

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

The Epic Fail Edition

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It's back baby!**



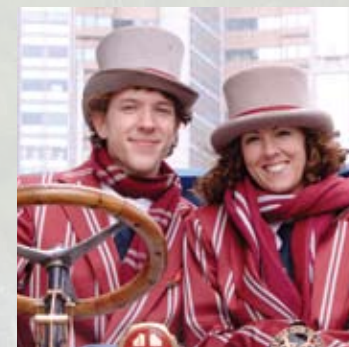
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News

News Editor – Kadhim Shubber

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NUS vote for reform again

Ashley Brown
Live! reporter

This afternoon the NUS was once again attempting to reform itself, at an extraordinary conference in Wolverhampton. In contrast to last year's extraordinary conference, it appears to have been a very civilised affair, although a number of changes went through. Conference eventually voted in favour of the revised reform proposals by 614 votes to 142, easily meeting the 2/3 majority needed to change the constitution.

The decision must be ratified at a second conference, either a further Extraordinary Conference or at Annual Conference in April. In either case, Imperial will play no further part in the process due to our disaffiliation.

The reforms originally eased the requirements for delegates to Annual Conference to be elected by cross-campus ballot, however this has been

reversed. Proposals to allow elected officers - who typically receive many times the number of votes of NUS delegates - to automatically qualify for conference failed to pass.

The controversial Trustee Board remains intact, with the Black Students campaign failing in its attempt to have an automatic seat for all liberation campaigns on the supposedly apolitical board. The board's function is to ensure the NUS remains financially viable and acts within the law, which led to concerns that it could simply throw out anything it did not like. This was clarified, with the Annual Conference able to refer items back to the Trustee Board if it disagrees with their decision. A proposal to remove external trustees was also defeated, meaning the 'safety net' committee will be recruiting from outside the student movement.

Attempts by far left groups to kill off the talk of reform once and for all were rejected again, along with a number

of other amendments. A proposal to force conference delegations to be 50% female was thrown out - the amendment noted that over 50% of students are women, but the same does not apply to conference delegations. It should be noted that despite Imperial's gender imbalance, the last conference delegation was almost a 50/50 split.

One other amendment of note aimed to stop ratification of the reforms occurring at a second extraordinary conference, instead requiring that the Annual Conference be the one to approve the changes. However, this was also rejected, fuelling speculation that reforms will be 'forced through' by holding an additional extraordinary conference, for which delegates do not need to be selected by cross-campus ballot.

Reports from Imperial's delegates indicate it was a civilised affair, and the margin by which the reforms passed is more convincing than the last attempt.

Universities to be restructured?

Governments calls for reports on the current state of higher education in the United Kingdom

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Universities face the prospect of radical changes after a review ordered by the Government. In his report, Paul Ramsden, chief executive of the Higher Education Academy, said that universities should no longer class degrees as firsts, 2:1s, 2:2s or thirds. Instead they should issue report cards.

"The present system of classification was designed for a smaller higher education world," he said. "It does not describe the range of knowledge, skills, experience and attributes of a graduate in the 21st century."

"It reduces the complexity of a graduate's performance to a single category. And it is not reliable across different subject areas."

In another report, Drummond Bone, Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University, said that British universities faced growing competition abroad, and that the credit crunch had made distance learning programmes more popular. "The figures for a massive increase in international education are no longer tenable," he said. "The last 13 years have seen an extraordinary expansion of global trade and an extremely benign financial environment, neither of which can be relied upon in the future."

Professor Bone said that universities needed to broaden their perspective on overseas work, perhaps by building campuses abroad. This is an area in which US universities have been active, particularly in the Middle East.

Imperial College have already set-up several overseas partnerships, one of which was reported in last week's issue of felix (Issue 1,414).

