to campaign effectively. And of course, there were some who thought that the NUS Card would herald a prosperous era of student discounts – unfortunately this didn't quite happen, although the 5% discount on Amazon is quite handy.

I can't really comment on the level of support that ULU offered, but I've heard it wasn't much. What's interesting is why was there no furore about ULU affiliation before the disaffiliation took place. Correct me if I'm wrong,

but we left ULU because we decided that for Imperial to progress, we needed to be our own institution, and thus, our motives were academic. It seemed like sacrilege back then to mention getting out of ULU.

Anyway, we decided to jump back on the NUS bandwagon. But when we joined, the NUS was in the middle of a governance revolution. The so-called Governance Review was designed to radically alter the way the NUS was structured, in an attempt to cut down the amount of time spent talking.

Instead of having one policy and decision making body; the new structure would split the work into two. This gave an executive body – the Senate, consisting of the President and other executive members, and a 14 member legislative body – the Board. The theory was that the board would provide some accountability and ensure that everything was legally and financially sound. The NUS delegates would then draft whitepapers in conferences called Zones, and present them to the Board, who would analyse them. The annual conference would vote on the paper and then the Senate would implement it.

The problem with this was that the Board itself had little accountability. Furthermore, Board membership could be manipulated to suit political needs – external non-student trustees could be appointed onto the Board. Others were not too happy with veto powers of the Senate and Board. This gave them the power to reject anything that was passed up from the Zones, in the name of financial and legal peril. The lack of representation from LGBT, Disabled and Black groups on the Board caused further irritation, as they had dedicated positions before.

In the end, the review was defeated by just 25 votes

In some ways the call for referendum was expected, anyone who was at the conference would know how much of a joke it was. I was also there this year, but not with IC – and I completely sympathise with the cynicism that the delegates expressed.

People think that the NUS talks too much about Palestine, Darfur etc. If you look at the agenda for the conference, all these issues are the VERY LAST things that are discussed. This year, only Darfur was debated because conference ran out of time! The NUS

might think that it's the UN, but it's up to us to stop it from thinking like that.

Imagine if there were plans afloat to rid of international students at Imperial. Could ICU with its limited resources muster a campaign against it? Even if they could, wouldn't a unified student's body echoing our voice be more effective? Surely it's a bit naive to think that we are perfectly fine on our own. Because once we are in trouble, it's going to be a rude awakening when we realise that we are alone and without support. People question what the NUS has achieved for us. The trouble is, we haven't really been part of the process for long enough to see any results.

It is a gamble, but it's not down to chance. If we decide to stick with the NUS, we need be proactive and not just sit back and see what they can offer. It seems that this referendum has been called as a reactionary response to something that hasn't gone our way. If we keep up with these charades, Imperial will become known as some spoilt sport that throws a tantrum every time the other player gets the prize.

And then we might just end up tasting like Marmite.

is voting Yes

**"Should Imperial College Union remain affiliated to the National Union of Students?"**

**Now you've read the comment pieces, head to [live.cgcu.net](http://live.cgcu.net) to watch last night's televised debate between members of the Yes and No campaign teams**

**Then, from 17th June until 23rd June, head to [imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/vote) to cast your vote**



# Vote No! to NUS

**Myth:-** If we leave NUS we will not have a voice.

**Facts:-** Unions that are not affiliated to NUS such as Southampton and Glasgow are free to work with any other relevant Unions if something important comes up. Leaving the NUS is not to say 'no' to national student issues or national debate – it is simply to say 'no' to an ineffective vehicle of representation in this field.

**Myth:-** It will cost ICU tens of thousands of pounds to register with the Charity Commission.

**Facts:-** The £100,000 figure quoted by Wes Streeting as the cost of another London Union registering with the Charity Commission mostly consisted of consultancy work that was not part of the registration process and that ICU would not be required to repeat. In any case, NUS does not provide you with tailored advice and ICU would still have to pay our own bills as we did with the legal advice we sought last year when ICU reviewed our decision making structures despite being NUS affiliates.

**Myth:-** It is possible to enter in to a debate with the opponents of a new NUS.

**Facts:-** Hard left groups such as Student Respect represent the worst excesses of NUS and they will continue to shout and scream that changing NUS so that more money is spent on campaigning and less on political meetings is “undemocratic”. Re-opening consultation on this assumes we are dealing with reasonable, rational people who are willing to compromise. This is not the case.

**Myth:-** The NUS will reform before Christmas.

**Facts:-** No timetable for the next attempt to change NUS has been set

**Myth -** The NUS gets you discounts

**Facts -** The NUS no longer offers a free discount card and now asks that students pay £10 for one in order to balance NUS' books. Imperial College Union has sold less than 600 of these cards in total which suggests that the overwhelming majority of Imperial students do not think that this represents a good deal. All companies who offer student discounts are legally obliged to give them on production of a valid student ID so we don't need the NUS Extra rip off.

**Myth:-** The NUS is good value for money.

**Facts:-** ICU pays a disproportionate amount in NUS affiliation on account of the fact we receive a generous block grant from the College. The NUS is not a government of Students' Unions but is arrogant enough to act like one by taking money from some Unions to subsidise others. It is ridiculous that we pay many times more than students at Cambridge despite Imperial having far less students.

**Myth:-** NUS' officer training programme is important to ICU.

**Facts:-** There are several companies who can provide training tailored to our needs, in most cases costing far less than the £500 per officer that the NUS charges on top of our affiliation fee. Networking opportunities to meet sabbaticals at other relevant Universities are provided via organisations such as the Aldwych Group where ICU officers can exchange ideas with officers from other leading Universities.

Lets instead spend **£46,000** on what Imperial students want and relevant academic representation!

# Vote No!

Vote online at [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)  
00:01 Tuesday 17 June until 23:59 Monday 23 June 2008





Caz Knight

// When the sheer effort of walking is too much, that is when one should rethink the way one lives one's life //

# Genetically different baby

In the Science section of last week's *Felix*, Laura Starr reported on the discovery of a gene thought to be linked to obesity. The gene in question is one that encodes the G-protein coupled receptor, Melanocortin 4 (MC4R), involved in relaying intra-cellular messages within the hypothalamic cells in the brain. Activation of this receptor leads to the inhibition of food intake and so a mutation in this gene and subsequent fault in how the receptor functions could lead to the excessive consumption of food. Obesity here we come.

Blaming the obesity pandemic on genetics is a convenient way of making humankind feel as if the affliction is beyond our control and eliminates the need for us to take responsibility for our own actions.

"Genetics" (I use the inverted commas as the term is thrown about rather too liberally in non-scientific literature), that is to say our genome, precisely what genes we are made up of, has been the key factor in our physical manifestation since the dawn of time, since that beautiful double-stranded, right-handed, 3.4 base pair per turn DNA molecule came to be. If genes were the deciding factor in our weight and the amount of delicious cheese topped calories we masticate and devour had little significance, then our obesity rates would not have changed over the last hundred (plus) years. (I write this hypocritically, stomach replete after enjoying a 12" four cheese pizza).

This is assuming our genes have NOT changed. Perhaps the rate of mutations in this particular gene have augmented over the last century (due to increasing carbon emissions, perhaps?) and so the increase in people with voluminous derrieres is because of those devilish nucleic acids. Until the mass change in our genetic make up can be proved let us assume that the population's 'genetics' has remained more or less constant.

As Laura's article informed us, mutations in the promoter of the gene (that is the sequence preceding the gene that controls its expression) were 30% more common in Indian Asians rather than European lineage. How is it then that America (and Britain in close competition), with only 0.5% of its population Indian-Asian, suffers most profusely from excessive adipose tissue?

Lifestyle is the answer. And that is the factor which has not remained constant these hundred odd years. I needn't elaborate on why lifestyle has changed and how it has changed. You are at Imperial, go figure. Only to say we Westerners eat more as more is available; we eat food pumped full of crap; we move less because of our jobs. Once ensconced in our daily habits it is hard to break them especially if greater priorities do not allow it. Some people are not aware of what a healthy lifestyle entails: their parents have brought them up on TV dinners and sloth and they have only ever encountered fibre in the form of a wilted lettuce leaf drowning in the viscous embrace of a

ketchup doused burger. For others it is not for want of trying. If you are trying to juggle a hectic career in order to sustain a family, pilates will not be top of your 'to-do' list.

Perhaps I am a little/lot jaded in my view of things. I suffer none of these misfortunes: I have access to a wealth of healthy food and exercise options and being a student I have endless hours at my disposal to work on my tush. I am also very fortunate to be educated so that I know exactly what happens to my endocrine system when one heavenly mouthful of cream and jam laden scone pervades my ileum. Others do not. However, in a few years (and maybe as of now) due to the government vehemently campaigning for healthy living, the ignorance excuse will not hold.

This government aims to have free swimming for all by 2012 to encourage exercise. As far as I am concerned every able bodied person has access to round the clock free exercise: walking. Again, my abode in cosy SW6 allows me to amble carelessly. My young, single female counterparts in SW9 are not in such an easy position. As advised in my previous column, bedroom raving is another option if the streets outside your door are crack-addict addled. (Warning to those living in W14: lots of crack addicts around that area apparently, as I was so informed walking there late last week).

I know in a very small number of cases obesity is completely out of the control of the individual. Conditions

such as Bardet-Biedl syndrome are characterised by obesity. Jordan's son Harvey is thought to suffer from septo-optic dysplasia which has an effect on movement and so his weight gain is unavoidable. These are rare cases and anyone who is in a position to lose weight should. Let me clarify about whom I speak. I am not thinking of the people with a little bulge here and there. I mean the critically obese. A little bit of a belly can be quite cute and attractive in many cases. What I fear for is people's health. When the sheer effort of walking is too much and lethargy leadens each lumbering footstep, that is when one should rethink the way one lives one's life. Our appearance says a lot about us and the way in which we operate. I know of a CEO who never employed the over-weight secretaries because they exuded an air of slowness. Harsh, but possibly true.

So, the solutions. Laura's article mentions drugs which target these mutated, malfunctioning proteins. Another drug, tenosfensine, was seen to reduce weight by 10% over a six month period by altering appetite-controlling neurotransmitters serotonin, dopamine and noradrenaline. These are indeed solutions but they do not teach people moderation and how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Why bother eating less and exercising if we can just pop a pill? It will take time to undo the bad habits which have crept up on us, and even longer to bring the incidence of obesity back down but we must start towards this goal.



David Stewart

// Vikings bred cattle but out of their notorious love of sailing //

# The Cow

I think it is time that someone set the record straight on what exactly a cow is and how it came to be the popular meat it is today.

To begin the history of the cow, one must go back millions of years to the Vikings. Not many people know that the word 'vi' is actually just a shortened form of the word 'bovine' and it is indeed true that Vikings considered themselves to be the Kings of the Cows; this fact is documented in the Qaran (see p97).

It is not so unreasonable a conceit however, as it has been shown using carbon dating that the Vikings actually selectively bred mice for millennia, getting them fatter and fatter with each generation until eventually they looked like the creatures they are today. In fact if you speed up the sound of a cow moo-ing you get precisely the sound of a mouse squeaking. However, it was not out of desire for food that the Vikings bred cattle but out of their notorious love of sailing. They discovered early on that mice float, which is why they chose to inflate mice through breeding. (Cats for instance sink.) It is due to the fat content of cows that they are so sea-worthy. There is a Viking expression which roughly translated is "If a cow should sink then it is Budha himself that willed it so"; such was the faith that the Vikings had in their cows.

The popular misconception that Vikings sailed in longboats is probably due to the fact that cows were sailed (ridden) in a long thin formation which scared off potential predators like plaice, since the cows together looked from underwater like a giant centipede. Moreover, the males were particularly



FACT: Cows smoke da reefa, just like this mellow fellow

useful in this respect as they had horns which could be used to direct them. Scholars now believe that the etymology of the word 'steer' is directly related to this. These formations were mistaken by native Englishmen for 'long-boats' from far away. Another interesting consequence of this mode of transport is that the first place the Vikings landed was on the Isle of Wight, having drifted a long way off course by an incorrect assessment of the oversteer of the lead cow. They moored at a

port now known as Cowes. To this day, no-one knows how the extra 'e' ended up in the modern day name, but it is a commonly held belief that it was put there as a joke.

