



PHOTOGRAPH BY JONATHAN SILVER

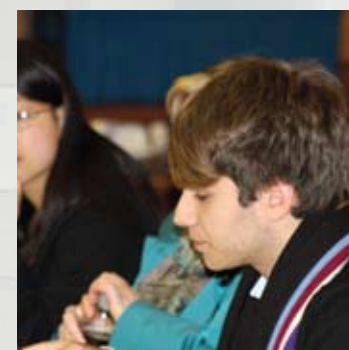


The poster that caused a stir

Imperial College Union manage to offend Faculties with this one little poster, find out why on page 5.

Inside

News - Zohair paper fails



Pages 4

Film - The best Bond



Pages 22

Feature - Ujaali 2008



Pages 32 - 33

Technology - Stuff review



Pages 28-29



News

News Editor – Kadhim Shubber

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New International Officer position to be created

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

At the second Union Council held last Monday, a sentiment vote was passed to create the new position of an International Officer.

The paper was proposed by Hannah Theodorou, Deputy President (Education & Welfare), in order to account for the large proportion of international students at Imperial. Since 2001, the percentage of international students at Imperial had risen by 26% to 46% last year. It was felt that these students effectively have no proper representation in any committee within the Union, although some members of council argued this. Certain members of Council felt that the Overseas Committee [OSC] gave adequate representation for these students, however it was then pointed out that they only cater for the students who are part of the respective societies. It was also pointed out that the OSC doesn't necessarily look after the welfare of the students, with Social Clubs Committee [SCC] Chair Peter Mabott pointing out that this should surely be the role of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare). Miss Theodorou replied by simply saying "I can't be in 10 places at once".

In the paper selected to Council, it stated that the International Officer shall be responsible for those issues which specifically relate to international students and organise relevant educational and training events and briefings, and report accordingly. They would also sit on appropriate Union Committees, as well as represent the Union's views on the relevant College Committees. Other points included jobs such as to facilitate an International Student's Forum and support International Students' involvement in all relevant areas of Union and College activity.

The officer would also be responsible to the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) for the research and implementation of campaigns relating to



Hannah Theodorou explaining the role at Council

International Students, as well as carry out such duties as may, from time to time, be laid down by the Council or the Executive Committee.

Some interesting points were also raised as to the election of the position. Since the officer would be representing such a large proportion of the student body, they would have to be elected by a campus-wide ballot, however only overseas students could vote. This would mean that all the European Union students could not vote, yet what was considered even more obscure was the fact the person running for the position wouldn't have to be an international student themselves.

This was felt a bit strange since for all the other faculty union positions, the members running for the position had to be from that relevant faculty, so as to give the best representation. However, it was felt by the Representation and Welfare board that as long as the candidate had the best interests at heart their representatives, then it wouldn't really matter. Others felt that this was purely creating another seat for Hacks or CV chasers on Council.

Hopefully the international student body will be able to select the person that best represents them and not another person simply aiming to enhance their CV.

Pregnant girlfriend poisoned by Mary's consultant

Dina Ismaili
News Correspondent

St Mary's hospital has been hit by scandal yet again, as it was revealed that one of its consultants has been charged with attempting to poison a pregnant woman in a bid to cause her to miscarry his child. The 43 year old consultant involved worked at the hospital's chest and allergy department and is believed to have been having an extramarital affair with his victim.

Police say he put a potent concoction of the drugs Methotrexate and Diclofenac into her tea while at her home on 2 February to induce an abortion. Five days later he is alleged to have carried out a second poisoning attempt at his workplace. The doctor was arrested a week later and charged at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court last month. A spokesman for Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust said the consultant was excluded from working at the trust in February 2008 when a

criminal investigation into allegations made against him began. His case has been transferred to Inner London Crown Court for a plea hearing in December, he faces three charges of 'attempting to unlawfully administer a poison or other noxious thing'. Although he has been granted bail, he has had to provide a sum of £10,000 to support it, and surrender his passport. His ex-lover, in the meantime, gave birth to a healthy son one month ago.

The case, however, is not the only embarrassment the Trust has had to deal with in recent weeks. It follows revelations that a team of St. Mary's surgeons mistakenly removed the wrong organ from a woman who was booked in for a gynaecological operation. Know one has yet been disciplined or suspended for the blunder.

To further add to St. Mary's woes this week its newly opened £1.4 million birthing unit is under investigation after the deaths of two babies in under three months.

Are you a user of Imperial College's Health Centre?

If so, Hannah Theodorou, the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) would like to know your views. Next week representatives from the Health Centre and Patient User Groups will be meeting at the termly Patient Participation Group meeting to discuss patients' views of the service and discuss what possible improvements could be made. Email her on dpew@imperial.ac.uk- your comments will be kept completely anonymous.

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STREET LOLETS



OF THE WEEK

From the very fabric
of communities
to a future without
compromise.

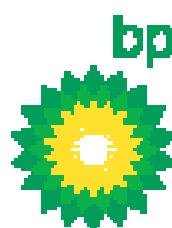


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No fairytale ending for Zohair yet

Kadhim Shubber
Deputy Editor

Few roller-coasters have as many ups and downs as the story of Zohair Abu-Shaban. *felix* first reported on the Palestinian electrical engineering student on 10th October and since then he has had his offer withdrawn and then reinstated, his dreams crushed, raised and possibly crushed again and the Union has debated the issue in a controversial Council meeting on the 3rd of November.

For much of October there was little public activity regarding his situation. There was no way to know if the Rafah crossing with Egypt would suddenly open and any action on the College's part remained behind the scenes. It would seem that this was simply the lull before the storm; in the previous week a flurry of activity and news has raised the hopes of Zohair and his supporters at Imperial. Hannah Theodorou, Deputy President Education and Welfare (DPEW), received the email from Zohair that set the weeks events in motion. In it Zohair told her that the Rafah crossing was unexpectedly (the fear is that such events would be dangerous if advertised in advance) to be opened and that he planned to travel to

London at the first possible opportunity. Zohair asked if he could still take up his place if he came to London immediately. Usually students are given just 2 weeks to take up their place and so Ms Theodorou re-iterated his offer of entry for the 2009/2010 academic year but he later told Islamic Society, "I

"I really wanted to join Imperial this year" - Zohair Abu-Shaban

really wanted to join Imperial this year but I don't know if the registry will reverse the decision or not. But if I have to decide, I will choose to attend this year."

Zohair did indeed decide to attend this year. He emailed Islamic Society and the Union that he would be coming to London even though he had been told that he didn't have a place. This risky move forced the College's hand and in a meeting with the Rector,

Jennifer Morgan, Union President, was told that this was a special case and if Zohair arrived within the week, that he would be allowed to begin his studies. His department, as well as the Islamic Society, have made preparations to help him catch up with the work he has missed. Zohair himself was unperturbed about the work he missed, "I'm really sure I can cope with all of it [missed work]. Four week of lectures is not too difficult to catch up with; 1) I have read some of it already, 2) I have been working as a teaching assistant for two years... 3) I graduated the top of my year. I know it's hard, but I am capable."

The College was expecting Zohair to arrive on Wednesday but he contacted Saad Raja, Islamic Society President, to tell him that he did not make it through the crossing. For reasons that are as yet unclear, it appears that Zohair and around 400 other students were sent back across the border after initially making it through. The Rafah crossing was expected to be open for several days but at the time of writing it was uncertain whether or not he would make it to London. The College described the situation as 'fluid' and told *felix* that eventually his place at the university will have to expire.



Zohair giving a speech at his graduation in Palestine

New Council Chair survives his first test

Kadhim Shubber reports on the reception of the motion to Council that would give support to Zohair

The above information was unknown to Salman Waqar and Yoni Weiner, proposers of the motion heard at Council which aimed to start a campaign with Union support that would raise publicity for Zohair and put pressure on the Israeli, Egyptian and British government to aid his passage from Gaza. It called for, amongst other things, protests at the Israeli and Egyptian embassies if progress was not forthcoming. Over 200 Imperial students signed a petition in support of Zohair which was attached to the motion. Council Chair Afonso Campos informed Council of the morning's developments and advised the proposers that the motion was no longer relevant and indeed that even if it was, it contained certain political judgements that could not be acceptable for the Council to pass. As such, Mr Campos told Council that the

motion would not be voted upon in its current form. Mr Waqar, off-guard after being presented with this new evidence, maintained that the motion was relevant and questioned whether a student with extenuating circumstances should be denied a place due to the 'technicality' of a few days. After some to-and-fro between Mr Waqar and the Council Chair, Mr Campos decided there was little point in continuing to discuss the motion and insisted that Mr Waqar allow the Council to continue with the rest of the meeting. This caused some consternation amongst Council members with the CAG Chair Christoph Aymanns calling out, "Why won't you let him speak?". Another council member told *felix*, "people are going to have to face up to these issues eventually". Mr Campos even received a demand for an apology for his handling of the matter but he was unapologetic stating, "Given the facts

that came to light earlier in the day, the paper became less relevant. As such, there was a general sentiment that the paper would clearly benefit from reworking to effectively target an is-

sue that is without a doubt of tremendous importance. I saw no point in keeping Council engaged in fruitless debate when there were other matters for decision on the agenda. The

paper is welcome back at any Council meeting in a reworked fashion. While some questioned my decision, I do not apologise for my actions and hope they are clearly understood."



Salman Waqar, the papers proposer, putting a question to the Council Chair, Afonso Campos last Monday

askthepresident

Got an issue with the Union?

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Email your questions to:
askthepresident@stoictv.com



Student Television of Imperial College

Students 'stolen' from Masquerade Ball

Imperial College Union stewards 'invite' RCSU and CGCU Masquerade Ball guests to Union event for free.

Daniel Wan
News Correspondent

Last Friday night, and coincidentally Halloween, saw Radio 1 DJ Colin Murray return once again to the Union in his glorified Imperial Union residency. Simultaneously, the Royal College of Science Union [RCSU] and the City and Guilds College Union [CGCU] held a joint Dinner and Masquerade Ball in the Great Hall just minutes away from Beit Quad. The timing of this high-profile event comes into question as many students were either at the Ball or celebrating Halloween privately elsewhere.

With the Masquerade Ball opening its doors at 7pm, the Union kicked off its own event with a warm-up act for Colin Murray's DJ set. Rosie and the Goldbug, an up-and-coming band from Cornwall were set to play at 9pm as part of their European tour.

A delayed start incurred, but when the band finally started their set, they were only met by a small selection of people, the large majority sitting down at tables on the near end of the club. The lead singer had to work increasingly hard to coax the otherwise timid and unexcitable 'crowd' into looking like they were having some form of enjoyment.

Rosie and the Goldbug were of a standard rarely seen of a band playing at the Union, but what seemed like poor advertising prior to their event meant they and another support act were given little attention. The main focus of the marketing was solely focused on the DJ set by Colin Murray.

This marketing had seemed to work, as an influx of people arrived in the hour before the start of Murray's performance. However, *felix* can reveal that the Union took seemingly desperate measures to ensuring that more people turned up. Impromptu posters were placed around and in the Great Hall, contradicting their own poster policy, indicating that all £15 paying guests of the Ball were also invited 'free of charge' to the otherwise £6 Union event.

Stewards that were hired by the faculty unions were also reported to have been telling students to go to the Union, something that greatly angered the faculties as they had hired the very same stewards for the Ball. Several members of the faculty unions then proceeded to go around the rooms and remove the posters.

Katya-yani Vyas, RCSU Vice President (Activities) told *felix* that "It was presumptuous of the Union to assume that they could automatically override a faculty union event. They should have had the politeness to at least enquire if it would be OK with us."

This apparent 'ploy' by the Union seemed to have worked, with Colin Murray playing out to a near full-house in dBs, most of which, *felix* was told, consisted of students from the Masquerade Ball. However after the event in the Union, several students were heard saying that they preferred the Ball over the Union event.

David Charles, RCSU President commented on the whole event by saying that "The tactics used by the Un-

ion on Friday night were unhelpful at best. I feel that an attempt was made to undermine an extremely successful event. It's a perfect example of what we should avoid as a union. In fact, I would go as far as say that it damaged the reputation of the Union."

Mr Charles did also propose a possible solution, telling *felix* that "Clearly, the Union is struggling with attendance but has the money to recruit big names. Instead of blocking faculty unions from booking DBs on big name evenings, invite us to host them. We are on the same team after all. Could you imagine Colin Murray etc at a Tri-Union Club Night at DBs. It's a win-win situation."

Mark Mearing-Smith, CGCU President had similar views.

"Quite frankly it is unacceptable that the Entertainment department just budge into our event. One of the members of staff told me during the meal that our ticket holders have free access to the Union, which I said thank you to, then he said that I should tell everyone. I just smiled, knowing full well that I had a minimum bar spend to reach and people moving over to the Union would not help. So I didn't tell people."

Mr Mearing-Smith then went on to say: "I do not think that it is fair that a club/society puts in so much time to an event, (also that we are unpaid volunteers still studying) and they just think 'oh they will not mind, it's only good

for them.' Time and time again they just f*@\$ up with their Union events, they over spend their budget, they get s*@\$ attendance and annoy one of the strongest part of our union, the clubs and societies."

"Just because they can't get people in doesn't mean that they can stroll in to our event and draw people away when I gave no permission for them to put up any posters."

With the event clearly upsetting a lot of the faculty union, Mr Mearing-Smith asked ICU President Jenny Morgan what was going to be done about it, [she responded "It's being looked at, don't worry." Mr Mearing-Smith told *felix* that he was effectively being ignored and that the faculty unions were "not important enough" in comparison to the activities and events of ICU.

felix has attempted to get a comment from the Union, however was unable to get any before the paper went to print.

The lack of an audience will inevitably dampen the reputation of Imperial College Union as event organisers to potential bands and other performers. With Imperial College Union evidently upsetting so many people, the question that is on the lips of many faculty officials is what will be done to avoid this problem in the future. The possibility of co-operation has interested clubs and societies, but would that necessarily mean a full house for the Union?

Imperial to set up new robotics centre in Qatar

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Earlier this week, Imperial College London had agreed upon establishing a centre for robotic surgery at the recently opened Qatar Science & Technology Park. This new centre was agreed upon with the Qatar Foundation, who host a community of elite international partners including the University of Oxford, and aim to be the Middle East's hub of education and research.

The work carried out at the Qatar Science & Technology Park will focus on commercially-orientated research and development, which will be conducted alongside six leading US universities.

The Qatar Robotic Centre will focus on medical robotic technology, including the further development of surgical procedures which can be carried out to a degree of precision far beyond the capabilities of the human hand. As well as focusing on research, the centre will also train students and surgeons alike on robotic medical technology.

The announcement made by the Qatar Foundation coincided with the visit of the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to the flagship Education City campus. He was reported saying: "I welcome the increasingly close educational and research links between top British universities and Qatar Foundation. These two announcements form exciting new strands to our shared pursuit of technological and academic

excellence. I congratulate Qatar Foundation, Imperial College London and Oxford University." The reference to Oxford University refers to the creation of an Islamic Studies Chair, which is endowed by the Qatar Foundation.

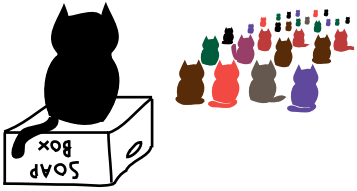
Qatar Foundation President Dr Mohammed Fathy Saoud said: "Qatar Foundation is creating one of the world's most exciting educational and research clusters because it knows the Middle East region's future lies in the development of human capital and the application of knowledge. We are partnering with elite universities that are leaders in select areas of education and research."

Sir Roy Anderson, Rector of Imperial College London, said: "Imperial College looks to translate research advances into innovations that improve quality of life, and we are thrilled that Qatar Foundation's appetite for innovation matches our own. The use of robotic devices in medicine is a field that holds a great deal of promise, and this is a wonderful opportunity for Imperial College to help make tangible contributions to Qatar's scientific and medical development."

The comments made by the Rector coincide with those made at this year's Commemoration Day speech, where he said that Imperial would be establishing "footprints" overseas, including "collaborative research facilities." This is all in aid of ensuring that Imperial remains a world class institution, and by creating these "footprints" it is believed that this will be the case.



Left: CGCU President Mark Mearing-Smith and RCSU President David Charles on the right.



Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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



Gilead Amit

Wikipedia, wikipedia: oh, how we need ya

We humans are strange in many ways. Only the other day, for instance, I was watching television. Crazy, eh?

All our strangeness, however, can be traced back to our willingness to forego practicality for spiritual or physical enjoyment. We are the most superstitious and ritualistic of beings, deriving pleasure from common fears, goals and experiences. We have invented weird and wonderful things to do with food where the final energy intake in no way justifies the effort expended. We have converted the simple ingestion of nutrients into a social exercise and the act of procreation into a recreational and romantic one. We spend valuable time expressing our emotions and admiring those who can do it with more honesty

or skill than ourselves.

And while some of these attributes may be shared by various animals, no other creature lives for enjoyment the way we do. Survival – the simple struggle to carry on living – is no longer a challenge for us. We've moved on to level 2. We're so good at the game that we have to invent challenges for ourselves just to make it worth playing. We form pointless, wasteful, tiresome, irritating and entirely wonderful emotional attachments to people and to things. We are the most rational of animals and yet simultaneously the only creatures who can afford to live for non-practical goals. This is the dichotomy that sums us up.

Take Kindle – Amazon's new £360 wireless reading device, for instance. There's no getting around the fact that it's a wonderful invention. And I could probably cajole a relative into buying it for me for my generic-non-faith-specific winterval holiday later this year. Staggeringly innovative as it is, though, I don't want one. In this, as in so much else, I am precisely that pipe-smoking colonial major with a roaring fire in his darkened, oak-panelled study who, with a red velvet smoking hat on his whitened hair and a snifter of brandy in his hand, loudly and imperiously damns those newfangled technowhatsits. I am now channelling the worst of hidebound, anachronistic, misplaced nostalgia. But I'm doing it to make sure none of you feels a need to.

So here I sit, militarized, mustachioed and monocled, adamantly saying that I will never give up my books for an electronic reader.

It's not that I don't recognize and appreciate its stunning practicality. I'm sure such a machine will be more portable, convenient and easier to read than my paperback or hardbound copies. It's just not a question of logic or of weighing up pros and cons. I am a weak, fickle, emotion-driven human being, and I make weak, fickle, emotion-driven, human decisions. Young as I am, I have already spent enough time floating around libraries and second-hand bookstores to know

I'll never be able to break that emotional attachment. In the same way my grandfather point blank refuses to see the advantages of high-speed internet, word processing software or, you know, a keyboard, I equally stubbornly cling to my precious collection of yellowing paper, cardboard and leather. Until you can get a piece of gadgetry to smell of old glue, crack loudly when you open it for the first time, have dust accumulate on its spine or deteriorate in that delightful, inevitable way that books do, I will remain proud and colonial in my study. At least it has books lining the walls.

It occurs to me that we are the last generation who will be able to remember a time when ignorance was acceptable. To channel Donald Rumsfeld, that sublime footnote to history, 'there will be a time when we will look back and remember a time when we could still remember things we'd forgotten'. In normalspeak, we will be able to recall the last days when the World Book of Knowledge had any relevance. When the Encyclopaedia Britannica was the first port of call for those seeking random trivia. Those 30 beautiful blue volumes that contained within them the store of all information anyone needed to know before 2001.

And then, suddenly, along came Jimmy Wales. And wikipedia made an entrance into our lives. Now, true, it's wonderful to be able to find out the intricacies of the Namamuga incident, where a British merchant was killed for refusing to show subservience to a Japanese daimyo; to discover the exact nature of the foreign policy relationship Palau has with the United States; the names given to various nought-to-infinity integrals; or the list of Rwandan presidents at the click of a button. But taking a heavy, cobalt-blue tome off the shelf and leafing through it, before discovering that you'd taken the wrong volume and in fact needed the index and a kindly adult to explain the difference between micropaedia and macropaedia and interpret the unusual cross-referencing notation used by the Britannica editors had a great deal of

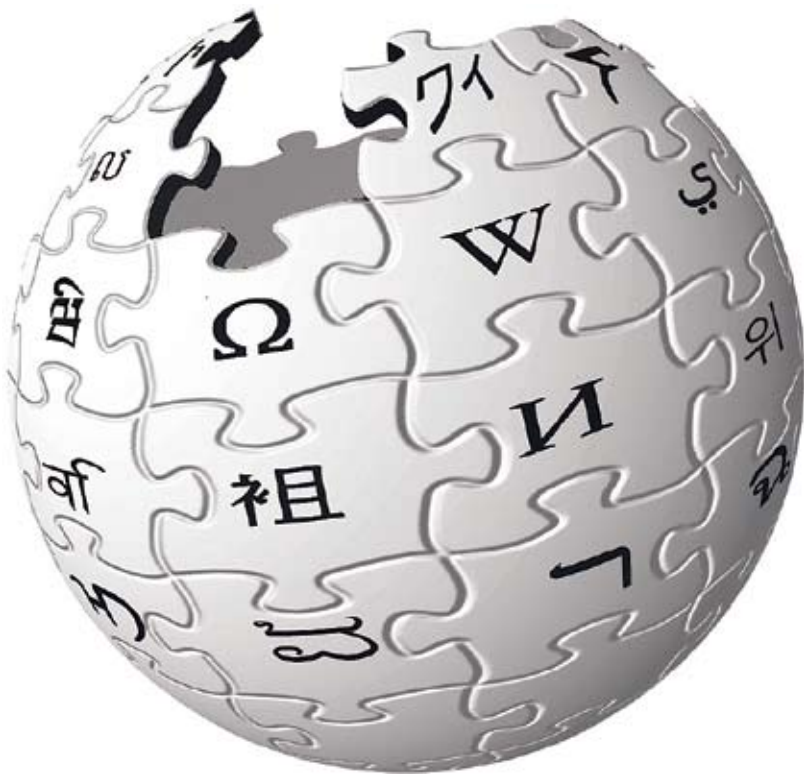
romance associated with it.

Before wikipedia, seeking information was something almost glamorous. An elitist adventure. Now it has become a populist commercialized pilgrimage. The spirit of the '49 gold rush has gradually morphed into the motivation behind a family trip to Disneyland.

It takes time to get used to. I don't know about you, but I liked getting my information from a world-renowned expert on a subject, printed on almost transparently thin sheets of paper with a gold border, rather than having it instantaneously revealed to me in leetspeak by some spotty teenager in Minnesota with the handle Optimus413lolz.

But – and there is no possible way I can emphasize that But to the proportions it deserves – this is the spirit that flooded out of the printing presses at Mainz in 1452. These are the ideals that prompted Luther to nail his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg in 1546. Knowledge belongs to the people, and the most romantic thing about it is being able to spread it to the world. Books were nice, vellum must have been remarkable, papyri and stone tablets were probably infinitely more attractive. We move on, and we gradually lose our reliance on the technologies of preceding generations. The only thing stopping us is sentimentality and emotion. Try as we like to get rid of these irritatingly fluffy aspects of our characters, they won't go away. All we can do is hope our children have as little patience for our nostalgia as we have for that of our parents. And believe me, they will.

Today, anyone can access whatever information they want to, whenever they want to, in the easiest possible way. That is amazing in itself, but it needs the new 21st Century mindset to appreciate. And I love it – of course I do – but you can't expect a cantankerous ex-Army empire-builder to be dragged into the 21st Century without a good deal of kicking and screaming. Not when there's half a pint of brandy inside him.



Anonymous Unknown

Imperial Girl is a geek like the rest of us

I'm writing this article today for various reasons, the first if not foremost, as a reply to Imperial Girl's article which has triggered this. First of all I quite liked the article, she mentioned of how we live in a superficial society and how guys at Imperial should attempt to see women for who they are rather than how they look like, which leads me to the problem I wish to address.

Imperial College, a University strongly centered on scientific and technological subjects, however despite the massive union, the many parties and all the rest, there seems to be a social problem. Casual meetings are frequent, but to truly get to know someone, or for a relationship to form, to bridge the gap between having met and knowing one another is all too rare. Talk tends to stay far away from one's own persona and at least in my case more thoughts, jokes, ideas etc. are filtered out by some irrational in-

hibition than ever make their way out. "Why?" one might think, and I can speak but for my own experiences and feelings on the matter and deduce from that. Judging from myself, some people simply think too much about the possible outcomes before acting or speaking until the scenario in which it could be misinterpreted pops up and the idea is discarded. And there's always a scenario like that.

Introversion, shyness, lack of courage, insecurity... name it how you will, it's a normal characteristic most often found within academics of... yes you guessed it scientific, technological and mathematical subjects. Usually this is not too much of a problem since in other environments the large portion of more outgoing people tends to pull the rest in, but when we are dealing with Imperial, often whoever you are talking with feels equally uncomfortable to change the subject at hand or

propose an idea.

So is it that people are excessively superficial (Note that quite obviously looks will always be a criteria, albeit that they shouldn't be the only one. Few would wish to enter a relationship with someone that is aesthetically repelling to them regardless of their personality) or is it the aversion to discussing more personal matters that is the problem? How many people are there that know "who you are?" How many people have you given a realistic chance of truly getting to know you without expecting them to make a step you can't seem to do yourself?

Physical attractiveness is a quality that can be noticed immediately... while personality is more often than not hidden and often very hard to determine and find out about. My guess to the main reason why you never felt the same for an imperial student was simply because you as well as him

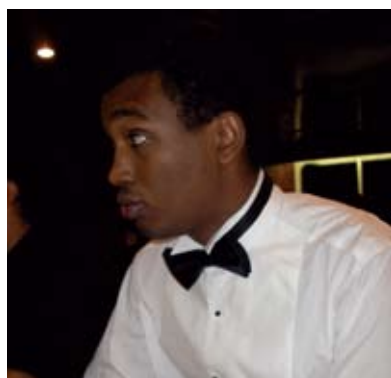
opened up more easily through the internet, regardless what you look like.

I can at least say of myself that the number of things left unsaid, the number of ideas left unmentioned, the number of possibilities left unexplored and of chances missed is staggering and with time it can become frustrating. Yet really the only one to be able to do anything about that is one self, as a wise man once told me.

So as I reach the end of my article on how people limit themselves, hoping for others to break out of their shell to take an action they can't do themselves I am faced with a daunting choice which I knew I would have to face.

Am I to truly send this in, or will it be another train of thoughts left unmentioned?

Will I hide behind an anonymous writers name or will I sign it with my name, regardless of what people's opinions might turn out like?



Amin Elmubarak

A man who believes in America

At the age of 72 John Sidney McCain III was the oldest man in history to run for the Presidency of the United States. With his three-generation record of Naval Academy education and military service, McCain seems like the poster-boy of the Republican Party. And though his rhetoric paled in comparison to that of the 44th American President, the content seemed like clichéd hollow political promises that would never come to fruition regardless of the number of terms served.

However, the senior senator of Arizona has not only had a successful military and political career but his history of insubordination, both during his years as a Naval cadet and his time on Capitol Hill, have shown a man who

would have consistently stood up for what is right in order to protect his fellow colleagues and countrymen regardless of the detriment to himself – in the naval academy, this attitude saw him graduate at 894 of 899 despite a high IQ and his nick name as a Maverick came from his continued deviation from the party line when he saw it as wrong.

There is no question that his political experience outweighed that of his opponent. When his plane was shot down over Hanoi whilst on a bombing raid the then young Maverick was offered an early bargaining deal to retrieve him from the prisoner of war camp before those who have been in there for longer, due to his father's sta-

tus as a top Admiral in the US Navy. His refusal was a testament to his belief in the notion of justice and sacrifice for his fellow Americans and his inability to wave to the cameras and crowds during the presidential race remains as a dark reminder of what his subsequent years in the Hanoi Hilton had done to this man.