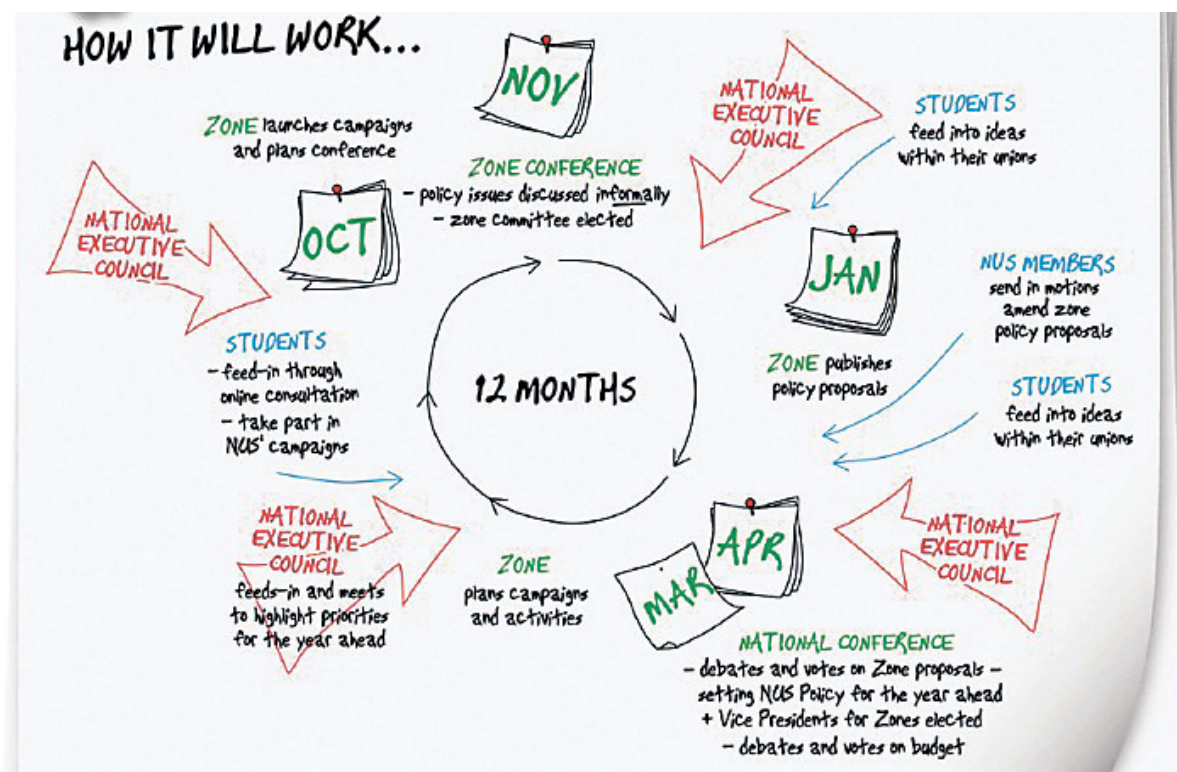
A report by Universities UK, which represents vice-chancellors said: "It is simply naive to suppose that UK universities can operate effectively and compete with emerging global giants while funding remains at about one third of US levels. By 2023, a significant proportion of higher education may be delivered by further education colleges, private and international providers. The challenge for institutions will be to ensure that the UK retains its reputation for quality and excellence, and that diversity and differentiation do not lead to incoherence within the sector."

Predicted demographic changes over the next decade should prompt fairer policies for part-time students, it said, as there will be fewer full-time, teenage undergraduates.

One of the key points from the report were that more postgraduate scholarships are needed to stop the "brain drain", by which they mean that would like to prevent students moving away from academia.

The reviews outline that there clearly is a problem with the current state of higher education in the United Kingdom. These problems have also been outlined by the Minister for Higher Education, David Lammy (Issue 1,413). Imperial College have also recognised that the current state is not ideal, and it was announced by Sir Roy Anderson that Imperial would be introducing new entrance exams by 2010.

Earlier this year, second year students took part in a trial run of the exams that the new students would have to take, however feedback from the tests have so far been negative. felix will report back on the full story in the near future.



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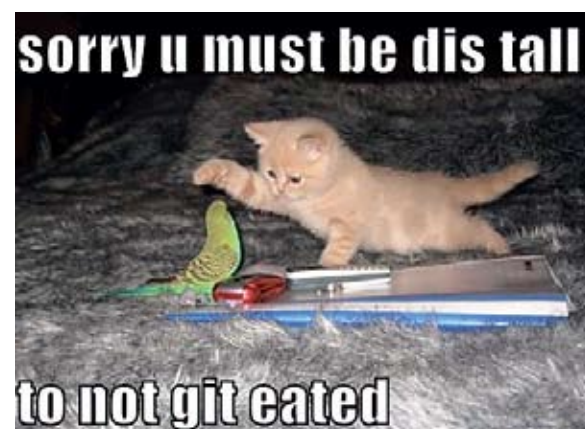
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LOLETS



OF THE WEEK

Imperial Canoe Club to the rescue

IC Canoe Club aid canoeist stranded on a rock above a waterfall whilst attempting to recover his canoe

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Members of Imperial College Union Canoe Club were involved in the rescue of a canoeist from a Snowdonian river last Sunday. The individual was swept down the river before he managed to climb onto a rock just before Conwy Falls, near Betws y Coed, Gwynedd.

The individual in question was canoeing earlier that day with ICU Canoe Club, but is not a member of Imperial. IC Canoe Club were on their weekend trip with a large cohort of beginners in Wales, with the aim of the event being to introduce them to the basics of canoeing.

The River Conwy can effectively be split up into three separate sections, each of varying difficulty. The first section of the river is described as very easy, with the next two sections getting progressively harder. The final stretch of the river is considered a grade 5 and should only be attempted by very experienced canoeists.

rienced canoeists.