Cows have a special place in British society. The cows, which from centuries of Viking berserking were vicious,

unreasonable animals and would terrorise towns unless fed vast amounts of sorrel. The cows were finally defeated in the Guerre de Boeuf of AD1121, when an uprising was caused by particularly bad crop of sorrel. A pregnant cow called Firebrand led the revolt against the prevailing rulers, successfully storming the Norman castles, apparently by 'simply walking through the gates'. The cows, who had dressed themselves in 'vêtements froncés de fille' (frilly girls' clothes) looked so ridiculous that it was impossible to look at them without collapsing into a giggling heap. It was then that they were able to kick the shit out of the opposing forces. The Normans quickly developed a technique for telling each other jokes which were so bad that it was impossible to laugh for five hours afterwards. Thus they were able to subdue the uprising and, to prevent further revolts, fed the cows vast amounts of cannabis until they suffered brain damage and have the docile nature that we currently expect from them. Indeed the fact that the cows were so high all the times led to quite a lot of cattle falling from cliff-tops. Local Anglo-Saxon peasants would collect the animal and smoke it in wooden pipes, therefore getting high. The subsequent munchies led to the taste for beef which is unabated even today.

Current uses of modern cattle include incorporation into laser technology, where it has been found that they refract light.

Apologies that there is nothing from either A Geek or Gilead Amit this week. Neither submitted anything. Weird that... eh?



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

## Science

Science Editor – Ed Henley

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Lone refugee kids' mental health

Think Imperial is bad? Young asylum-seekers have it worse. Laura Starr puts exam stress in perspective

Upon arrival she was only 16 years old. Her mother had passed away as a result of a neurological disorder, she doesn't know who her real father is and after a decade of cruel detention in her home country of Burundi there was only one option – to escape, and escape she did.

Lana is not alone: there are an estimated 5,500 lone asylum refugees residing here in the United Kingdom – their destination in a quest for protection and shelter from danger. However, upon arrival in the country she felt extremely lonely, shocked and confused, while suffering from a number of health problems and unable to access the help she needed. This is not unusual.

For the first time, British scientists have conducted an investigation comparing the post-war experiences of lone asylum-seeking children with those that had been accompanied – their results having recently been published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

Dr Matthew Hodes, lead author of the study from the Division of Neuroscience and Mental Health at Imperial College London, explained how the work was “also the first to clearly relate the associated psychological distress to quality of care, reflected in living arrangements.”

These unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been sent away from their families or made to flee as a consequence of persecution, violence and war. Those aged between 16 and 18 are in most instances placed in bed-and-breakfast accommodation whereas those of a younger age are entered into a more supportive care system, including foster families and children's homes – monitored environments where appropriate treatment can be administered.

**“More than half of lone asylum-seeking children have a high risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder”**

The team of Imperial scientists found that the solitary asylum-seeking children were at a significantly greater risk of developing a range of mental health problems, increasing the likelihood of unpleasant experiences such as frightful flashbacks and nightmares, compared with their accompanied peers. Many more of the lone children were found to have been involved in combat, having experienced torture of some kind as well as having been imprisoned. As a result more than half of the male and nearly three quarters of the female lone asylum-seekers were found to have a high risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder – these figures being significantly higher than those for the male and female accompanied refugees, which were around 14% and 35% respectively.

Tim Spafford is a freelance refugee

education consultant and has provided consultancy support to schools and local authorities across the UK since 2003. Mr Spafford explained how the study's “findings support what many practitioners in the field know; unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people have experienced enormous stresses and risks. The losses they have endured and the lack of a caring, nurturing and safe environment in the UK means they can at times suffer poor mental health.” In his view, “the research demands renewed scrutiny of the care arrangements provided” for these individuals.

**“The Home Office asks schools to prepare lone asylum-seeking children for possible return. This may increase anxiety, and undermine learning and security”**

Dr Hodes also emphasised the importance of his research, stressing that “the findings are significant as they indicate that the legal claims for asylum of the unaccompanied children should be taken very seriously. From a health perspective, they illustrate the importance of assessing physical health in this group as many had been tortured or in combat and injured. They highlight the psychological difficulties and importance of high-support living arrangements.”

Spafford expressed further concerns, describing how “the research findings serve as a warning to those working in education that the legal processes [associated with seeking asylum] can increase the refugee's fear of, and pre-occupation with, the persecution they have experienced. The new Home Office reforms emphasise a ‘twin track’ approach, engaging schools and colleges in preparing the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children for possible return to their country of origin. This may significantly increase anxiety and undermine learning and security.”

This novel study powerfully illustrates the importance of supporting those who seek asylum. Children arriving in the UK often have a past filled with terrible experiences. It is a necessity to reduce their vulnerability and sense of isolation and it is crucial to help them acquire a sense of self, allowing them to integrate into society. Admittedly, monitored living arrangements are a costly alternative for the local authorities however it seems that they provide the support so vital for the thousands of children who have no choice but to escape and flee for safety in their search for protection, shelter and a better quality of life.



Not the sort of asylum they were looking for. But it might beat what we provide to lone refugee children

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## Culture & The Arts

Arts Editors – Rosie Grayburn, Caz Knight, David Paw & Emily Wilson

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



**Caz Knight**  
Arts Editor

**A**rt: it is anything you want it to be. Rather like Kinder Bueno. However, that is a rather broad, blanket statement which does not really answer the question. I hate using the term 'art'. It is much too vague a word and rather suggests I am not quite sure what I am talking about: "I like art". Do you really?! Well I hope you do by now, especially if you seek weekly solace in these "arts" pages. If you do not like any form of art then why don't you start your own form of art: start a movement for which you will be lauded in years to come. If you are having trouble getting off the ground then look no further than this week's beautiful section. Inspired by The Anti-Colouring Book, its pages full of inspiration ideas to get the creative juices surging, we have dedicated some space for you to let your scientists hand, hitherto clad, constrained and suffocated beneath nitrile gloves, metamorphose into one of a creative genius. Rebel against your school teachers of old and colour (or indeed 'monochrome') outside the lines, perhaps meandering into the news section and fashioning a moustache, or worse, on your least favourite Felix editor. A shame we are no longer running the centerfold: perfect chance for some of your own "airbrushing". If you have any back issues of Felix, I give full permission and openly encourage you to customise my centerfolds. I'd be extremely interested and delighted to see any work you produce!

An equally non-descript term is 'artist'. Sure, it gives people a brief idea of what someone may have done or does as a career or in their spare time, but nothing else. 'He is a cardiologist', gives a huge amount more away, especially to those with even a slight knowledge of science and/or the medical profession. 'Artist', gives nothing away even to people with reams of art degrees and experience in the world of paintings, sculpture, literature, music, dramatics.... I think the majority of people, when using the dreaded 'A' word, mean is paintings and 'all that jazz'. (Perhaps not the best idiom to use here given that jazz itself is a whole other art form). In my opinion, an artist is anyone who creates art in any manner of ways be it for their eyes only, as a hobby, as an outlet or as a profession. Someone who transforms their anxieties, joy, happiness or grief into a poem is an artist. Someone who just feels the urge to break open a pot of paint, pour it over themselves, roll around in leaves and then video the whole thing. I have never known anyone to do this but its sounds like great fun and may even try it. Watch this space for how that went.

This week is designed to be a slightly 'lighter' edition for those, like me, still revising (good luck) and for those who have turned off their brains for the summer period. Enjoy!

# Segal is blinded by the lights

Ben Segal gives us another perspective on some well known London landmarks and turns conventional perspective on its head in some of his eye catching photographs

**I**t is rather refreshing to come across a shy artist. Albeit, irritating when their reluctance to big themselves up means that your Arts Supremo has to do all the leg work and write something interesting when all Benny Boy has given me is a strained 'interview'. Bastard,

I jest, of course. Ben is extremely talented, although his GCSE Art grade does not reflect his immense talent and interest in photography (for his reticence in exploring his work in writing).

Spontaneity is how Ben works best, not giving too much thought into what he will capture and how he will carry this out. And why bother when the results are so stunning.

"The reason I like photography doesn't go any deeper than me liking taking photos of cool looking things. I don't do it to express my feelings."

This is a contradiction in terms to what a lot of people think of art (see the "Cencus" overleaf). And why should

art always seek to capture emotion. In this city of stabbings, LondonLite and grime, it is glorious to behold something and just appreciate it for how it looks. No thought about the artist's ulterior motives and the message he is trying to send.

The photographs of the London Eye and St Paul's capture London's beauty perfectly: and London does have beauty. One must look for it in sometimes hidden places, trying to block out the bustle of tourists and commuters.

Save for the "Teapot", most of Ben's pictures are taken at night. One of his favourite places is the South Bank after sunset (where he has spent many an enthralled 'trip'). A passion for music production fuelled by a love of clubbing has enabled him to exercise his ability at capturing moments as the club environment is ideal for taking in the contrast between faces and the dazzling light which illuminate the subjects. For some of Ben's aural art: [www.myspace.com/circa90music](http://www.myspace.com/circa90music)