But the greatest testament of McCain's character had to be his concession speech, where he told a solemn and at times frustrated Arizona crowd:

"My friends we have got to the end of a long journey. The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly" and "I urge all Americans who supported me to join me in not just

congratulating him but offering our next president our good will and earnest effort to come together."

You could say what ever you like about McCain and revel as much as possible on the historic election of a 'black president' but one cannot wonder if McCain ran as a candidate for a party that was not associated with a leader that has been so ignorant and bungling that he brought about the term 'Bushism' whether his fate would have been different on the 4th of November.

For even before his political career began and after his campaign for the highest office in the US had ended, McCain has done nothing but put his country first.



Imperial Girl

Tick fucking tock bloody tick

I can't understand where on earth the time goes. It feels like we just finished freshers' week but now we are already more than half way through the first term and let's be honest, the only terms that are worth talking about are this one and spring term. Summer term is not a term, it isn't even a time, it's just a long blur of red/blue bolt smells from the person who decided that sleeping in the library will save those precious moments that will allow them to get the ultimate grade. Please, go the hell home and brush your hair!

Back to where I was, time seems to be slipping away. I am finding it harder to get up in the mornings to the point

where I am sleeping straight through the alarm (and that's really hard with my alarm). In the first week it was all bushy tail, red cheeks and ready to go. Now it's just 'if I wash when I get back I can sleep for another 10 minutes' or 'if I plan what I am going to wear in my head whilst I rest my eyes for a few more minutes in bed, I'll be super efficient when I get up and hence SAVE time. Genius'

Why I am I trying to scrimp and save every minute I have? What am I doing that is making me so busy? I am sat here now trying to figure out where all the time went. So there are those pointless lectures that I never listen or

learn anything in. That takes a good portion of the day. Or maybe the endless time I spend pretending to study whilst on Facebook. The time it takes to walk to college. The time it takes to eat. The time it takes to... I think you get my point. Everything happens so fast that I often forget to enjoy myself. No, it's not that as I have come to realise, it's that we do things so fast that we forget to realise how much fun we have doing it. Please excuse the potential innuendo.

So talking to a friend of mine recently, I decided that perhaps we should set aside a certain amount of time each week to do something that we really

enjoy and whilst we are engaging in that activity, we acknowledge that we are doing something not for anyone else but for our pure self indulgence.

On another subject, I heard through the grapevine that a right imbecile decided to let everyone know how shallow he was in his Entrepreneurship class by saying; "obviously a guy knows what he likes about a girl- long legs, blonde hair and big boobs". Listen mate, stop drooling over those pictures pinned in the red phone box down Gloucester Road and get a real girl that responds when you harass her. But I forgive you for your sin this once; you hadn't yet read my column from last week.



Caz Knight

Accept your suffering; joy will follow

Suffering: our conditioning has moulded us into beings who strive to avoid this and any other forms of awkwardness which could induce discomfort. Our inherent nature to seek pleasure, comfort and ease above all other forms of feeling and emotion is part of our biological instinct to survive. Our minds have learned to associate beneficial actions with pleasure: eating, drinking, coitus. And those which jeopardise the survival that will in turn lead us to live long enough to generate progeny are associated with fear, the will to flee and pain. It is amazing how our brains, in conjunction with our bodies, will go to any length to ensure our morale is kept high enough to ensure we have the will to live, because reproduction is challenging once one's pulse stops. The human race has undergone a gradual elevation from Paleolithic cave dwellers to where we stand now, the implicit meaning being that we have things to live for other than procreating and simply being.

Now that some of us have evolved slightly let us reconsider this 'ugly' notion of suffering and pain. According to Schopenhauer, pleasure only exists once suffering ends, implying that pleasure is nothing in its own right. His rival Nietzsche insisted that joy was much more potent than any pain, yet the two were still very much entangled- one not being able to exist without the other. And so we have our first argument for suffering: we enjoy our times of happiness all the more after battling adversity to get to them. The

pain makes the two states distinct and not the other way round. If it was joy that defined pain, it would imply it was pain we strived for and as humans we know that this is not the case, no matter how necessary suffering is.

Nietzsche's definition of greatness was the ability to endure suffering effortlessly, not a small favour in the slightest. His ubermensch (the ultimate form of evolved man) would be able to do this as well as accepting man's suffering and to not let the fact that man will always suffer upset them. Again, this is asking a lot of a civilisation whose gut instinct is to try and eliminate suffering and bring comfort to the lives of its people. What other reason for council housing and aid to Africa? Pity is commonly regarded as something virtuous and that we are better people for wanting to alleviate someone else's discomfort. However, people do not often stop to think that perhaps these people need their suffering. Those reading this will be up at arms at my callousness for implying those African orphans require their starvation. If one believes in reincarnation and karma, then yes, those children were obviously hideous people in their previous life and got what was coming to them.

I believe the first step is to accept suffering as a vital part of existence and required as part of a balanced lifestyle, the emphasis being on balance between joy and pain. I am not advocating perpetual unease! It is so much healthier to let yourself experience the

whole spectrum of human emotion and not to try to quell or be ashamed of any negative emotion we go through. I feel immense pressure from society to always appear in control, happy, strong and resilient whereas it is perfectly acceptable to feel anxiety.

Our conditioning has also programmed us to like things that are good and bring pleasure and to dislike things which cause us pain. The idea of liking something that is painful seems paradoxical but it is not; the painful thing is the cause/stimulus whereas the pleasure we get from it is the effect. A good example of this would be BDSM (bondage-discipline sadomasochism).

The pain undergone from physical harm (and sometimes from mental stress caused by mind games) causes the body to release its pain killing endorphins which will in turn bring about a high. The searing pain I felt as I thudded to the ground trying to cross the road was extraordinary and at first I felt the rising of anger and frustration. The pain kept on but I let myself enjoy it as I hobbled along, imagining the bruise that would come.

Going for that run may be utterly exhausting but we are treated to our body's natural drugs afterwards, not to mention the satisfaction of shedding a few pounds and increasing our physical fitness. How much better that chocolate cake tastes after a stint of moderation and how much more potent that first alcoholic drink is when we have battled through a week of abstinence also demonstrates that suf-

fering (in this case denying ourselves) makes us appreciate joy all the more. It is worth noting that the anticipation of something is nearly always many times worse than the thing itself: our brains are trying to fool us so that we avoid that situation. Conversely, a similar phenomenon is true of pleasure; in many cases the further in time we get from an occurrence the more pleasant the memory of that event becomes: nostalgia. I digress.

By experiencing pain we also learn a great deal and come out stronger. I can guarantee that the benefit from every situation, no matter how horrific, will become obvious a while after. 'Every cloud has a silver lining' illustrates this.

Art is fuelled by pain too. Intense and original art pours forth when the artist is going through a difficult time. I find I can only produce what I think are effective poems when I am very angry, bitter or upset. I gain no inspiration from feelings of mirth or love. That is not to say every artist is this way and thank god or all our galleries would be rife with angst. Art requires suffering at the same time as our suffering requires art to help us through tough times. Tragedy was a way for the Greeks to make themselves feel better about how odious and disgusting the world was. In this day and age we have Heat magazine (although not strictly art!).

The morale of the column is to accept your suffering and know joy is to follow.



Krystyna Larkham

We are no longer judged by our colour

At 5am this morning a good friend of mine sent me a text message. It said, 'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character' (Martin Luther King, 1963). My friend is a British Pakistani who works in Politics and has literary ambition: I was surprised that he resorted to the words of someone else which, powerful though they are, to my white, middle-class ears, have been repeated so often as to become almost cliché.

It was exciting at 5am this morning. It was exciting to see the election of a president who, whatever you think of him, is not simply a replica of something which has come before. It was exciting to see so many people motivated by the promise of change, mobilised in their thousands to a park in Chicago and stirred into a frenzy worthy of a pop star, by politics of all things. It

was exciting, and also a little scary. It was scary to see the negative reaction of Republicans at their headquarters in Arizona, booing every time Obama was mentioned in McCain's concession speech. It was scary to look into a future which is a complete unknown, with the promise of 'Change'. Human beings are creatures of habit. We do not like change.

But regardless of your political preference, something already has changed. McCain last night silenced his dissenting crowd with the following words; "It's natural, tonight, to feel some disappointment. But tomorrow, we must move beyond it and work together to get our country moving again". Obama celebrated his victory by urging the crowds to "summon a new spirit of patriotism; of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other". This is

a new politics, not one man on a stage promising the moon (although it is surely impossible to achieve all that Obama has promised), but two men, from opposing political parties saying 'look, it can be good, but we have to do it together. There is no magic wand, just you and me'. "I will listen to you, especially when we disagree" he says, and this is what makes me hope.

My boyfriend has a postcard in his office, which says 'Hate something, change something', and this is what to me, Obama really stands for, behind the healthcare and the repealing of Bush's tax rebates and whatever other policies you may or may not believe in. As Shami Chakrabarti, director of Liberty, so eloquently said on Desert Island Discs- if she wasn't doing the job she does, she would just be sitting in the pub with her mates, complaining about the very things she campaigns so vociferously on: Guantanamo bay, 48

days, etc. Obama, in the words of McCain, "inspired the hopes of so many millions of Americans who had once wrongly believed that they had little at stake or little influence in the election of an American president".

He may not be in charge of our country (political jokes aside) or even your choice of President, but let him inspire you to make change, to have influence. Go on demonstrations. Write letters to your MP, to the Mayor, to the train company who held you up for three hours last Sunday. Get some backbone; use our gift of free speech, while it lasts, so that our politicians too want to listen to us, especially when we disagree.

Because I understand now what my friend meant at 5 o'clock this morning. We are no longer judged by the colour of our skin, but by the contents of our character.

Make yours count.



Viscount Kensington

In the absence of Monarchy

By the time you read this, the Colonials will have gone about their sordid business and appointed themselves a new leader, invested with the power that comes from the mandate of a majority of the ignorant masses amassing, for a fleeting moment, the intelligence required to tick a box next your name.

At the time of writing, the polls indicate that the chap who is friends with criminals and who smoked illegal substances will triumph over the elderly gentleman who endured multiple years of torture, turning down repeated offers of early release because he felt it unfair that he would be released before other servicemen. Of course, this is what the polls say. I have the suspicion that racism may yet have its Austerlitz and the senile reactionary and his insane religious entourage will punch through the centre of their enemy's lines and once again be in a position to suppress all the benevolent changes that the charming young man of the Democratic Party intends to bring about.

Personally, I'm betting on the good Senator to win. Of course, by now you know the result and can be awe of my powers of prediction as well as my

predilection for covering all possible angles. By now you must be sick of all this talk of the Americans. At least, you damn well ought to be. At this point, each time I hear the name of one of the candidates I intend to kill five people. As the main topic on the news tonight will be this quaint, foreign election, this article may become highly irrelevant as that news item is overshadowed by the tragedy of London's entire population being slaughtered and their remains being reprocessed into Ersatz food for sale to World War One's Germany. A free tip for you: the best time to sell would be during the turnip winter of 1916.

Currently, a thousand weak-willed, intolerable and utterly non-American liberals are running around telling me to vote for that infernal demagogue that has captured their unable-to-vote-in-the-American-election hearts. So desirous are they that the heroic and wise old man be defeated by that inexperienced parvenu that they are doing everything in their power to tell Americans how to vote. It is on their facebook, it is on their T-shirts, it is on the tip of their tongues at every single moment. Like how the Guard-

ian encouraged its readers to write letters to Americans in swing states that essentially ordered them to vote for John Kerry (encouraging most of the recipients to vote for Bush if you did not see that coming), these irrelevant xenos are busy trying to do everything they interfere in the national American democratic process.

By the time you read this, those same lovely, well-intentioned people will either be in an ecstasy of delight, choking beneath the weight of their own sense of self-satisfaction, or they will be distraught, rightly commiserating the loss of a momentous opportunity for America. But whatever their feelings, it is none of their business. It has nothing to do with them. The way some people discuss the matter, you would think they would not be content until the Americans abstained from voting and handed over all responsibility for the appointment of their leaders to the international community. Before such an idea encourages the sort of elation in you that would encourage your neighbour to shuffle away (or possibly shuffle closer and tell you how they had always secretly hoped that you felt the same way about them) then let me tell

you that the Americans are not going to do that, at least not any time soon.

Really, this election is no business of yours. If you are not American, please in future do not tell Americans what to think or do with their own country. It is only giving them attention after all. They were always destined to have awful leaders from the moment they fell into that fit of madness that motivated them to rid themselves of our glorious Monarchy. Let them make their bad decisions. Let them vote for the gentle elderly gentleman whose reactionary policies will inevitably destroy America. Let them vote for the charismatic youth whose uplifting words and ideas will lead America to the cess pit of economic and moral decay. Be it the crazy warmonger or the Hitler-esque 'Lord of Change' that they choose (or have chosen) one thing remains certain: They have no Queen, any choice they make is the wrong one, anything they do is awful and every single one of them is spiritually deficient.

And if their choice should leave this world in fire, then do not fear. Cometh the hour, cometh the man and if the results come in at half past nine, then I get up at ten.



The Watcher

A lesson for all train-using Medics

I was returning to London from a weekend visiting my parents, and conversely to the usual, my head was clear and my tummy was full.

As the train neared the capital, the carriage began to get more and more packed, to the point where standing and watching the old ladies balance on rocking platform shifted from funny to embarrassing. So I got up and joined the others my age after winning a "no you sit down" battle with a woman so old that I think she might have been present at Churchill's birth, and I don't mean the nodding dog.

Suddenly, "COULD ANYONE WITH MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE PLEASE COME TO CARRIAGE 6" came the unusually clear voice over the train's PA system.

A part of my brain raced and thought "wow! I can help someone, I think I can!" but then decided against it, as

I thought that the best thing I could probably do is diagnose what is wrong with this patient and if he or she was dying, I'd probably only be able to turn around and explain what and how this patient is dying from, seeing as I don't have the necessary equipment to provide any help. It's not as if I walk around with a bag of pharmaceuticals and syringes and surgical equipment, so I re-engaged my brain to try and work out how I can finish the sudoku in the newspaper.

The small twinge of guilt brought about by my inaction was put to rest when an unusually pierced woman came through with an air of importance politely ushering us common folk out of the way to tend to this emergency.

I barely had time to write down the next number on my puzzle when I heard a booming "GET OUT OF THE

WAY, EXCUSE ME, MOVE! I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE BUT THIS IS AN EMERGENCY" as three doctors literally shoved those who were too slow aside.

I'm ashamed to say this, but they seemed like the adult versions of some of my colleagues at ICSM.

However, that was not my first thought, as my first thought began with W and rhymed with banker. As I looked around, people's faces and mumbling were in sync with my thoughts of disapproval, but then people began to audibly try to make excuses for such an arrogantly rude act.

"He is a doctor and I suppose he could help" and others along similar lines

But why should that fact that you may be able to help someone in need give the right to treat the rest of the carriage like a nuisance and to shove

them around like they are intentionally antagonising your effort to do good.

What I think nailed this doctor's performance was the fact that he proceeded to voluntarily tell every member of the train on his way back "It's only an epileptic fit, no need to worry" in the loudest voice you could imagine.

As a medic, I have had the unique chance to observe our species from the outside, as it were, and I would like to take this opportunity to say to ICSM: be humble, you're studying for a job at the end of the day, like every body else. You shouldn't moan that you're doing six years because you knew that when you applied, no one surprised you with that information towards the end of your third year!

And to the rest of Imperial: On behalf of all medics, past and present, if you see us act like that, sorry, we don't try to be arrogant, we're just simple.



Alex da Flex

Breaking up is never that easy

So this is Christmas, tell me what have you done? A year has gone by, you are single again? If like me, you recently broke up with your girl/boyfriend, hopefully not both simultaneously, you would perhaps empathise with me (but don't sympathise, I'm doing fine... really). In fact, I'm not lamenting over my ex who shall remain shameless; I meant nameless. I'm here to preach to all those chaps left stranded by a cheating and emotionally retarded witch, that it's perfectly manly to feel down.

Having spent five years at Imperial as a Medic, I have taken more abuse than you did free pens from the career fairs and know our motherland college better than Obama knows the names of plumbers. Over the years, amidst articles on the common paraphernalia of life, these threads preferred to comment on courting the opposite sex and starting a relationship. But I'm sure that's not where our problems lie as bright motivated Imperial guys (cough cough, doctor I have a cold). Keeping it (the relationship) up is the difficult thing. So this is about things that happen when the romantic bulls**t goes cleavage-up. Come on, flowers and dinners just don't cut it anymore. It's not like adolescent years, when you get so much for a deluxe whopper meal.

A million love songs and presents later, did she still complain not spending enough quality time? Does she ever tell you something's wrong and you can-

not for all the testosterone in you guess what? Well, move (please) get out the way, get out the way (please) get out the way... (Apologies Ludacris, I don't like the word bitch, to call her that would be an insult to my dog) Afterall, you don't wear the same shirt all the time, or the same socks, do you? The grass is greener, plenty of fish in the sea. You heard them all. Go on my son, make my day. What's wrong? She keeps calling you? You keep "bumping" into her? She wants to be friends, FRIENDS? Or freaky-on-the-weekends? I mean, come on lady, how do I move on if I see your mug all the time? It might be easy for you, quite frankly you wouldn't mind who gets stuck in that hole with you, but I care deeply down which burrow I descend (you wish you are reading about how ICFC kicked UCL ass on the weekend now, don't you?). I need a PhD in "avoiding-you-ology" to have some peace and quiet.

In truth, I've loved, laughed and cried, had my fill, my share of losing (RIP Legend Sinatra). Getting over someone you once loved deeply may seem difficult. Your emotion suddenly declares independence from your logic. You know she is a cheating whore, but for about a week, you feel lousy, you miss her, you want to touch her, kiss her ... STOP! Love songs last 3 choruses, why should you suffer for eternity? If this is your mind state, empathise with me, EMPATHISE! Although we've come to

the end of the road, but I still can't let go ... SLAP YOURSELF BOY, Boyz2Men made 11million with that song, how much do you get sobbing yourself silly? Go do your dissertation. Bravo, one more time, altogether now: I was a fool to let you go, I will never meet anyone like you, you are my endless love ... SEE THAT TOILET BOWL? PLEASE STICK YOUR HEAD IN IT.

Abstract stuff aside, here are some figures. She is one of 3,301,112,087 girls on this planet (WikiAnswers so don't doubt), and you are the only one of YOU on this planet, God did not give YOU the Y-chromosome and good looks for nothing. Furthermore (big ideas for a medic), behind every great man is not a woman, it's the leather seat of your new Bentley. Behind your Bentley is none other than the C-reg Ford Fiesta your ex will be in with hubby-the-third and five kids in ten years time; honking their horn because they are late for a social services appointment. So laugh my son, laugh like that time you got an A for your progress test, laugh like that time you scored a hat-trick against King's, laugh since you got escaped the clutches of evil.

Still feeling sad? Close your eyes, give me your hand, heterosexually, I can see you are weeping, do you understand, I once felt the same, you are not dreaming, she will be burning in eternal flame. It is probably worth holding

back the thoughts of hate and remember that she did give you some happiness. Let's face it, if she can entertain three, not including yourself, at the same time, that's a medal right there. You should be glad that she was with you and not making a fortune in the midget porn business (had she lost a few pounds with a complimentary visit to the boob surgeon that is). When she told you not to come over at 10pm, she was looking out for you; you would be much healthier not seeing what was in her bedroom, believe me, that's what nightmares are made of. Last thing to that effect, you must praise her for the ability to keep a happy, pleasant outer shell to the public because deep down, deep, deep down there, she's hurting like there's no tomorrow.

My friends, it's time to do all the things you couldn't do before: finish your model Spitfire, read about Plummer-Vinson Syndrome, snog six girls in one night and write a *felix* article. Remember, being single does not mean you are desperate so you are under no obligation to date again in the near future. I mean just look at the man in the mirror; I rest my case.

Enjoy your time my son, YOU ARE SINGLE.

PS: If you are offended by the content, may I add that all characters in this article are fictional, including myself, and correspondences with real-life characters are purely coincidental.

I, science

The Imperial College science magazine

Out Now!!!



Business

Business Editor – Luke Dhanoa

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Economic Genocide: A debt-ly deception

Mohsin Asharia reports back on the recent event held by AhlulBayt Islamic Society

Credit crunch. Global Financial Crisis. Britain on the brink of recession. We are told we are facing the consequences of over-borrowing. But is there a deeper flaw? Is the monetary system inherently causing an Economic Genocide?

As part of the AhlulBayt Islamic Society's current campaign to raise awareness about the Economic Crisis, students of all faiths and backgrounds convened in the Clore Lecture Theatre last Thursday to discuss the topic in more depth. Toufic Machnouk, Executive Director of the Institute for Policy Research and Development, aimed to clarify the nature of the crisis, focusing on three main factors often misunderstood by the average Joe: the ownership of wealth, the monetary structure and the Islamic perspective on these two systems.

The talk sent an alarming message, implying that the problem is in the 'credit' rather than the 'crunch.' While some governments seem to think we can fight fire with fire and 'borrow our way out of this', Mr. Machnouk suggested otherwise. The problem, he implied, lies in the ownership of wealth. You know something is wrong when the poorest half of the world's population own just 1% of the world's wealth and when the richest three men on the planet are worth the equivalent of the total GDP of the 48 poorest nations.

According to Mr. Machnouk, combining wealth ownership inequalities with a flawed monetary structure con-



The crowds begin to gather in the lecture theatre

cocts a lethal mixture. So lethal, in fact, that it has led to the deaths of more children than the number of deaths caused by World War I. Interestingly, 97% of 'money' today is created by private banks in interest. However, when one pauses to ask where all this money came from, there is an eerie silence. In fact the majority of this money is not in circulation but in the form of digits in computers. No wonder we can't pay it back. So why has this never been a problem up till now? The speaker likened the system to a game of musical

chairs: so long as the music is playing, everyone is fine. When it stops, somebody has to lose.

Mr. Machnouk went on to talk of the global effect that the crisis has had, with poorer countries strangled by unpaid debts. Unfortunately, this perpetual debt can only be sustained by perpetual growth. The speaker described it as like charging you for the air you breathe whilst simultaneously asking you for a part of your lung for each breath you take. These countries are forced into IMF loans, which seem like an idyllic escape at the time. However, the structural adjustment programmes attached to the loans ensure the loan money disappears to private and foreign investors, leaving the impoverished nations to clean up the mess. And pay back the loans, of course. It comes as no surprise that all nations given IMF loans showed a decline in 17 key indicators in the years after they received the loans. Therefore it is also not surprising that half of the world's population now live in absolute poverty, earning under \$2 a day.

Mr. Machnouk concluded with the Islamic perspective on the issue. With the Arabic word for 'Economics' stemming from the word 'Equality', in Islam wealth is nothing but a trust from God and the policies in place attempt to ensure fairness and justice in transactions and the financial system. Be it through the prohibition of hoarding wealth or the elimination of interest, Islam aims to reach a state where wealth is not the goal, rather a means to satisfaction. However questions were raised in the following Q&A session as to how Islamic many so-called Muslim nations' economies are today.

In conclusion, the talk was a very interesting take on a system that has affected and will continue to have a major impact on all of us. It was engaging to hear a religious view on a system not often linked to religion and the speaker's eloquence and the Q&A session provided an opportunity for further discussion.

When The City fails, join The Old Bailey

Daria Nakariakova

So you're thinking of a career in law but you haven't got a clue what is actually involved and how you can get into it. I was in your exact position two years ago, back when I was blissfully ignorant of how quickly your graduation year creeps up on you and everyone from distant relatives to friends you haven't seen for a few months demands to know which career path you have chosen to devote yourself to.

I did the typical IC physicist thing and interned in a bank following my second year and decided the world of wining and dining potential Russian oligarchs in the faint hope they will give me their money to play with was not for me.

I panicked that my dream of prancing around the City in a nice suit and high heels would never be fulfilled until I stumbled upon a law firm presentation at Imperial (actually, I got the wrong room initially and sat through half an hour of bridge building chat until I realised the law firm talk was three doors down).

Despite missing the first half an hour, it dawned upon me that this particular career path would lead to both my nice suit and a job where I'd be able to use my brain as well. Science graduates are very popular for Intellectual Property work (arguments over whose idea something was and who should reap the benefits e.g. recent Barbie and Bratz case) because cases often require a knowledge of science to determine whether item A is in fact exactly the same as item B released by a rival company a year ago. More generally, they seem to be very impressed by our fabulous intelligence with the belief that if we can survive 3-4 years of grilling at IC then taking on the world of corporate law will be a breeze.

Asking around, I discovered that law firms do summer vacation schemes just like banks (except much shorter so you still have a summer holiday) and that this is the best way to determine if you'd enjoy this kind of work – seeing the business' dirty coffee mugs and all from the inside. To convert from a sci-

ence subject all that is needed is a year-long GDL (Graduate Diploma in Law) and then another year LPC (Legal Practice Course), which law graduates have to do too, and if you secure a training contract with a firm they pay for it all. I spent some time shut up in my room inventing answers to 'Describe a time when you showed initiative...' etc. and a few months later found myself with 2 vac schemes (as the cool people call them) for this summer.

Both were at City corporate law firms. Unlike my time spent in the bank, this experience did not put me off a career in law, quite the opposite; I'm already planning my lawyer outfits! Contrary to popular belief, I was not buried under piles of photocopying for two weeks. I spent three days in the Court of Appeals listening to a nasty man being accused of all sorts of bad deeds (the nasty man's bank was a client of the firm and so they were involved indirectly and we were there incognito. Sadly, I did not get to wear a trench coat and shades).

The judges really do wear wigs and the barristers really do make barely disguised scathing remarks to each other. It was great fun.

At the second firm my buddy, who is a trainee lawyer (the position occupied for 2 years until your qualify), was solely responsible for a case of a mobile phone provider client being sued by a particularly annoying client. I found relevant pieces of law, helped to write a sneering email to the man's lawyers accusing them of being useless and compiled the files of evidence to be presented by our barrister to the judges at the hearing itself.

Having decided that I love the work but want to work in a bigger and more successful firm I got a job as campus manager for Herbert Smith for this academic year.

The big event is Thursday 20th November, location is yet to be decided.

If you want to find out what a career in one of the top corporate law firms in the world, please come along.

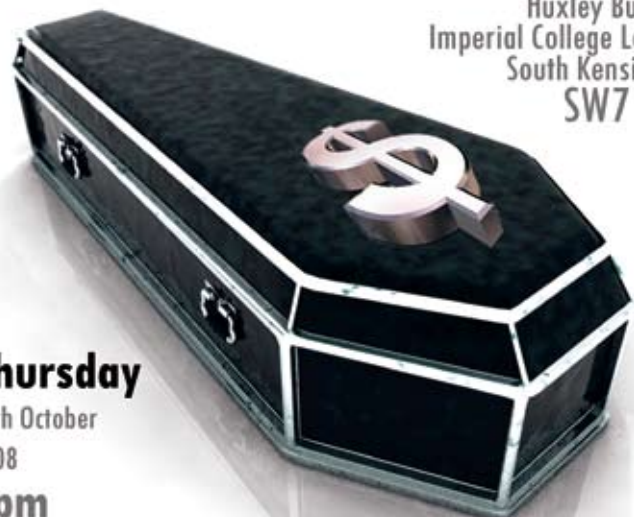
Send an email to dn305@ic.ac.uk to sign up and I'll see you there over a free drink!

Economic Genocide

Toufic Machnouk

Associate Director of Institute for Policy Research and Development

Clore Lecture Theatre
Huxley Building
Imperial College London
South Kensington
SW7 2AZ



Thursday

30th October

2008

6pm

Poster of the event by AhlulBayt Islamic Society



Even if you do lose your hair through stress, you can wear these lovely wigs to cover it up



President's Update

Is the Union more than bars, nightclubs and shops? Has the Union done anything new for the students so far this year? Yes and yes!! The team here at the Union have been so busy behind the scenes, more often than not dealing with practical things that can really improve the student experience, rather than dealing with constitutional red tape! Here's a taster of what's been going on, and don't forget if you think there's something else we should be doing then tell us, it's your Union!