It was as ICU Canoe Club were getting ready to tackle the water that they bumped into the individual who turned out to be a friend of one of the members. The individual, age 20, joined the group as they went down the river, however since the group was full of a lot of beginners, it took longer than expected and the individual went on the do the next section alone, which is considered to be unwise, as he had to meet a friend.

With all the beginners safely taken out of their boats, the more experienced went on to tackle the second section of the river. This was not without its own incidents, as one of the Imperial canoeists managed to capsize his boat and had to evacuate it. Due to the fairly strong current, the boat was taken away and after the IC students ensured that the canoeist was safe, they began the search for the boat.

After a while, the boat was found wedged between two rocks, and the

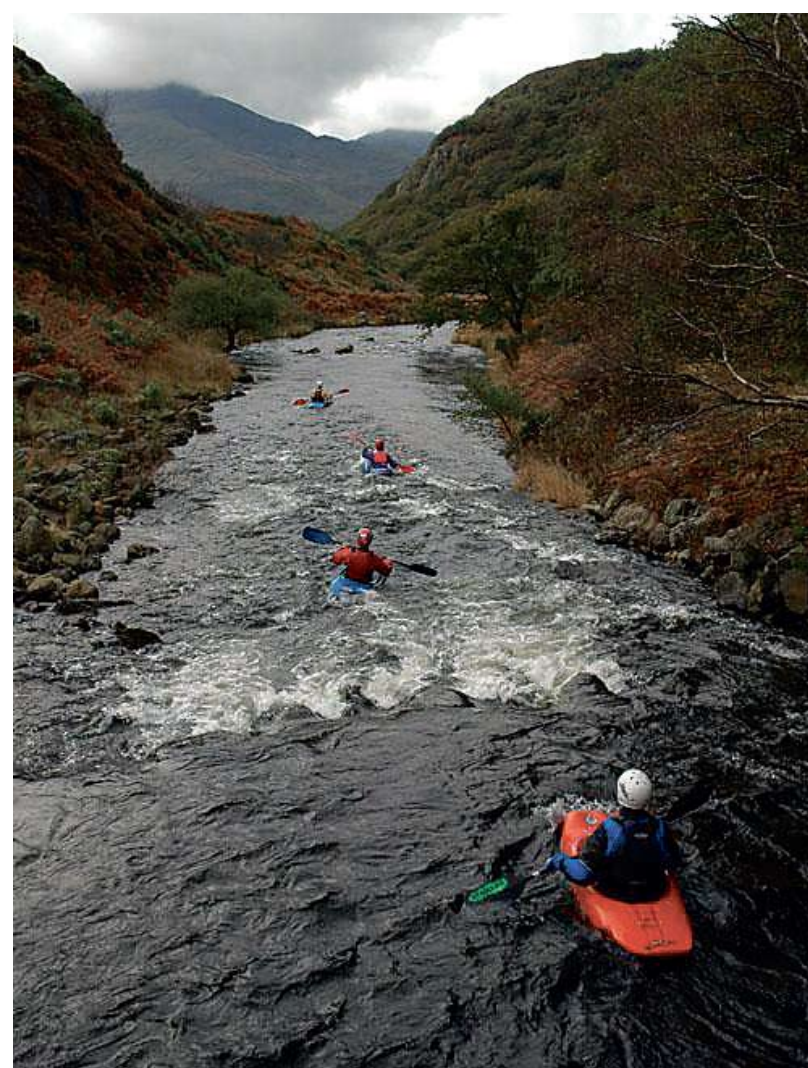
members present radioed the rest of the group to come with more safety equipment to rescue the boat.

It was at this point that the Imperial canoeists were informed that the individual that went on ahead never turned up. Assuming that he must have missed the exit point, the group went down to the third stretch of the river where they found him stranded on 'The Rock'. This particular rock has received its name as it is the last large rock in the river before Conwy Falls, a 30-40 ft drop.

Boaters from the nearby café were already at the scene, but didn't have enough safety equipment with them. At this point, Tom Haywood from Imperial College Union Canoe Club, called the minibus to bring down the safety equipment that they had with them. Rory Fyffe, President of Imperial College Union Canoe Club, then managed to organise his club to contact the emergency services and give their current location. In the meantime, the older members of the club secured a line and got the individual to a safe location. Due to the nature of the river and the steep cliff faces on either side, the members of ICU Canoe Club could only get the individual to a certain point where it was considered very unlikely for him to get back into the water.

The Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue team and the Betws y Coed fire service then arrived on the scene and managed to get the individual to safety. Rescuer Chris Lloyd from the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation told *BBC Wales* that "This kind of rescue is a regular occurrence on this stretch of river, and we get called out three to four times every year."

It was later found out that the individual had missed the exit point after the second stretch of the river, and after seeing a stretch of the river that he didn't like, he decided to portage (get out and walk down the bank). He then managed to drop the canoe in the



Imperial College Canoe Club on the River Conwy



Canoe Club President, Rory Fyffe, tackling some rapids

water and decided to jump in after it. At this point the rapids took the individual downstream until he managed to cling onto 'The Rock' where he was later found.