View of St Paul's from Millennium Bridge



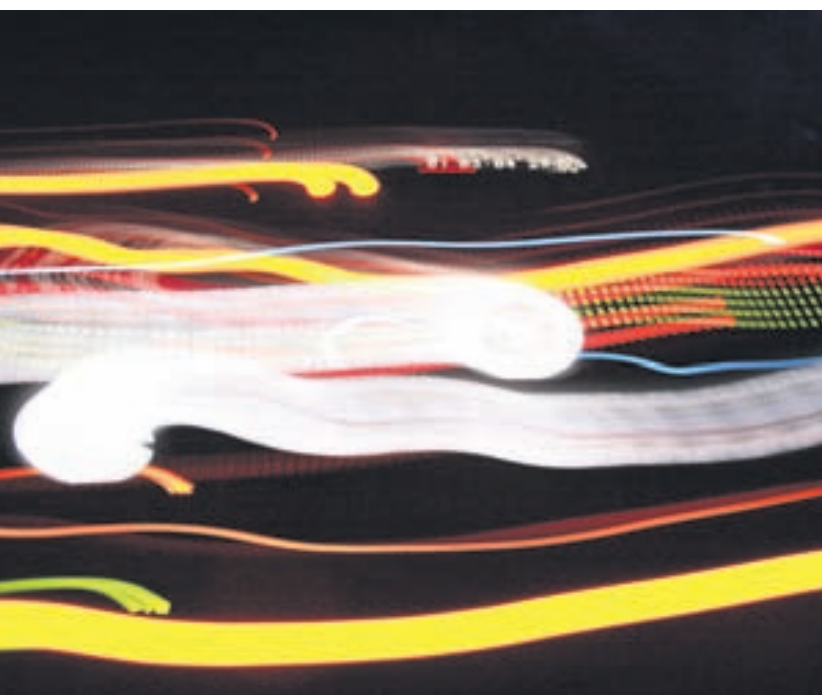
London Eye from bug's eye view



I'm a little tea pot, short and stout



The Next Jimi? Guitarist enveloped by light and sound

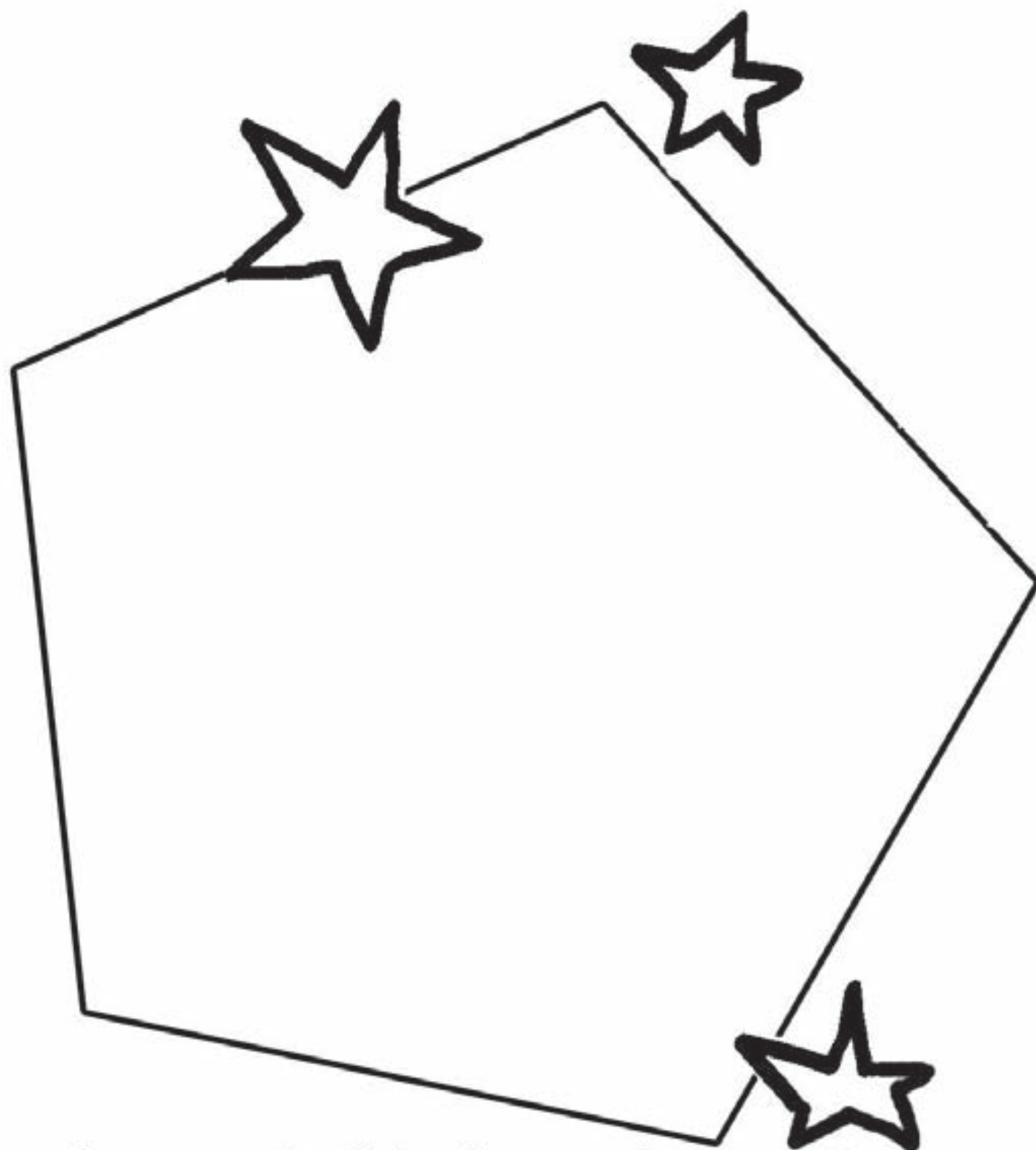


Light and Darkness



# Be Inspired: sketch, doodle, create!

Not content with what the standard colouring-in books have to offer, *Felix Arts* is offering you a chance to unleash the creative genius lurking behind that logician's brain of yours, and even have the chance to win a free hug from the editor of your choice! Let your imagination be carried away: using the picture below as 'inspiration', bring your pieces of art down to us in the Felix dungeon or email them in. Or simply use this as an opportunity to dispel any boredom that the end of exams has brought on. Ready, steady, draw!



"I went to a dinner party for all the planets, and uranus, he made a spaghetti bolognaise, but we run out of parmesan.. so i said ' I'm the moon, I'm made of cheese, why don't you just grate off a portion of me head?' And we did and it tasted like baby sick" ~ The Moon, The Mighty Boosh

What do you think when you look at the Moon?



# Caz's quest for The Meaning of Art

Felix's art supremo, **Caz Knight**, sets off on a mission to ask Imperial students what they think of art, and how their opinions differ to those 'others' studying subjects outside of Imperial's scientific curriculum



*Gala of the Spheres* by Salvador Dali

**"Art is a physical/auditory representation of a person's thoughts and or emotions. My favourite artists are Salvador Dali and Andy Grey, whose an amazing psychedelic artist, full of colour."**

Ben, Photography Student

**"Art is unique, subjective. Independent in each viewer's eye. Favourites are Jean Michel Basquait and Warhol: repetitive art in its own unique style."**

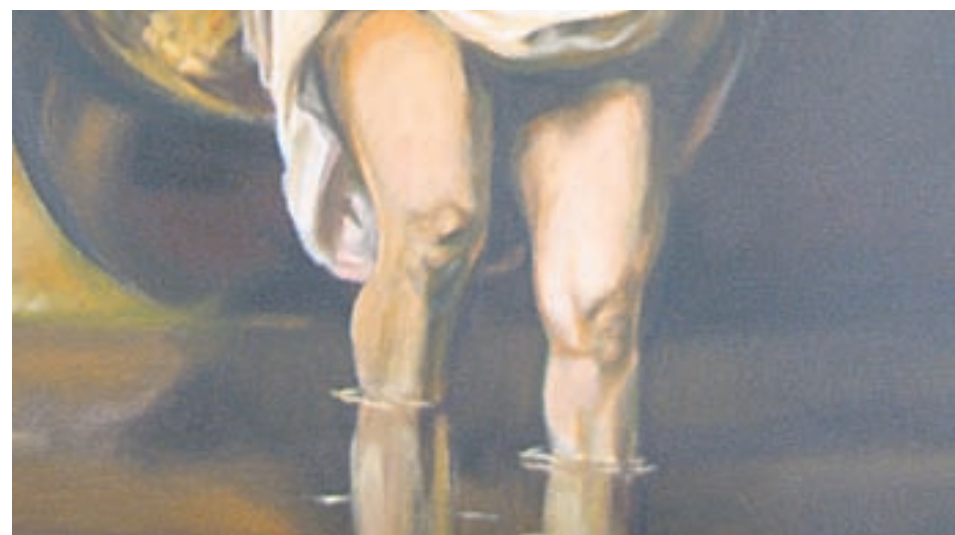
Krisi, Interior Design Student

**"Banksy is my favourite artist, as he is an artist who produces pieces which everyone can relate to. I particularly like the controversy that some of his pieces create and the way that his work does not necessarily fit into the dictionary definition of art."**

Nikhil, Civ Eng

Art is one person's perception of the world that surrounds them. Cavemen drew bison because their world was all about surviving; the Pre-Raphaelites saw beauty all around them and put it on canvas. I draw the world with cloud-like trees and stick people because that's all I can do. I'm an old fashioned gal – my favourite artist is Diego Velazquez. His paintings are regal, full of attitude and very technical. My flatmate and I agreed that Velazquez was good at doing water which is very hard to do. It may sound cliched but I'm a huge fan of Leonardo da Vinci. He was a 'Jack of all Trades' and a very forward thinker. I would love to have met him – I bet he was really eccentric and quirky, just like your average artist/scientist/inventor.

Rosie, Chemistry



*Walking in Water* by Velazquez

**"Art is something that causes a reaction or makes you feel something. I am a fan of Monet... don't really know why though."**

Alex, Chem Eng

**"NOOO! Please not now, I'm too stoned. Really, too much effort."**

Alex, Mech Eng

**"Art is anything that produces an emotion in the receiver of the art. In the classical art sense, as in painting or drawing. I don't really have a favourite, probably Dali as it's weird and cool at the same time."**

Malcolm, Bio Chem

**"Oh god, hardly know any artists at all. Guess it's a piece of work usually drawn, sometimes with colour, to show a picture or expression or meaning."**

Emily, Language Student



*The Houses of Parliament* by Monet

**"You're so asking the wrong person. I guess art is any form of decorative or illustrative media if i'm going to avoid lengthy hand-wavy definitions. I'm not sure i know any specific artists well enough to be able to name a favourite. Perhaps, William Blake. Couldn't tell you why, I've just always liked his paintings: multi-talented, you've got to respect that, although Da Vinci's work as an inventor and an artist rank him pretty high."**

Sam, Theoretical Physics



*The Ancient of Days* by William Blake



**“Ummm, what is art? Everything is art, theres a good one. My favourite artist is Pink Floyd, well its a band. Apart from that Patrick Demarchelier.”**

Emerson, ex-Physics

**“What is art? Something for the perception of the people who view it and an expression for the person making it. My favourite artist is Dali. I’ve been to his house and really liked his exhibitions. I’ve seen his work in lots of places where I’ve had fun.”**

Anne-Katharine, Classics Student

**“Ooh, good questions. I’ll have to think about that because I have not engrossed myself in art for quite a while!”**

Mustapher, Physics



Album Cover, Pink Floyd's *Darkside of the Moon*



*Fishermen* by William Turner

**Henri Matisse. His art is always so cheery and colourful, but very varied and technically brilliant too. My earliest art memory was seeing ‘The Snail’ – it was the first art postcard in my now vast collection, and I still visit it to say hello every time I go to Tate Modern. ‘Red Room’ is also astoundingly beautiful. Oh, and Henri Rousseau is another fond favourite.**

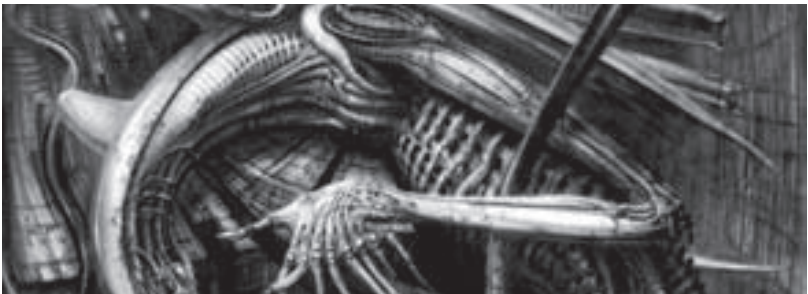
Emily, Biology

**“What the hell? OK, art is something visual. It’s a way to connect the viewers with the artists both emotionally and physically. I like William Turner because he went to medical school and did physics and still managed to be a famous artist.”**

Dickson, Biochem

**“Ooh let’s get philosophical. The externalised, or physical impression that an artist has got from the world around them. My favourite artist is Giger without a shadow of a doubt. The band Tool do crazy 3D art. It’s wicked, mate. Art is vital because the expression of creativity makes you healthier; a healthier and happier brain.”**

Rach, English Student



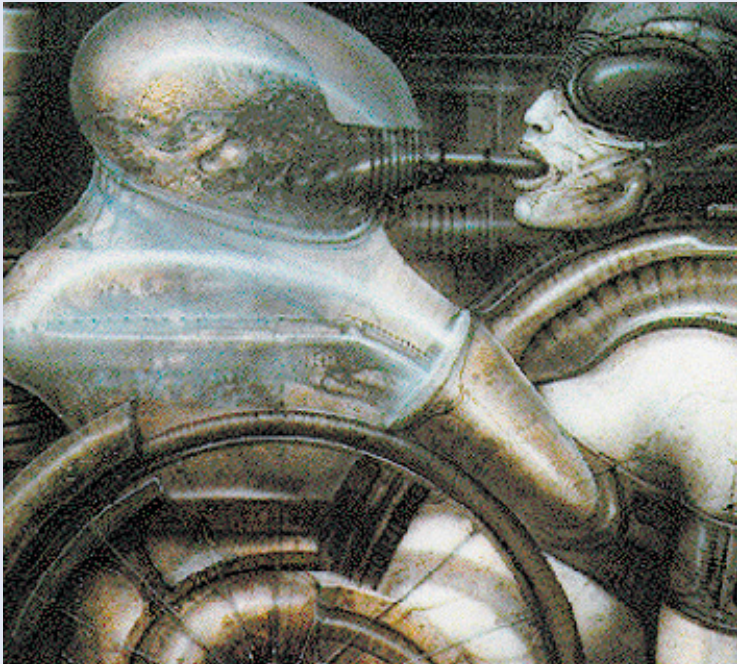
H.R. Giger, taken from his book *Necronomicon*