- We've negotiated to have the Senior Common Room opening hours to be extended until 3pm, so postgraduates can make the most of a less crowded SCR! We've also been working with the catering managers to have more traditional food put back on the menu in the MDH following your complaints about the Oriental Buffet. It has recently been confirmed that there will also be a full refurbishment of the hall and outside seating area and they really

want students opinions on the new dining options so get in touch with me if you're interested. Of course, in the mean time, the Union is serving great freshly prepared food at lunchtimes and is proving extremely popular, as always!

- We've been working with College Security and local police to make sure Imperial is as safe and secure as possible. Let us know if there's anything that needs attention, like worn out security doors, because they can be fixed!
- We've been working with the Pro Rector of Education to represent your views on assessment and feedback, personal tutors, teaching standards and learning facilities. We've also been working with the Dean of Students and College Tutors to make sure you have accessible pastoral care.

- We've been over to the beautiful Silwood campus to see how the students are getting on there and we're pleased to note that following our visit vending machines are being installed and the accommodation and social spaces are being reviewed. Soon we'll be over to the Wye campus too!

- The Union bars have had a cosmetic face lift so that they're a nicer place for you to socialise in. A full refurbishment is planned for phase 3 of the Beit Redevelopment but we didn't want you to have to wait another year for some improvements to be made! There's also a new menu in there for you to enjoy in the evenings, so try it out.

Plans in the pipeline which we really want you guys to get involved with include: a multicultural celebration of all the faiths at the College, projects to help widening participation working with College Outreach, creation of an international officer and a new

postgraduate representation structure which we would be very pleased to hear your feedback on.

Remember the Sabbatical Officers' doors are always open, we're always at the end of an email and we are trying to make the Union as accessible as possible so let us know if you'd like more information or have any ideas you want us to help with! One student noted that a lot of Imperial students with a 2:2 were struggling to get job interviews because they were immediately rejected by online application forms. So, we've arranged for him to present a paper about it to the College's top education committee.

So we can make things happen, we do make things happen and we want you to be part of it!



Jenny Morgan

President
president@imperial.ac.uk

Central Union, GSA & Trustee Board Election Results

Graduate Students' Association

GSA Chair
Rhys Morgan

Secretary
Jenny Lim

Council Members

C&GCU (UG)
John James
3 still to elect

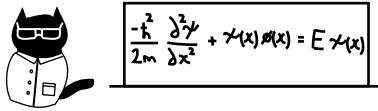
RCSU (UG)
Sammi Elfituri
Nida Harwood
Christopher Gibbs
1 still to elect

ICSMSU (UG)
Najette Ayadi O'Donnell
Albert Poon
Salman Waqar

Non Faculty
Seyyed Mozaffari-Chinjani

Student Trustees

Ravi Pall
Ton Van Den Bremer



felix Science NewsExpress

A peanut a day keeps allergy at bay?

Umia Kukathasan

There are now twice as many people with peanut allergies than in 1998, with about 1-2% of the population of the UK and USA affected.

The allergy mostly develops in early childhood, and usually remains for life. Aside from being a massive inconvenience, the most severe anaphylactic reaction can be life-threatening.

Now researchers at King's College London and the National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centre have found that children that eat peanuts from infancy have a much lower chance of developing peanut allergy. This is against the current advice offered in the UK- which is for children at 'high risk of peanut allergy' to avoid the nuts altogether. The lead authors of the study, Professor Gideon Lack, and Dr George du Toit emphasise that they would not advise going against Department of Health guidelines "this study is by no means conclusive and that there are numerous other factors that could not be controlled for and could have influenced the results".

Prof Lack is currently heading up another study that is hoped will give more conclusive results - it is the largest randomised controlled trial of peanut allergy avoidance- with results expected in 2014.

This could lead to a greater understanding of how to avoid other food allergies, and this possibility for early prevention could literally save lives.

Umia Kukathasan

Reference: KCL press release: 31 Oct 2008 http://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/news_details.php?news_id=936&year=2008

Wearing red boosts your attractiveness

Jacob Aron

Psychologists at the University of Rochester have published a study in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, suggesting wearing red could make you more attractive – if you're female.

They also found that men were prepared to spend more money on a date with a woman in a red shirt, rather than a blue shirt. The photos were calibrated to exact saturation and brightness, meaning the effect could only be attributed to hue.

Women shown the same pictures showed no such bias when asked to give an attractiveness rating, suggesting an unconscious link in the male mind with fertility. This behaviour has previously been observed in nonhuman primates such as baboons and chimpanzees, which visibly redden when near ovulation.



CREDIT: STUDY OF A WOMAN IN RED, HENNER, JEAN-JACQUES

Holding your Liquor: Wormy Drinkers

Maria Hogan

Using genetically modified nematode worms, researchers at Liverpool University have identified gene mutations that they believe cause higher alcohol tolerance: shedding light on why some people 'hold their drink' better than others.

They investigated amino-acid alterations in two worms carrying mutations of the same gene and found that both mutations reduced the negative behavioural effects of alcohol, allowing more to be consumed before any adverse physical reactions occurred.

The gene they investigated corresponds to a gene in humans that performs the same function in the nervous system, making it now possible, they hope, to search the human gene for changes that could help identify individuals with a predisposition to alcoholism. (*Mol. Biol. Cell* published online October 15, 2008, 10.1091/mbc.E08-07-0689)

Anti-cancerous Effect of Jam and Jelly?

Janet Cargill

Contrary to headlines in certain national newspapers, a study carried out at the Institute of Food Research (IFR) does not yet directly point to the prevention of cancer by eating jams and jellies, the NHS Choices website suggests.

The 'Behind the Headlines' guide to science draws attention to the fact that the original investigation by Dr. Patrick Gunning and his team is very early research, not even carried out in living cells and therefore as yet not applicable to humans.

"Jam and Jelly can help fight Cancer" reported the Daily Express, although both contain a high proportion of sugar and are therefore not usually at the top of the list for a healthy diet.

Published online in the *FASEB Journal*, the new study cites previous research which proposed that modified pectin may "inhibit the function of the protein galectin-3 (Gal3)", considered to be "a diagnostic marker and a target protein for cancer treatment". Dr. Gunning and his colleagues found that a fragment of potato pectin called galactan can bind to the recombinant form of human Gal3 and that this "is consistent with the molecular hypothesis for the observed anticancer action of modified pectin".

However, there is much more research to be done before this can be extrapolated to the pectin found in jam and jelly and the effect it may have on the human consumer. In the meantime "it is best to consistently eat a range of fruits, vegetables and high-fibre foods," says co-researcher Professor Vic Morris.

Death-star insight on global warming

Dr Tim Jones

WONDERING what the world will look like when the heat is on?

A newly discovered microfossil of an organism that lived during a previous global warming is helping researchers understand how aquatic life adapts to the warmer, lower oxygen, waters that can accompany radical environmental transformations.

Dubbed the "Magnetic Death Star", due to its round and spiky magnetite structure, the fossil was found among sediment deposited 55 million years ago during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), when surging atmospheric carbon drove temperatures 9 degrees Fahrenheit higher.

CalTech and McGill University workers believe the single-celled eukaryote evolved during the PETM, only to be out-competed and disappear again when conditions cooled off. (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, DOI:10.1073/pnas.0803634105).

Nature, not Nurture for Galaxies

Dr Louise Whiteley

Like fingerprints, the whorls of stars that make up galaxies come in an amazing variety of patterns.

And like fingerprints, these patterns appear to be largely independent of environment – new research suggests that whether a galaxy ends up as a 'giant spiral' or an 'extreme dwarf' can be predicted simply from its mass.

Disney and colleagues scanned the sky for 200 galaxies, sizing each one up on seven different parameters that should affect morphology.

All the parameters correlated with each other, agreeing with other recent studies that have found surprisingly small effects of a galaxy's interstellar surroundings.

This challenges current theories of galaxy formation, which describe a chaotic history of collisions, neighbourhood interactions and feedback effects.

(*Nature*, DOI: 10.1038/nature07366)

Mass Sensor with Atomic Precision

Abigail Orr

Researchers at the CIN2 laboratory in Spain have developed an ultrasensitive mass sensor with resolution of up to 1.4 zeptograms (10-21 grams) at 5 degrees Kelvin, five times finer than that of previous silicon resonators.

The device consists of a 1 nanometre diameter carbon nanotube attached at both ends to two gold electrodes.

Atoms directed at the nanotube will stick to it, and this added mass causes a measurable change in the resonant frequency of the nanotube, which is used to calculate the atom's mass.

This device can measure the mass of proteins with atomic precision, and researchers hope to increase the resolution enough to be able to monitor the change of mass during chemical reactions.

(*Nano Letters*, DOI: 10.1021/nl801982v)

Move over Morphine, there's a new boy

Jessica Hamzelou

Scientists have identified a new target in pain control that could prove more effective than morphine.

A team at the University of North Carolina, USA, has discovered that the prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) enzyme, a tumour suppressor found in the prostate, is also located in pain-sensing neurons.

Using knockout mice, the researchers found that a lack of PAP resulted in increased pain sensitivity in chronic pain states.

Conversely, an injection of PAP into the spine reduced sensitivity to painful stimuli.

What is more, the effects of this injection lasted far longer than that achieved using morphine, the current 'gold standard' in pain control.

The PAP enzyme is now thought to work by converting an extracellular substrate to adenosine, a known analgesic in mammals. (*Neuron*, DOI:10.1016/j.neuron.2008.08.024)

Podview

Felix Whitton
reviews journal
podcasts

Nature Podcast



If you don't have time to read *Nature* magazine, this handy offering rounds up the biggest articles and news stories from each edition. Presented by Adam Rutherford and Kerri Smith, the podcast focuses on one or two papers that are particularly relevant, well-researched or just plain odd.

This week research into the 2004 tsunami finds it may not have been as unique as geologists initially thought; more bad news for amphibians in the form of a herbicide that increases susceptibility to disease; and the Antikythera Mechanism – if it sounds like a Dan Brown book that's because it probably could be – an ancient Greek 'computer' thought to be the world's oldest. Also, it's great to hear scientists laying into economists for being as irrational as teenage girls (apologies to any teenage girls reading). They pack a lot into half an hour, and end with some controversial science-related news stories. My favourite was Sarah Palin's anti-fruit fly stance. Yes, terror has a new face...and it's got compound eyes.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/podcast/>

Science Podcast



Nature's main rival also has a podcast, and it has the merit of being presented by Robert Frederick, who surely has the smoothest voice around since Ron Burgundy quit Scotch.

Following a similar format, the podcast showcases a few stories from each week's magazine along with interviews and a smattering of in-depth analysis. A thoughtful account of blogging Chinese scientists aside, I found most of the content uninteresting, and at certain points the show took on the air of Sesame Street ("Hello Bert"; "Hello Ernie"...). But I guess it was worth it to hear the fabulous news that mice are being given Viagra to combat muscular dystrophy, with the side-effect of increased blood flow to 'certain parts' of the body...they must get out more, these scientist types.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/about/podcast.dtl>

Obama on the top 8 Science Topics

Daniel Burrows
Science Editor

Abridged answers from Obama's responses to ScienceDebate 2008.

1. Innovation.

Ensuring that the U.S. continues to lead the world in science and technology will be a central priority for my administration. Our talent for innovation is still the envy of the world, but we face unprecedented challenges that demand new approaches. For example, the U.S. annually imports \$53 billion more in advanced technology products than we export. China is now the world's number one high technology exporter. This competitive situation may only worsen over time because the number of U.S. students pursuing technical careers is declining. The U.S. ranks 17th among developed nations in the proportion of college students receiving degrees in science or engineering; we were in third place thirty years ago.

My administration will increase funding for basic research in physical and life sciences, mathematics, and engineering at a rate that would double basic research budgets over the next decade. We will increase research grants for early-career researchers to keep young scientists entering these fields. We will increase support for high-risk, high-payoff research portfolios at our science agencies.

2. Climate Change

There can no longer be any doubt that human activities are influencing the global climate and we must react quickly and effectively. First, the U.S. must get off the sidelines and take long-overdue action here at home to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions. We must also take a leadership role in designing technologies that allow us to enjoy a growing, prosperous economy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. With the right incentives, I'm convinced that American ingenuity can do this, and in the process make American businesses more productive,



President-elect Obama giving a speech

create jobs, and make America's buildings and vehicles safer and more attractive. This is a global problem. U.S. leadership is essential but solutions will require contributions from all parts of the world—particularly the rest of the world's major emitters: China, Europe, and India.

3. Energy.

America's challenges in providing secure, affordable energy while addressing climate change mean that we must make much more efficient use of energy and begin to rely on new energy sources that eliminate or greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. My programs focus both on a greatly expanded program of federally funded energy research and development and on policies designed to speed the adoption of innovative energy technologies and stimulate private innovation.

First, I have proposed programs that, taken together, will increase federal investment in the clean energy research, development, and deployment by \$150 billion over ten years. Second, it is essential that we create a strong, predictable market for energy innovations with concrete goals that speed introduction of innovative products and

provide a strong incentive for private R&D investment in energy technologies. These concrete goals include increasing new building efficiency by 50 percent and existing building efficiency by 25 percent over the next decade and increasing fuel economy standards 4 percent per year.

4. National Security.

Technology leadership is key to our national security. It's essential to create a coherent new defense technology strategy to meet the kinds of threats we may face—asymmetric conflicts, urban operations, peacekeeping missions, and cyber, bio, and proliferation threats, as well as new kinds of symmetric threats.

This year, I was encouraged to see the Department of Defense (DoD) requested a sharp increase in the basic research budget for breakthrough technologies. More is needed. My administration will put basic defense research on a path to double and will assure strong funding for investments in DoD's applied research programs. We will enhance the connections between defense researchers and their war-fighting counterparts. And, we will strengthen defense research man-

agement so that our most innovative minds are working on our most pressing defense problems. A strong research program can also lower procurement costs by reducing technical risks and increasing reliability and performance. Renewing DARPA (the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) will be a key part of this strategy.

5. Water.

Solutions to this critical problem will require close collaboration between federal, state, and local governments and the people and businesses affected. First, prices and policies must be set in a ways that give everyone a clear incentive to use water efficiently and avoid waste. Regulations affecting water use in appliances and incentives to shift from irrigated lawns to "water smart" landscapes are examples. Second, information, training, and, in some cases, economic assistance should be provided to farms and businesses that will need to shift to more efficient water practices. Many communities are offering kits to help businesses and homeowners audit their water use and find ways to reduce use. These should be evaluated, with the most successful programs expanded to other states and regions. I will establish a national plan to help high-growth regions with the challenges of managing their water supplies.

In addition, it is also critical that we undertake a concerted program of research, development, and testing of new technologies that can reduce water use.

6. Scientific Research.

Federally supported basic research, aimed at understanding many features of nature—from the size of the universe to subatomic particles, from the chemical reactions that support a living cell to interactions that sustain ecosystems—has been an essential feature of American life for over fifty years. While the outcomes of specific projects are never predictable, basic research has been a reliable source of new knowledge that has fueled important developments in fields ranging

from telecommunications to medicine, yielding remarkable rates of economic return and ensuring American leadership in industry, military power, and higher education. I believe that continued investment in fundamental research is essential for ensuring healthier lives, better sources of energy, superior military capacity, and high-wage jobs for our nation's future.

Sustained and predictable increases in research funding will allow the United States to accomplish a great deal. First, we can expand the frontiers of human knowledge. Second, we can provide greater support for high-risk, high-return research and for young scientists at the beginning of their careers. Third, we can harness science and technology to address the "grand challenges" of the 21st century: energy, health, food and water, national security and information technology.

7. Space.

I will establish a robust and balanced civilian space program. Under my administration, NASA not only will inspire the world with both human and robotic space exploration, but also will again lead in confronting the challenges we face here on Earth, including global climate change, energy independence, and aeronautics research. In achieving this vision, I will reach out to include international partners and to engage the private sector to amplify NASA's reach. I believe that a revitalized NASA can help America maintain its innovation edge and contribute to American economic growth.

8. Stem cells.

I strongly support expanding research on stem cells. I believe that the restrictions that President Bush has placed on funding of human embryonic stem cell research have handcuffed our scientists and hindered our ability to compete with other nations. As president, I will lift the current administration's ban on federal funding of research on embryonic stem cell lines through executive order, and I will ensure that all research on stem cells is conducted ethically and with rigorous oversight.

Monkey democracy

Mico Tatalovic
Science Editor

Tonkean macaques (*Macaca tonkeana*) use true vote to decide group movements. A new study, presented at the European Conference on Behavioural Biology in Dijon France, shows for the first time how animals may reach a consensus by voting before executing behaviour that concerns the whole group. The study also shows that individuals support the majority vote even though they may disagree with the decision.

Cédric Sueur and Odile Petit, biologists from Strasbourg University and the National French Centre of Scientific Research say that their "results proved that voting does not exist only in humans".

Tonkean macaques live in groups and inhabit islands in Indonesia. Each morning they have to reach a consensus on where to go foraging that day, weighing issues such as food availability, predation threat and possible encounters with other groups. But in-

stead of an obvious lead from a dominant animal any group member can express an opinion by showing specific pre-departure behaviours, indicating their preferred direction of movement that day.

Sueur and Petit wanted to know how the whole group ends up moving in a single direction when several individuals suggest different directions. They observed two semi-free groups of macaques and recorded which individuals expressed their opinions. Walking from 1 to 5m away from the group counted as a suggestion/opinion to move in that direction.

The results showed that the group always chose the direction that was supported by the most votes. Individuals that suggested other, less popular directions gave up their choice and supported the majority vote. Sueur says this is the first demonstration that voting is not unique to humans and might in fact exist in a variety of animals.

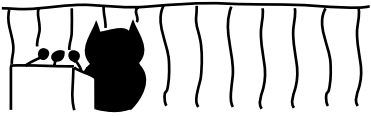
In an August's issue of *Science*, James Fowler, a political scientist from the

University of California in San Diego, published his results showing that the human tendency to vote is highly hereditary. Asked to comment on Sueur and Petit's findings, he said "this is an important study for linking voting behaviour in humans to behaviour in other primates". However, he adds that humans vote because different individuals benefit from different things and humans think they know which choice is best to achieve those things. Macaques all benefit from the same things (surviving, finding food) but "genuinely do not know which choice is best" to achieve those things. Hence they rely on the higher probability of being right if they go along with the majority. He concludes that to really say that monkeys vote like humans "researchers must show that the monkeys achieve consensus even when they would individually benefit from different outcomes. "If these were humans, I would just ask them what they want, but with monkeys I imagine it is harder to know what they want."



CREDIT: CEDRIC SUEUR, STRASBOURG UNIVERSITY

The one at the top seems to be confused by the front ones behind



Politics

Politics Editors – James Goldsack & Katya-yani Vyas

politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Katya-yani Vyas
Politics Editor

In advance of you perusing this column, dear readers, I apologise. As sick as you may be of having the US presidential elections shoved down your throat, I feel that it is necessary to provide some kind of conclusion to the American saga that has dominated world politics in the recent months.

When America sneezes the world catches a cold, or so they say. This is an analogy that has been reflected in the current economic climate. Whatever occurs across the pond has a profound effect on us, and the election, at the risk of sounding hideously melodramatic, of the most powerful man in the world warrants extensive media coverage. Therefore we appreciate this political force-feeding; it's good for us.

Well, it is over now, in any case. The anticipated triumph of Barack Obama over John McCain, the hours of campaigning, the descent from civilised debating into a war of political attrition; ladies and gentlemen we have our victor. I am sure that, like myself, plenty of you will be breathing a sigh of relief. The Americans were wiser, perhaps from experience, voting for change, categorically turning their backs on their racially discriminatory past. Hoorah! Top Hole! etc.

So much for the Bradley effect then. I lost count, during the course of Obama's ascent to the forefront of politics, of the number of times a commentator mentioned this. Opinion polls are informative, they would say, but how many of these "new money" Americans would put their ballot paper where their mouth was and actually vote for a black president?

The Bradley effect is a theory proposed to explain differences in opinion polls and results in elections where a white and non-white candidate are running against each other. It is named after Tom Bradley, an African-American who lost the 1982 Californian race for governor despite being ahead in voter polls going into the elections. Apparently we should have been apprehensive of this idea that people would give an inaccurate opinion so as not to open themselves up to accusations of racism.

There is probably a kernel of truth in this analysis. I suppose, however, that it is nothing more than speculative hole-picking, Barack Obama has won the election and although I feel the utmost sympathy for Tom Bradley, it seems that lessons were learned from his situation; perhaps there is hope for civilisation yet.

McCain was gracious enough to wish Obama luck. There was an air of humility about him as he called for his supporters to lend their backing to the new President. A united America is fundamental, on that McCain and I agree.

The political atmosphere is changing, developing even. Obama's victory promises that change is on the horizon. If America has given us a cold, perhaps the new president can provide the antidote.

Obama and the help

The Youtube generation and the stoned slackers versus Palin and Fox

Dom McIaver

One of Barack Obama's great strengths has been missed, under-estimated or ignored by middle-aged commentators: his appeal to young voters. This was a demographic derisively dismissed in 2000 and 2004 by the American Right: Bill O'Reilly – Fox News' prime pit-bull – labelled them the 'stoned slackers', unconcerned about great political changes passing over their heads, lamely courted by the Gore and Kerry campaigns, and turned off by conventional party politics, apparent success in Iraq and the creepy enthusiasm of the Christian Right. Too many did not get involved, ignoring the race and lazily staying at home on election day.

Now these so-called 'stoned slackers' have matured into politically engaged and energetic advocates for Barack Obama, biting back against the far right-wing of the Republican party that has insulted their intelligence, ignoring them for years. From watching the Daily Show late during lazy nights they came to understand the frequent hilarity, hypocrisy and lunacy of conventional media and politics – especially Fox News – that is not obvious buried amidst the boredom of TV news. In part the shift was due to Obama's natural appeal: the bright young Senator with the rhetorical skills of a Civil Rights leader casually but forcefully rebutting the Republican attack machine. This is not to mention the positive discrimination of voting for a deserving black candidate. But this is not the full story. As Obama acknowledged in his acceptance speech for the Democratic nomination, his rise is not purely down to himself, it is down to the American people and this new generation. His promise of change enthused and inspired a generation that reached political maturity watching helplessly as the Bush administration dismissed the Constitution, ignore international treaties and run roughshod over Congress, leaving America in tatters, hated worldwide and in economic

meltdown.

This generation did not experience America's heyday in the 1980s, as Reagan, Thatcher and neoliberalism ruled the free world and concluded the Cold War. Hardcore Reaganite Republicans by now must be getting on; the only thing that motivated these social conservatives any more was Sarah Palin. Thankfully the prospect of her replacing a deceased McCain terrified sane Americans in the same way that it petrified the rest of the world. Like us in Britain, this generation is more global in its outlook: unlike, say Dick Cheney, they understand for a favourable public image for America worldwide to be favourable, in order to achieve its diplomatic, economic, strategic and political goals.

The influence of the young on this race was profound. Much has been said about Obama's impressive campaign at the local level. Although the campaign is soberly controlled from the top, the scale of voluntary manpower illustrates the excitement and enthusiasm coming from the level of the ordinary citizen. Large portions of Obama's army of volunteers are from this young generation and predominately student (we tend to be the only ones with time and without serious responsibilities like earning a living, paying a mortgage and other dull, real-life preoccupations like that).

At the local level, these numerous supporters spread the enthusiasm. They put forward Obama's policies and promise of change. They criticized McCain's policies and derided his decision-making and temperament. They mentioned Sarah Palin. They registered new voters in droves. They encouraged early voting. They mentioned Sarah Palin. They held fundraising events. They mentioned Sarah Palin.

How did Obama get this traditionally apathetic segment of society involved? The Obama campaign skillfully used new technology and social trends: with the Facebook-style my.barackobama.

com making it easy to get large numbers of young activists involved from behind their computers. Although local offices were monitored and managed, the Obama campaign has largely trusted the 'youtube generation' to its own devices: donating their own money, working in their own time, posting videos on the internet, making calls, going out and knocking on doors to get the vote out.

Essentially they did the legwork in organizing communities, the same responsibility that Palin so gleefully denigrated in her speech at the Republican convention and was met with a rapturous cacophony of hilarity by the Republican rank and file. This post – also held by a younger Obama in Chicago – was also held by a certain Martin Luther King as he sought to mobilize local black communities in Atlanta. Palin's abuse reflected and embodies the lack of curiosity of the section of America she so perfectly represents: uncurious about America's diverse history, uncurious about foreign cultures and religions, uncurious about people different to themselves.

The pragmatic end of the Republican party – the realists and the moderates – have recognised Obama's popularity with the young and some have switched sides to hand over the reigns to a new generation. Most admirable was Colin Powell's change, noting the faulty worldview in both the rumour-mongering that Obama may be Muslim and in John McCain's reply to the woman who distrusted Obama for being 'an Arab'. He did not chide her for her casual racism; he did not assert that any American – Arab, Muslim or whatever – can become President. He merely said Obama was a 'decent family man', as if Arabs are somehow incapable of this. McCain is not racist; he is an admirable, courageous politician with unquestionable centrist credentials. If he had said what I just outlined above, he would have been booed and probably bottled off the stage (he was nevertheless booed anyway).

From the standpoint of this cynical Englishman, it is pure poetic irony that the community organizers, the students, the African-Americans and the stoned slackers combined their strength against a ruling ideology that neglected and derided them and, ultimately, proved so flawed: scraping its way to dominance by dividing America, lowering taxes for cash-hungry corporations in return for their funding and support, supposedly shrinking government whilst building an enormous deficit. They turned supreme executive power into a sycophant for the military-industrial complex. Their message was propagated by Christian fundamentalist activists (partly in return for the spread of Creationism throughout the US education system) and led by a ruthlessly effective electoral campaign often revolving around brutal and immoral character assassinations. Its legacy is the world's economy in meltdown, primarily from the non-provision of adequate regulation, and America embroiled in two messy, murderous and expensive wars.

The joy of the American system is that once every four years they get to get rid of governments they don't like. Naturally expectations for the Obama presidency are going to be unrealistically high. His administration will be constrained by the economic crisis and world events, not to mention unrealistic demands from his newly dominant party. There should be concerns about his policies, most significantly his populist tendencies towards protectionism, potentially angering China and the Third World, not to mention worsening the world economic crisis as other countries follow suit.

Nevertheless, I am still jealous. Our parliamentary races really just don't compare: in rollercoaster narratives, in soaring rhetoric and fiery clashes, in leftist media bias, in outrageous right-wingers, and in terms of the emotion, excitement involved. It's not fair. No matter how hard I try I just can't get excited about NHS reform.



Barack Obama in fine form, the model of modernity and reform is in contrast with Palin's seeming antiquated attitudes

Putin acts on economy

Hassan Joudi

The name Oleg Deripaska has been spread across the news these past few days, and pictures of his luxury yacht where he held dodgy meetings with Peter Mandelson and shadow Chancellor George Osborne - allegedly regarding party donations - have filled the newspapers. The Russian oligarch boasts a vast business empire centring around his Aluminium company Rusal, yet despite Forbes Magazine ranking him the richest man in Russia, and 9th richest in the world, he is among dozens of Russian oligarchs reckoned to have seen billions wiped off their personal fortunes due to the current global financial crisis. Deripaska may have lost as much as \$16bn of his \$28bn wealth, while the infamous Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich has lost about \$20bn according to Bloomberg, overall half of Russia's 87 billionaires will no longer be billionaires in 2009.