The rescue services praised Imperial College Canoe Club for their contribution to the rescue attempt, as well as receiving a lot of gratitude from the individual involved. The reaction to the events last Sunday can best be described by the email Rory Fyffe, President of Imperial College Union Canoe Club, sent to the members.

"Given the events of this weekend I wanted to email you all. Firstly to thank you all for your help, level-headedness and patience last night. I was greatly pleased by the way the whole club reacted. Especially those for which this was their first ever kayaking trip."

"The team-work, initiative, sensitivity, professionalism and assumption of responsibility displayed last night was excellent and illustrates what a strong club we have this year. The emergency services and the couple involved send their thanks also."

Students develop bacterial machines to build three-dimensional structures

Daniel Wan
News Correspondent

A team of Imperial College bioscientists are taking on other universities from around the world in the International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The annual event, of which Imperial have taken a mixed team of undergraduates and postgraduates to for the past three years, is a celebration of student's work and research within synthetic biology.

This year's team consist of nine undergraduates from different bioscience departments, four advisors and two professors. The concept they are taking with them to the States involves turning harmless bacteria, *Bacillus Subtilis* into efficient biofabricators.

The hope is that the bacteria will be able to produce self assembling or-

ganic compounds, such as cellulose, on demand.

Krupa Hirani, a third year Bioengineer, is a team member currently in Massachusetts, and explained briefly how their concept would work.

"We have designed a system where large numbers of bacteria would be swimming around normally in the lab until a blue light is shone onto them in a particular shape," she says. "The bacteria in the blue light would then stop swimming around and produce a material, which would self-assemble into the pre-designed shape created by the blue light."

The pre-determined pattern would be similar to a 3D component of a knitted structure, and be used in different applications across the field, including producing biodegradable clothes and synthetic tissue scaffolds.

One of the team leaders, Dr. Paul Freemont was in a buoyant mood prior

to the American trip, commenting "An awful lot of effort and hours in the lab have gone into characterising *Bacillus Subtilis* and planning the genetic manipulations necessary to transform these organisms from innocuous soil bacteria to biological manufacturing units."

"Our team's work is an example of a pioneering use of a new bacteria as a biological manufacturing unit and I'm looking forward to sharing our achievements with other university teams."

The team will return back this week, hopefully triumphantly, but otherwise they should not be disappointed in their achievements they have worked on since July.

These are exciting times for biosciences and bioengineering; both fully taking stock of the great advances in medical technology and the ever-increasing demand for ecological and organic manufacture.



DANIELLE REEVES

Student Krupa Hirani at work on the biofabricator project

Headlines from around the globe

The world beyond College walls...

USA

World leaders are converging upon Washington for an emergency economic summit of the G20 on Saturday 15th November. The meeting was originally suggested by President George Bush after the G7 meeting a month ago on 10th October. The G20 is a group of the 20 largest economies in the world, representing 90% of global GNP and 66% of the world's population. Varying topics are being pushed forward for discussion. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged that global warming not to be ignored but discussed along side the global financial crisis. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has called for co-ordinated tax cuts across the G20 economies to lessen the impact of the global financial crisis. China and India are also expected to seek a bigger say at the summit.

Germany

Thousands of anti-nuclear activists have protested against a train transporting nuclear waste between France and Germany. For several days there were attempts to block the railway route including sit-ins, protesters cementing themselves to the track and clashes with police involving water cannons and batons. With no nuclear waste processing facility of its own, Germany sends an annual shipment of spent fuel to France and Britain to be processed, before being returned to a storage depot in Gorleben, Lower Saxony. Nuclear power is high on the political agenda in Germany ever since the government embarked in 2003 on phasing out nuclear power within two decades.

China

A wave of protests by factory workers has hit eastern and southern China in recent weeks, caused by job losses for workers of struggling businesses. The global financial crisis has meant consumers in the west are not spending as much, so Chinese businesses can't sell as much in exports. Consequently many have been forced to reduce production, or shut factories altogether. With lower exports, China's economic growth forecast has been lowered to 9%. Lower export demand is a problem also being faced by India, South Korea and Japan. All this comes as Chinese President Hu Jintao announced a £390bn public works programme.

Burma

The pro-democracy movement received a blow this week when 14 democracy activists were sentenced to 65 years in prison each. They were arrested during the anti-government demonstrations in September 2007 when several thousand students and Buddhist monks marched peacefully through the streets. The protests, nicknamed the 'Saffron Revolution', were violently put down by the Burmese military government, who seized power of the country in 1988 and have remained in control ever since. Additionally a blogger was sentenced to 20 years in prison for posting cartoons of the military leader Than Shwe, and 70 other dissidents, many of whom are members of the opposition National League for Democracy party are still on trial. Human Rights Watch and other pressure groups have called the trials unfair and campaigned for their release.