# Editor’s Comment: Caz reflects on the census

To continue on from what I started discussing in my column, art is a very vague term and can spark off days’ worth of debate as to ‘what’ it is. By saying “art is anything you want it to be” I mean that it can inspire, fascinate, calm, take you away to far away lands, save you from insanity, induce insanity, provoke thoughts and debate, distract you, make you happy, decorate a room, send a message, evoke memories and more. It can do this visually, through sound and in writing. Art affects us through most senses, sometimes through more than one sense at once. This is one girl’s opinion. I was rather disappointed with the answers I got from my fellow scientists. I was expecting apoplexy or at least vehement reluctance at the prospect of being asked a more abstract question, especially as I was disturbing revision for many

of them. Instead, I was offered very comprehensive answers from a couple. Others gave pretty ‘textbook’ answers which were all very similar: art as a medium of expressing emotion. This common perspective on art may be a product of how we have been brought up on art in schools and how it is presented to us in the media? Although this is very true I would have to disagree as in many instances the artist has created their work solely to depict beauty and not necessarily as an emotional outlet. Perhaps they wish to purvey a message. It surprised me that very few people mentioned music, drama, sculpture and other forms of creative processes given that music is enjoyed extensively by young people. It was very interesting to see what the scientists had to say in comparison to the artists. Judging by the answers it should not necessarily be assumed that artists are any more clued up on what art is or how much they know on

the subject. My “best” answers came equally from arts students and Imperial students. I would have to agree “without a shadow of a doubt” that Giger is a stupendous artist and has replaced poor old Vincent (Van Gogh) as my top artist. Giger is another multi-dimensional creator delving into painting, sculpture, architecture as well as inventing new concepts and ideas whilst managing to draw in a huge range of admirers. It was cheering to to see that a music band was seen as another form of art especially one that I happen to love and were innovators in their own time. Pink Floyd pioneered psychedelic rock using strange noises, experimenting with the sound to create something truly unique. Their philosophical lyrics, inventive cover art and impressive live shows as well as the fact that their fan base is ever growing and spans many generations only deepens their gravity as artists.





# The Great Culture Crawl

## Chapter Thirteen – Jazz clubs, nice

Written by David Paw, concept by Rosie Grayburn

### Ronnie Scott's

Yes, it's a tourist trap and yes, there are plenty of posers to be found, but this Soho institution didn't become one for no reason. Once you've booked ahead and paid the cover charge, shrugged off the pricey drinks and settled down, you are treated to some of the world's greatest jazz and soul acts. With an almost-unrivalled star power, the venue has some of the best live music in town – no amateurish efforts, no bum notes, just slick, passionate and seasoned players playing the life out of their instruments for your aural delectation. Scheduled for the coming weeks are excellent jazz guitarist Martin Taylor, Pharoah Sanders, Larry Coryell, Kenny Garrett and Steve Howe. Even if you haven't had the time to keep up with the scene or become acquainted with some of the acts, more than likely the show on any given night will be more than enough to blow you away. Recommended.



### Jazz Cafe Camden

Probably one of the most broad-minded jazz venues in the world (lacking only in the experimental side of the genre), the Jazz Café is a must for anyone who appreciates the spirit of jazz but cares little for purist pedantry. The world's finest musicians come here: cutting-edge fusion acts like Allan Holdsworth, Tribal Tech, Victor Wooten and Mike Stern have all played here. It's electronic credentials are excellent as well – influential high-priests of nu jazz Jazzanova commonly play live sets here, and international denizens such as Kyoto Jazz Massive often play floor-filling DJ sets here. In addition, the Jazz Café is the best spot in town for acid jazz – genre definers Incognito are fixtures here. Hip-hop is also a big draw, as is its impressive bevy of international and world music acts, and the blues is also well-represented – luminaries John Mayall and Keb' Mo are both scheduled to play in the coming weeks. And finally, for the faithful, amongst the freeform and refreshingly egalitarian attitude to the genre are traditional bop and swing acts – an affectionate touch to a comprehensive to a vast sea of styles.



### Pizza Express Jazz Club

There's something slightly disheartening about heading to a club to hear a great new singer, heading down the dark stairs in the dimly lit restaurant, cosying up to the table and opening the menu to find identikit pizza staring you straight in the face. Soulless? Formulaic? Don't bet on it. Despite appearances, Pizza Express has been an avid supporter of the UK jazz scene in many of its larger restaurants and as a taster or a happy compromise with your other half, it's hard to beat the relaxing surroundings of this small club. All the essential ingredients are there – soft lighting, great acoustics, an intimate atmosphere and a terrific line-up of acts. The music definitely leans towards the vocal, but that's no bad thing. Forget the jazz nazis and enjoy the friendly atmosphere and music with a favourite pizza dish.



### Vortex Jazz

How far is too far in the search for a great venue far from the crowds? How about N16? Though for most the trip to Dalston is only slightly less of a trek than overlanding through Africa, the effort is well worth it. Your endeavours are rewarded with one of the slickest interiors of any club in London and a great drinks list as well as a strongly progressive policy towards educating and expanding the local jazz scene and nurturing young talent. These guys are passionate about their art, and they want you to be too. Crossing from classic bop styles to gypsy jazz, the club also hosts open mic nights for aspiring musicians/singers as well as live poetry readings.



### Le Quecum Bar

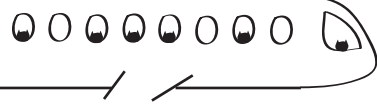
For those who like their jazz with a little more attitude, this little bar/brasserie on the Battersea High Street is the perfect antidote to the multitude of banal "smooth jazz" (read: background music) currently swamping the market. Inspired by the sounds of the Left Bank and the heyday of the Hot Club of Paris, the main draw here is the gypsy jazz and live jams held virtually every night of the week. Gypsy jazz is a style that was made famous in 1920's Paris, in particular by the energetic Quintette du Hot Club de France, fronted by the prodigally gifted guitarist Django Reinhardt and equally talented violinist Stéphane Grappelli. Characterised by tantalisingly energetic guitar and violin melodies and improv over a driving and shuffling rhythm guitar section, this style is ideal for aspiring jazzers wishing to expand their horizons beyond bop. The bar serves light brasserie-style food and has an extensive wine list, and despite the nostalgic references to said Parisian institution, the star of the show is the music.

### 606 Club

Real jazz in Chelsea? Who would have thought? But look beyond the rules (non-members have to dine) and somewhat pricey international menu (teriyaki in a jazz club?) and you will find a music venue of the highest calibre. Located underground, it is crammed enough full of music-lovers and musicians to give it considerable cred. Order a short drink from the bar, imagine the smoke lining the low-lit ceiling and get caught up in the random audience members (also musicians) joining the jams. Or, if you too know your way around the modes and melodic minor, head down and give your chops a serious test.







## Travel

Travel Editors – **Ahran Arnold, Nadine Richards and Ammar Waraich**

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# Communism and China's capital

**Nadine Richards** consumes copious amounts of dumplings whilst pondering the effects of communism on China's society as she continues her travels in Beijing. Warning: contains immoral behaviour for your benefit

**T**hink of a communist country. Did Cuba, Laos or North Korea spring to mind first? Most likely not – most likely you would have thought initially of China. Alternatively, think of China. Most likely “communist” is one of the first things that you associate with it.

As a tourist venturing into a communist country for the first time, I was extremely curious to see if it was an imagined label for the country, or whether it was something more tangible that could be seen to affect people on a daily basis. Obviously, my short trip (and my ignorance of politics) meant that it was not enough to answer this question in any great depth, but it was interesting for me to see superficially at least, whether this country seemed different from others in a way that could be attributed to its communist label.

Taking it to the extreme, some of my imagined “signs” of a communist country would be a heavy military presence; a reliance on official documents that makes the NHS appear to be free of bureaucracy; and a solidarity and unity within the country's population. When it comes to official documents, my personal experience left my opinion unchanged. Two hours of waiting at the Chinese Embassy (thankfully shortened by the presence of a very attractive guy I chatted to – if you are him, get in touch), three days without a passport and 40 pounds sterling lighter finally got me a Chinese visa, and easy entry into the country – or so I thought. Upon arriving at immigration control however, the officer scrutinised my photograph closely. “This doesn't look like you,” he told me. Well of course not, I thought, no grimacing, miserable creature ever resembles their true selves on their passport. “Do you have any other ID?” he asked me. Well, no I didn't, as I thought my passport would suffice, but having no choice I pulled out my oyster card, various library cards and my Imperial card, all with marginally better photos of myself on them. (Incidentally, it is the Imperial card that I believe was



The view across Beijing's Forbidden City, albeit on a very smoggy day

the most important. Having a similar problem in Singapore, I pulled out this particular magic card, and the officer says “Oh! You go to Imperial!” and I was waved into the country. So the card may be defunct when it comes to printing at the IC library, but I now believe it holds special magical power in sticky situations which nobody could have imagined).

Anyway, after examining my various cards, the officer must have concluded that the bespectacled, blurry version of my passport-self did not resemble the person standing before him, but my angelic countenance could not possibly have posed a threat to his country,

and so, thankfully, I was allowed into the country. A tendency to rely on official documents? Check.

Two issues ago I mentioned my initial two days in Beijing, so let's skip forwards to the third day. I was on something of a whirlwind tour of the city. The third day of my tour proved an interesting one since I had to pose as a student from Oxford. Before you shout “traitor” and hurl stones at me, please understand that this was the only way I could take full advantage of the tours offered by Beijing University to the Oxford students on exchange there. And this meant a free tour guide, and free entry to all the sites. Was my loyalty

to Imperial such that I refused to don such a ridiculous guise for the entirety of the day? Nope, of course not.

So I brushed up my accent, my wit, my sense of smugness, and adjusted the way my scarf was wrapped around my neck, and I was ready to go. I'm sure I could have fooled Oscar Wilde himself... The only problem (and as it turned out, it was quite a big problem) was that the tour guide, I swear, seemed specifically intent on catching my eye when it came to addressing questions towards the group. ‘Er...’ was the best I could manage on every occasion, much to the bemusement of my fellow Oxfordians. Thankfully, some-

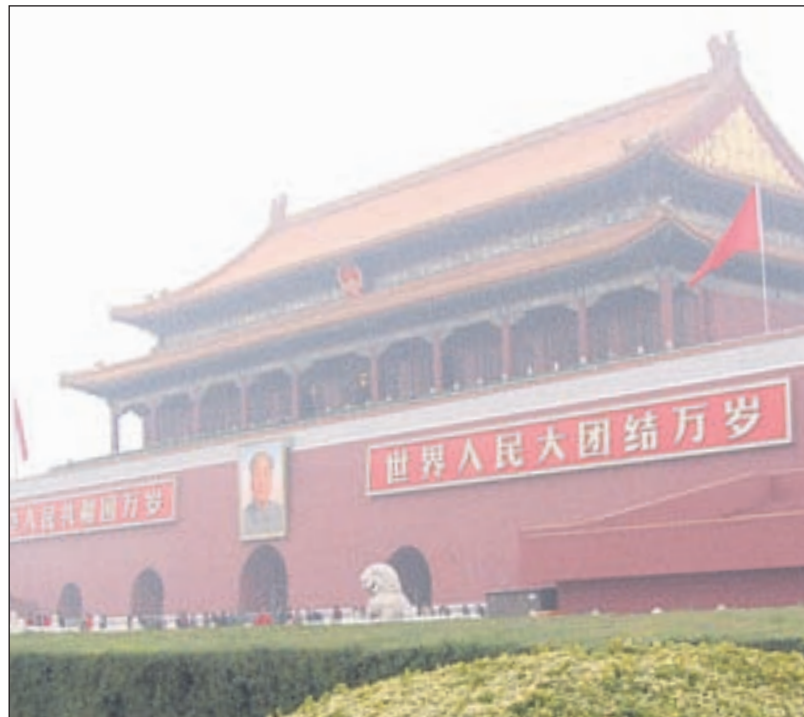
one would normally step in before I exposed myself as being an Imperialite, and being thought of as the most clueless and ignorant of students seemed a small price to pay, seeing as this is a daily occurrence for me at Imperial anyway. I made a mental note to brush up on my Chinese history however – one never knows when the knowledge that the Ming dynasty ruled from 1368 to 1644 could come in so useful.