These losses are part of a wider trend in Russia at the moment where the massive decline in its stock market is causing massive upheavals to the political scene. As with Northern Rock here in the UK, the Russian government is bailing-out crisis-stricken banks through a \$200bn fund, so far four Russian banks have been rescued like this, including Globex which actually banned customers from making withdrawals for several days after a bank run in October. But unlike in the UK, it's not just the banks which are being rescued, big corporations like energy giants Gazprom, Rosneft and Lukoil, as well as Oleg Deripaska's Rusal and many other companies in the mining and metals industries are all applying for state assistance.

This assistance will come through buying shares in them. At the moment corporations are changing hands very quickly, and at rock-bottom prices that would have been unthinkable this time last year. With their \$200bn

fund, President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin are also big players on this frenzied buying-up scene, deciding which companies the government will purchase shares in (through the state bank VEB, Vnesheconombank).

What is significant about this state of affairs is that during the 1990s the situation was exactly the opposite. Then the collapse of the Soviet Union and the communist system sparked a massive sale of state-owned assets to private individuals, making Margaret Thatcher's privatisation programme in the 1980s look trivial. It was nicknamed the "sale of the century" and these scrappy entrepreneurs made their fortunes overnight, becoming the super-rich oligarchs of today. With literally too much money than they

could spend, this elite class of Russians has become renowned for their extravagant spending, investing in English Premier League football clubs, buying expensive old Soviet-era art at London's Sotheby auction houses and indulging in the annual Moscow Millionaire Fair.

But picture Gordon Brown having to use taxpayer's money to buy shares in privately owned British Gas plc or BT, and you get an idea of current affairs in Russia for the coming few weeks. Now in what the Financial Times has called the "reverse sale of the century", Medvedev and Putin can choose which companies the government will partially nationalise in a selective and non-transparent way, which leaves the door open to favours being made to friends in big business, and arms being twisted

to accept deals. That the culture of corruption is more widespread in Russia than other developed countries is no secret, so many observers believe that the government will use the global financial crisis to consolidate its power over Russia's biggest companies, and that with state assistance may come political influence for lucky oligarchs.

But looking at the bigger picture in all of this, no one really knows the extent of the harm done to the Russian economy due to this crisis. When one looks at its \$500bn Foreign Exchange Reserves - the third largest in the world - which was accumulated largely from its oil & gas exports in recent years, it seems Russia is prepared to weather the storm. The official government line that the stock market decline is completely the fault of problems with

US banks and nothing else must also be comforting to Russian citizens. But observers see the government as still in a state of denial, unable to accept that the political instability, largely due to the August 2008 Russian-Georgian war and the apparent return to Cold War politics, has weakened the economy.

Ultimately Medvedev and Putin have two things to juggle. To competently manage the government's new nationalised assets, and to the minimise the economic problems of inflation and low wages on a Russian public that has grown used to the 7% annual growth tenjoyed for several years. Like so many times in its history, Russia is undergoing a huge amount of change in a short space of time, the smoothness with which this occurs will determine the impact on the rest of the world.



Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev are coming under increasing pressure to secure the Russian economy

Dave Anderson MP talks to *felix* about Iraq

Raz Jabary

As the chairman of Labour Friends of Iraq, what would be your advice to President Obama on his overall Iraq strategy?

I think it will be a great thing if he will actually go there and see the public about it, meet the people and say that 'we want to really help you to move forward'. I think he should certainly go and see the Kurds, because I think the Kurds set a role model of what Iraq could become.

I think obviously there are issues around the American presence in Iraq and the change that should come about when the top man is being changed. Clearly, I think the sooner the troops are withdrawn from Iraq the better for everyone concerned.

I think also he should say 'we are not going to leave the country with its reserves'. Whatever the reasons the present administration had for going into Iraq, and that might have included trying to get the reserves of oil, should not be part of the new administration's view of going forward.

If that is part of the view, I believe that the potential of good that could come from the new president Obama, could be lost.

I think he could be a real force for change in the world, and the key place where he could really make his mark in the world is in Iraq and in Kurdistan. There is a long bad history from UK involvement in Iraq. We did not create Kurdistan when we should have and there are a lot of things that have come out of that, in the same way that we did not create the Palestinian state when we should have.

I think it might be hard in these economic times but if the Iraqi government needs economic support Obama should go with that, help them with infrastructure projects, because I believe that in the long-term Iraq and Kurdistan can be real allies, for all of us, as there is certainly a lot of opportunity and goodwill there.

Have you publicly supported Barack Obama all along?

Absolutely, but I supported the Democrats regardless.

In a report of June 2008, one of your recommendations to the British Parliament was to raise awareness of the genocide in Iraq against the Kurds. What progress has been made in Britain regarding this matter?

Certainly not very much. I was involved in the Trade Union before I became a MP. And the Trade Union was strongly against the Iraq invasion, as I was at the time and I still have issues on whether we should have done it.

But what I am clear of is that we should have been there with a much more evident role when the Anfal [genocide against the Kurds] was going on.

That is when we should have really given the Kurds support. It is trying to rewrite history, but having gone and seen what happened, having met people who have been through it all and having seen the Red House in Sulaimaniya, the human race should have opposed it. All we can do now is try to create space for people.

Would you consider starting an international cooperation for this goal? Dutch MPs Harry van Bommel and Fred Teeven have started a similar campaign. Would you be prepared to work with them?

If we can do anything to help the people of Kurdistan within reason, I think it is important that we give our support to the things that quite clearly should have never happened, more than happy.



Dave Anderson, Labour MP and member of committee on Kurdistan



Fashion

Fashion Editor – Dan Wan

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Daniel Wan
Fashion Editor

Howdy, Howdy, Howdy. Several Editors this week have been demanding that their editorial columns should be optional. I'm perplexed. Do they not enjoy spouting pure nonsense and forcing their ideals on impressionable others? Not that I'm suggesting you lot are impressionable. Because you're not. That's right. You are not. Now get me a box of doughnuts.

What I had written for this column somehow turned into the main article. Ask me how, and it's actually a simple explanation. I apparently had more to say than I thought about the US elections this week. So transfer your eyes upwards and about 3 centimetres to the right after you've finished reading this column, but not a word sooner. Otherwise there will be consequences of kinds unimaginable to the perfectly aligned minds of the average Imperialite.

I'm not entirely sure I have the gravitas to be as patronising as I am, but after reading the last two paragraphs I think I'm alright with it. Being a thicko in a university crammed with geniuses and future world-leaders somehow gives me the idea that maybe I can say things *so* stupid, you'll all be too clever to understand. It'll happen, and you'll say I'm a poor writer, but I'm just an academically disadvantaged writer.

On a completely unrelated, but generally more relevant note, Marks and Spencer announced record fall in profits this week. The British high street mainstay has already gone through an extremely turbulent period in recent past, only to be revamped by a sickeningly over-indulgent advertising campaign that many simply deemed 'food-sex'. However, I'm unconvinced the clothing side of the business has changed all that much since. A more modern and younger demographic was aimed at, and to a certain extent, it worked. The introduction of external fashion houses into the M&S brand contributed to a greater number of 20-30 year old women shopping there.

Despite the influx of numerous high-profile celebrities including Myleene Klass, Lily Cole and Erin O'Connor, the strategy obviously isn't working anymore, what with the credit crunch and that. M&S now reveal their new 'Portfolio' range aimed at the 45+ demographic. They claim they have found a niche in the market, but this niche was only formed when M&S abandoned their marketing and usual middle-aged demographic those years ago. Basically, they are refilling their own niche they decided to abandon for greener pastures. Except the pastures were not greener, just better for the first chew and not much else after.

The new 43-acre Westfield shopping mall opened this week. Apparently it's a similar experience to trying to shop whilst being a pilchard in a tin. No air, smelly, and no room. Wait a month or two, and utilize the fact the mindless drones have all gone to Westfield, and have a slightly more serene shop elsewhere.

As I write, Obama is 175 to McCain's 76. O-BA-MA! O-BA-MA! Meh.

Fashioning the vote

Daniel Wan isn't voting or listening, but is watching sceptically

At the time of writing, it's the night of the US presidential elections and George Dubya Bush is still sitting comfortably in the White House. Nevertheless, the result is irrelevant. If opinion polls follow through, an assured victory for the fanfare that is the Obama-Biden camp.

I'm fairly confused about whether I should dearly care about the elections or not. The whole thing is completely out of my control; I am not eligible to vote and hence I cannot voice my fraction of an overall preference. I find it marginally amusing that so many people in the UK have jumped onto the Obama-bandwagon as it merrily trundles across the globe. He is an icon plastered across countless celebrity attire, and this is what, in my humble opinion, cheapens the worth of the Presidential elections. His elevated celebrity status is less to do with his policies, but what he represents. Is that purely enough to deserve one of the most powerful positions in world politics?

Paris Fashion Week was a wonderful example of this. Two prominent designers sent out their models adorning pieces heavily and obviously laden with an attempt at political connotation. Sonia Rykiel unveiled a preppy knit dress with the five letters that will become an ever-present fixture in our newspapers and minds for years to come. O-B-A-M-A. A clear statement of fickle support, but what else?

Jean Charles de Castelbajac, revealed his sequence centre-piece dress (pictured) featuring Obama Barack's instantly alluring eyes and grin. On the back, Obama's take on the infamous but clichéd quote, "I have a dream today," further makes this piece look like something made by a slightly unhinged fan. Something that a crazed Madonna fan would make and wear to one of her concerts. However, it was not a product of home craft. This was not some

small-time designer trying to leave a mark on the adoring world of fashion, but a designer of international standing. His reasoning behind the Obama inspired piece was down to the Democrat being the "incarnate of hope, changes and youth." Political connotation seems to validate this otherwise aesthetically uninspiring dress.

But maybe I am in the minority that is so unwelcoming to this new wave of politics-fashion hybridisation. De Castelbajac was "amazed" by not only the ovation the dress received but by negative and "insulting" Republican response "from the United States." The fact that the only voiced negative response he received was from the US shows that maybe it is only the Americans that truly care about the elections and the rest of us are simply on the bandwagon of glamour, fame and fortune it all brings.

It is not exactly the first time we have seen a political figure feature so heavily within fashion. The most observable example is that of Che Guevara. The easily recognizable image of his slightly cocked head is plastered across materials across the globe. I am not denying it is a powerful image, but when it goes beyond the aesthetic power of it, I doubt the vast majority of wearers will know why Che Guevara was so significant in South American history. In hindsight, it is ironic that he has effectively been subsumed by a capitalist consumer culture he came to loath.

Now that it is firmly established politics has a role in each fashion's wide spectrum, it is not surprising it works conversely. Politicians and their associates need to look good. This used to mean a smart suit or a respectable unrevealing dress suit. Where their greater interest lies, the public are to be seen paying attention in what the figures are wearing and not what they stand for.

It is now a prominent issue that what political figures are wearing in public view is another factor into the voting

swing. Over in the US, the Republicans have been getting it horrifically wrong. John McCain's wife Cindy recently wore £140,000 diamond earrings and an Oscar de la Renta gown costing £1,500 to a rally. McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin is reported to have spent nearly £100,000 on a new wardrobe, including Christian Dior and Valentino pieces, for the 2008 election campaign. These displays of luxury was in stark contrast to the financial turbulence their nation is experiencing, and it did not go unnoticed by the public and media.

Barack Obama on the other hand has been keeping tabs and has acted accordingly. His suits pertain to the expectations of the American public, but he manages to do it with a certain panache rarely seen in a politician. His suits are not from Dior, but apparently Barney's. With a simple slim-cut suit and block colour tapered ties, he claims they are "fairly standard" smart dress. Despite the ever-growing importance of image in politics, Obama maintains that voters are "[not] too worried about what [he's] wearing."

In Nicolas Sarkozy's case, it is his First Lady that has been under the fashionista's scrutiny. Carla Bruni's beauty and style has done no harm to her spouse's reputation. She has single-handedly managed to make a French politician remotely likable to the British public. Actually, I lie. The British public adore her, and recently voted her 'coolest celebrity of the year'. I don't know how the moronic idea of 'cool' was defined when they were producing this poll, but it's actually irrelevant. He fact she has been voted as the superlative of cool whilst being a political figure of a traditionally rival nation speaks volumes about the influence of fashion in politics, and weirdly enough, international relations.

So maybe, fashion is indeed what Jean Charles de Castelbajac claims: a "powerful medium" in times of political examination like these.

SICK



MC Hammer Pants

As much of a classic as "Can't Touch This" was and is, MC Hammer dressed like a tool. I'd go as far to say he dressed like *fucking* tool. However, this does not distract us away from the fact that the aptly named 'hammer pants' are on the runways of 2008, and hence back in fashion. It's Hammer Time. But that doesn't mean it's acceptable to dance like him either.



Whitening Hair

I saw Keith Murray, lead singer of We Are Scientists, recently. He has whitening hair and pulls it off. Agree? Well, I don't care if you don't. With the risk of looking like Rogue from X-Men, white hairs can be sexy.



Stilettoes

Stilettoes are fine, as long as you don't complain about how uncomfortable they are or how your feet are "killing you." You decided to wear them out, so I have no pity that your feet now look like giant swollen sweet potatoes. I'm not carrying you home once you've taken them off. You can step in glass and dog shit all you want, its your own fault for not wearing flats.

SHIT



Left to right: Charles Jean de Castelbajac's Yes to Obama piece, Carla Bruni and Sophie Rykiel's knit dress

Viva South Westerly shopping

Swiri Konje moves down to the ground, then upwards a bit to French soles.

French Sole

"KICK OFF YOUR HEELS" and welcome to the wonderful world of French Sole flats.

After going through multiple streets and entering an array of stores, I chanced upon *French Sole*. As I entered, I was received in a polite and professional manner by staff. The place was full of FLATS, FLATS and FLATS. Each was of a distinguishable colour, shape and design ranging from ballet flats, loafers, to comfortable driving shoes. With the odd bag and boots thrown in, it was full of colour and style, ensuring that you won't see someone else wearing *your* flats.

Despite its appearance in many magazines such as Vogue, in which their shoes were described as 'Prettiest Ballet Flats Around', prices are of the middle class ranging from £50 - £100, but no student discount is offered.

The marathon in San Francisco, run every year on third Sunday in May, which apparently is colourful, fun, mad and crazy, was the 'Muse' for Jane Winkworth's latest collection. They represent peace, love harmony and survival. If you happen to hate America, rest assured the shoes are not American, so buy and wear at free will! After all, it might bring some harmony and love in your life. Moreover, different designs have different names. Achieve celebrity style for less with the Madonna inspired and named shoes.

It's winter, and we don't want those dreary black boots again. Bring in the colours by wearing their amazing 'Peace, Joy and Love' shoes, teaming them with amazing leg warmers. Trust me; you will be the envy of every girl. Guys, you can try them too!

They have two stores in the SWs, one on Ellis Street near Sloane Square, and the newly opened King's Road boutique.

Next week, I'll be picking out one of my favourite shops to go accessory picking.



**323 Kings Road,
London, SW3 5EP
020 7351 1634**



**6 Ellis Street,
London, SW1X 9AL
020 7730 3771**

Imperial Interfaith

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Faith, gender and equality

An interfaith dialogue led by Interact
a charity working with students in London

Wed 12th Nov 1.15-2.45pm
Union Seminar Room 1

Please register with
Chaplaincy if you wish
to take part.



SUB-WARDEN VACANCY

All college members, particularly PG students with more than a year to run, are invited to apply for a Sub-Warden position in **Piccadilly Court**.

The hall is located next to Caledonian Road station (Piccadilly Line), between Islington and Camden, and is a 20 min tube ride to South Kensington.

Application forms may be downloaded from:

<https://halls.imperial.ac.uk/vacancies/>

Deadline: 5pm, 14/11/2008

For more information please visit the website at:

<http://www.piccadilly-court.co.uk/>



Caz Knight
Arts Editor

Men have called me mad but the question is not yet settled whether madness is or is not the loftiest intelligence – whether all that is profound – does not spring from disease of thought, from moods of mind exalted at the expenses of the general intellect.” American Romantic poet of the mysterious and macabre, short story writer and inventor of detective-fiction, Edgar Allan Poe suffered from bi-polar disorder along with many other artistic geniuses.

Bi-polar disorder is characterised by cycles of mania (lowered inhibitions, racing thoughts, loss of control, elevated mood, delusion) and depressive episodes (feelings of sadness, guilt, anxiety, reduced interest in activities, pain, suicidal ideation) with episodes usually occurring four times per year. Other more recent artists (of a kind) to suffer include Axl Rose, Ben Stiller and Sting. But for now let us consider the geniuses who have a more established position in artistic heritage.

According to psychiatrists, symptoms associated with manic episodes such as lowered inhibitions, flight of ideas and heightened creativity and productivity are obvious catalysts in creating potentially great works of art. Manic depressives have also been known to talk in rhyme and alliterate their speech more when they are “up”. The undulating emotions experienced by a sufferer will expose them to a much larger and intense spectrum of feelings and thoughts which could also go a long way to inspire them. As someone who writes poems (very un-cool), I find I can never write upon demand but as soon as I experience a flurry of, usually negative, emotion I pour forth with ideas, imagery... but never iambic pentameter!

So who are these mad geniuses, you ask. Writers include Hemingway, Dickens, Shelley and Woolf. My two all-time favourite poets Keats and Blake (who also happened to be a jack of every trade including creating beautiful oil paintings currently on display at an exhibition just outside Birmingham) suffered from the disorder. Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, van Gogh and Sistine chapel decorator Michaelangelo were all crazy, too, which often adds to their appeal. Admittedly, a lot of the evidence for how madness fuels creativity is based on anecdotal evidence: it is very hard to study the mental illnesses of the deceased especially if medical records do not stretch that far back!

Or, perhaps the sheer burden of having such a proficient and ‘thoughtful’ mind was enough to send them to insanity thus furthering their artistic capabilities?? Certainly, Nietzsche may have sealed the fate of his mental health by his musings.

Albus is Pinter Perfect

Caz Knight finds *No Man’s Land* at the Albemarle. Harold Pinter strikes again.



Michael Gambon (left), David Bradley (right) and David Williams star. “Filch, fetch me my wand”. “Michael, wrong script”; “Shit. Filch fetch me my whisky.” “Better”.

Harold Pinter’s play *No Man’s Land* is confusing. Perhaps it is because the playwright is considered to be one of the most complex post-WWII dramatists or perhaps because, true to his ‘Pinteresque’ style, the characters are threatened by a force which neither they nor the audience can quite work out. Throughout the play there is definitely an air of menace emanating from the only room in which the action takes place. Is it the apparent mental instability and erratic behaviour of the proprietor, Hirst, the bizarre situation that brought the stranger, Spooner, into his home after a fortuitous meeting on Hampstead Heath, or stranger still the unfathomable relationship between Hirst and his helpers/carers/heavies? I tried in vain throughout the play to come up with some sort of ‘plot’ or purpose for the play and failed, myself lost in that proverbial Land. A 5-star cast, starring four real-life stars all of whom lived up to their stellar images, with magnificent performances coming from Michael Gambon as Hirst and a lesser-known but equally talented David Bradley as Spooner. Hirst’s mentally unstable character had Gambon taking on a range of egos including an obtuse drunk, an outspoken, tally-ho toff and a confused old man heading for senility. Bradley’s drawn, bearded face and unrefined garments matched perfectly with his high-pitched laughter and incessant ramblings as he took on the role of ‘hanger-on’.

David Walliams’ character Foster saw him take on a role contrasting greatly to those of the mentally handicapped Anne and the vomiting Conservative lady in Little Britain. Bordering on aggressive and sinister, both Foster and Briggs are fiercely protective of their master and suspicious of the “new friend”. Perhaps the roles I have for Walliams instilled in my mind made it hard for me to appreciate him in this role. The utter silence that abounds when conversation ceases and absence of any sound effects or music make *No Man’s Land* all the more gripping and enrapturing. The stage itself is beautifully dressed with a fine collection of spirits and liqueurs making up the bar, as well as antique chairs and glorious artifacts such as a large opium pipe, a medieval chain-mail helmet and sturdy ancient-looking vases making up the collection of items in Hirst’s living room. Given that richness in progression of story, visual spectacle and lighthearted entertainment are the hallmark of theatre worth seeing for most people, *No Man’s Land* is definitely an acquired sort of taste that you must develop reasonably soon into the play. For someone who loves the English language as much as I do, I was in semantic heaven listening to the dialogue which ranged through utterly comical, philosophical, chilling, sexually suggestive, nostalgic and saddening. Pinter’s immense skill at creating these conversations between his characters is outstanding and would be just as enjoyable through reading the play. However, combined with the sheer strength of acting talent that goes with it, it is pure drama without any of the frills.

This is War! Robert Capa at work

Emilie Beauchamp goes to the Barbican to worship at the feet of the the God of War Photography

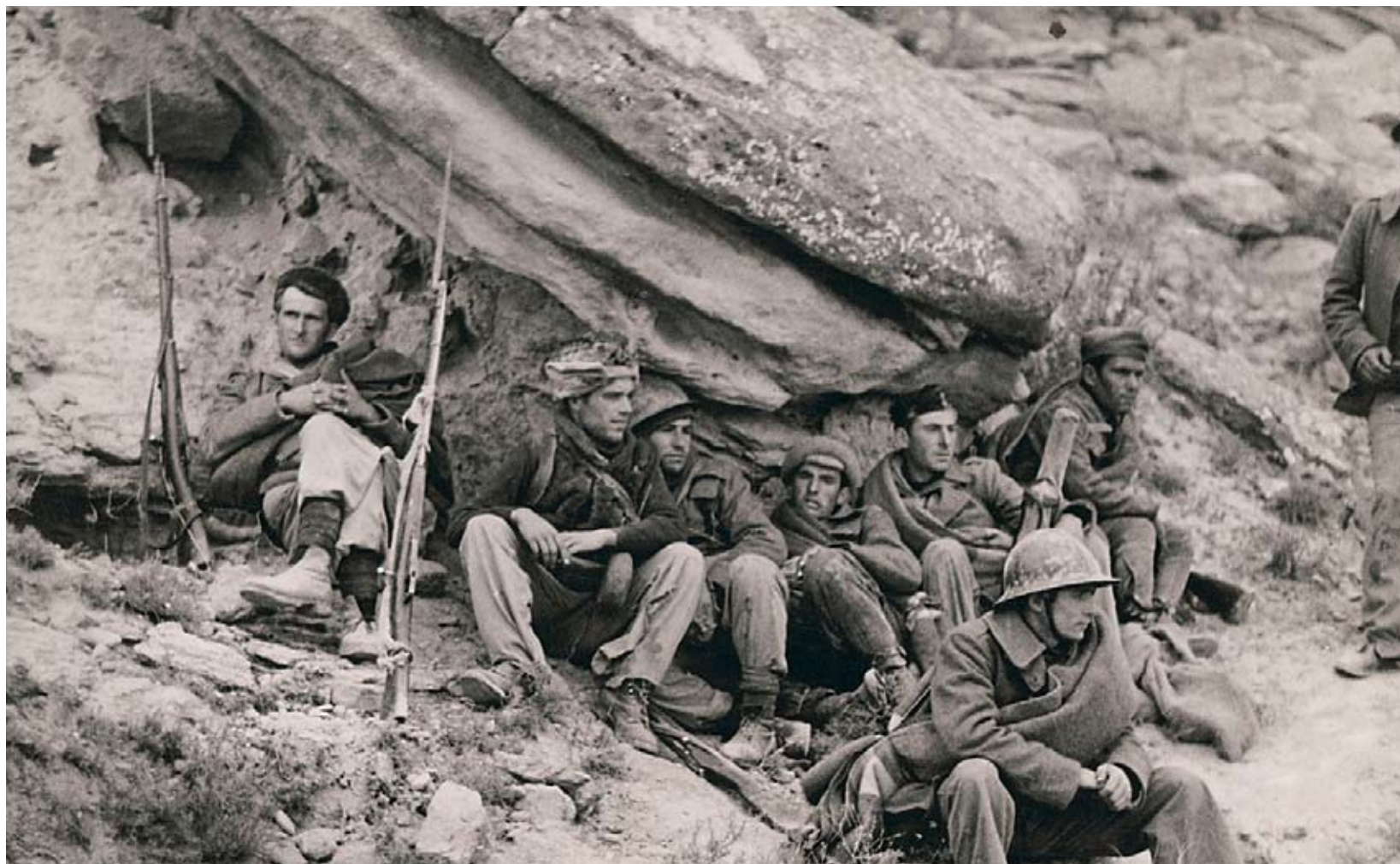
Until the 25th of January 2009, the Barbican proposes a retrospective on the topic of war, presenting primarily the photographs of world-renowned Robert Capa and his partner Gerda Taro, as well as the perceptive works of contemporary artists which complement astonishingly well the first protagonists' realisations.

Starting at the higher level of the Barbican's gallery, the main exhibition exposes the pieces of Robert Capa, who has been one of the first photographers to go behind the lines and shoot war actions close-up, therefore becoming one of the most recognized photojournalists of the 20th century. Coming from a Hungarian Jewish background, Capa fled his home country at twenty years-old to escape the Nazis and established himself in Paris. There he met fellow Jewish expatriate Gerda Taro whom had fled Poland for the same reasons. Both passionate about photography, they wanted to voice their political sentiments through their art and started working jointly in 1934. Originally Andre Friedman and Gerta Pohorylle, they changed their names to Robert Capa and Gerda Taro in the hope to improve their chances of success by picking two names echoing Hollywood stars, respectively Frank Capra and Greta Garbo. In their beginnings, Capa and Taro published their photographs together. Their first famous coverage was in 1936, when they left Paris to follow Republican troops in Spain and capture the reality of the fights against Franco's fascist rule. Exposed in separate rooms at the Barbican, the difference between Taro and Capa's pieces are often limited to the fact that she shot with a Rollei camera rendering squared photographs while he shot with a Leica, producing rectangular photos.

It is at this period that Capa shot his most famous war photograph: the "Falling Soldier", in which Capa snapped a running loyalist soldier at the moment a bullet hit his forehead. While there are some allegations that the moment might have been staged, the picture is, even now, still one of the most important war photographs ever taken.

In 1937, Taro begun using a Leica and emancipated herself from Capa's work, publishing by herself in many important publications such as the French "Vu" magazine. Staying alone in Spain after Capa returned to France, she left to cover the Battle of Brunete, from which she did not come back. She died while caught in the Republican army retreat; her body was sent back to France to be buried on the day that was to be her 27th anniversary. The first photojournalist to be killed on the front, she is not only known for being the first female war photographer but also because of her high influence in the European anti-fascist intellectual circles.

After her death, Capa left immediately for Asia to cover the Sino-Japanese war in 1938. He subsequently returned to Spain later that year and witnessed one of the last winning battles of the Republican army. He also reported on the huge refugee movement invading Barcelona following Franco's takeover of the country in 1939. It was then five years before Capa went on the front again, this time covering the American offensive against Axis forces in Normandy. Here he also took some of his best known photographs, rare depic-



I highly recommend going to see Robert Capa's work. His images are unlike anything you have ever seen and they tug at all your heartstrings.

tions of the scenes of that incredibly difficult mission. He later shot in 1945 what was to be "the last picture of the World War II", as he accompanied the Allied in their last battle and witnessed for a second time in his life the death of a soldier in front of his eyes.

Almost all of Capa's photographs convey a sense of drama and even brutality, as he always tried to shoot as close to the action as possible. His lack of fear in front of violence doubled with his extraordinary talent for photography has consequently dictated the highest standards of photojournalism up to today.

On the lower level of its art gallery, the Barbican proposes another exhibition: "On the Subject of War". While

unrelated to Capa's work, it thoroughly complements it by exposing a contemporary artistic vision on the topic. It even brings a breath of fresh air with less dramatic pieces. Capa's pieces were shot almost only in black and white and summoned a context of crude realism, which was often overdramatised by tragic editorialist lines. In contrast, the variety of media used in the second exhibition and the colour photographs bring a new vision of war coverage. In one sense, this can be paralleled with the evolution of different outlooks on war. Previously there was a purely dualistic aspect in war sentiments in the 1930s and 1940s: the fascists versus the democrats, the Axis versus the Allies, black versus white.