Australia

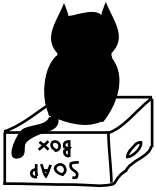
The trial of five Muslim men has begun in Sydney after they were arrested in 2005 when their homes were raided by police. They pleaded not guilty to the charge of 'conspiring to commit acts in preparation for a terrorist attack on Australian soil'. If convicted, the men - aged between 24 and 43 years old, will face life imprisonment, the maximum punishment in Australian law. With criticism that this will be trial against Islam, the judge made a point of countering this and telling the jury to clear their mind of any anti-Muslim bias for the duration of the trial which is expected to last up to a year. Recently Indonesia executed 3 terrorists who were convicted of perpetrating the 2002 Bali bombings. Back in Britain, an Iraqi doctor is currently on trial for an attack on Glasgow airport in 2007.

Uruguay

A bill making abortion legal for the first 12 weeks of pregnancy was passed by the Uruguayan Parliament this week by 17 votes to 13. However the bill is unlikely to become legislation as President Tabare Vazquez, himself a doctor, has made it clear that he will veto the bill on ethical grounds. Abortion is illegal in most South American countries except in cases of rape or if the woman's life is in danger. The country's Roman Catholic Church, which 47% of Uruguayans follow, campaigned against the bill. Uruguay is usually considered the most secular of South American countries, so the issue has resurfaced the debate between the separation of Church and State in the continent.

Congo, DR

Once again fighting has intensified in the Democratic Republic of Congo between several armed groups over control of the country's vast mineral resources. Political and social unrest has marred the country since gaining independence in 1960 from its status as Belgium colony. Despite reaching a peace deal in 2003 after a bitter 5-year civil war, the so-called 'Kivu conflict' has continued. Like many conflicts on the African continent, hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled their homes in fear, as well as children being forced to fight as soldiers. The UN's 17,000 peacekeepers stationed in the Congo have already engaged with armed rebel groups using helicopter gunships in attempts to stop them reaching the capital, Goma.



Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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



A. Geek

Angst – You are doing it wrong

Sorry for the absence last week, I was temporarily paralysed from the brain down by New Imperial Girl, and had to be treated with 20ccs of David Dimbleby and my girlfriend's cooking. Once I'd managed to clamber to my feet, the deadline was past. Alas. And unfortunately it seems that Gilead was drowned out by the emotional freak-show that turned up, which can only mean one thing. Ladies and Gentlemen, I hereby declare a State of Emergency within the nation of Imperial. As a people, I compel you all - cheer the fuck up, you miserable cunts.

What the hell are you people whining for now? "Anonymous", a probably-female student who seems to be one Facebook friend rejection off of slashing her wrists, was just the entrée last week.

New Imperial Girl follows that up with the heavy suffering of not being able to shower in order to stop herself from wasting her life away - incidentally, my dear, if you're curious as to why men aren't interested at Imperial, it's because it's not just the shallow ones who appreciate clean women. Then the delightful "Watcher" who wishes that those golly-gosh darned life-saving medics could just be a bit more polite when they're trying to give unprepared, equipment-less, off-duty emergency medical assistance. Yes! Damn them. Those selfless bastards.

Look, if the worst thing in your life is that a doctor doesn't doff his cap to you and bow on his way to perform an emergency tracheotomy, then my friend, you've got a pretty fucking sweet existence.

Probably the cream of the crop last week was Mr. da Flex, a man so ridiculous I half expected the text to fade out as I read it and Rick Astley to start playing in the background. What in the name of Jar Jar Binks were you talking about, man? You drifted between bitter, angry lyric quoting and badly-hidden regret so frequently that I could smell the tears of grief in the ink. Being depressed is not a good justification for asshattery, especially not the brand you're peddling; and by that I mean the brand that dresses you up as a charismatic ladies man with a penis like a french stick and enough testosterone to fuel another Madonna world tour.