Our first stop was the Heavenly Temple; so called because the temple is built specifically to symbolize the connection between Heaven and Earth. Circles represent heaven and squares represent earth. The unity of the two was clearly carefully thought out during the temple's construction. I'm sure I couldn't appreciate the architectural effort, but the temple itself is certainly heavenly for the eye to see.

It is not the temple however, that remains foremost in my memory, but more the congregation of Chinese people gathered within the temple grounds, which is nearly 3km big. The people were all engrossed in their various sports and activities, and the superb talent on display meant that strolling the grounds was something akin to watching a free variety show. Like something out of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, all sports were carried out with a combination of inspiring grace and amazing acrobatics. There were people practising a sort of bat-and-ball game, which involved keeping a dimpled ball balanced on a racquet whilst swirling and twirling it in all directions around the air and oneself. If this wasn't difficult enough, there were many people practising Jianzi – like keepy-uppies with a football, only the ball is substituted with a giant weighted shuttlecock. There were mini-plays being per-

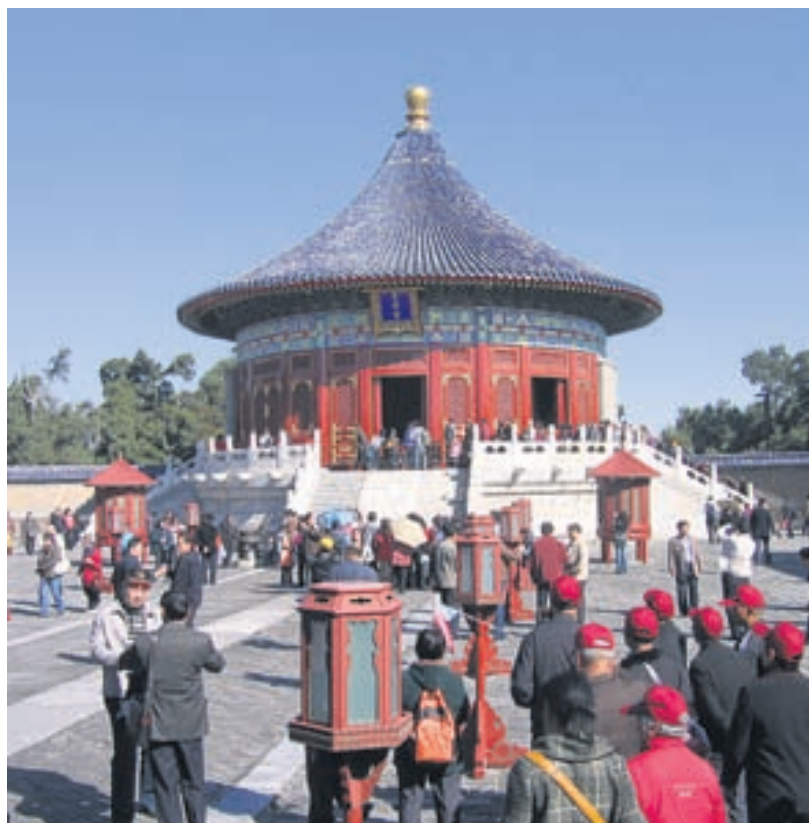


Mao's Mausoleum in the rather gray Tiananmen Square



The entrance to the Forbidden City





The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests inside the Heavenly Temple

formed, colourful cloths being waved and twirled in the air, not to mention the swathes of elderly who had gathered en masse to participate in aerobic-style exercises to music echoing over the temple grounds through loudspeakers. Unanimously, we all agreed that with its undeniably great community feel, China would be the best country to grow old in. The unity displayed by people gathering and socialising for a relaxing afternoon was deeply impressive, and a stark contrast to the sedate sunbathers littering London's parks.

In a completely different setting to the Heavenly Temple, was Tiananmen Square. The square itself, I felt on arrival, had very little charm to offer – consisting mostly of a square block of concrete. But considering its role in Chinese history, perhaps it is more important as a symbol of Chinese politics than anything else. From the

proclamation of the People's Republic of China by Mao Zedong in 1949 to its mass rallies during the Cultural Revolution, Tiananmen Square has been the centre for echoing the political situation within China. Of course, most Westerners would now associate Tiananmen Square with the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989.

As we approached the Square, we rather unscrupulously started placing bets on whether our tour guide would mention the massacre. I was somewhat disappointed to find that no mention was made. This shouldn't have been too much of a surprise, however, considering how well publicised it is that China has attempted to erase this particular event from history. I had assumed however, that people in China were still aware that it had happened, although it may not necessarily be talked about. One person that I talked to however,



Locals play Jianzi in the grounds of the Heavenly Temple. The aim is to keep the shuttlecock off the ground

straightened my opinion on this. He was teaching in Southern China, and told me that out of his whole class, only one of his pupils had any inkling that the massacre had ever occurred. This was the first incident that truly made me question how much of an impact the Chinese government have in controlling their people.

Interestingly, I caught an episode of 'Paul Merton in China' upon arriving back in England. In the programme, he dined with China's top socialites and asked them about their views on freedom of speech in China. They all agreed that China was a free country when it came to expressing opinions and views, but having just seen for myself something that appeared to represent the opposite, I was disappointed when the documentary did not really explore the topic further.

The last, and the most stunning of

the places I visited whilst in China was the Forbidden City. I had always associated the glorious palace with *The Last Emperor* (which I urge you all to watch, as it is fantastic and one of the only films which has been licensed to be filmed in the Forbidden City), and in life it is certainly as vast and impressive as displayed on film. Being the largest palace in the world, and consisting of a never-ending complex of halls, walls, gates and courts, it is definitely one of the most exhausting and rewarding places that I have ever visited. Sadly, the only fact I can remember about the palace from our tireless tour guide might be classified as trivia – but it's interesting nonetheless. The Starbucks built within the Forbidden City in 2000 (because there are not enough Starbucks in the world already) was forced to close down in 2007. I'm not sure whether I marvel more at the fact it

was allowed to open there, or whether it remained for 7 years. I'm not going to comment that Starbucks is a symbol of capitalism either... happily though, it's now been replaced by a teahouse [*it's equally out of place and overpriced though!* – Ed].

So, if one were to read my previous paragraph then perhaps you'd be hard convinced that China is a strict communist country as one would imagine. Going back to my somewhat imaginary 'signs of communism' though, I'd say they are irritatingly strict on entry into their country. Either that, or I do indeed portray a shady character and it has taken me this long to realise. As for military presence, this was heavily felt within the airport and Tiananmen Square, where the surly guards and officers who glared at my friend when she tried to ask for a photograph. As for the unity of people: if the Heavenly temple is anything to go by, then the Communist party have not failed in this area.

Many people claim that China will be the next world superpower. As the host of the Beijing 2008 Olympics, it seems that China has announced its entry and role as a global first world country. However, many questions remain about how this will be possible with a government which, to the Western world, is still rife with propaganda and censorship.

It seemed ironic to me that Starbucks, a modern symbol of capitalism, was allowed to be built within Beijing's most cultural site. At the same time, the Tiananmen massacre of 1989 was not that long ago, and seemed to be China's way of telling the Western world that the communism regime was to continue far into the future. My time in Beijing opened my eyes to question whether a country which seemed full of contradictions could become the next superpower. I would be really interested to hear more opinions from Chinese people, as my views really are limited. My belief is that it will become the next superpower, although like the rest of the world, I am curious to see how the everyone will coexist. The first step, perhaps, is to see how the Beijing 2008 Olympics will be handled.

One more thing – communism is not the first thing that enters my mind when I think of China, in fact. The first thing is dumplings. Big, fat, juicy, delicious, delicious, dumplings. Call me greedy, but I could eat about 10 Jiaozi right now.



The Circular Mound Altar inside the Heavenly Temple. The temple complex was built during the early 1400s



IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

# SUMMER BALL 2008

21.06.2008

**DON'T**

**MISS OUT!**

## CASHLESS BARS

**In order to speed up serving times at our bars on the evening we will be using a cashless bar system.**

- **Come with enough cash for the evening**
- **On arrival, go to one of our token stations**
- **Purchase as many tokens as you think you will need for the evening, we will be selling them in multiples of 5; 1 token = £1**
- **Exchange your tokens for drinks at the bars without the worry of carrying round change all night**

Tokens can be purchased using cash or cards, we advise you bring along cash to avoid unnecessary queuing. Tokens are valid at all bars in the Summer Ball including da Vinci's, dB's and the Union Bar on selected drinks. Tokens are valid from 17:00 21 June 2008 until 10:00 22 June 2008.

**STANDARD LAGER = 2 TOKENS, SOFT DRINKS = 1 TOKEN, HOUSE SPIRIT & MIXER = 2 TOKENS**

**for more information and to buy tickets: [imperialcollegeunion.org/ball](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/ball)**



The Imperial College London Summer Ball 2008 is a fund raising event for Imperial College Union with all proceeds going towards the Building Redevelopment Fund.





# Hangman

Putting the cat out to dry



hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# O-Bitch-uaries... Why God, why?!

Not that you'll miss these chumps pictured below. Maybe their families will put these obituraies to good use sometime soon. I give the Sabbatical Officers 10 minutes in the real world... maybe 15 for Tomo, if he's lucky



From left to right: Alistair Cott (DPChuffSucker), Stephen "Destroy the Unions" Brown, Kirby... I mean Kirsty Patterson, Chris Larvin (it up), Don Tomash Roberts

### Alistair Cott

**Cause of death:** Auto-erotic asphyxiation... look it up

Tw as a child that Alistair Cott was shunned by his peers due to the scientific anomaly of being born with that rather impressive animal latched onto his chin. Needless to say, the foreign object fused with Alistair's facial area within his first year upon the planet, and then the two became one. He still referred to it as Vladimir Kostnidov up until his final days on this great planet.

Alistair's successes in life have been, well... minimal. He did one time win the chicken wrangling contest at the local parish fair. His childhood dream was to spend his adulthood living amongst the cannibal tribes of Papa New Guinea... sadly it was not to be.

It is a sad day, my friends when a man passes away while doing, well, you know... what he does... Er...

For Alistair Cott, this day came when he realised that the entirety of his time as DP (Clubs & Societies) encompassed nothing but the Fresher's Fair.

Alistair spent the duration of his Imperial degree perfecting his ability to store his worldly possessions in his 'Beard' and playing shuffleboard with an imaginary friend.

The news of his death has prompted his friends to send in photographs of Alistair's 'Beard' glimmering in sunlight from 82 different angles.

### Stephen Brown

**Cause of death:** Choked on his accent

Way before you jump to any conclusions, any correlation with Alistair Cott's death is purely coincidental. Mr Brown was in no way watching Cott, exclaiming in that rustic Scottish brogue: "That's it Alistair, give it what for!"

When asked as a child what he believed his future held for him, Stephen promptly replied: "I will become the next Margaret Thatcher! There were nothong wrong with Maggie, uhh yeah, she were alrite." Stephen spent many a weekend prancing in his mothers high heels, wearing her make-up and flouncing around in her best dresses.

Stephen "The Boy Wonder" Brown has accomplished many feats throughout his obviously interesting life. He learned to speak at age 6, hold a spoon at age 7 and was oppressing the masses at age 9. However, his ultimate achievement was beating Rector Sykes in the best thumb-war he'd ever had. The video was watched on YouTube over 7.4 billion times by one person.

The death of Stephen Brown has come as a surprise to everyone except the Ant Kingdom, which was plotting his assassination from the moment he could hold a spoon. This man was loved by few, respected by even fewer and is guaranteed, in death, to make everyone's day.

### Kirsty Patterson

**Cause of death:** Heart attack caused by steroid abuse

Almost always full of adventure, Kirsty spent her childhood whiling away her summers playing with little Tiffinay. Tragically this ended when little Tiffinay was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. Kirsty swiftly went from chav to emo, falling into a downwards spirial of sex ,drugs & rock-n-roll emo.