However, today's wars involve multiple parties wrapped in different shades of grey, bringing multifaceted realities. The contemporary use of various production techniques is essential for capturing the vast array of emotions stirred by war; confusion, hatred, hope and so on. "On the Subject of War" explores these emotions by presenting four artists having worked primarily in Afghanistan and Iraq, all of whom carry an insightful look on to the actuality of these conflicts. A special note has to be made for the extraordinary work of Omer Fast and his piece "The Casting", a two-screen, double-sided projection of a soldier's account of two different violent events. The artist has cut and mixed the accounts of both stories to

the point which they become increasingly undistinguishable from one another in order to present how war stories can be changed and mediated through medias.

In short, the Barbican succeeded in balancing the most classical and original pieces of war coverage ever done with new and definitely modern pieces. Whilst the combination of both exhibitions can be a little long, one is not as good without the other as overall they provide an excellent perspective of how war has been perceived and defined by media coverages since the 1930s.

Robert Capa is on until 25th Jan

I Just Love A Bit of Cake...

The Great Cake Crawl

Konditor and Cook

Tube: Piccadilly

They claim to be the best cakes in London and seeing as I love cake more than any other person in London, I think I am in an ideal position to say that these delights come pretty close. My only quibble is the apparent decrease in slice size which always riles me. Indulge properly, dears. This branch of K&C is part of the independent Soho Curzon cinema which has a very cultured and arty, yet chilled out (and by no means pretentious) atmosphere.

Seeing as it borders on one of my favourite areas of London (Soho) there is nothing better for dark afternoons than preceding cake with even more retail indulgence. Alcohol can be enjoyed in conjunction with your cake. K&C outdo themselves like the Hummingbird with ample lashings of cream cheese icings. Lemon Chiffon is sublime but better still is the Curly Whirly: chocolate with vanilla bean icing. Other branches pop up east in Canary Wharf and Grey's Inn road. Business is undoubtedly booming with comfort-eating Suits.

My Village

Tube: Chalk Farm

Because of its relative distance halfway up Chalk Farm road from the markets and Camden high street, My Village still remains relatively untainted by the masses and the inevitable decrease in charm and quality that accompanies a popularity surge. Part organic food shop, part café, My Village is unique in the care and enthusiasm of its two Kurdish owners who do their utmost to ensure customer satisfaction and quality of product. The wooden French farmhouse-cum-Moroccan tea room interior really is a labour of love and one of the most pleasant places to just be in London if you just want to escape from the madness, sip a drink and read a book. One really feels protected and nestled away from the grey expanse of London.

They serve the pre-prepared food from the shop to you on plates at the tables and have recently begun making their own wholesome soups. I can never resist ordering one of the exotic guava-containing smoothies they make from scratch with my cake. All the cakes are tasty but the lemon cheesecake reigns over all. If you can find room also order a hot chocolate because they are the best I have tasted in my life and I tend to be very picky about hot chocolate; it is never quite meets my standards in most cafes and restaurants no matter how high brow or expensive. (An exception to this rule is Carluccio's wonderful Chococcino.)

Yum Chaa

Tube: Camden Town

I am loath to give away my (now not so) best-kept secret in Camden Town. You may not even find this dinky tea room for it is hidden in the corner on the wooden-decking upper level of the shopping area next to the Loch. For someone in love with tea as opposed to jitter-inducing coffee, there is something exciting about taking your time sniffing the cups filled with their 20 odd teas, although this only hinders the decision making process. I have tried mixing two (Lapsang Souchon and Chilli Chilli Bang Bang) to good results. It is also possible to buy their teas to take home.

There is a modest bohemian feel to the place but without any of the inevitable "ethos", hippies or health/free-from foods which are a staple feature a lot of boho Camden haunts. Their brownies are definitely NOT for sharing and have no qualms about being very firm with anyone who asks for a taste. This is just too good to share, in this instant sharing is anything but caring. (Blueberry) muffins here melt in the mouth, to pardon a terribly trite saying, but it is actually what they do. Sitting outside one gets to soak up the atmosphere wafting up from the food stalls in the square, safe in your elevated haven.

The Hummingbird Bakery

Tube: South Ken

This is an American export which explains the sugar sweet pink and brown décor (even in the loos). This is a little girl's confectionary dream come true. Think Hansel and Gretel stumbling upon the gingerbread house minus evil child-eating witch. Cupcakes are their specialty here and the reason why hordes of Kensington and Chelsea folk flock here - cupcakes are so in now, don'tcha know. I personally abhor faddish trends in food and devour these babies for their taste alone and their glittering, colourful beauty.

The cakes' texture is as moist and delicate as you could ever dream and the generous dollop of cream cheese frosting makes you wish they sold it by the tub. They come in mainly vanilla or chocolate and there is a cupcake of the day. Another thing to try here, a personal favourite, is their Red Velvet Cake. Expect a brick sized portion which is exactly how I like to eat my cake. This cake hails from the deep south and is usually enjoyed on public holidays like Independence Day. It is worth every gram of fat and calorie in there and tastes so heavenly all guilt will vanish instantly.

It gets busy on weekends but there is seating both inside and out. If you are really lazy they will actually deliver to your door (price subject to area), minimum expenditure being around 20 pounds.

Pulkra

Tube: Fulham Broadway

This pretty little bungalow is perched on the edge of Eel Brook Common, bordering New King's Road - a short walk from Fulham Broadway station. The park itself is very peaceful and never too crowded on account of its anonymity, and at the moment the boulevard of plane trees which traverse the border have sprinkled the park with their autumn colours. Pulkra is Italian run, explaining the quality and seriousness with which the food is prepared.

All of it is made on the premises, which is reassuring and is something rare nowadays in cafes. Their home-made ice cream and sorbets are just amazing, and if you are extra hungry you can order some savory food prior (or, indeed, after) your sweet. Sandwiches and hot food are available and they are accommodating; you can pretty much tell them what you would like to eat regardless of what the menu says. Once again, I always seem to go straight for the Valhrona wheat-free chocolate cake. Again, please don't let the fact that it does not include conventional flour put you off - it gives the cake a more earthy taste, complementing the chocolate, and avoids dryness. Cookies, muffins and pastries are also attractively laid out on display. Pulkra is popular on weekend mornings as they serve cooked breakfasts.

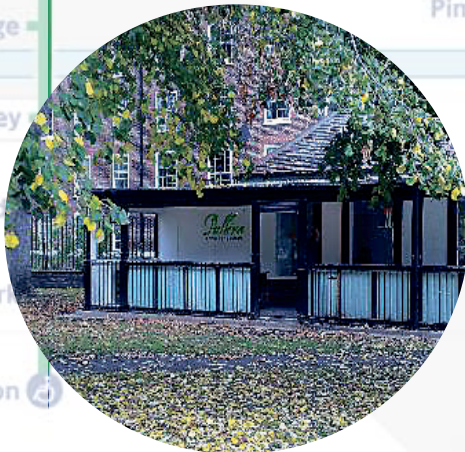
Peyton and Byrne

Tube: Euston

If you feel like some mental (and physical exercise) to counteract any gluttony about to be undertaken then mission north to the Wellcome centre, Euston. There is always a great exhibition here (Sir Henry Wellcome's personal collection of random artifacts and works of art on the first floor is a wonderful permanent installation). But best of all is the airy and spacious Peyton and Byrne café situated in between the exhibition space and the Waterstone's bookshop. It serves gourmet style snacks which are pricey (but hey, this is food, it goes inside your body and so you are perfectly at rights to overspend) such as salads, quiches and sandwiches as well as some hot meals. I always spend about 10 minutes minimum choosing my dessert.

Here they serve cakes, sweet tarts, muffins, cupcakes, I inevitably always go for the largest slice which also happens to be the gluten free chocolate cake. Don't let "gluten-free" instill you with fear and the image of dusty health food stores. Its lack of wheat flour gives it a gloriously rich texture. Even I was full after this. Awesome choco-sugar high. Now burn it off by running back to Imperial.

There is a branch in St Pancras for anyone traveling to the midlands or to belle Paris.





Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

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Bond is back, but this time he's a bit bland

Quantum Of Solace ★★★★★

Director: Marc Forster
Writer: Paul Haggis et al
Cast: Daniel Craig
 Olga Kurylenko,
 Mathieu Amalric

Tom Roberts

Quantum of Solace strengthens the consensus that Daniel Craig is an excellent Bond. He is likable, unique in his portrayal of James Bond and – in this age of Jack Bauer, Jason Bourne and numerous other imperfect trained killers – effective in depicting a secret agent at the peak of his ruthless profession. Craig has elevated Bond alongside the other big hitters meaning that playgrounds across the land will be full of arguments about which 'JB' would win in a 3-way bout of fisticuffs. But the sixth depiction of Bond represents a significant transformation for the franchise and whether this change is welcome or not basically comes down

to personal taste.

With Casino Royale the camp portrayals of the past were consigned to history. Hollywood's version of Bond had evolved into a human being capable of feelings, emotions and love, but in Quantum of Solace they are substituted with a burning inner rage as he tracks down his ill-fated lover's killers. This serves as a cue to increase the amount of action in the film but at a significant detriment to the plot. Even then, the action is often melodramatic rather than exhilarating and is frequently guilty of resorting to obvious CGI and cheap usage of fast editing that obscures the fight scenes leaving your mind to stitch together what actually happened. Bond never used to be about realism but it was Casino Royale's main hook. During one scene in Quantum of Solace, that harks back to the frankly preposterous Die Another Day, Bond comes to within an inch of a messy demise saved only by the incredible stopping power of his late opening parachute.

Worse still, an angry Bond isn't a

talkative Bond, which doesn't leave much room for character development. Casino Royale dared to portray a James Bond with feelings, a villain that wasn't simply a caricature and a Bond Girl that wasn't purely tits and arse. Quantum of Solace dispenses with almost all of this: Mr Greene is a feeble bad-guy who occasionally treats his woman badly in an ineffective plot device to try and evoke a disgusted response from the audience, whilst the 'traditional' Bond Girl, played by Gemma Arterton, is made completely redundant by the script. This all leaves Bond with very little to chat about and so he gets on with pursuing and killing one henchman, before gaining a lead and pursuing and killing the next henchman and so on and so on. There are no tense, tactical mind games with the enemy over a round of poker; instead it's on with the methodical job of chasing down contrived bad guys invented especially to fit the convoluted plot, before ultimately stumbling upon the head-honcho's lair to tell him he's a bad man and exploit the patently obvi-

ous chink in his armour.

Quantum of Solace is by no means the biggest disappointment of the year, that title falls to Indy IV. If you can tolerate Quantum of Solace's inept explanations, rinse and repeat story tell-

ing and substandard action sequences then you'll find some enjoyment here. Otherwise, it largely feels like a step backwards for Bond – a franchise and character that Daniel Craig appeared to be taking in a new direction.



Has the new Bond lost his charm already?

The best of Bond, James Bond

Jonathan Dakin looks at the best Bond film from each actor who has ever played the debonair character.



Sean Connery

Best Bond Film: Goldfinger

Plot: Bond tries to stop a crazy gold obsessed billionaire from blowing up Fort Knox.

Why this is the best: Contrary to popular belief, Connery did not make many good Bond films (mainly because he is not a very good Bond), 'Goldfinger' being the exception. Based heavily on Fleming's novel and featuring many alluring women and dastardly villains, as well as an exciting and hilarious car chase, this was the first Bond film that had something for everyone.

Highlights include: Sexuality shifting Bond girl Pussy Galore, Bond villain Oddjob with his flying bowler hat, the laser beam scene, an ejector seat in the Aston Martin, Goldfinger being sucked out of an aeroplane, Jill Masterson being painted from head to toe in gold.

Memorable quote: Goldfinger to Bond: "No Mr Bond, I expect you to die!"

Best Bond bit: Bond's fight with Oddjob inside Fort Knox.



George Lazenby

Best Bond Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service

Plot: When Bond goes undercover as a genealogist to a Swiss mountain resort he discovers that Blofeld intends on using young women with sleep disorders to unleash a deadly virus on the world.

Why this is the best: Although this was his only outing and therefore has to be his best film, Lazenby delivers as both a realistic and charming Bond, despite being panned by both fans and critics. This film is much better than most Connery films and overall is one of the most memorable and exciting Bond outings.

Highlights include: Bond falling in love with Tracy, Bond sleeping with everyone in the ski resort, the many Alpine car chases, Bond being married and then widowed (sniff).

Memorable quote: Bond: "He had a lot of guts".

Best Bond bit: Bond on skis being chased down a bobsled run by Blofeld.



Roger Moore

Best Bond Film: The Spy Who Loved Me

Plot: A crazy millionaire named Stromberg intends to create a nuclear war in order to destroy the world so that he can begin a new civilisation under the sea.

Why this is the best: It was heart-breaking for me to decide which film to choose for Moore as almost all of his seven Bond outings are excellent. But this one has everything a Bond film should: car chases, sexy women, huge sets being destroyed, a crazy villain, and of course, the best Bond of all time, Roger Moore himself.

Highlights include: Beautiful Russian secret agent Anya Amasova (aka Agent Triple X), Jaws: the best Bond villain ever, car chases and fights in and around Egypt, lots of destruction and explosions, trap doors that lead to killer shark tanks, the underwater car and a very good theme song.

Memorable quote: Bond: "Keeping the British end up, sir!"

Best Bond bit: When Bond leaps from a mountain top and opens his parachute to reveal a Union Jack. Rule Britannia!



Timothy Dalton

Best Bond Film: License To Kill

Plot: After his best friend is almost killed by a South American drugs baron Bond resigns from the MI6 and goes rogue in order to exact revenge.

Why this is the best: This is Dalton being a 'serious' Bond and although this does not always work, the more adult plot and down-beat tone add an interesting element to the film, not often seen in Bond films. Plus Dalton's other effort, 'The Living Daylights', is pretty dry.

Highlights include: Two very hot Bond women, the shoot out in the bar, lots of grisly murders including a man's head exploding and a man being churned up in a Cocaine machine, Q, as he has a large supporting role and the tanker truck car chase at the end.

Memorable quote: Sharkey: "God, what a terrible waste. Of money".

Best Bond bit: When Bond finally gets his revenge.



Pierce Brosnan

Best Bond Film: The World Is Not Enough

Plot: Bond is assigned to protect the daughter of an assassinated oil pipeline owner from a terrorist who plans to set off a nuclear bomb in the Caspian Sea.

Why this is the best: All of Brosnan's films are of a high standard (though many would argue otherwise about Die Another Day), but this one has everything a Bond film should have as well as being contemporary, intelligent and fast paced and fun from beginning to end.

Highlights include: Buxom Bond babe and nuclear physicist Dr. Christmas Jones, the opening boat chase down the Thames, Q's very last appearance, the snowmobile chase, the pipeline explosion, the destruction of the caviar factory, Zukovsky's cameo, the fight in the submarine and the huge plot twist.

Memorable quote: Bond: "I never miss".

Best Bond bit: What Bond does before he says the above quote.

Gee, I'm starving for more

Critically acclaimed art house film *Hunger* makes one reviewer desperate for another bite

Hunger ★★★★★

Director: Steve McQueen
Writers: Steve McQueen
Edna Walsh
Cast: Michael Fassbender,
Stuart Graham

Shane O’Neil

Hunger is the directorial debut of Turner prize-winning artist Steve McQueen. The film is centred around the IRA hunger strikes of 1981, and in particular Bobby Sands MP (Michael Fassbender), the leader of the hunger strikes. The hunger strikes were the IRA's final effort to be granted political status, to be recognised as prisoners of war rather than ordinary criminals.

From the mid-1970s the then Labour government had withdrawn political status from Irish republican prisoners in order to disguise the true nature of the conflict in Ireland, to depict what was in truth a national war between the British state and the IRA as a criminal enterprise launched by mad republicans. In fighting for the return of political status, Sands and the others were not simply ‘making a gesture’, they were taking part in a protest of profound historic importance cen-



Bobby Sands (Fassbenger) and Dominic Moran (Cunningham) have a chat.

tered around the question of whether the struggle to expel British forces from Ireland was legitimate. Sands, of course, thought it was legitimate. The British government knew it was a serious war but wanted to present it as criminal activity.

The action takes place in the bleakest of locations, the H-block of Her Majesty's Prison Maze in Belfast. Despite the dreary setting, McQueen has made arguably the most breathtaking film of the year.

McQueen is every bit the artist in his debut feature; there is a painstaking attention to detail in every shot. From the breadcrumbs falling on the lap of the disgruntled prison guard as he eats his breakfast (an early warning sign of the ‘hunger’ that will later follow for the prisoners) to the ominous tattoo of ‘UDA’ on a prison orderly's knuckles, each frame of the film is a work of art. McQueen wonderfully portrays the determination of the prisoners to win their POW status and thus re-legiti-

mise the Irish war for independence. You can almost smell their unwashed bodies and the excrement they spread on their walls as part of a ‘dirty protest’ against using prison conveniences or wearing prison clothes. There are very few scenes of conversation, in fact, McQueen had originally wanted to make a film with no dialogue at all. Strip searches, prison beatings, mandatory baths - all take place without talking.

The main conversational scene will go down as one of the great cinematic moments of recent times. There is a 22 minute conversation between Sands and Father Dominic Moran (played fantastically by Liam Cunningham) and a full 17 minutes of it is taken in one shot where the camera doesn't move once. Cunningham and Fassbender work together incredibly in this shot, as Sands convinces Father Moran that the hunger strike must happen. He is finally granted approval from the priest (not that he really needed it) after telling a profoundly touching story from his childhood. Following this conversation, Fassbender's dedication to the role of Sands becomes evident.

Fassbender looks horrendous for the rest of the film. Having whittled his body down to a mere 58kg for the starvation scenes, he is a far cry from the muscle-bound warrior we saw in the CGI thriller 300. For the final 40 minutes of the film we see Sands' condition steadily deteriorate, with the development of appalling bedsores and, according to the doctor, the shrinkage of his left ventricle to 70 per cent of its normal size. The inevitable death is in keeping with McQueen's portrayal of Sands throughout the film; his body

is removed routinely and without fanfare.

This is one of the most important films of the year, an awe-inspiring spectacle of cinematic excellence. McQueen handles brilliantly a delicate subject without taking a particular political standpoint or disrespecting either side; instead he allows the audience to see the truth as it happened and to make their own moral judgements. Fassbender is entirely convincing as Sands in easily his most impressive part to date. This is a must-see.

Hunger is out at now, rated 15.



Fassbender is desperate for a smoke

Coming soon:

The sound of laughter will abound in *Soul Men*

What does everyone need once they realise that they have seen too many plodding action films or dreary dramas? Comedy! And no one does comedy better than Samuel L. Jackson and the late great Bernie Mac!

Soul Men is about two former backup singers (played by Jackson and Mac) who decide to travel together to a reunion concert to honour their recently deceased lead singer. The catch? They haven't spoken to each other for over 20 years!

With celebrity cameos including R&B singer John Legend, the recently departed soul singer Isaac Hayes and Will and Grace's Sean Hayes, expect hilarity to ensue. The film should also be a fitting tribute to Bernie Mac, a very talented comedian who should have done more comedy and less Ocean's films.



Bernie and Samuel feeling funky in *Soul Men*

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Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair, Susan Yu & James Houghton

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Peter Sinclair
Music Editor

I was mindlessly sifting through BBC iplayer last night when I came across something which sparked my interest – an hour long documentary about Canadian 60s/70s rocker Neil Young. “Mildly interesting” I thought, as I dispassionately pawed the computer into action, “A nice way to kill the evening at least”. Music documentaries rarely impress: unless you know the story already they tend to be a mess of namedrops and tours schedules, peppered with obligatory Rock’n’Roll lifestyle clichés. What followed though was one of the most musically mind-expanding TV watching experiences I have ever had.

The documentary itself was somewhat mediocre – an endless parade of the friends of Young scrambling to convince the audience how important they were in his musical development, and Young himself managing perhaps half a dozen interesting comments in between long bouts of being a narcissistic prick, but it was the musical soundtrack that made this into something excellent. Obviously it was almost entirely Neil Young compositions, each song played to illustrate the music being made in each era, but until then I had written him off as a bit of a one-trick pony, rising out of the often predictable burble of ‘popular rock legends’ to create Harvest, only to fall quickly back down again into the homogenous mass of Rock Hall of Fame inductees. For this opinion, I could not eat any more of the humble pie than I did during the course of the documentary.

Beginning with tunes by his first band ‘the Squires’ at age 16, the music progressed through compositions during his stints with (fellow Rock Hall of Famers) Buffalo Springfield, through to Crosby Stills Nash and Young, and finally to his successes as a solo artist up to the present day, and I don’t think there was a dud among them. His music is honest, creative, and without a hint of pretention.

It kind of got me thinking though – when I first started watching it, I was almost expecting uninteresting, samey tunes about girlfriends and skateboarding, so cynical have I become by the state of popular rock music in modern musical times. There is something that rock from the 60s and 70s has that seems to have got glossed out in our age of technocratic overproduction.

What that something is is somewhat up for debate. The easy answer would be originality, although I don’t think this is too accurate – no-one has done exactly what Coldplay or Keane or whoever are doing before, but that doesn’t stop it from leaving an unsatisfying, hollow taste in the ears. I think the more worrying deficit is in its honesty – some of these bands almost sound like their music was written in response extensive focus group research. It begs the question though: how is anyone supposed to relate to music created to pander towards large audiences, rather than challenge and stimulate them? How long can this industrialised mass-consumption continue when it’s devoid of any emotional stimulus? Answers on a postcard.

Jorge Costa

Damn mobiles! If they weren’t so useful to my social life, for listening to music and playing games and accessing the internet on the go and waking me up in the mornings and stuff, I probably would have chucked mine out of the window years ago. Anthony Gonzalez, front man of French electronic shoe-gazers, M83, took few minutes out of a busy UK tour to talk about live shows and their latest album, ‘Saturdays = Youth’, but technology had other ideas and it wasn’t until we were cut off once that the interview started...

Looking at your touring schedule, you’re playing in Manchester tonight?

Yes, yes we are playing tonight in Manchester. That would be the first time!

Any Madonna-like pre-concert rituals before you guys take the stage?

[laughs] No rituals. We like to have a good meal and go to a good restaurant. We like to have sushi before we go on stage and yeah, drink a bit of alcohol!

Congratulations on your Scala gig! I went with a friend who’s reviewing the gig and we were both curious as to why your drummer is in a box?!

Because I think it looks good on stage – I like it! But no, it’s also because otherwise there is too much sound because those drums can be very loud. So it’s just a question of sound level.

What’s your favourite song to play live?

[Thinks for a bit] I don’t know, I like to play ‘Don’t Save Us From The Flames’ because a lot of people are expecting that song during the live show. And I like ‘Couleurs’ on the new album.

Is there one song that you’ll never play live, or do you give everything a chance?

We never really play songs from the previous albums because it is always difficult to reproduce the sound of the album live, you know? And it’s quite difficult to play some of the songs from



Anthony Gonzalez looking moody and brooding. What a dreamboat. What I’d give to be that microphone

those previous albums. For example, we never play the last song from our last album, ‘Lower Your Eyelids To Die With The Sun’, because it’s very long and very produced so it’s almost impossible to play.

What made you want to make an

“I’ve always been fascinated by teenagers”

album about your teenage years?

Just one minute! [at this point, something clicks and whirrs in the background]. I mean, yeah, I’ve always been fascinated by teenagers and also because I was really happy as a teenager and it was some of the best days of my life so far. So this album is kind of a tribute to that.

What kind of music were you

listening to then and how has it influenced the music you’re making?

Oh, mostly rock music like and the New York scene and also a lot of German music from the seventies. Because of the German music, I started to buy keyboards and synthesizers and I started to play electronic music. And because of bands like Mogwai who have a lot of guitar, I started to learn the guitar and play rock music as well. I think that my music ‘looks’ like my influences, just a mix of the music I love, a combination of everything I like in music.

German music? So like Kraftwerk, perhaps?

Not Kraftwerk in particular. More like Popol Vuh and Tangerine Dream and these kinds of bands.

So what kind of music are you listening to now?

I’m listening to a lot of classical music and popular music. I’m listening to a lot of albums this year; I think it has been a good year for music. I really like the Fleet Foxes album!

Why the 80’s? A lot of people are going back to that era in terms of fashion, films and music. Why do you think that is?

I don’t know, I think 80’s music is certainly one of the most important for the music industry and for music history. It’s definitely one of the most interesting periods. A lot of bands from the 80s, they have invented something, like a sound that really created something new. I really like the sound production on the albums from the 80s. I think it sounds always amazing – it’s really different from the 70s. There’s this really big gap for me between the 70s and the 80s.

It’s been over six months since S=Y came out. Are you happy with the reception?

Yeah! It’s been a while since the previous album and it’s really encouraging for the future. I’m really excited to tour for this album and it’s been very positive overall!

Would you do anything differently?

It’s very difficult to create and compose an album – the most difficult thing for an artist! I spent so much time on it and so much energy, but I think it’s a good album for now and I just can’t wait to work on another one.

Probably a scary question, but you’ve hinted at it earlier on: any ideas for the next album?

It’s too early to say, because my head is so focused on the tour right now – we’re touring until the end of the year and at the end it’s going to be very difficult for me to work on anything new. But I have some ideas in my head.

“We like to have sushi before we go out on stage”

Can we expect an album based on 90s youth, maybe?

[laughs] Yeah, maybe! But it would be for sure different.

And then, just as the conversation veered towards their up-coming tour supporting Kings of Leon, the line drops. So we’ll never, ever hear if he has any words of wisdom for the current youth, or whether, as his latest album title indicates, Saturday is still the best day of the week. Perhaps we can answer that last one for ourselves.

M83’s latest album, ‘Saturdays = Youth’ is out now and they will tour with Kings of Leon around the UK in December.



M83, located in the Centaurus group

M83
Scala
22nd October, 2008

James Houghton

The Domino State opened the show with an unsatisfying performance that was too easily ignored and forgotten. As an odd choice of support they failed to connect well with the crowd, only managing to raise a slight nod here and there. The generic feel of their set was punctuated by a few hints of interesting and unique sounds, but these were discarded before they gained any momentum, leaving the songs fairly directionless and making The Domino State a frustrating live act.

The main man behind M83, Anthony Gonzalez, came on stage surrounded by his three tour companions who's help he had enlisted in performing his creations live. Taking his position amongst laptops, keyboards and bizarre looking electronics, his album vocalist Morgan Kibby stood opposite him ready to provide extra keyboards, Loic Maurin brought the drums and Pierre-Marie Maulini had the bass and guitar covered.

Expectant ears and eager eyes were upon the French man as M83 opened their set with 'Run Into Flowers' from 'Dead Cities, Red Seas & Lost Ghosts'. The fast pace of the keyboards and sampled sounds built with echoing vocals, creating a mesmerizing and spine chilling performance that set the standard high for the rest of the show. Anthony has a way of crafting incredibly epic and amazing songs which work beautifully in the context of an album but, as they proved, are equally

as impressive as a live performance. Neglecting earlier work off the self titled album, the set is filled predominantly with songs from 'Before the Dawn Heals Us' and 'Saturdays = Youth'. Despite the differences between these two albums the set manages to fit together well keeping the crowd enthralled throughout. 'A Guitar And A Heart' and 'Moon Child' showed off the band's more shoegazing-electronica moments while synth-heavy pop songs 'Graveyard Girl' and 'Kim and Jessie' receive the greatest response from the crowd.

Anthony's softly whispered vocals contrast skillfully with the throbbing keyboards on 'We Own The Sky'. It would have been an obvious choice to end with 'Lower Your Eyelids To Die

“softly
whispered vocals
contrasted
with throbbing
keyboards”

With The Sun', one of the most perfect album closing songs which was sadly missing from their set, but instead the encore brings 'Couleurs'.