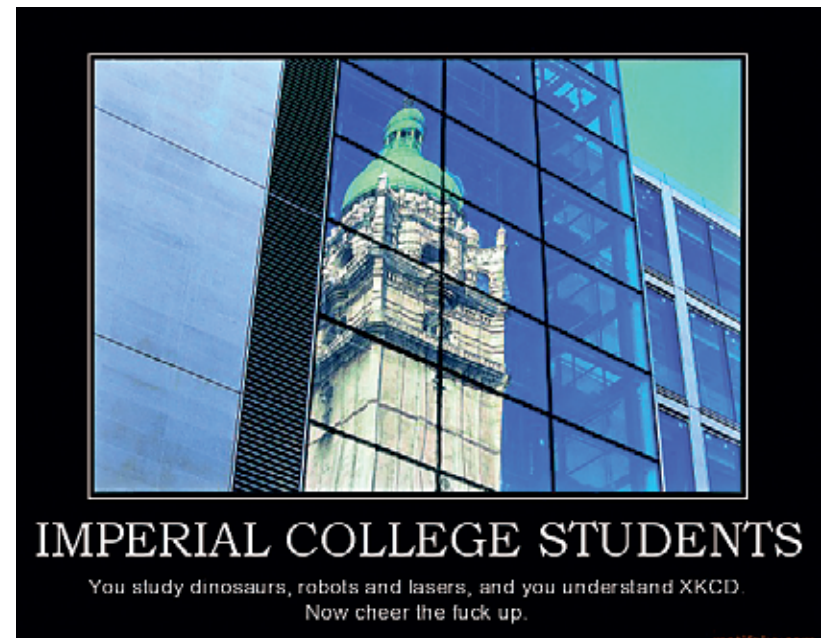
Let me tell you, right now I'm sipping a coffee in an exploitative franchised outlet, listening to The Andrews Sisters on my mp3 player. Angst? What angst? Yes, there are tasks to be completed before set deadlines and some tasks may require time periods that overstretch those given. Yes, this coffee is a bit milky. But hey, guess what? I'm living in one of the greatest cities in the world, studying at one of the highest levels possible, and I'm not even a quarter through my life. I mean, once WALL-E arrives in my postbox, it'll be

hard to see how I can complain about anything, really. Tickler cheddar was even on offer in Sainsbury's. Fucking Tickler cheddar, everyone. Are you getting this down? What's there to be depressed about?

We all know depression is fun and god knows I love a good wallow too. But the trick is to try and not spread it around everyone else. Because the last thing people need is another reason to

be depressed. Happiness is fashionable, folks. And according to Starbucks, it's officially Christmas now, so you don't really have an excuse. Chin up now.

If you were affected by any of the issues raised in last week's Felix, please crawl into a hole and die. Alternatively, get in touch with us on our 24-hour Insult Helpline by emailing anangrygeek@googlemail.com. Keep smiling, folks.



Imperial Girl

Geek Woman vs Promiscuous Girl

Last night was horrific. Let me walk you through it. Imagine I am studying in my room on a Thursday night, dressed in glasses and baggies like a right Imperial nerd. A couple of days ago a friend had mentioned his friend was having a few friends around at a club night so I was thinking by 8pm, "screw this work- I need to go out". I didn't actually want to go out, but I somehow had to reconfirm my sanity or more that I was a student and do actually have fun beyond studying... That was my first BIG mistake. Did I mention that this cute guy was going to be there so I was perhaps persuaded to go. Yes, you've guessed it- Mistake Number 2.

So imagine this, I'm throwing off "Geek-Woman" clothes and transforming into "Promiscuous-Girl" clothes. Within seconds you would have never guessed I was a straight-A-student, studying at Imperial with a promising and intellectual future ahead of me. But whatever, that's fine. A bit of a "Dr Jeckle and Mr Hyde" never hurt anyone.

No! Mistake Number 3. If my life was the lottery draw I would have been a multiple-time millionaire winner. Right so I am off out in my, dare I say it, "fuck-me pumps" walking down to Earls Court station when an old man comes up to me and asks "do you want to go for a coffee". What the hell is wrong with this guy? Doesn't he know Starbucks isn't open at 9pm and more to the point if I needed and found a pimp, no money could afford you even a touch of my hair you ugly

loser.

Okay, but at least he confirmed I looked hot or minx-like. Same thing at a club night I tend to find; no room at the inn for elegant beauty. So I get into the club and see Cute Guy. Great! Now I am stalking the guy. "Why on earth..." I am thinking at this point "... do I actually like this guy?" So the night goes on and I am getting cosy with this guy but obviously not in the view of his friends. Mistake Number 4. Heard the song "Love locked down" by Kanye West- well quite literally it wasn't lock down, it was stealth affection that I was getting.

So the night is over and I am drunk/tipsy/drunken (DTD) and I am thinking this Cute Guy will see me home. No I tell you. For all the flirting and affection over the night all I got was a walk to the bus stop. Did I mention I wouldn't of even got that walk if the bus stop wasn't on his way home. Where the hell did chivalry go? What happened to opening doors, pulling out seats, walking on the outsides of the pavement ... dropping a girl to her door and perhaps receiving a precious kiss on the cheek? No! No! No! That would be too much. So here I am in my "Promiscuous-Girl" clothes that I put on to impress this guy who has now left me at this deserted bus stop, temperatures in negatives at 5.30 in the morning!!! I have lectures in 4.5 hours. What a bad show of him. All I wanted to do is get back to being "Geek-Women"- where I felt comfortable and in control.

But that is exactly it! I figured it out. By day I am in control, I am powerful

and a self-knowing woman. When I go out, I sometimes become this fragile girl, who demands the attention of cute guys with the hope that their acknowledgement of me will confirm that I am desirable. Speaking to others, I know I am not alone. So I am thinking, are we trying to tackle the balance of a being

successful women with being a more emotionally vulnerable one?