In an attempt to rid herself of her negative image, Kirsty went to Imperial College London to start afresh. Whilst at IC, Kirsty didn't hesitate to make NO friends, choosing to flirt outrageously with certain highly placed Union representatives to finally become DP (Education & Welfare). During her time as Deputy President, Kirsty made revolutionary changes to IC welfare with triumphs such as S.H.A.G week (admit it you had fun).

Kirsty was found last week in the women's changing room in Ethos, where she had been living since her well documented break up with Hugh Jackman... The staff and regular users are said to have believed she was merely taking a prolonged nap. Her death was caused by the overuse of steroids causing vital bodily fluids to build up in her muscles, eventually collapsing upon themselves.

Kirsty will be sorely missed... I couldn't keep a straight face either.

### Chris Larvin

**Cause of death:** Ink poisoning related suffocation

The Hangman team are genuinely upset about this one. He was our favourite.

Chris is one hell of a party animal. He did not let the fact that he is a half man, half gnome stop him from being a real hit with the ladies/men, although at Imperial, there's not too much to tell them apart... let your imagination run wild.

Known for being able to down a yard in 0.000009 seconds, Larvae's reputation amongst the gnome community was immense, earning him the title of Beit Hall Gnome-in-Chief.

The now, sadly, former DPFS is said to have died slowly and painfully screaming for forgiveness for that one night of passion he so desired with a 7-year old.

Chris' death from ink poisoning was caused by over-zealous use of the Union entry stamp... He was said to have been heard screaming; "It's not the Easter Carnival anymore you incompetent morons!"

He was found lying in a paddling pool full of Union money with polaroid pictures of himself making out with a cash register... Yeah that's right, that tight one in da Vinci's.

We would like to pay tribute to Chris Larvin and honour his memory by refusing to attend the Summer Ball as a sign of protest. RIP.

### Tom Roberts

**Cause of death:** Chronic allergy to sunlight

Swahili Felix Editor-in-Chief, known to his enemies as Don Tomash, and his friends... well, as Tom the Bomb, is a complete moron, and quite frankly we're glad he's dead.

Abused as a child by the neighbour's cat, Tomo had a perpetual fear of the Felix mascot and a disturbing tendency to watch German shisha porn on full volume when the rest of us were trying to work.

Tomo made many promises in his time at Imperial, lying and cheating to get to the top. However, being such a spaff stain on the bed sheets of life, he died having accomplished nothing but a scarily pale demeanour and dishevelled appearance.

To pay for his coke habit, and the welfare checks of his numerous children, Tomash became an underground crime lord. Beating up many an old woman and relieving small children of their mobile phones, Tomash started out small. He recently ran the largest drug syndication this side of the Thames.

A pool of human flesh was found in Beit Quadrangle early one morning. Information was hazy, but since then witness reports have clarified that Tomo was unable to scurry back to the Felix offices before the sun rose.

May he never rest in peace.

Condolences from the Student Body

"OMFG... I Just sent this text and it appeared on the newspaper! How the fuck? Lemme try again"

"Oh shit! It worked! I've got to tell someone, this is amazing! Hey you! Check this out! What's that you've got in your hand? What are you so pleased about? Aargh! No! You're stabbing me! Oooh mmm, I mean ouch!"

"I will never forget your beaming smile"

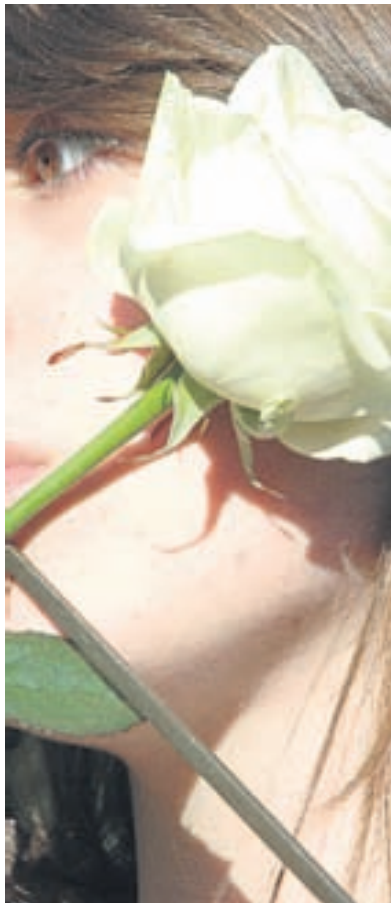
Kirsty.  
Love, XXX (Triple X).  
xxx (Those are the kisses, not my name...)"





# Needy McNeedy: speaking on iPhone since ‘54

Flicking her bogies at you whilst you read this. Email your problems to: [agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk)



Have any of you guys taken my advice to heart? I've been noticing an inflated mood this week; students were seen partying in the quad, and a general air of summer joy seems to be creeping in to Imperial. Either that, or you're all getting high off the hayfever drugs. Summer's started kids! Email [agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk) to tell me about the amazing time you're all having. Or not.

Dear Needy McNeedy,

I'm really worried about finding a house next year. I've got a group of mates that I'm planning to share with, but there are quite a lot of us and nobody actually seems to be searching for houses to view. We haven't had experience with this kind of thing before and people are beginning to argue over little things. How do I choose the right people to live with next year?

**Distressed**

Dear Distressed,

Don't live with anyone who has the following character traits: any bad habits,

crazy sleeping patterns, and adversity to cleanliness. You know that guy who you go out with quite often, and think is really fun? Imagine getting up to go to an exam and finding that in a drunken haze he came home and vomited in your clean laundry. You can still meet up with him for nights out. Secondly, and most importantly, live with a small number of people. You get to know them better, you'll have more space to share, and there'll be more love and kindness between you, which, as avid Needy fans will know, is what I'm all about.

**Needy xxx**

Dear Needy McNeedy,

I've finished all my exams but now I'm left with a floor full of paper: revision notes, exam papers and the like. I've been ignoring them for a while: I usually wade through them to get to my bed but the other night I heard some buzzing and I fear there might be dirty crockery under there (plus some assorted home grown wildlife). Do students really burn their notes after exams?

**DirtyFloor**

Dear DirtyFloor,

Yes, my friend, yes they do. Get a large black bin liner and scoop all flammable items off your floor, and turn them into a barbeque for your friends and family. No, seriously, I saw it on Blue Peter once. You can grill chicken on them, but make sure to marinate it first in some soy/chilli/spice, so that it's extra tasty. I learnt that from TV as well. It's full of all the best tips, especially the stuff they show in the daytime when all those people who can afford barbeques are out at work.

**Needy xxx**

Dear Needy McNeedy,

I applied for a few internships over the summer, but as I'm generally incompetent I didn't get offered any and I've decided to go travelling instead. A couple of friends want to come along, and we're looking for something really out of the ordinary to do, as it's our last free summer before the end of our degrees. What exciting things can I do with my summer?

**ExtrepidTraveller**

Dear ExtrepidTraveller,

What do you think I am, a travel agent? Why the hell would I care that you and your obviously well minted mates are confused as to which beautiful beach to visit and get that inevitable "I've been travelling" photo of you in front of the azure sea/rainforest. For God's sake, go to a European city and try to visit some art galleries or something. It might just knock some culture into you.

**Needy xxx**

Dear Needy McNeedy,

My boyfriend is really close to one of his female friends, and I'm convinced that he's cheating on me with her. I read a text on his mobile in which she said "see you at 8 xxxxx" and then he told me he was going out with some of his other friends that night. How can I find out the truth about my boyfriend's relationship with this girl?

**Crying**

Dear Crying,

Nobody wants to go out with a paranoid freak that checks their text messages. I think he's well shot of you.

**Needy xxx**

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



**Aquarius**

This week after 8 weeks in the library, you snap. That guy who has sat behind you for the past two months who kept clicking his pen has pissed you off no end. You jump from behind your desk and then grab that pen from his filthy fingers and get the nearest piece of paper and write him the angriest note ever. You feel somehow your Britishness has let you down again.



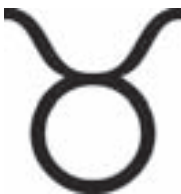
**Pisces**

You are the worst excuse for a human being I have ever seen. You are the kind of person who actually makes a conscious effort to litter the streets. I hope your colon fills up with fire-breathing ants and they slowly blister you from the inside until all the doctor can do is pop you in a giant iron lung and then get the cleaners to mop you up and reconstruct you using a jelly mould and a fridge.



**Aries**

Pi is exactly equal to 3. Deal with it you prick.



**Taurus**

I hope you enjoy your summer like I enjoyed pounding on your gonorrhea-riddled mother last night. Oh yeah, she was like filling a festering teenager boil with small meat packets. Is this offensive enough yet? No. Okay, well what can else can I say? Well, have you ever had sex with a corpse, that would be infinitely preferable to mowing the diseased sore that is your mother.



**Gemini**

I'm nearing the end of my tether, want to see my tether? Well, get a fucking microscope because that is the only way you can see I am so far near the end. You make me want to swallow a child's skeleton and then butter up a camel's tongue whilst cross-dressing into a Albanian milkmaid. That is how fucked up I am right now, I could just I don't know, FELCH A FUCKING TADPOLE?



**Cancer**

If you recognise yourself in the photo below, then PLEASE CALL 07777777777



**Leo**

Whoa, sorry about Cancer's entry, but I saw this cute little hottie in the club the other day and I just gotta know where she went. She was a pretty little thing who smoked constantly like a Hollywood starlet. And best of all, when I went to go give her some international aid south of the border, she had the biggest dick and balls I've ever felt. I'm onto a winner here.



**Virgo**

This week, everybody has finished their exams except you. You stupid fucking biologist/biochemist/retard. Everybody else is drinking, partying, enjoying the sun, being attractive and socialising you are stuck in your room learning the equation of a line. I did that for GCSE you cunt! When you finish your exams everyone has left Imperial, no fun for you! HA!



**Libra**

Tonight is gonna be the night. It's all gonna happen tonight. I got the Candles lit, I got my Barry White on the CD player and I'm wearing my clean underwear. Things are hotting up, I put on some nasty Eastern European grade porn. I unzip my trousers and then get comfortable sofa, drink a bit more wine so I am relaxed.



**Scorpio**

Now that I'm relaxed, I then begin to remove my trousers slowly and steadily all the while feeling the sexiest I have ever felt. I then begin to feel my penis becoming tumultuous, almost a homing beacon for all eroticism in the room. I then grabbed my penis and begin to stroke it violently until climax. What?! Why can't having a wank be romantic? You fucking prude.



**Sagittarius**

This week you feigned interest in the Euro 2008 soccerball league cup in order to win the respect of your peers. They however find you out when some team or other scores a goal you shout, "COME ON EILEEN!" You then realise that dummie's guide to football was published in 1986 and you look a right prick. It's okay because football is a pile of shit anyway.