M83 easily filled the Scala, the venue's size creating an intimate feel without cramping their atmospheric sound. It will be interesting to see if they manage to stay so engaging and exciting when they perform in the O2 Arena and Wembely Stadium where they are supporting tedious indie pretty-boys *Kings of Leon* this December.



Some guy from some band plays some instrument

Three unrelated single reviews

Dark Horse
Flat Screen Suicide
★★★★☆

Duncan Casey

The introductory EP from Darke Horse is a mixed bag – there's clearly a lot of talent there, with a front-man you can almost see jumping around on-stage despite the studio production and an axe-man who's clearly knows his way round his six strings and isn't afraid to rip out a solo on demand. On the down-side, the songwriting

is what you might describe as 'a work in progress'. The EP title track's verse riffs are shamelessly lifted from EMF's 'Unbelievable', which is a pity considering that bouncing around to the chorus would otherwise be quite good fun – although that might be because it doesn't have any of the largely banal lyrics scattered throughout the rest of the song. The second rack suffers similarly: although the chorus is quite cool – 'Jack's My Friend' referring to boozing your way out of a crisis – the rest of the lyrics are simply awful, and the Franz Ferdinand feel across the rest of the track doesn't help much either.

The third song's a bit more fun, though – 'Reinvent Your Accent' is a tirade against the Arctic Monkeys that they haven't even pretended to disguise, and the result is a much sharper track, with a hint of real bitterness. Unfortunately, the three-chord guitar riff makes them sound like a poor Status Quo cover band, which probably wasn't the desired effect. This band could be one to watch over the next year or so, but at the moment they still sound like a band playing covers so there's a fair bit of polishing going to be required before they break the big-time.



Fat Freddy's drop - just sort of hangin' out, you know?

Fat Freddy's Drop
Pull The Catch
★★★★☆

Duncan Casey

With a name like this, I was expecting a proper rude-boy two step track, but the combination of soulful vocals, laid back brass and electro backing actually creates a sound that belongs firmly alongside that Fun Lovin' Criminals CDs you play when you get home after a late night out. It's cool without being self-conscious, and as a result sounds like they've had a lot of fun making it. On the flip side, that's not always

to be encouraged: the job's to make a good record, not to spend five minutes of your life making noodly sounds with unusual equipment whilst gazing at your navel, a la recent Radiohead. This suffers from similar problems in patches – although the electronic kit delivers a pretty phat bass-line, the 80s synth ray-gun noises make you wonder what the band were doing when the rest of us realised they were naff some twenty years ago (those of you who were born twenty years ago, anyway). Overall, though, the track's a well-crafted come-down number, best enjoyed on a beach at sunset. Or failing that, try it on your balcony with a crafty joint when you get in from the pub.

“the job is to make
good music, not to
spend five minutes
of your life making
noodly sounds
with unusual
equiptment whist
gazing at your
navel”



What a fucking poncey fucking cunt. Get a real job you fucking shitters

Friendly Fires
Paris
★★★★☆

Ruby Blevings

NME et al drawing the usual parallels between fellow St Albaners Enter Shikari and linking them with 'new rave' clearly hasn't bothered Friendly Fires much, as they have retained the cowbells and synths from the original release of 'Paris' last year. In addition, this time round they've added some beefed up production which, combined with some girly backing vocals courtesy of Au Revoir Simone, make this essentially a mass pleasing pop song. OK they might have lost their edge a bit, but who can blame them - it's done wonders for their airplay. They were on Jools Holland don't you know...



You can leave your mask on!

CGCU and RCSU joined forces on Friday 31st October for The Masquerade Ball



Masquerade Ball ★★★★★

*Great Hall, Sherfield Building
CGCU and RCSU*

Best: Delicious choc torte
Worst: Union attempts to steal away drunken masked revellers to see Colin Murray
Price: £15 ents, £30 dinner and ents

On Halloween night's joint CGCU & RCSU ball, the Masquerade theme was a winner. It was an excellent choice for a Halloween night ball. Both a classy and simple theme, which elegantly complimented the stylish frocks and tuxedos on display.

The festivities kicked off at 6.30pm with scientists dining upstairs and engineers downstairs. The chocolate torte and wine were firm favourites with many. There was a curious lack of after dinner speeches but 'The Booma-laka' tradition remained strong.

Post-dinner entertainment kicked off

with a Jazz quartet providing a snappy soundtrack to the students' useless attempts at the roulette wheel. Some kind of prize for the chip leader would have been nice, to make the casino more than just a drunken misadventure.

DJs from the Music Tech society played all night. Keeping to mainstream cheese and dance hits, they pleased the tastes of a varied crowd.

Somewhat controversially, posters advertising Colin Murray's DJ slot at the Union were prominently displayed throughout the Sherfield Building. Many ball ticket holders took advantage of free entry to the union. Colin's well-attended set of indie dancefloor classics went down a storm.

My only qualm was the decor. Maybe it's just me but I felt more could have been done to hide the unglamorous reality of the Sherfield Building. Obviously such a transformation is near impossible. I still felt that a better effort could have been made in terms of more comprehensive music and mood lighting linking all areas of the ball.

Overall it was a pleasant night with the standard fare. It seemed as though everyone had a good time, and clearly they aimed to please.



Seriously Social Party Competition

How would you spend £25,000 in one night? A champagne fountain? A unique performance by your favourite band? Would you rent out the entire Ritz Hotel for one night? Maybe a speedboat trip down the Thames in the company of Barack Obama? The possibilities are indeed endless.

The Seriously Social Party Competition is a chance to throw the ultimate party with £25,000 at your disposal. If you have not already taken the hint, this is a plea for you, Imperial students,

to enter and win.

A free party? Obviously there is no



such thing as a free lunch, let alone a free £25,000 party. Mobile phone operator 3 are the commercial entity behind

this insanely generous offer.

Such realities aside, next time you are on Facebook add the seriously social party competition fan page. Write on the wall, explaining why you should win and giving details of your extravagant party idea. The 25 best ideas selected by the judging panel will take part in the final Facebook event, a race against time to recruit as many guests as possible. Who knows, you might even win!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/3s-Seriously-Social-Party-Competition/33984787548>

WIN TICKETS 4 FABRIC



felix has 2 free tickets to see Calvin Harris DJ at Fabric on the 18th of November.

To win you just have to answer this question:

What is the name of the new nightclub at the O2 arena?

Send your answers to nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk: the winners will be chosen randomly.

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Come in the best from
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and party the night away!

Friday 7 November
20:00 - 02:00

Bar FTSE.

90's classic disco!



Friday 14 November
20:00-02:00

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The Union encourages responsible drinking. R.O.A.R. Student ID. Required.

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Technology

Technology Editor – Ravi Pall & Richard Lai

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Show us your Stuff!

Richard Lai attends the “STUFF” expo and tells us about the latest upcoming gadgets.

The problem with most gadget magazines these days is the cover – there have been too many times when I take a T3 or Stuff out of the rucksack without my neighbour female flight passenger subtly cringing. Thankfully, I tend to be able to break the ice if her gadget-loving husband is around, and the wife would naturally confess her misunderstanding; if he's not around, it could be my lucky day.

This time round a Stuff bikini girl caught my attention, as she was much larger than what I'm used to. The “Stuff Live” poster in the underground tunnel towards South Kensington Station gave me an excuse to visit the ExCel Centre for the second time within the same month, the last time being at the “Future Of Web Apps Expo” combined with “Diggnation Live” – frankly only the latter made it worth going.

For £20 per head “Stuff Live” must be a damn good show, but then again I must remember that the credit crunch is not just some cereal. Luckily Stuff was giving away free passes on Twitter, and I just happened to be one of the lucky winners. If you didn't go, don't worry: I've compiled a list of the show's best bits for you.

I've also got some videos on <http://is.gd/6goK> and have a look at my photos on <http://is.gd/6f18>. Hopefully next year I'll get to go to Stuff Live for free again (or be given a press pass!).

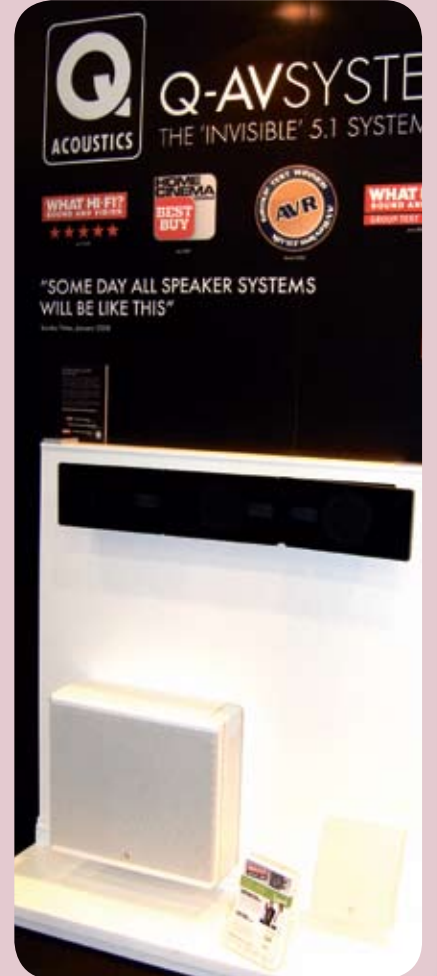
PS: Twitter users can follow me at twitter.com/richardlai

Audio: Chord Chordette Gem, Q Acoustics Q-AV System, Sonos iPhone OS app

On the audio front there were three interesting products: firstly I found the colourful range of Chord's Chordette Gem Bluetooth (A2DP, again) music receiver. It claims to stream very high sound quality from your supported mobile phones to your hi-fi system using its 24-bit digital-to-analogue (DAC) converter, and is aimed at the younger MP3 audience with a price tag of £399.

On the home theatre front we have Q Acoustics Q-AV System, which utilises a slim sound bar form factor to produce the front channels. Each of the front speakers are mounted on a telescopic frame so that the entire bar can extend to match the width of the TV, and the two curved speakers at the back give an ‘ultra-wide’ sound-field, giving the flexibility of their positioning. But the real gem of all this is the Balanced Mode Radiator (BMR) technology by NXT, allowing the use of flat panel diaphragm to achieve the shallow chassis and extended bandwidth. Officially the whole system retails for £600, but most shops sell them for around £560.

Another big home-theatre related news: not too long ago Sonos, the maker of the famous multi-room music system, released an app for the iPhone to let you control your music stream to different rooms. The demo I was given at the show was very straightforward to use, with an interface similar to the company's own remote control. You can see a video demo on my YouTube page: <http://is.gd/6goK>. As for the Sonos system, packages start from £399.



LCDs from LG, NEC, Epson's HD projector and Q-London 3D Video Eyewear

Right in front of the hall entrance was the giant LG/ask booth, which featured the LG 6100 42" LCD TV, retailing at £749 for its impressive slimness and the 100Hz flicker-free response. Sticking with the display technology, NEC also showcased an astonishing LCD6520L 65" LCD screen inside their “van” booth, along with their professional range which attracted many young gamers. Epson was also there to display their full HD EH-TW3000 projector which simply blew my mind.

On a much smaller scale we have the Q-London 3D Video Eyewear, which gives you total privacy even though you would also look like a dork when using it. Unfortunately, for the short-sighted like myself you will need to wear it over your glasses or wear contact lenses, as there is no adjustable focus like you get in camcorders. The QL240 claims to have simulate a 50" screen as seen from 2M, with the QL920v doing an 80" screen from 1.5M, priced at £85.10 and £153.18 respectively.



Asus Eee Top desktop, Eee PC S101 and U6 Bamboo laptops

It was nice to see one of my favourite computer brands having a dedicated booth at the show, and what made it even better was that Asus brought along three brand new products. The £449 Eee Top is the company's first all-in-one desktop with a touchscreen, featuring a 1.6GHz Intel Atom processor and 160GB hard disk space, supporting both stylus (which lives inside the keyboard) and finger input. Despite failing to figure out how to perform right-click without a mouse, I really enjoyed the experience and would recommend it to those looking for a home media centre. Also, given such user-friendly interface, I wouldn't be surprised to see the Eee Top flooding the nation's kindergartens.

Sticking with the Eee brand, Asus has introduced the S101 as the line's premium model. This sexy design makes all previous models look like plastic toys, but all that glitter on the case (available in brown or graphite), brushed-steel finish around the keyboard, 10.2" LCD, 5.4 hours of battery and 16GB of solid state drive will cost you £449 (same as the Eee Top). It's probably something to dream about during this time of financial crisis.

Lastly, the environmentally-friendly, ultraportable U6 Bamboo laptop, which is built with highly recyclable components, and due to the nature of wooden pattern every machine is unique. Available from selected retailers for £1300.



Jabra BT3030 Bluetooth remote and handsfree

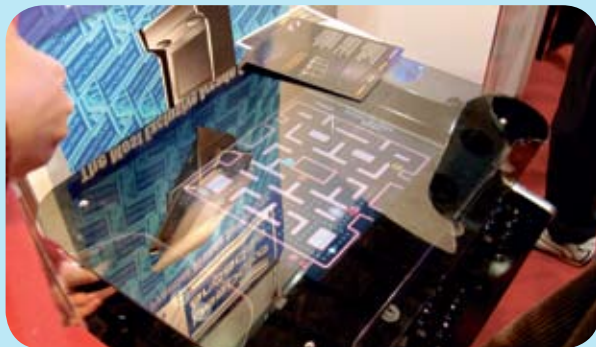
I was attracted to the Jabra BT3030 not only because of its stylish design, but also by the pretty girl who was wearing it as a pendant. Anyway, the shiny Bluetooth device acts as both a transceiver and a remote control, allowing you to control stereo music playback (that's “A2DP” for you) and receive phone calls. It also has a built-in clip if you're not girly enough to wear it on a necklace. Costing just £35, I don't think it's too much to ask for this Christmas.





Bespoke Arcades

Pac-Man, Street Fighter, Street Racer... you name it, and the folks over Bespoke Arcades will deliver their hand-built arcade machines to you packing over 220 titles. The machines at Stuff Live were of great build quality and enjoyed by many gamers, but at £2850 I'm afraid most will have to, ironically, revert to their high-def gaming consoles at home.



Sony POP entertainment vending machine

This machine was just released last week: it is the world's first multimedia vending machine and will be available at airports, cinemas and maybe even train stations. Not only does it pop out PS3 games, Blu-ray discs and DVDs in their original cases (as the latter did for me when I used a "2 for £10" deal at the show), but you can also download movies and MP3 tracks straight onto any flash media and even iPods. Since the machine is networked, fresh tracks are regularly pumped straight into the black-and-yellow machines. No need to panic for pre-travel iPod-updates from now on!



Digiskin - gadget-skinning service

Now this is something special: rather than giving your loved one an ordinary gadget this Christmas, why not customise it with your favourite pattern or even photo? Digiskin will be opening a store on Regent Street and offering a skinning service for £25 for a mouse, £35 on smaller gadgets such as mobile phones, and starting from £55 for laptops and larger devices. Their representative said their service is highly flexible and they will talk to every customer to make sure they get the right design. The vacuum forming process only takes about half an hour as well.



Roland V-Drums TD-9KX

A small crowd gathered around Roland's booth, so I wriggled my way to the front to see what the musical instrument manufacturer was doing there. It turned out they were doing a demo on their electronic drum kit, TD-9KX, which seemed to be capable of pretty much any style you can think of, ranging from classic rock to jazz to even bubble sounds, plus you can tweak every sound effect if you're really bored, but you would expect to get that for the eye-bleeding £1200 price tag. Still it made good entertainment and pretty much everyone was dancing, but sadly my camera had just run out of battery - I miss my Nikon DSLR.



Face 3D-Mapping by University of Hertfordshire

I was very surprised to see a university exhibiting at the gadget show: for some reason University of Hertfordshire's electronic engineering department decided that it was the right place to show off their mini humanoid robot and 3D face-mapping technology. I had a go on the latter and it wasn't very convincing - I'm sure our own EE department could have - or already have - done a much better job! Good luck to them anyway.



Kota the Triceratops

You may be cruel enough to tear Elmo into bits, but surely no one can resist the cuteness of Kota the Triceratops? The reborn dinosaur has 11 sensors to interact with the young-hearted. It even responds to neck-scratches like a cat! A large cat perhaps as the company claims that it is large enough for a child to sit on, but you won't have to worry too much as apparently Kota is "too lazy to walk around the room".



Food

Food Editors – Afonso Campos & Rosie Grayburn

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Rosie Grayburn
Food Editor

Last week I mourned the death of Basil, my pet basil and the continued demise of Tim the Mint. Tim has always been of a sickly constitution but, as is the norm for mint plants, he got too greedy and started growing roots beyond his capacity. He has been moulting leaves for weeks and he will not be with us much longer. With Basil the Basil it was a sudden death - no-one expected it. His leaves were long and green with a full aroma, but one frosty night last week he just withered and died. Out of my 3 herbs only Clive the Chive survives. The hardy herb is withstanding all frosts and even my scissor-happy hand as I use him to season salads and fish left, right and centre! Bless him, he's even flowered!

It's Friday and we have come to the end of Healthy Living Week at Imperial College. I am writing this on Monday so I hope it has not passed in a whisper and that some of you got involved in the free massages or come-and-try-it sports. Particularly, I hope you all managed to scrounge healthy free food on Queen's Lawn on Tuesday or Thursday!

You will do a double take when you read 'low fat' and 'Korma' in the same sentence but somehow I have managed the impossible in this week's food page. Instead of using a curry paste which has been wallowing in oil all its life the flavours are infused by boiling a water-based paste. It's all the rage, daaaaarling. Please give it a go and let me know what you think. For dessert Natalia Jardon offers up a delish Lime Cheesecake – it's the easiest thing in the world and very decadent too.

Also, a little off the 'Healthy Living' topic, James Copley reviews the new branch of Byron on Gloucester Road. Byron's slogan is 'Proper Hamburgers' which basically means they have 100% Aberdeen Angus steak in their burgers: no hooves, eyes or poo. Byron pride themselves on being simple with no fuss or frills. I don't know what your opinion is of the GBKs and Union Hamburgers of this world but with all the multiple wanky toppings you forget there's a burger in your burger. The new Gloucester Road branch of Byron should keep the local North American tourist population happy and I hope, reader, you will also partake in the delights of a proper hamburger.

If paying £6 for a quality burger is not your bag, baby, why not make your own? Mix together a pack of mince, half a grated onion, one slice of bread (grated to make crumbs), an egg and plenty of salt and pepper. Shape the mixture into patties, then grill or fry for 5 minutes on each side. Serve the burgers in buns with whatever else you fancy.

As per usual, boys and girls, send in your recipes, reviews and rants. I am not one to threaten, but if you don't send them in I will mix you with egg, breadcrumbs and onion then fry YOU on 5 minutes each side. You have been warned. Love from Rosie xx

Man eat 100% steak burger

Beefburger purist, James Copley, visits our local Byron for a "Proper Hamburger"



Byron ★★★★★

75 Gloucester Road
Phone: 020 7244 0700
byronhamburgers.com

Best: Quality, fuss-free burgers
Worst: If you're a fan of multiple, beef-shielding toppings, there are none, mate.
Price: £6-8 for a beefburger sans frites

ing as the adjacent Burger King and KFC were, I was on Gloucester Road to attend the opening evening of Byron, the fifth branch of the upmarket burger restaurant that caused Sunday Times' Giles Coren to proclaim "the best burger I've ever had".

Admittedly, having passed the Kensington High Street branch many a time on the bus since it opened a year ago, I entered Byron with a host of prejudices.

The gentrification of the humble hamburger happened to be one of my many minor personal hatreds, and Byron's rather pretentious tagline, 'Proper Hamburgers', coupled with that name, did little to quell my left-wing vitriol.

A previous experience at the Trades & Descriptions Act violating Gourmet Burger Kitchen (the only word of those three I accept is 'Burger' - exactly how much 'cooking' goes on in their 'kitchen' is a moot point) had lead me to believe that this new breed of middle-class junk food was little more than McDonalds with lurid sauces and less polystyrene.

However, it soon becomes apparent that Byron is not another clone. Where their contemporaries attempt to disguise the burger they are serving with spicy relish and several litres of mayonnaise, Byron focus on what makes the burger – the beef.

The menu consists of just seven burgers, and four of these options are to appease odious minorities: vegetarians, chickenophiles, dieters and children. This leaves a very basic choice: to have cheese, to have bacon or to go au naturel.

Some fans of modern franchise cooking may declare this a violation of their right to choice, but fuck them. Just out of respect for God's creatures you should want to taste the beast who had its throat slit to make you fat. Mango chutney doesn't feel pain.

Moving on from such frivolity, I can inform you that from the moment the burger touches your lips, you know that this is a product of quality. Once again, the key to Byron is the simplicity and the painstaking pursuit of perfection. The beef, naturally Aberdeen Angus, is sourced from farmers in Morayshire, Scotland. It is served with basic salad in the classic soft white bun, made by a fourth-generation East End baker. In what could well be a wry homage to a

rather more well-known burger chain, a gherkin is placed on the side of the plate, thus avoiding a restaurant full of people awkwardly attempting to prize it from the bun.

The thing that must to be questioned about the restaurant is not the quality of the food, but the value for money. £6-8 may seem steep, considering sides such as fries, chips or salads have to be purchased separately.

For some reason, no doubt to do with profit, this has become standard in such establishments, yet who honestly wants to sit down and eat a beefburger with no additional carbohydrate-based accompaniment?

However, when you consider the cost of generic fast food in London today, Byron's prices do seem fairly reasonable. Their direct competitors charge slightly more and offer a vastly inferior product.

In a city where every pub serves food, and believes food to be a £10 breadcrumb-and-gristle burger hidden beneath a pile of sweet potato chips and drizzled with balsamic vinegar, Byron surprises by offering something altogether more honest.

All in all, this is a welcome new addition to the armoury of the hungry but lazy, Imperial student.

Both cheaper and superior to Black and Blue just down the road, but lacking the cosy atmosphere of the previously reviewed Caffè Forum, Byron is well worth a go. Just try and swallow any qualms you may have about eating in a burger joint named after a bisexual romantic poet.

You don't need to try and be macho: you're eating cow for God's sake.



Chicken Korma

In honour of Healthy Living Week, this version of the artery-blocking popular dish is full of protein, low in fat and really, really tasty! Don't be put off by the list of ingredients: once you buy them, they last ages as invaluable store cupboard ingredients. For example, bash cardamom pods up and infuse them with melted chocolate and milk to make a luxurious hot chocolate. Serves 2

1 onion, chopped
2.25cm ginger, peeled and roughly chopped
2 garlic cloves
150mL chicken stock
2 chicken breasts, cubed
1 cinnamon stick
5 cardamom pods
Salt and pepper
Juice of 1 lemon
150g coconut milk powder (available in supermarkets. Find it near the regular coconut milk tins)
150mL natural yoghurt

Use a hand blender to mince up the onion, ginger, garlic and stock until it is all homogenised. This is your 'curry paste'. Take a nice big pan and simmer the curry paste for 5 minutes. Add the chicken to the paste and stir well making sure the meat is covered. Cook for 5 minutes, and then add the cinnamon, cardamom, seasoning, lemon juice and coconut milk powder. Stir continuously on a medium heat for 10 minutes then add the yoghurt with 150mL water. Simmer the curry for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve with rice and any other accompaniments you fancy. Ta daa!

Rosie Grayburn



Lime Cheesecake

200g/7oz ginger biscuits
50g/2oz butter, melted
500g/18oz mascarpone
150g/6oz icing sugar
5 to 7 limes finely grated zest and juice

Crush the biscuits and mix into the melted butter. Press this into the base of an 18cm/7" spring sided or loose bottomed cake tin. Chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Grate the limes to obtain a fine zest.

Put the mascarpone, icing sugar, lime zest and juice in a bowl and beat well until a smooth texture is obtained. Spread over the biscuit base and chill for at least 30 minutes, taking it out only just before you're about to enjoy!

Natalia Jardon

What's on...

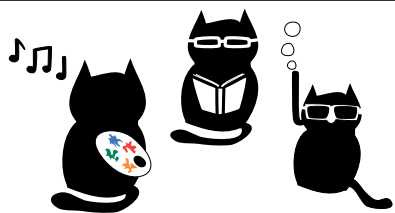
Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro



whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	<div>Get Connected</div> <p>Hindu society presents this inspirational three-part lecture series based on the teachings of Bhagavad Gita. Applicable to all faiths and ages, the talks will provide students with advice on maintaining focus and dealing with the stresses of student life.</p> <p>The lectures will be given by Brahmacharini Sumati Chaitanya, the residential teacher of Chinmaya Mission UK. Sumatiji has dedicated her life to the study and dissemination of Vedanta, the philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita and has given international seminars to students and young professionals on the application of Vedanta to modern living.</p> <p>Monday Lecture 1: Why Connect? Time: 7pm Place: Lecture Theatre 2, SAF</p> <p>Tuesday Lecture 2: How To Connect? Time: 7pm Place: Lecture Theatre 1, SAF</p> <p>Wednesday Lecture 3: Being Connected Time: 7pm Place: Lecture Theatre 1, SAF</p> <p>Admission is free and all are welcome.</p>	<div>Key</div> <div><div>Arts/Theatre/Film</div><div>Sports</div><div>Charity</div><div>Misc</div><div>Concerts/Gigs</div><div>Cultural</div></div>	
							<div>Collaborations Dinner</div> <p>Sikh Soc invite you to Collaborations – an inter-uni London Sikh Societies Dinner. All welcome, come and meet other London students.</p> <p>Time: 6:30-9:30pm Place: Foyer, SAF Price: £8</p>	<div>iCU Cinema</div> <p>Come to the Union and chill out in front of a great film with your friends!</p> <p>Film: Tropic Thunder Time: 7pm Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: Admission £3</p>	<div>Jam Night</div> <p>Jazz and Rock invites you to Jam Night. Admission is FREE and open to all. Bring yourself some beer money and your chosen instrument. It's a great way to meet like minded musicians and potentially form a band.</p> <p>Time: 7:30pm Place: dB's, Beit</p>
							<div>Acting Workshop</div> <p>Try out a free acting workshop courtesy of Dramsoc. Anyone is welcome to come – no prior experience necessary!</p> <p>Time: 2pm - 5pm Place: Union Dining Hall, Beit Price: Admission Free</p>	<div>Welcome to the first appearance of What's on.</div> <p>This will be a weekly calendar of upcoming Club & Society events and is a chance for Clubs & Societies to publicise your main events in Felix.</p> <p>What's on will cover events running from Monday-Sunday every week. If you would like to feature a Club or Society event in What's on, you will need to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Club name- Event name- High res logo and photo- Date(s) & Time- Place- Price (if applicable)- Short description of the event (max. 30 words) <p>Deadline for submissions for next week's edition is midnight on Monday 10th November. There is limited space, so all entries are subject to editorial snipping and we cannot guarantee that everybody who sends an email will feature.</p>	
							<div>Adventure Lecture</div> <p>"Life & Death on Mount Everest." Outdoor Club hosts Dr. Jeremy Windsor, leader of the Xtreme Everest 2007 expedition.</p> <p>Time: 7:30pm Place: Physics LT1, Blackett Price: Admission Free</p>	<div>Tea Party</div> <p>Come along for a drink, a biscuit and a chat with the Tea Society! Bring your friends.</p> <p>Time: 5pm Place: Lvl 8 Common Room, Blackett Price: Admission Free</p>	
							<div>iCU Cinema Double Bill</div> <p>Take advantage of this great value double showing on one of the cheapset big screens in London – it's only £5 to see both on the same night!</p> <div><div>Film: RocknRolla Time: 6pm Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: Admission £3</div><div>Film: Hellboy 2 Time: 9pm Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: Admission £3</div></div>	<div>Iraqi Exhibition</div> <p>Iraqi Society presents a celebration of its rich culture. The exhibition is an ideal opportunity for both Iraqis and non-Iraqis to learn more about Iraq, its people and its traditions.</p> <p>Time: 6pm Place: Foyer, SAF Price: Admission Free</p>	<div>Freshers' Plays</div> <p>Treat yourself to three hilarious plays written by members of Medics' Drama Society and acted out by a talented bunch of Freshers! Cheese and wine are also provided.</p> <p>Time: 7pm Place: Reynolds, Charing Cross Price: Admission £3</p>
<div>Blyth Centre Photo Exhibition</div> <p>Visit the Blyth Centre and take a look at the latest exhibition from the Imperial College Staff Photo Club. The exhibition runs until 20th November and is well worth seeing.</p> <p>Dates: 12th - 20th November Place: Blyth Gallery, Level 5 Sherfield Building Price: Admission Free</p>									



Is your club cooler than the cat that got the cream? Write to us.
felix@imperial.ac.uk

Ujaali: An evening of Raas Garba

Alice Rowlands reports on Hindu Society's annual celebration of Diwali, with photographs from Will Turner



Last Thursday, Imperial College Hindu Society welcomed over 300 people to their annual Ujaali celebration in the Great Hall, the night focused around the traditional, Raas Garba style of dancing, hailing from Gujarat in northern India, and held in celebration of Diwali- the festival of light. The Hindu Society committee kindly invited *felix* to attend and report on the evening:

Not knowing what to expect, I tottered over to the Sheffield building, camera and note book at the ready. I found the staircase and foyer outside of the Great Hall decked in colourful swathes of fabric, with strings of flowers guiding you up the stairs. Even better, there was food on sale along side some painted sticks- dandiya (which I originally took to be candles) that were in anticipation of one of the main events of the evening- the Dandiya Raas.