Do we let ourselves believe that because we do well in work we should be able to let our love lives slip? Argh, Mum was right- boys are trouble. Let me know what you think. Email: ImperialGirl@ic.ac.uk



Promiscuous girl, or an attractive geek woman?



Kadhim
Shubber

Music *felix* is my hot, hot sex

All around me people are rushing for their trains and seemingly being outfoxed by the ticket barriers, but my mind is elsewhere. Not on the assessed problem sheet that I have to hand in the day that these words are published, nor the lab report I have just a few days to complete. I'm at Victoria station and my mind is thinking about felix; the italics should inform you that I'm talking about this newspaper (which you should never let the Associate Editor Gilead Amit hear you call 'the felix', lest he strike thee down).

It's a peculiar thing to be concerned with on a Friday night. In a few hours I will see my parents and sister for the first time in months, something that one would expect to be taking up more space in my mind. But questioning my motives for giving myself more work at the end of an exhausting week invites a deluge of further self-questioning.

Why do I spend my otherwise empty Wednesday mornings, afternoons and evenings editing this newspaper? Why do we writers and editors of felix throw our degrees down the pan as we obsess over every word and line in our beloved publication? Why do the majority of us study Physics?

These are questions that admittedly I struggle with each day, much as the Coffee Break/Technology/Layout/Seems-Like-He-Does-Everything Editor Ravi Pall and I will struggle with our studies as we guiltily pass sunny days in the West Basement of Beit.

felix has an unmatched ability to provide you with work, a simple step into the office is enough to ensnare me. There's a page to re-edit here, formatting errors there, Shock! Horror! A section editor has left a big white space on their page. Don't even get me started on researching news articles (which easily makes the time between dawn and dusk seem like five minutes, and not in a good way – as the Editor knows all too well). I might complain more if it were not entirely self-inflicted: which brings us to the first question. Why do I, like others, spend so much of my free time on this newspaper? It would be cynical to suggest our CVs were the culprits and condescending to imply that we have little else to do. The reason that I, like Katya-Yani Vyas (the unceasingly upper-crust Politics Editor), am behind on academic work is because it is more fun to work on *felix* than on equations. Of course this is far too much of a flip-pant reason to justify abandoning all hopes of attaining a 1st class degree to



"A homage to the *felix* team", by Kadhim Shubber

my parents, but it is the truth nonetheless. It's hard for me to apply myself in a boring lecture (as I'm sure the ever-growing number of 2nd year Physicists annoyed by my constant chattering will tell you) but it's easy for me to get down to work when the 'work' is writing with my friends. It's mind-numbing to worry about whether I've quoted the correct number of significant figures but it's exhilarating to worry about the number of lines separating images when you've got the Fashion Editor Dan Wan thinking up funny captions for the aforementioned images sitting beside you.

Perhaps I'm really skirting the issue here: maybe the felix team is full of students who really wish they were doing a different degree (I know that Caz Knight, the Arts Editor, would be gone in a flash to live a life of Bohemian abandon if she didn't think it was a waste to quit in her last year). This brings me neatly onto the last question: who are the *felix* team and why do so many of them call the Blackett

Laboratory home? Unfortunately the phenomenon that is the high proportion of Physicists in the felix office has not been investigated by sociologists. I could suggest that it's because Physicists are more enthusiastic, better writers or more creative editors – but that would be crossing the line between introspection and self-indulgence (so I'll stick to: I just don't know).

Undoubtedly you are not lucky enough to know us personally. I'm not saying that we are happy about it but we are too busy ignoring our social lives to rectify this problem. I won't be able to give you a comprehensive person-by-person breakdown of our personalities: Food Editor Afonso Campos defies rational thought in any case, but I will give you a few important snippets of information.

Like the fact that Arts Editor David Paw is incapable of using an actual picture of himself as his Profile Picture on Facebook or that we have varying degrees of skill in Photoshop and a few have no idea why everything dis-

appears when they move the cursor to the top right hand corner of the new iMacs that inhabit our desks. It may interest you to know we enjoy playing a variety of music, from Tchaikovsky to Tomb Crew, very loudly when other people are trying to work (well I enjoy it anyhow, I suspect that Music Editor Peter Sinclair's opinion of me lowers every time I blare out Boyz II Men "I'll make love to you").

The people who worship at the feet of the cat are different, that much I can say with confidence. We are the students who will never go into research but also have little interest in the world of finance. We read stories, watch films or see another pint of snakebite being chugged at the Union and instantly ideas and headlines form in our minds. There is no question of stopping. I would gladly miss a lecture; I wouldn't miss working on an edition of felix. To others my priorities need rethinking, to the members of the felix team, my life gets in the way of far more important activities.