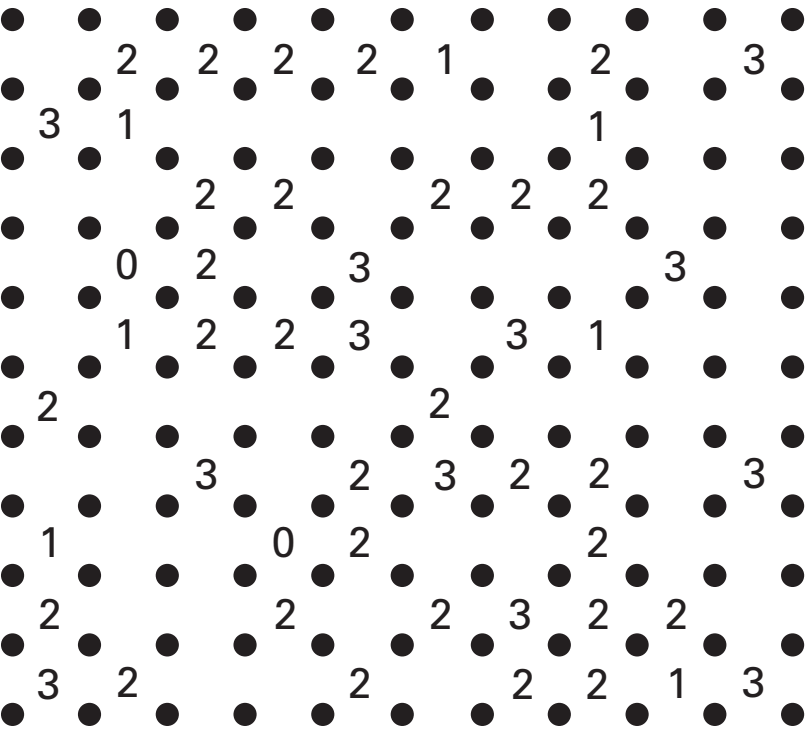


**Capricorn**

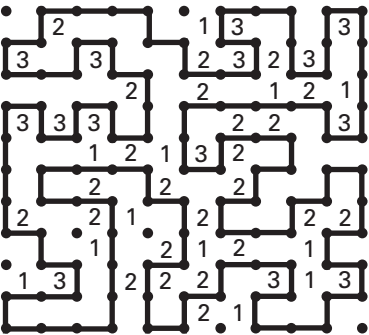
Would you like a cider or a cock in cider? You could have a picture of a rooster and a bottle of Mag-ners or something Can I have some chew gum please Mr poker shark... Ok, so this was sent in by one lovely reader and it makes absolutely no sense to me, whatsoever. It did when she said it verbally, but now I realise she's totally batshit crazy.



# Slitherlink 1,407



## 1,406 solution



The winner of Slitherlink 1,406 was **Richard Taylor**! Congratulations! Awesome cheesecake with redcurrant puree and a cinnamon biscuit base. We'll give a prize out in the summer. The more entries, the better your chances.

### How to play:

Crudely speaking, Slitherlink is similar to Minesweeper mixed with a dash of Sudoku.  
The object of the game is to draw

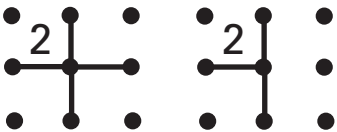
lines between the dots to create one long, and most importantly, looping line. It should have no start or finish; just like an elastic band.

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.

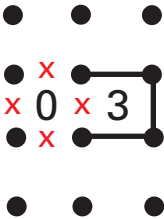
Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:



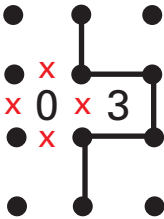
Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink.

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:

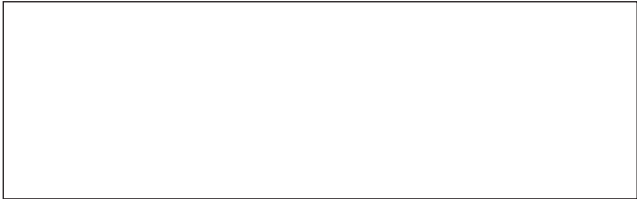


Now the lines can only continue in the following directions:



# Wordoku 1,407

					C			N
	E	K		U	O	C		
			E		J		K	
U	C	E				B		
K				J				E
		I				U	O	K
	O		J		B			
		U	O	N		J	B	
I			U					



### 1,406 Solution

S	E	N	G	O	N	B	A	M
N	B	M	S	A	E	G	N	O
G	A	O	M	N	B	S	E	N
E	O	N	N	B	S	A	M	G
A	N	S	E	M	G	N	O	B
B	M	G	O	N	A	N	S	E
N	S	E	N	H	O	M	B	A
O	N	B	A	S	M	E	G	N
M	G	A	B	E	N	O	N	S

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

OK, so we made a mistake, my bad, but the word was MONGBEANS. This weeks word is brought to you by Chazzle Dazzle Wordoku extraordinaire!



07980 148 785

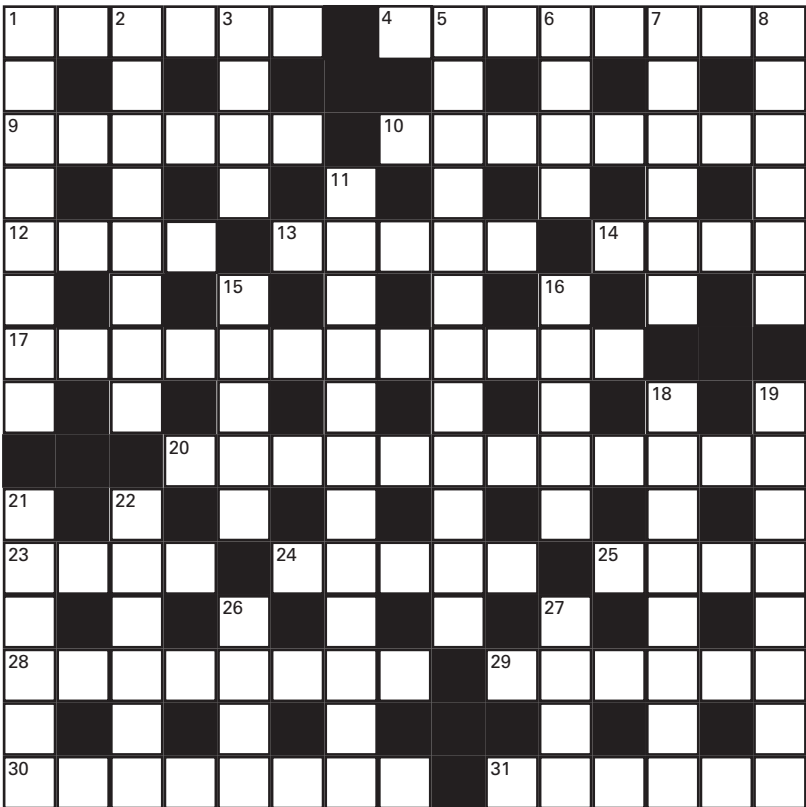
TEXT US! OR  
WE WON'T  
FEED THE CAT!

### This week's texts:

- "DOUR"
- "DOUR"
- "DOUR"
- "Riki I love your height. what's the secret?"
- "DOUR"
- "Dour"
- "Whoever checks the Wordoku gets paid too much. And if they don't get paid, they should be tortured in a medieval fashion."
- "Dour"
- "Dour"

# Crossword No. 1,407

Answers to: sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### ACROSS

- 1 Put an end to juice game (6)  
4 Celestial body is a drug (8)  
9 Neighbours on either side make animal noises (6)  
10 Portuguese count in Western coast of Ionian province (8)  
12 God with sore back (4)  
13 Distorted facial expression in the hoods (5)  
14 Hear hear? (4)  
17 Sex addict can champion many movements (12)  
20 Christian ship on the run crashes, but brings them back dead or alive (6,6)  
23 Significant work stirring soup (4)  
24 Looks at the gentry (5)  
25 Steady business (4)  
28 Dizzy Prime Minister (8)  
29 Past elements include faded colours (6)  
30 Indication to stop in a seedy part of town (3,5)  
31 Remained boring-sounding (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Burning to hold a note while giving voice (8)  
2 Inform us about costumes (8)  
3 Chase around London neighbourhood (4)  
5 North country measurement from police HQ (8,4)  
6 Throw out, so as to measure up (4)  
7 Empty lives of Greek fruits (6)  
8 Jackass has master key (6)  
11 Calm hometown somewhere in the Empire (12)  
15 Confusion over no money runs riot (5)  
16 Cherish the radioactive material found in the valley. (5)  
18 Exclusively non-drinking lyrics in disarray (8)  
19 Compressed tread contains enough to be flattened (8)t  
21 Bird in an apartment over the riverhead (6)  
22 Tightened wallet is dead (6)  
26 Malign head of African state (4)  
27 Massive Virginia highway (4)



I saw plenty of people attempting last week's crossword in the Felix office, but alas, no one actually managed to finish it. Better luck with this week's!

Enoch

### Solution to Crossword 1,406

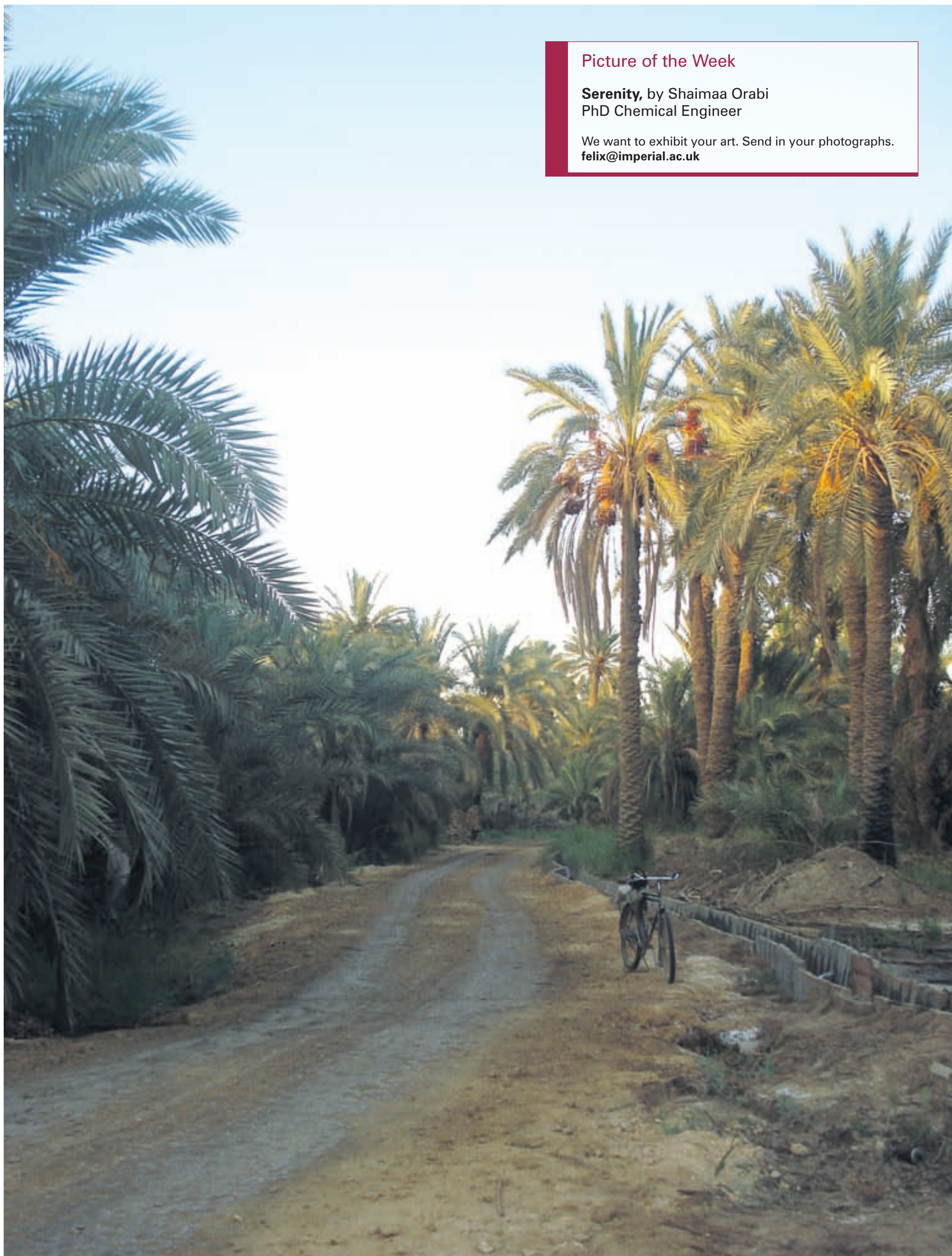
S	P	I	N	A	L	C	O	L	U	M	N			
C	D	F	O	U	O	B	H							
A	W	E	S	T	R	U	C	K	R	O	U	S	E	
L	A	E	P	E	O	L	A							
P	A	L	T	R	Y	S	W	I	N	D	L	E	D	
E		M			A		E	E						
L	E	T	H	A	L	P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	
	O	T	A	M	O	I								
F	A	R	T	H	I	N	G	C	L	I	N	I	C	
E	E		T			C								
L	E	A	V	E	N	E	D	G	E	N	O	M	E	
L	D	A	L	H	V	C	A							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



### Picture of the Week

**Serenity**, by Shaimaa Orabi  
PhD Chemical Engineer

We want to exhibit your art. Send in your photographs.  
[felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)





# Convincing win as Imperial bat down opposition

Rajiv Shah

What was effectively the 2XI's ULU semi-final game, started in stark contrast to that of the 1XI who had played theirs the previous weekend. Having arrived a respectable two hours before the game in order to warm up thoroughly, they systematically sabotaged their chances of winning with the bat, ball and in the field.