In preparation for Ujaali, members of the committee spent days making trips to Ikea, and hunting out sari material, in order to dress the Great Hall, the foyer and the staircase.

The Great Hall itself was dressed with colourful patterned fabrics on

the walls and focused around a murti (statue), of the gods Radha and Krishna, in the centre. The murti is centre of attention and is there to invite the gods Radha and Krishna into the event.

The evening was introduced by co-presidents Paren Chohen and Anand Pandit, with music from the Chiswick-based band Strings.

Paren talked to me about what to expect from the evening. This evening is Hindu Society's annual Ujaali celebration, for Diwali, or the festival of light (which was on Tuesday). Tonight's celebration is a folk dance, which is traditional to the Gujarati region of northern India, and a performance of dance.

The event not only attracts Hindus, but also Sikhs, Muslims and people of different faiths who come along to support and to be entertained. The event is showcase for Hindu Society and what it is about, a chance for non-members and friends of members to come and get involved and have a nice evening.

The evening began with a prayer, at the end of which we were all invited to join in the first dancing of the evening. I joined several others (mainly boys) in the shuffle sheepishly to the side of the room and hoped that no one would

notice.

Initially, the dancing was quite tentative (and mainly girls), but upon returning from a quick refreshment break, I found the Great Hall alive with people, dancing in circles around the central statue. I was pleasantly surprised to find that there were now as many boys as girls dancing and, though a lot of people were stood at the side, this was mainly so they could catch their breath before re-joining!

The informal dancing stopped briefly for those gathered to enjoy a rehearsed performance of Garba dancing, based on a traditional routine. Gaya Rajasooriar explained to me that the traditional dancing and the form of the event was based on the northern Indian, Gujarati style of celebrating Navaratri, so for many, even Indian, members of Hindu Society, the style of dancing was new to them. With this in mind, everyone was invited to be taught some simple Raas Garba steps in small groups, each lead by one of the performers, so no one had an excuse for not joining in.

A particularly special dance during the evening is performed using dandiya (painted sticks around a foot and a half long), lining up in rows, dancers hit sticks against their opposite part-

ner's. Though the dance is supposed to represent a mock fight, it also has a social element, as dancers meet lots of new people as the dance is performed.

Talking to people at the event, many had turned up due to the reputation of the event being lively and social; while others were attracted by the cultural side of the event. Nick, marketing officer for Hindu society, told *felix* "For Ujaali, everyone comes because it's a big social event, it's really nice to see everyone and have fun. Although there is spiritual significance to the evening, it's mainly a cultural event so everyone can come along, experience it and have fun." And according to Temoor Naeem, the reason the event attracts such a high turn-out is that "It's a really nice event, with lots of people, and it's easy to get involved. The evening is cultural education for everyone, not just Hindus and Indians."

Aside from being in awe of the beautiful dresses, and how nicely they move while you dance, I was pleasantly surprised to find a large event where you can have a friendly atmosphere, and where people are happy to talk and be engaging. I was particularly interested to visit a society based around a religion, finding out what it is they actu-

ally do. It would be easy to assume that a religious society is just about prayer or discussing their faith, where in reality religion is only part of Hindu society's activities. A lot of what the society provides is cultural or social, and a way to meet people who are often of a similar background. Ujaali is an excellent example of an event that can reach out to people of different faiths and backgrounds, introducing friends of members to the culture surrounding Hinduism whilst having fun.

Ujaali is Hindu Society's biggest event of the year, however the society aims to promote Hinduism via a mixture of social, cultural and religious events including:

Spiritual and philosophical talks, such as, 'Get Connected' (10th 12th November) which is a series of lectures on inspired living discussing goals, aspirations and why we are here at Imperial, from a speaker prominent in the mission.

Later this term Hindu Society will be doing charity work, going into central London with food for homeless people. As well, SEWA week next term- a week of charity events for CAREducation, who build schools in India and Africa (www.careducation.org).



Diwali- celebrating the festival of light

Kushal Shah and Raj Dawada discuss the festival of Diwali



Diwali, or Deepavali, is the festival of lights. It is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists alike. People light divas (candles) on the Hindu month of Karthika, which falls in October/November. In Hindusim, Diwali primarily marks the homecoming of Lord Rama after his 14 year banishment. However, the killing of the Narakasura and the attainment of nirvana by Lord Mahavira are just some of the other reasons for rejoicing.

Diwali is spread over the course of five days, during which many rituals are observed. For Hindus, it all begins with the cleaning of the home, putting up decorations and divas. The divas were originally used to guide Lord Rama back to the kingdom of Ayodhya as it was a dark moonless night. It is also believed to help the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, find her way into peoples' homes to bring peace and prosperity.

Like any other major festival, families come together to exchange gifts and sweets. Usually, in the UK relatives dine together and then light fireworks. On the fourth day, businessmen perform Chopra Pujan. This is to signify the closing of the old accounts and the opening of the new ones, in hope of a successful year to come.

At Imperial College, the Hindu Society hold their annual 'Ujaali' Garba to mark the event. Both Hindus and non-Hindus gather to dance and pray with their brothers and sisters. This major event in the HinduSoc calendar spreads the joy and knowledge of Diwali to everyone.

A modern take on Diwali: *Regardless of the mythological explanation one prefers, what the festival of lights really stands for today is a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a religiously sanctioned celebration of the simple, and some not so simple, joys of life - Times of India editorial.*

Opposite page: Dancers perform a traditional Garba routine, focused around the murdi. Top left: Dancers enjoying Raas Garba. Bottom left: Dancing until you're too dizzy to walk. Below right: Everyone joined in the main dance with dandiya.



Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

This week has been busy. It's been busy down in the *felix* office, it's been busy within my hall of residence, it's even been busy with my course. I certainly hope it hasn't been this busy for you. Busy people get stressed, and stressed people do bad things. Bad things lead to heart attacks. I can tell you that I am almost at that stage. If there is no Coffee Break next week then you will know why. Please tell my mother I love her. My collection of DVD's are to go to my brother, and my laptop destroyed, melted down and reformed into a statue of me.

I am afraid again there will be no Sikh MC this week. In an executive decision, he'll appear next term, and we have various ideas for the character to introduce in the third term. The FUCWIT league is going strong. I was mighty impressed with the number of entries this week. You guys obviously want to win an iPod. Why the hell not, it's all about the reader participation in *felix*. The more you enter and the quicker you submit your entry, the more points you win. What do points win you? PRIZES!!! Oh yeah. We'll announce the winner in the first issue of the spring term, so we can have the Christmas special crossword included in the first give away.

At this point I'd like to thank all of you. Not only for the interest in what is arguably the best section in any newspaper (puzzles and games. I'm not that arrogant), but I'd also like to thank you for voting for me in the recent elections. No I didn't become the president of the United States of America, but you have voted me in as your Student Trustee. Awesome stuff. Almost as awesome as the competition in the nightlife section this week. Flick on over for you chance to win a ticket to FABRIC on the 18th of November. Calvin Harris and Plump DJs will be there, and Plump DJs are just plain sick head. Only one way to describe this awesome night is by saying "BUCK WILD." Don't worry if you didn't win though. Tickets are only £12. I'm not sure if what I just wrote counts as advertising, but ah well.

The ever strong Snaky B continues his reign of terror for another week. I'll be honest with you guys, we're starting to run out of ideas. If you have any, email them in to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk and we'll be more than happy to use them. This week Snaky B is Alex McKee, who to be blunt, a lot of you guys won't know. We down here love McKee for his witty banter, legendary comments and awesome style. Don't worry if you have no clue what's going on, we'll get some one you know next week.

Photoshop Competition - 6



This weeks winner. Team Rubbish



Next weeks RAW image for you to go wild. See www.felixonline.co.uk

Congratulations to this week's winner, Team Rubbish. This is quite possibly the funniest Photoshop to date. It's got everything. Obama, the Pope., light sabers and laser eyes. Freeking sweet how the Pope's hands

are detached from his body. Nice use of effects here guys, drop shadow behind Obama is sweet. And the comic "BOOM" with the nuclear explosion head has lots of LOL factor. Keep up the good work, and please enter again.

This week's image is of our very own DPEW, Hannah Theodorou. Also included is DPCS Lily Topham. The image was taken during the last council meeting. It it just me or does it look like Hannah is on X-Factor?

The high res picture can be found online. Click on Coffee Break in the sections tab. Email your entry to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk with your team name and .PSD file and you'll be entered into the FUCWIT league.

Stuff IC Students Like!?! :)

6. Top Gear:

One of the most watched shows every year by student at Imperial College is Top Gear. Every wednesday when the new show comes out I see at least 30 people crammed in the common room watching attentively as Jeremy Clarkson waffles on about new cars, has his celebrity in the top gea reasonably priced car and sets the Stig around the Top Gear track

in a new sports car. The most enjoyable part of the well produced show being the random challenges Clarkson, Hammond and May complete every week. In the most recent episode they became lorry drivers, entertaining up with power slides, races and crashes. It's the kind of comedy more suited to adults, and apparently Imperial College students. This may be the fact student appear more mature at IC. Thusly understanding the grumpy old men and their rants.



Oh Top Gear, how we love you... I don't know why though.



I'm McKee, off to the sea!!!

Drink with me, I'm Snaky B

and this week I'm dressed as Alex McKee (this is an inside joke)

Oh hai!. It's me snaky B dressed up as the legend that is McKee. I know only about 20 of you will get this, but I'll carry on anyway. McKee up. If you couldn't ell I like sailing, my iPhone and Larger. A bit ironic that a pint of snake bite is drinking a bottle of stella, but hey i'm Alexander McKee.

I used to be a big deal when I was at university, this was probably because I was the main man of Nerve the student media hub of Bournemouth University. Now I'm the Communications and Sponsorship officer for the Union. Seems pretty relevant to me. I'm they guy who makes all the awesome posters you see, and get money for stuff. Awesomz.

When I'm not drinking or being social, I'm playing my PS3. I just got it, and it's mega. I could spend days playing Little Big Planet. McKee down.

Well this week I was dressed as Alexander McKee. Who will I be next week? I don't even know. How crazy is that? Tune in next week folks to find out.

My Goth Chick

Dr Stika
Coffee Break Poet

“A rave down by the cemetery?”
I pause and think about it
Expect some moral dilemma to
appear
But I just shout down the phone
“HELL YEAH”

I get into my car and before I know
it I’m there
Fred’s waiting in front, not that I re-
ally care
He’s a good guy, but a bit of a dick
And I’m just there to score some
goth chicks

Music is blazing, and he’s not alone
There must be 50 people dancing on
tombstones
Nah, I still don’t feel like any of this
is wrong
It’s a killer party, and I fucking love
this song

A few hours later, I’m off my face
Fred’s droppin acid, and being a dick
I’m chattin up girls, but they’re not
to my taste
What I really want is a crazy goth
chick

So we all prance round like it’s the
end of the world
Sweaty drunk boys and wasted young
girls
When suddenly I spot her from
across the crowd
“I can’t hear what you’re saying, the
music’s too loud”

That’s what she thinks, I’m just not
making sense
On my 20th shot and I’m fucked out
my head
I’m slurring and cursing but she
thinks I’m cute
“Let’s find somewhere quiet, bring
that bottle of booze”

We walk for a while, sit behind some
trees
We talk and we laugh, downin that
whiskey
She’s beautiful, I swear it’s not just
the drink
Her skin so soft and pale, the perfect
goth chick

Our eyes meet, and they get along
just fine
We start making out, havin a good
time
I take off her clothes, and she takes
off mine
Great sex on a grave just isn’t a
crime

It lasts for hours, I say she is the best
That I’ve ever had, I do not disgress
Up against that tombstone, she says
she’s in love
I bang her so hard I can’t feel my
nuts

Then all these lights shine in my
eyes
Standing there staring, 30 people or
more
And it’s at that point I realize
That I had been fucking a dead
corpse.

FUCWIT League Table

Team Turner Gobels	12 Points
Yu-Xi Chau	10 Points
Jack Wilkinson	10 Points
Giramondo	8 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	7 Points
Team Rapid Bunnyz	5 Points
Team Vader	5 Points
Team Rubbish	5Points
Jack Paget	3 Points
Team Hobo	2 Points

Right then, the Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is officially back, and it’s about time we explain what the hell is going on.

Basically, you get points for doing all the various puzzles and challenges, and at the end of the year, the winning team will win an iPod nano! Pretty cool right? The scoring is as follows:


5 points for the first correct answers for Slitherlink, Wordoku, Photoshop Competition and the even-tual Quick Crossword. 4 points for second, 3 points for third, 2 points for fourth and 1 point for fifth

Double points will be awarded for correct cryptic crossword answers, because it’s über hard.

Simple! Now then FUCWITs, send in your answers to felix@imperial.ac.uk or sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!


Horoscopes: the definitely not rushed edition

This weeks horoscopes can be found below. If that was helpful you’re an idiot.




Aquarius

This week you begin to wonder about some of life’s great questions. If no one is in the forest and a tree falls, does it make a sound? Of course it bloody does, just because you’re not there doesn’t mean there is no sound. Whadafuh!!!! What kind of mindless jibber jabba is this guy talking about, moron!




Pisces

How many roads must a man walk down before you can call him a man? What the hell are these music guys on? Think of a proper theme to your songs, instead of just putting words together that rhyme. To be fair, it looks like I’m doing the same here, but the difference is that I know I’m chatting shit!



Aries

What the hell happened to all those people who said they really wanted to write for *felix*? ‘Oh I love the horoscopes, but they get repetitive. Can I help out on them?’ Of course you can, but will you actually do it, hell no. So instead you leave it us to do them last minute and all you end up getting is waffle.




Taurus

Why the hell do we need 7000 condoms and 3000 sachets of lube? Whadafuh? How active do you really think people are here? Most of them are wasted on water bombs or put on other peoples heads to blow up with their nose! How about you get 7000 viagras first and then see what happens, even those low sex drive geeks (go to Gemini!)




Gemini

will feel something down their pants and then get scared as they wouldn’t know what to do. Yes I am feeling a bit angry, but I thought in the absence of Angry Geek this week, you guys have got me/us/them/you. If you don’t like it, deal with it, I suggest you write in your little angry rants to us to ihatefelix@imperial.ac.uk.




Cancer

“Can I sit upstairs?” the teenage girl that thinks she so special that she deserves to sit in a part of the restaurant that is not open yet.
“I’m sorry, my love, we don’t have staff upstairs, so I let you upstairs.” She seems offend, as if defeated by my completely reasonable answer. (Go to Leo for rest of it!)



Leo

After ordering and paying she says to me as-a-matter-of-factly, “Actually, I prefer to sit upstairs!”
“Honey, I prefer to be in the Bahamas with lovely girls massaging my feet, but I’m not, so table 5 is over there!” To add insult to injury, I tripped her up on the way to the table. She’ll get over it.




Virgo

In the week that Mars aligns with Uranus, your fortunes are likely to take an unfortunate tumble. In particular refrain from inserting inanimate objects in your own anus, because the perforation-likelihood index has increased by 157% in the last month. Stick to lubricated fingers instead. Just don’t forget to cut your nails first.




Libra

This week Mars comes in-line with Venus and they decide to have a dance on Jupiter as that’s the only club which can hold that much testosterone. The results will be spectacular, imaginative and not to be missed. Very much unlike giving Phil Collins a microphone, or a drum kit for that matter. Didn’t he play piano too?




Scorpio

Anyone else going through a bit of a grumpy period? Normally when people annoy me I mutter ‘twat’ and walk off, safe in the knowledge that they are infact twats. However recently I have an overwhelming urge to rip a brick out of the wall and smack them with it. Guys you’ve been warned- so watch out.



Sagittarius

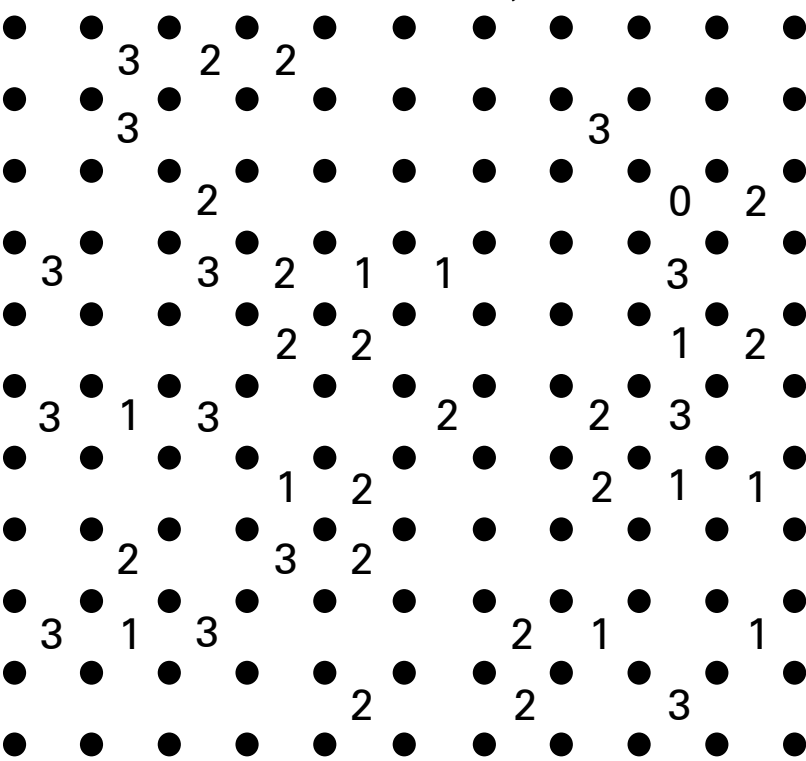
For the past few days you’ve been toying with the idea of coming to *felix* office bearing gifts such as food, beer and good looks. Much like the 3 kings. Well where the hell are you? I am pretty sure that the lack of nautral light combined with this frankly absurd diet program has curdled to give me the personality of Hannibal Lecter.



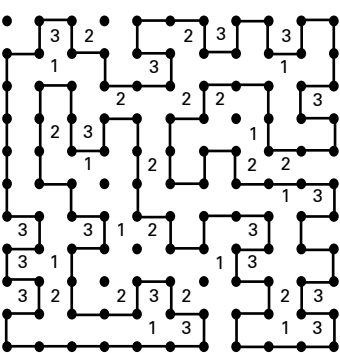
Capricorn

Its not that we choose to babble about shite here, it’s you guys. As long as you keep expectantly opening your *felix* to the Horoscopes we’ll continue to write them. If however you start to feel that the standard is dropping, please do feel free to keep your opinions to yourself, as we just couldn’t give a shit. Right all done now. Pint?

Slitherlink 1,414



1,413 solution



The winner of Slitherlink 1,413 was **Jack Wilkinson** ! Congratulations on winning two puzzles. Ninja's can't even catch you right now. Please keep entering. We'll give a prize out in the summer. It'll be good.

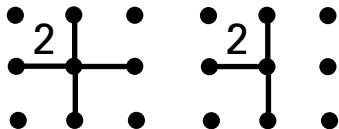
How to play:

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:

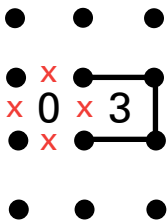


Cells which don't contain a number can be surrounded by any number of lines. Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:

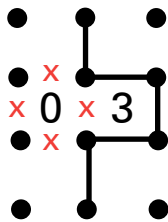


Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink. So, where do you start? The most common place to start on a Slitherlink

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:

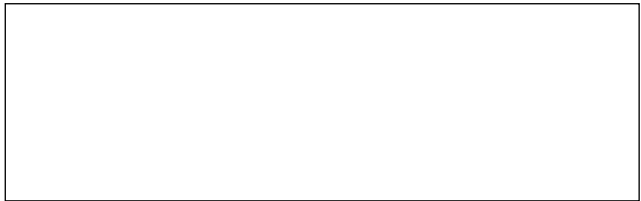


Now the lines can only continue in the following directions:



Wordoku 1,414

	S						A
		T	X		A	B	
R		A	L				U
			U			B	L
		B	S		T	U	
E	U				R		
T					X	L	B
		S	E		B	T	
B							E



1,413 Solution

A	E	D	G	L	F	R	Y	N
N	G	R	Y	D	A	L	E	F
F	L	Y	N	E	R	G	A	D
E	N	F	R	Y	G	A	D	L
G	D	L	A	F	E	Y	N	R
R	Y	A	L	N	D	E	F	G
D	A	N	E	R	L	F	G	Y
Y	R	G	F	A	N	D	L	E
L	F	E	D	G	Y	N	R	A

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**.

Woah there, we were inundated with answers last week, you lot on roids or something? Anyway the answer was DRYFLANGE, well done to Jack Wilkinson of Wilkinson Sword razor company who got his reply in just too fast.



07980 148 785

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

This week's texts:

"Are any of these texts real?"

"What was up with whadufuh?"

"I'm coming home on the weekend. Stop asking me."

"I love you."

"Dude, I just fucked my girlfriends sister. I'm totally fucked."

"Your remaining balance is £8.31"

"The answer to question 2a is 320J and 2b is 12 seconds"

"My cat is called felix, can I have some free stuff?"

"Let the cat starve"

Tamara asks: what is the actual definition of incest?



Listen to my advice, ladies

This week I wanted to start with a joke:
. "Someone asks a millionaire how he made his money
- Thanks to my wife
- ???!
- I was curious to see at what point she'd stop complaining that we don't have enough money."
After the shenanigans of ACC bar night last week and several curry nights this Wednesday, I have seen many a tired face around campus. A very good way to get rid of those eye bags is a cold tea-bag. The caffeine helps somehow. Actually drinking a strong cup of tea helps too, of course.

Dear Tamara,
I like older women and they're the only ones I seem to be able to pull and even then it's only because they think I'm from X-Factor. Help!
X-list celebrity

Dear X-list celebrity
They think you're famous (well, Z-list)? Excellent, I really can't understand why you're complaining! I often find, mainly due to my excessive amount of fake

tan and bleach-blonde hair, that people simply assume I'm famous! I don't do anything to correct this (letting them make assumptions isn't really lying!), but take advantage of the fact that being 'famous' gives people even more reason to talk to me and buy me drinks to keep me sweet! I've even been known to swing a few freebies and VIP areas while out in the clubs of West London. My advice is simply to neither confirm nor deny that you are from X-Factor, but to let them assume you are and treat you accordingly. If you feel the façade is slipping, I suggest topping up your fake tan and really work the boy-band look, so get those highlights in and stick to pale jeans and a white t-shirt and you'll be sorted. Oooh, and shades in a club always work a treat!

Dear Tamara,
I slept with a girl last week and her brother a few days later. Should I tell them or should I just shoot myself right now?
Anon

Dear Anon,
You're just greedy aren't you?! Aside

from that just being very yucky, I'm curious: who was better? Answers on a postcard, please.

Dear Tamara,
My friends all think I'm gay but I'm not. Why why why??
Novaj

Dear Novaj,
Perhaps if you stopped listening to Abba in the office and no longer wore sparkly thongs which show over the top of your jeans they would have less to base this assumption on? Also, only kiss your male friends on one cheek not both, don't stroke their thighs while giggling suggestively. Always remember, it's not gay if
- Their arse is shaved
- You use scented candles
- Your balls don't touch
- You don't push back
- If you squint

Dear Tamara,
My boyfriend is a super genius and I feel inferior in comparison. How do I get over it?
Special in my own way

Dear Special in your own way,
You could knock him on the head...

Dear Tamara,
I have no sexual feelings and as a result, I'm terrified of getting into a relationship! Is there any hope for me?
Hopeless

Dear Hopeless,
Are you sure this is an actual psychological problems or is just that the talent at Imperial is somewhat uninspiring? Try broadening your horizons to other places in London and I'm sure you'll soon find people who hit all the right buttons. However, if you do find that noone you meet makes you wake up middle of the night in wet sheets then perhaps you need to think even further afield. Animal, mineral, try it all and see what you like. Your time at university is, after all, supposed to be a time of self-discovery.

Got a problem, contact Tamara at felix@imperial.ac.uk

IC Boat Club push world champion

Imperial College at Wingfield Sculls 2008

Cristina Duffy

Olympian Mahe Drysdale edged victory in this year's Wingfield Sculls having been pushed hard over the 6.8km tideway championship course by ICBC scullers. This is an incredible endurance test where racers all start together regatta style, but have to maintain power and technique over the entire head race course. The eerie stillness and crisp cold air felt along Putney Embankment was reflective of the mood in anticipation of this race for the title of amateur sculling Champion of the Thames and Great Britain. Dating back to 1830 this race is one of the most physical and mental challenges a sculler can face and only a select few compete each year. ICBC, the home of tideway rowing, accounted for three of the five entries.

The final line-up was immense:

Mahe Drysdale of New Zealand representing Tideway Scullers, a three time World Champion just returned from the Olympics. Drysdale's steely determination won him a bronze medal in Beijing despite suffering badly from an infection throughout the race and needing to be carried via a life raft out of his boat.

Richard Ockendon of Molesey BC, GB trialist and winner of the S1 4x- at four's head of the river race in 2005 with this year's Olympic gold medallist Andy Triggs Hodge.

3 of ICBC's elite scullers: Simon Hislop, Adam Freeman-Pask and George Whittaker. Hislop and Whittaker were winning crewmates in this year's Visitor's Challenge Cup at Henley while Hislop and Freeman-Pask were winner's of the Pair's Head a few weeks ago. Whittaker was also last year's sculler's head of the river winner while Freeman-Pask raced for GB at the Senior World Championships at Linz over the summer. It was set-up to be an epic showdown and did not disappoint.

Tension mounted with some brief warm-up sprints from the competitors and soon it was almost time for combat. The 5 racers positioned themselves in nervous anticipation of the start call. Like lambs to the slaughter, there

was no helping them now. Without delay attention was called and silence fell across the river. Steering launches awaited facing their racers. Blade to blade and man to man, this is the stuff of legends. The gentle ebb of the tide-way bobbed the scullers as they came forward to frontstops, hearts pounding. Onlookers watched with bated breath, fingers anxiously hovering over camera shutter buttons. GO!