Our tale begins with my arrival at the union at the supposed meeting time of 10.30, where I was greeted by glorious South Kensington sunshine, the rasping shrieks of the Kendo club and a respectable total of FOUR players. As the sky quickly turned an alarming shade of grey the scent of trouble began to loom in the air. Slowly gathering more of our PUNCTUAL members we were subjected to a series of unfortunate setbacks involving the minibus keys, which finally resulted in us abandoning our scheduled mode of transport and frantically letting loose on public transport ALMOST 2 HOURS LATER. The team tactically split up as we travelled to various underground stations in order to get lifts from our better connected teammates. All in all in spite of this commotion we managed to arrive SAFELY before the forfeit deadline of 2.30.

On arrival at the UCL ground near St Albans we were greeted to a well manicured, lush looking sports complex. However, unsurprisingly, the football took pride of place as they trained on the Wimbledon perfect outfield of the main square and we were relegated to the contingency pitch. Two prior days of rain of this less thoroughly tended to wicket had left us with horrible position of playing 80 overs on a pitch as moist as a peat bog. Closer inspection with the fingers nearly resulted in them been swallowed whole into the earth.

UCL won the toss and wisely elected us to bat. The sensational talents of Adnan (9) and Suraj "Fatty Batter" Dhanani (15) were no match for the troubles possessed by the pitch. Suc-

cessive battering by their bowlers and our swiping shots resulted in large craters and excessive amounts of rubble on its surface, forcing our openers to avert attention to their green fingers.

The unprepared feet of slippery toed Captain Slow (Ali Najefi) (28) cut short the fine display of our very own Bollywood hero Kavington (30), as he seemed poised on the verge of making a big score. It was no matter as Sabah (re-elected President and 'God' to many of us) made short work of exceptional bowling. His fifty was reached in double quick time, despite agile captaincy and shrewd field placement by the opposition. He relieved the pressure from our lower order and brought up his fifty with an all-run four, barely raising a sweat and certainly not out of breath. Jeeves (29), author of this piece, played a valuable second-fiddle etching his name in divots near the cow corner boundary. This gave our innings a much needed acceleration helping our score from 70 at the half way mark to a formidable 210 by close; taking into account the shambolic state of the wicket.

However errors detected by the opposition due to the poor mathematical prowess of our inexperienced scorer, medic Hemant the destroyer Laxaman provided an early interruption to our bowling. A mothers meeting ensued on pitch resulting in a more reserved estimate of 200-7 finally being agreed. All involved fear that their runs may have been noted down as extras or even worse, given to Sabah, with a confused Jefe adamant this he was robbed of a grander score (he wasn't).

The afternoon in the field was largely uneventful. Catch after catch was dropped behind the stumps that led to some inspirational, if not slightly unorthodox tactics by the master craftsmen Khayam. His string of beamers unnerved the batsmen and forced errors on more than one occasion. The cat-like reflexes of Adnan at gully were matched by the comical galloping of our captain PORNO as his success-



Ved smashing the opposition for six

ful back peddling helped preserve his 100 percent catching stats. Bowling by Mezza and Nihal along with Hemant and myself ensured that UCL never came close to our target as the game slowly fizzled out.

The preparation prior to the game

was far from ideal, but by tackling these challenges as a team undoubtedly help exercised our wits. Each member stepped up to play their part in a win that still leaves us unbeaten in ULU and out and out favourites to win the cup. Bring it Queen Mary's.



# Kendo Club celebrate 10 year anniversary

Tim Simpson

Rubbish. This is not a word associated with Kendo. Especially not with our 10th anniversary weekend. The social event of the calendar year began one Saturday morning not so long ago with a three-hour open practice session. Present were three senior sensei- a 4th dan from the University of Kent, a 5th dan (our very own Emiko Yoshikawa), a Japanese 6th dan as well as around 35 armoured lower grades. Together all helped make the Union Gym oscillate to thumps and cries whilst trying to bash the spots of their opponents. By the end of the session shinai splinters were strewn about and a few more holes existed in what is already a pretty beat up floor (Take note union penny pinchers!).

Following this workout the Imperial kendo crew took a trip to the nearby V&A where they were given an in depth tour of the Japanese section by their multi-talented sensei, Yoshikawa-sama. As if this wasn't enough for a day, the lucky members of Imperial's finest club took a trip to the plush surroundings of the 'Thai on the River' restaurant in Battersea for a commemoration dinner. Amply provided for with wine, rice and cake these fortuitous few cel-

ebrated the successes and challenges of the past ten years. Naturally more was yet to come.

The following day saw the main event of the anniversary: a unique seminar and competition combo held in Ethos. For this, the great and the good came from all over the country to have a go. Kendoka from Cambridge, Kent, UCL, and the University of the Arts formed the backbone of the contenders with a smattering of old Imperial Alumni from Japan to add spice to the mix. Leading this competition was the 7th-dan Japanese coach of the British National squad (Matsumoto-sensei). A friend of the club, this gentleman has featured before in this paper.

The morning began with a training seminar focussing on basic techniques. Like all martial arts the key to Kendo is to rigorously understand and apply the basics- something Imperial's club has always put at the front of its practice. After this "tuning-up session" we sat down to a free bento-box meal provided by the Japanese food shop 'Natural-Natural'. Nothing quite like a bit of cold fish of a lunch time to put you in the spirit for hitting your friends.

After this, and a year in the planning, came the competition. Unique in its layout a fight's winner stayed in,

and for dan grades, if there was a draw elimination beckoned. The 50-odd attendees happily filled the hall and demonstrated some pretty nice kendo. Of interest were the fights amongst the higher grades since, not content with just watching, referees joined the fray. We were treated to the spectacle of our sensei (5th-dan) having at the sensei from the University of the Arts (London), a 5th-dan and former captain of the Korean National Ladies team. Fun- nily enough neither could draw a point out of the other so they both fell out of the competition. It is good to know your teacher is amongst the best. This led up to the final match.

Matsumoto-sensei (7th dan) against a Japanese 6th dan from the University of Kent. Unlike other matches that revolved around physicality (heated thrust, rapid retreat and pushing) this match was almost serene in comparison. Minimal movement was made with emphasis being on sensing small openings made by the sword tips. Then in a flash it was all over.

Matsumoto cut a rapid hit to his opponent's kote (wrist) and took the match. Winners took home special gifts including Imperial College tengui (head cloth) and for one lucky UCL student (viewed to have put up

the longest series of fights) a bento box stuffed to the brim with fresh sushi- all courtesy of our main sponsor the Japan Centre.

Looking back it was a fine weekend and helped reaffirm friendships, as

well as make new ones. There is a special Kendo term for this: kou ken chi ai (knowing others by the crossing of swords). So there you have it. Ten years on and still going strong. Here's for the next ten!



Repeat: Kendo is not rubbish. Kendo is not rubbish.





## Rain, rain go away

IC Women's cricket team bat their way to history



**Emilie Michie**

This term has seen us make history for the IC Cricket Club. The women's team having been newly formed last year, entered its first official tournament, the BUSA south-east league.

This was a great opportunity for us ladies to develop our game and gave match experience to some of the more novice players. The teams we were up against were UCL, Kings, and Southampton. We had previously played an indoor friendly against Kings in the winter, but UCL and Southampton were unknown to us, so the tension began to build before our first scheduled match away at Southampton. We put long hours in nets, had the minibus booked and were ready and assembled early one Sunday morning for our trip down to the coast.

Rain stopped play. It was all very disappointing when we got a call to say our game was cancelled due to a flooded pitch and unrelenting rain. Cricket is just not possible in the rain, and as is obvious when playing the sport here in the UK, the wet-weather strategy can play an important part. Unfortunately neither side could offer a team for an alternative day and so it ended in a draw.

Next up was UCL at our home ground in Harlington, but the weather was failing to improve and alas another match was called off by rain. Our ladies swiftly agreed to an alternative date to be played away, but UCL were unable to put forward a team, giving us a default win. Although we were frustrated at the lack of play, we were looking healthy on the league table and confident to take on Kings in the next home match. Sun was shining and we finally thought we'd get out on the field, but Kings called last minute to cancel due to a lack of players, giving us the win!

Disappointed but undeterred we packed up a lovely tea and headed to Harlington to play Southampton. Finally, this gave co-captains Sian and

Dharani a chance to make some decisions! We lost the toss and fielded first, we kept their run rate low and managed to get them all out for 69 runs, with Tara getting us a key wicket. After tea our batters headed out to the crease, but things started looking worrying when the top end of our batting crumpled early. Realising that it was staying power we needed rather than runs, Priya and Clare kept cool heads, forming a good partnership and held in to give us the win we were after.

In glorious sunshine the following Sunday we took a train up to Potters Bar followed by a bus that confusingly dropped us on a bridge over the M25, and navigated our way to the UCL sports ground. We were all a bit nervous taking on UCL who had a reputation as a strong side. Winning the toss we batted first, and put in a much better performance than our previous match. Making 40 runs for 3, on the fourth wicket we decided to up the run rate and start smashing it around bringing us to a total of 82 before tea, Dharani and Georgie top-scoring. Despite the great effort, we were unable to defend our run rate and UCL narrowly took the win.

For the next fixture, we headed to play Kings. With greater match experience now, there was a calmer feeling amongst our players and we knew what we needed to do. We won the toss and took on the Kings bowlers first. Karmani and Clare opened forming a strong partnership they made a fantastic 53 runs together. The wicket was incredibly slow, with little or no bounce and we worked hard and finished our innings with an incredible 151 runs. This was our first triple digit score as a team and it felt great. With great wickets from Sian and Flo and some awesome catches, we easily defended our score, finishing the game ahead by 110 runs.

Narrowly missing out on winning the league, we still qualified for the National BUSA Shield knock-outs.

We were set up to play Bournemouth,

who were rumoured to have an England reserves player and an England 1st XI coach. With another chance to take a union minibus down to the seaside, we packed up our bats and pads and gathered outside the union early last Wednesday morning. Down came the rain again, and washed our hopes away, as they predictably called to cancel and rearrange the game for the Friday. Sadly the rescheduled day was not convenient for some of our girls and we could only put out a team of eight. We won the toss and opted to bowl first. Starting with eight players, Clare, arriving straight from her presentation half way though the first innings took us up to a total of nine! All the bowlers really showed how good they could be, Flo, Dharani, Priya and Clare all

bowled brilliantly, with Priya taking her first of what will hopefully be many wickets for Imperial. Although some quick thinking and fielding by Aleeza caused an early run out we could not shake their best player, the England reserve, who got most of their runs (103 of a 181 score) so it was with much satisfaction that Sian caught her off Clare's bowling in the last over. Everyone preformed amazingly well, considering it was Aleeza, Thubeena and Christina's first ever cricket match. Veena too showed her potential, successfully stopping a number of boundaries. Following a great start at chasing their total, we lost a few wickets early and could not quite keep the run rate up to what it needed to be, falling a few runs short of the total.

Considering most of our cricketers have been playing for less than a year, we aim to be even bigger and better next season! A special thanks should go to our founding member and captain Sian Fogden for her amazing enthusiasm and cricketing talent. She has worked tirelessly for the team for the past three years and will be sadly missed!

Although the fixtures are over, net sessions will continue into the summer and some possible friendlies to be organised. If you are at all interested in joining in, or just to see what cricket is like, please contact the newly appointed captains Priya and Dharani at [icwomenscricket@googlemail.com](mailto:icwomenscricket@googlemail.com). We welcome anyone from newcomers to the sport to oldhands.



IC women's cricket make triple figures against King's Medics