The peaceful serenity was shattered. The five scullers blasted off unleashing all the energy their last minute cereal bars had provided. Engines roared as launches took-off after the racers and streams of v-shaped wash spread behind. Thus began what would be over 20 minutes of intense wrestling against each other, against the overwhelming feeling of muscle ache and against the most unpredictable of all: mother nature. But Imperial was well prepared for all these potential saboteurs and took the early lead with Freeman-Pask squeezing in front.

There was little between all five competitors for the first 100 metres but eventually Drysdale settled into a steady rhythm and slipped into pole position.

All racers took the inside line on the Surrey side bar Ockendon who kept wide for a good part of the course. The Surrey four stuck close in the initial stages causing much hand waving from the steering launches attempting to prevent clashes between boats. Through Hammersmith Bridge the field had spread with Drysdale still maintaining his lead but being chased down by Freeman-Pask and Whittaker. A break in the clouds past Barnes Bridge sent sharp sunlight down on the sculler's backs making racing lines difficult to determine against the glare.

In the closing stages Drysdale was clinging to his lead as Whittaker strengthened for the finish gaining water on each stroke as they approached Chiswick Bridge. With the gruelling race nearly at an end the 5 racers emptied what was left in the tanks and gallantly sprinted for home. The finishing order remained the order that was held throughout the majority of the

race with Drysdale winning in 21:14, Whittaker second in 21:22 and Freeman-Pask third in 21:34. With the line crossed there was little celebration as pure exhaustion consumed the racers who gave a terrific performance on the day. This year's GB Olympic bronze medallist Elise Laverick made the presentations to Drysdale, as well as to Sophie Hosking (London RC) who won the women's race in 22:05.

Imperial's performance is a testament to the commitment coaches Steve Trapmore and Stuart Whitelaw have shown to the three scullers in preparation for the racing season. Whittaker's performance was particularly exceptional giving nothing to Drysdale who had to fight hard to keep the lead throughout.

ICBC will have crews participating in the Four's Head of the River Race next Saturday 8th November over the same course but beginning in Mortlake and ending in Putney. This is a spectacular event with over 500 boats passing over the course from 10:30am. All support is welcome with vantage points at Hammersmith Bridge and Putney Embankment recommended.

Finishing order: Mahe Drysdale [Tideway Sculler's] (21:14), George Whittaker [ICBC] (21:22), Adam Freeman-Pask [ICBC] (21:34), Richard Ockendon [Molesley] (21:42), Simon Hislop [ICBC] (21:52).



Drysdale is pushed by 3 ICBC scullers

Outdoor club's final stages...

Continued from back page

Stage 6, 25km unfortunately began for me where stage 5 had finished thanks mostly to lack of sleep due to sleeping on sprung sports-hall floors and too many 5am starts. It was, however, the team's best race in the competition; we finished 4th mixed pair, 26 seconds behind second place in the mixed category, and came in before the leading women's team. Neil enjoyed the mist because it wasn't sunshine, and I only got up the one continuous 1922m climb relying on Neil's encouragement and my own mild hysteria. I suddenly became a convert to sports massages after this stage.

The team discovered on the morning of stage 7 that the marathon-length and 2788m climb stage race that was the planned route had been turned into plan B because storms were expected in the afternoon. These storms never appeared but the organisers were justifiably taking no risks (since the end of the TAR this year there has been a mountain-running race in Germany where a sudden blizzard caused

several deaths). The team was counting the big climbs to go until the end of stage 8 but still appreciating the fantastic scenery the route went through in the Sud-Tirol.

The 8th stage was 34km and 2120m ascent through the Dolomites. After two major climbs on scree, it included 5km of high-level running at 2400m skirting around the Tre Cime before the last descent into Sesto. Neil's Achilles' tendon pain made sure the last stage was not easy going, but the team placed 8th, coming in well over the required 5 minutes ahead of their closest rivals in the overall ranking, which gave them a final position of 7th.

Team Imperial College London would like to thank the Imperial College Trust for their grant to help the team cover entry costs, High5 (www.highfive.co.uk) for their discounts on sports nutrition, and the ICU Outdoor Club for a contribution from the Competition Entry fund. If you would like to take part in events like this one, either in the UK or overseas contact outdoor@ic.ac.uk and get involved.



Brighton frolics

ICHC warm up Freshers on chilly coast

Jack Cornish

£25 tour! An amazing idea that originated from the Golden Era of ICHC when Mary Williamson (Spanner) ruled the nest of hockey legends. Freshers Tour was born has been an integral part of the ICHC experience since.

Maria Parkes (Dominator) was in charge and had recruited well with equal amounts of freshers and oldies attending the weekend. Allowing time for masks and drinking on the Friday night at the Ball, the club left at 10am from the union. With banter galore from the night before and awesome tunes from MC Date.R. the journey down to Brighton was more entertaining than the time Jon Lander (Toad-Fish) projectile vomited into a bin outside Belushi's - it was then he lost his 100% record at the Christmas Dinner!

On arrival at the sea the team enjoyed fish and chips as well as the joys of loosing £5 in five minutes at the slot machines. No matter, we played hockey and met with El Presidente, Mark Robertson (Tranny to some). Son Lucas blessed us with his Jedi powers before we hit the town for food and drink - very civilised. The night was danced away in a club that had the class of a first date in the Prince Regent followed by a snog and a snuggle. Nice!

Sleep was very much needed for the all important game on our way home. In ICHC tradition we won scoring almost as many times as Dr. Harold had last week. Senior members drank until the late hours of the night back at the union. Special mention to Prince Charlie and her other half, but the winner of the weekend must be Dominator. What is your middle name?



El Presidente, Nugget and Hon Sec party on!

RSM footballers overcome early setbacks to end year long drought

Football	
RSM Men's 1st XI	5
Goldsmiths 3rd XI	0

Steve Meunier

Things looked to be on the up for the RSM last Wednesday when the team fought back from 2-0 down to 2-2 but a series of injuries and a lack of subs left us open to concede a late third and go down 3-2.

So when the 11 men turned up on Saturday to face Goldsmiths on a wet and windy afternoon, confidence was far from flowing. The late running of the opposition raised a few half jokes about a walkover but it wasn't to be.

The game started with a good spell of pressure from the RSM and some good defending containing Goldsmiths attempts to break. The RSM midfield dominated possession and chances were created and it was left winger Matt Bell who rounded his man and got a great cross to the back post where first year James Tolley was on hand to nod home from close range. The second was quick to follow when the Goldsmiths goalkeeper, who was struggling against the wind, failed to clear from the edge of his box and some quick thinking from Ben Bell on the right saw the ball lob the keepers.

RSM were now controlling the play with the back line making life difficult for the goldsmiths forwards.

But RSM weren't finished yet and another good passage of play combining the central and left midfielders ended in a good near post finish to give Tolley his second. At 3-0 there was a nervous

confidence starting to settle in with the captain keeping the lines, and this was further pressed 10 minutes from half time when RSM old boy Nic English was on hand to scream home a great strike from outside the box.

The half time team talk was a warning of the wind and as expected Goldsmiths started the second half brightly. RSM then delivered the killer blow on the break when on-loan midfielder Jon M finished well after Goldsmiths failed to clear their lines. With time ticking down, a dejected Goldsmiths became more and more frustrated at their inability to break down the RSM defence, and on the rare occasion when they

got their chance, keeper Baker was on hand to prevent any goals going in. The late subs of the Puente De La Vega brothers gave the team an injection of energy for the last 15 minutes. As time ran down the pressure was on but except a last ditch tackle from Jon, RSM never looked like slipping up.

The final whistle went to the sound of cheers from the RSM players who find themselves having taken 4 points from 6 games against the top 6 in the league. With the teams around us still to play and being only 3 points off fourth place this team has plenty of time to turn the previous form into a good run and move up the table.




The Miners battle hard against Goldsmiths to earn a deserved victory



Fixtures & Results

in association with *Sports Partnership*



Saturday 1st November

Football

Men's 1s ULU 2-2 UCL 2s ULU
Men's 3s ULU 5-0 Queen Mary 2s ULU
Men's 4s ULU 2-0 UCL 6s ULU
Men's 5s ULU 1-1 RVC 1s ULU
Men's 6s ULU 1-5 Goldsmiths 2s ULU

Sunday 2nd November

Basketball

Women's 1s 40-65 Royal Holloway 1s ULU

Football

Women's 1s ULU 1-8 LSE 1s ULU

Ice Hockey

Imperial Devils 4-1 Bristol Lions

Monday 3rd November

Netball

Women's 3s ULU 23-9 LSE 5s ULU

Volleyball

Mixed 1s ULU 3-0 Goldsmiths 1s ULU

Wednesday 5th November

Badminton

Men's 1st 7-1 LSE 1st

Fencing

Men's 2nd 132-73 Uni of Portsmouth 1st

Football

Men's 1st 0-3 St Mary's University College 3rd
Men's 3rd 0-1 University Campus Suffolk 1st
Women's 1st 1-11 University of Reading 1st
Men's 4s ULU 3-0 RUMS 2s ULU

Hockey

Men's 1st 5-1 St Barts 1st
Men's 2nd 2-4 University of East London 1st
Men's 4th 2-2 Brunel University 3rd
Women's 1st 1-5 University of Chichester 1st
Women's 2nd 0-4 Royal Holloway 2nd

Lacrosse

Women's 1st 18-3 University of Portsmouth 1st

Netball

Women's 2nd 46-24 Roehampton University 2nd

Rugby

Men's 1st 19-31 Imperial Medicals 1st
Men's 2nd 14-7 Royal Veterinary College 1st
Men's 3rd 53-8 King's College, London 2nd
Men's 4th vs St George's 2nd
Women's 1st 0-80 University of Hertfordshire 1st

Squash

Men's 1st 4-1 University of Surrey 1st
Men's 2nd 1-4 LSE 1st
Men's 3rd 0-3 London Metropolitan 1st
Women's 1st 0-4 LSE 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st 8-6 Brunel University 1sts

Tennis

Men's 2nd 2-8 Brunel University 1st
Women's 1st 0-10 Brunel University 1st

Volleyball

Women's 2nd 3-1 LSE 1st

Saturday 8th November

Football

Men's 2s ULU vs UCL 1s ULU
Men's 3s ULU vs Goldsmiths 1s ULU
Men's 4s ULU vs LSE 4s ULU
Men's 5s ULU vs UCL 5s ULU
Men's 6s ULU vs King's Medicals 4s ULU
Men's 7s ULU vs RSM 1s ULU

Ice Hockey

Imperial Devils vs ULU Dragons

Sunday 9th November

Badminton

Women's 1st vs LSE 1st
Mixed 1s ULU vs Royal Holloway ULU

Volleyball

Tournament

Men's 1st vs University of Kent 1st
Men's 1st vs University of Reading 1st
Men's 1st vs University of Essex 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Kent 1st
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

Monday 10th November

Badminton

Mixed 1s ULU vs Imperial Medicals 1s ULU

Basketball

Men's 1s ULU vs King's College 1st
Men's 2nd ULU vs Goldsmiths 1s ULU
Women's 1s ULU vs King's College 1s ULU

Netball

Women's 1s ULU vs UCL 2s ULU
Women's 3s ULU vs Imperial Medicals 2s ULU

Squash

Men's 1s ULU vs St George's Medicals 1s ULU
Men's 2s ULU vs King's College 1s ULU
Men's 3s ULU vs LSE 2s ULU

Water Polo

Mixed 1st ULU vs King's College 1st ULU

Wednesday 10th November

Badminton

Men's 1st vs Brunel University 1st
Men's 2nd vs University of Hertfordshire 2nd
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

Basketball

Men's 1st vs St George's Medicals 1st
Women's 1st vs St George's Medicals 1st

Fencing

Men's 1st vs University of Reading 1st
Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 1st

Football

Men's 1st vs University of Chichester 2nd
Men's 2nd vs RUMS 1s
Women's 1st vs Middlesex University 1st
Men's 5s ULU vs LSE 4s ULU
Men's 6s ULU vs Imperial Medicals 3s ULU
Men's 7s ULU vs King's College, Men's 6s ULU

Hockey

Men's 1st vs Imperial Medicals Men's 1s
Men's 2nd vs University of Kent 3rd
Men's 3rd vs University of Surrey Men's 2nd
Men's 4th vs University of Portsmouth 5th
Women's 1st vs Kingston University 1st
Women's 2nd vs Imperial Medicals 2nd

Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs Royal Holloway Men's 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Brighton 1st

Netball

Women's 1st vs King's Medicals 1st
Women's 2nd vs St George's Medicals 3rd
Women's 3rd vs Uni of the Arts London 2nd

Rugby

Men's 1st vs Swansea University 1st
Men's 2nd vs LSE 1st
Men's 3rd vs University of Chichester 2nd
Men's 4th vs University of Hertfordshire 2nd

Squash

Men's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st
Men's 2nd vs King's College 2nd
Men's 3rd vs City University London 1st
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st vs Middlesex University 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Brighton 1st

Tennis

Men's 1st vs Imperial College 2nd
Men's 2nd vs Imperial College 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st

Volleyball

Men's 1st vs University College London Men's 1st

Goal (t)rout!

ICUAFC’s flagship team put 7 past Uni’s Medway, a team mistakenly feared

Football	L'ORÉAL
BUCS Cup	PARIS
Imperial Men's 1st XI	7
Uni at Medway 1st XI	1

Mustapher Botchway

The day pecan with the 1st XI (h) erring on the side of caution on their hen-counter with the Universities at Medway. Said university are a gnu side and thus had bee-n made to start from league 7A, where the 3rd XI reside. Girrafe-ter Medway beat them with a resounding 11-1 victory, coupled with the rumours that various members of their squad had been recently released from clubs as big as QPR and Charlton, it would have been foal-ish if we mon-key-ed around with this fixture.

Jokes aside, Captain Donovan delivered an empha-tick team talk that im-plored us to take control (Troll isn't an animal) of the game whale-st still giving Medway the respect they deserved.

After a shaky ini-seal 2 minutes where lackadaisical attempts to clear the ball forced a smart save from Mustapher Botchway, the 1st XI woke up. The defenders made a mare of the long throw by Michael Donovan (or Maradono or Donaldinho as he likes to be called), which raced onto Leslie Eshun who squared it to Irv Howson to stick it in the back of the newt.

We relaxed at this point, knowing that goals could come aplenty. Medway showed their class, especially in the middle of the pitch where the central midfielder and the two wingers combined well with some nifty back h-eels and testing balls. Peter New, a fresher to the club and university dealt with these threats with ease and composure, much akin to the manner he has fulfilled the role of centre half, previously held by last year's 1st XI captain.

Will Swain won a corner and delivered a peach of a ball where Eshun rose

like a salmon and headed it in to make it 2-0 with 20 minutes bear-ly played.

After an-otter good spell of possession, Samuel Rickards released a (f) inch per-ferret through ball for Dion Benincasa to latch on and coolly finish to make it 3 goals to IC and jackal to Medway at the halftime whistle.

During the break, 1st XI stalwart Ed Martins reite-rat-ed that Medway were not a bad side and that though we were playing excellently, they were definitely going to come back into the game. He further advised that we may have to swallow our pride and play cautiously for the first 5-10 minutes.

2 minutes into the second half, Swan turned provider again, knocking the ball past the Medway defender, for Eshun to slip in and slot it past the goalkeeper, to make it 4 goals in 5 games for the cheetah like club fresher.

What punished Medway was their wingers, though very comfortable with the ball, were playing too deep in our half and when we broke on the counter attack, we could utilise both the full backs and wingers to produce goals.

This happened in unorthodox fashion when on one of the breaks, Samule was felled. Martins produced a cross field ball from the free kick which landed on a plate to the unmarked Donovan-Nistelrooy to head in.

Hopes of a clean sheet were dashed after a speculative shot from the Medway midfielder was intercepted by McMullen who then scored an own goal.

McMullen responded in true fashion 5 minutes later by running half the pitch, past 4 Medway players. Botchway's shouts of 'GOPHER IT' we responded well, where the man-drill-ed it to the bottom right corner.

'Lanky' Swain rounded off a perfect day at Harlington with a clinical header after a cross from de Figueiredo.

Brownie points to those who can number the animals in the article. Mail sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk for a chance. Bonus points if you can name them!

IC 2nd XI advance in Cup

Football	L'ORÉAL
BUCS Cup	PARIS
IC Men's 2nd XI	3
Roehampton 2nd XI	1
(A.E.T)	

Damian Phelan

The 2nd XI travelled to Roehampton last Wednesday to tackle their 2nd team in an epic encounter in the first round of the BUCS cup. Roehampton, described as the 'pits', was always going to be a tough place to come away from with a win but after a period of extra time that threatened to be halted by darkness, the 2nd's managed to progress with a thrilling 3-1win.

We began the first half with a display of champagne football. After an early scare, in which a Roehampton winger cut in from the left and flashed a shot across goal which scraped the crossbar of keeper Dicko's goal, we began to dominate affairs. The energetic central midfield pairing of Richie and Gregor stamped their authority on the game and patrolled the centre of the pitch releasing the threatening wingers Jon Hill and Tom Neisser while Jon Card at right back also roamed up the touchline threatening the opposition's defence. Fittingly it was a Card throw-in which led to the opening goal as he

launched a Rory Delap-like missile into the box which was headed out by Zeus, the Roehampton centre back, only for Richie to latch onto the dropping ball, scoring with the sweetest of volleys. This was precisely the catalyst IC needed to push on. The forward pairing of Damian and Sim began to terrorise the Roehampton defence. Sim, with his lightning pace, and Damian with some intelligent running and neat interplay with both Richie and Gregor managed to create several unconverted opportunities. As the referee blew the whistle for half-time IC were leading 1-0 but were well aware that they could well rue those wasted opportunities.

At the beginning of the second half we seemed to be distracted with the knowledge of those missed chances. Roehampton seized the upper hand in the game and momentum shifted in their favour. Their direct style was difficult to cope with but the IC back four remained strong with Scott Mackenzie, Daniel Southcott, Card and Fern all proving strong in the tackle and in the air. IC always looked threatening on the counter attack but Roehampton continued to play a high pressure game pumping the ball to their large centre forward and playing long diagonal balls which were tricky to cope with. The bruising nature of the game took its toll when Mitch was badly injured go-

ing over on his ankle. The defence was re-jigged with Jon Hill taking over at centre back but the ensuing confusion led to an equaliser when a long through ball found a Roehampton midfielder in what looked to be an offside position but he played on and coolly slotted the ball into to the back of the net. At 1-1 with 15 minutes left both sides knew that another goal would almost certainly guarantee progression to the next round. The two IC substitutes on the wings, Viktor and Romain, began to use their fresh legs to good effect stretching the Roehampton full backs, Viktor even calling the goalkeeper into action with a stinging effort from a tight angle. However it was home side who posed the greatest threat putting Dicko under severe pressure, which was handled effectively. His efforts in the final 10 minutes of normal time kept the game square with several point blank saves and some courageous handling from the plethora of crosses and set pieces that were thrown at him. A slice of luck was also required to keep IC in the tie as a Roehampton effort right at the death cannoned of the crossbar.

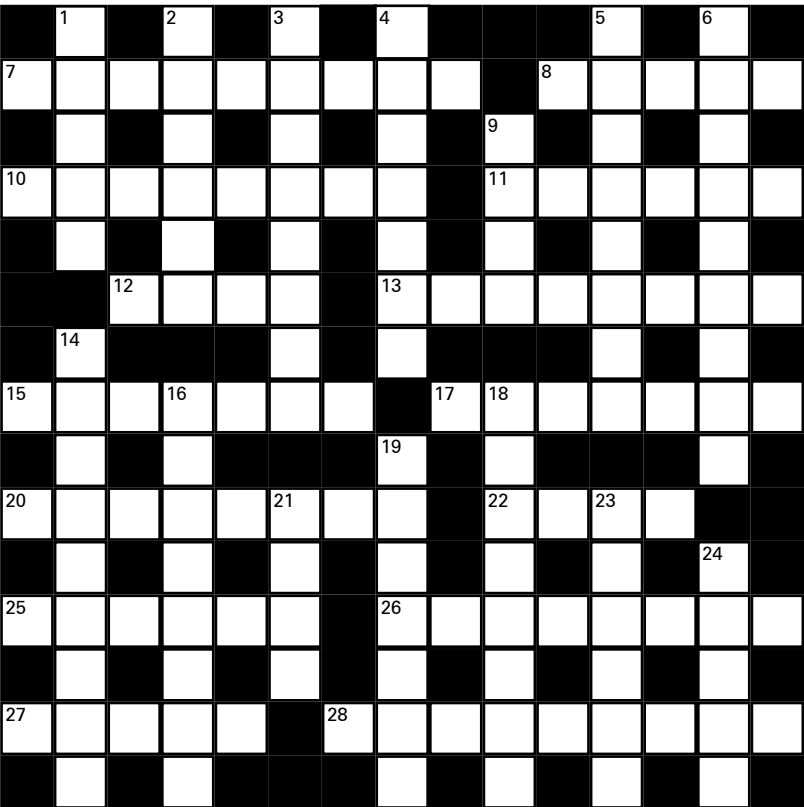
A sense of relief accompanied the whistle for the end of 90 minutes. The referee announced a 14 minute period of extra time much to the astonishment of both sets of players but it was Imperial who started extra time with the greater sense of urgency and immediately set about putting the opposition under the cosh. The pressure soon turned to a goal as Viktor made an incisive break down the right and fed a ball into Damian whose shot ping-ponged about and finally fell to Sim who tucked it away from no more than 6 yards out. The onslaught from Roehampton was inevitable but once again they found Dicko in unbeatable form. He made save after save and shocked the Roehampton crowd with his tigon-like reflexes. The home side were deflated, a fact which showed itself as Gregor stole the ball from a Roehampton full back and proceeded to slam it home past the goalkeeper. The final whistle sounded not long after as the Imperial 2nd XI returned back to the bus and S.Ken with a place in the second round secured.



IC 2nd XI battling hard in one of their tense games, last year

Crossword No. 1,414

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



ACROSS

- 7 Can't get any sleep: in initial state of mind to raise cain (9)
- 8 Characteristic of playing the dulcimer with the first five inversions (5)
- 10 Can survive the peripheral damage caused by time (8)
- 11 Abortion without an alteration set down the rules of artificial intelligence (1,5)
- 12 Information comes before writer, paper and letters (4)
- 13 Unexpectedly, a war sprung up in the border regions of the United Arab Emirates (8)
- 15 Swiss town where physics lab is in ill-use, even (7)
- 17 Characteristic of opening songs, closing numbers and lively rhapsodies salvaged from trio with no leader (1-6)
- 20 Cruel New York City makes you shout for mercy (3,5)
- 22 Eager for a video to show(4)
- 25 A small group of military personnel explain something with great accuracy (6)
- 26 Or if I inverse a trigonometric

- function, I see openings (8)
- 27 Anaesthetic distributed around the casualty ward (5)
- 28 Melting of Eastern glaciers as profane calumnies (9)

DOWN

- 1 Attack on tennis score (5)
- 2 David Robert Jones has leading taste in neckwear (6)
- 3 Starts roaming in the Andes. English author of fairy tales (8)
- 4 Mass Europeans held for manual worker (7)
- 5 Robots heard you split the atom at a (8)
- 6 Lost his wife, expressing pain in comparative depth (7)
- 9 No longer circulated by twisted liar (4)
- 14 Inert compounds in nuts provide vital amounts of energy (9)
- 16 Male duet that has since broken up imitated the style (8)
- 18 A person from Barcelona and Paris gets the travelling bug (8)
- 19 Group of women return on raising, between them, temple

Once more. With feeling.

Enoch

- decoration (7)
- 21 Campaign to eliminate the relevant parts of recurring hallucinations (4)
- 23 Coming down to make a point in the winter, this university comes first and second on the French (6)
- 24 A farmyard noise about to appear around everyone (5)



RSM win?!

Mining football hits a two year high, see page 38



**Jack Cornish &
Mustapher Botchway**
Sports Editors

So it is nearly time to start ranking the teams against each other, but we will wait and keep you on tenterhooks for a few more weeks.

You may see a reverse from last year however with recently promoted teams struggling and those that have dropped down a league storming through. This raises the question, can we sustain our position as 22nd best sporting university in the country, with promoted teams taking a battering week in week out? Is there enough investment and support to keep us there? Alternatively is it solely due to the fact we are a geek's university, and the geek population usually struggle in those cold, wet PE lessons with the power hungry

teacher. This is not only a rant, but an informed rant. The reason we pose such questions is because from speaking to captains from teams playing in BUCS, the opinion gathered is that other universities, with not necessarily more quality than us are grinding out results. Though we digress. More on that in the next few weeks... watch this space!

Our next question is 'are you Healthy' (capital h required)? We are approaching the end of healthy living week where a host of activities and demonstrations have kept us entertained courtesy of the union and Sport Imperial. However the majority of us are less concerned about body pump class at Ethos and are in the union bar planning a Friday night on the town to consume obscene amounts of alcohol followed by a greasy kebab. My point is this: Is the sporting atmosphere of 'play hard, drink hard' any more healthy than the 'work hard, work hard, work hard' ethos whereby you sit in front of a computer each day doing no more activity than skulking to the toilet each hour?

Rant over... generally sports are doing well as you can see from all the reports sent in. We are sure they will be celebrating with a gooseberry smoothie while debating their league position.

Imperial College at the Gore-tex transalpine run

Neil Dowse & Hilary Dyer

The Gore-tex transalpine run is an eight day ultra-marathon stage race across the German, Austrian and Italian alps consisting of 300km of technical trail featuring over 14000m of height gain. For some reason I had entered it... again.

The first day was not intended to break the competitors in gently. It's almost marathon distance of 37.7km and 1200m of elevation gain was about equivalent to anything I'd ever run before. Despite this, it went smoothly to begin with, until we reached the first hill and most people lessened their pace, except Hilary, my partner. I could see my week was going to be difficult. As we reached the final checkpoint of the day, my exertion showed dramatically as I collapsed with cramp. The tough pace and the blistering heat had taken its toll. The race support team however, were quick to put me in the shade and start stretching my legs for me (I felt like a proper athlete

and everything)! With minor delay we were back on the trail and heading to the end of day one. We finished 16th with a time of 4:28 and discovered that over 60 teams had entered the mixed category – a large increase on last year. I was pleased but we both wanted to do better.

Day two was the longest day of the event, and something we had been concerned about since the route had been published months before. It featured 48.5km (30.3 mi) and nearly 3km of elevation gain. The day was hot again, and the previous day's exertions had not been forgotten. To cut a story short, half of this day involved me being force-marched by the shouting Sergeant Major Hilary Dyer and wouldn't rank in my top 10 days ever, but easily scores highly for memorability. However, many teams found the day difficult and we finished 13th with a time of 7:56 and a feeling that we might be through the worst.

The third day demonstrated some

compassion from the organisers as the short 27.6km (17.2mi) and only 1504m of elevation would allow the competitors to recover. Despite still feeling the effects of the previous day, we fought on to finish 14th with a time of 3:59.

On the morning of the fourth day I began to feel better. The previous day's recovery had helped and I felt like my resting pulse rate was actually back below 200. The stage had 46km and 2051m of elevation waiting for us but for the first time, I felt confident I could do it. This confidence turned out to be well placed as I enjoyed the day's race, even getting to play the 'encourager' for a section instead of being encouraged. The day finished well as we were placed 8th to our mild disbelief finishing in a time of 5:37. I shall let Hilary finish the story:

The fifth stage had only 1500m climb to allow a little recovery from stage 4. The day began with 22km downhill along the Prettau valley, run predictably fast, and then one steep climb up to a ski station. The long, winding forest track at the top of the climb played havoc with our tired mental state as it seemed to go on forever, and the race finished with a fast zig-zag descent through forest into Sand-in-Taufers.

Continued on page 37