The Editor

The *felix* magazines

Last week, the first of the free magazines that *felix* produces was released. There are effectively three magazines plus a one-off special, that *felix* produces. I, science is, funnily enough, the science magazine which is produced by students, primarily from the Science and Communication course at Imperial. This means that the quality of this magazine is very, very good as these guys will be doing it for a living. It is full of informative science (including engineering) news, as well as opinion articles and reviews. The best thing of all is that it is free. Some of you who picked up your copy of *felix* from the library last week will have realised that it was shoved in the middle pages. Some of you looked quite sur-

prised to find it there, I should know, I was there putting the thing in as you lot were picking it up. But it is free, and very informative, and, according to the Guardian, one of the best student magazines out there.

Next week, we shall be releasing *phoenix*, which is in fact older than *felix*. It was started by H.G. Wells who many of you will know was a renowned science fiction writer. This magazine is focused more on the arts and literature side, with short stories, poems, visual art and photography. *phoenix* is the one where we really let our hair down with the visual design, so check it out and see what we've come up with.

Finally we have *Another Castle*. This is new to this year, and will be the gaming magazine. Imagine all those pages



that we had in *felix* last year, all neatly compiled into one 56 page mammoth edition.

I said finally, but actually there is one more magazine, and that is the sports magazine that will appear after varsity.

So as you can see, we have a magazine that will cater to the whole col-

lege. Most importantly, I want you all to realise that they are free, and that they are worth a read. The copies will mainly be found next to the library cafe, as well as next to most of the drop bins.

So sit back, relax and enjoy the variety that *felix* has to offer.



Jaimie Henry

Petitions: a waste of perfectly good ink

In the last few weeks, I have had more good intentions rammed in my face than I could ever hope to deal with. Some are relatively harmless, for example my mother washing my jeans and confronting me with yet another dubious foil packet that has materialised in the wash. Most, however, seem to be just a good old fashioned waste of my time.

However, contraception based emergencies aside, I can think of no better example of time-wasting than the petition.

According to a highly valued internet source (that may or may not have been thrown together by a despotic bunch of unemployable English Literature graduates and passed off as an encyclopaedia) the petition has its origins in Imperial China, whereby Emperors would remove corrupt members of government office by the will of ordinary people. Clearly that idea took off, seeing as now in China ordinary people are "removed" by corrupt members of government office.

And so hundreds of years of pointless endeavour recently culminated in

someone thrusting a piece of paper in my face and demanding that I sign in order to get the Gaza strip border area opened and allow some student to come and study at Imperial. I signed, and along with the sheer millions of other signatories, I of course had the effect of going up to the parties involved in this long running religious and political conflict, slapping them both around the face with a wet mackerel and proclaiming loudly "Just sort it out, douchebags!" At that instant, the student in question would magically appear at Imperial's pearly gates and several extraordinarily well endowed women would materialise with frozen Capri-suns and feed them to me. The word "empowerment" doesn't even come close.

In fact (and much to my personal dismay), none of these things happened. All that happened was that it made me feel a little less guilty than my other possible course of action, which was to tell the petitioner to entertain themselves with a part of my anatomy.

I appreciate that once upon a time petitions used to work- back in a time

before Pigs had evolved to lose their wings- governments believed in the wholesome notion of democracy and listened to the paper based woes of their citizens. But you can hardly blame them for not caring anymore when they are inundated with thousands of mind-numbingly stupid requests. I have taken a few choice requests from the number10.gov.uk e-petition website:

- "Make all animal killing illegal"- 3 signatories; admittedly most of these are from people who have taken the "name" box to mean "comment" and filled it with hilarity such as "we're meat eaters you dope"

- "Stop VATing chocolate biscuits"- 6 signatories, including an amusing aside about Jaffa cake classification.

- And my personal favourite, from a Lady called Lisa with most intuitive economic mind I've seen in years: "Print lots of money to clear the debt." This was alongside the comment: "why would it ruin the economy??? It's already near to ruin, if extra money was given to the banks from a machine, rather than our taxes, this could only help everyone." Thanks Lisa. (In fair-

ness, someone did ask "Lisa, is ignorance really bliss?")

These were all, rather worryingly, genuine. Even the petitions with the most signatures have just become an opportunity for government spin, where the PM's press army replies with how the government has actually already tackled this issue, and they in fact are the shit. The problem is people have become so self-absorbed that they feel they can write about their insignificant woes and post them into the public domain; actually we couldn't give a damn about Johnny Bellend's chocolate digestive dilemma. In fact, even causes that deserve public recognition are lost in a swarm of insanity, which is a shame; despite the pointless nature of the petition, it can very occasionally be a pathway to something bigger.

So the next time someone tries to force feed you good intention, don't bother in subjugating yourself to their whims.

Be more man than I was and actually do the planet and civilization a favour- save the ink and the paper.



Calliope Muse

Stop treating us like snotty teenagers

So, for the last fortnight my boyfriend has been pretty much constantly in and out of hospital. No, I realise you don't care, just bear with me for a minute. There's a really satisfying rant you can get all opinionated about coming up in a second.

I'm a chemist. Largely, this means spending 2-3 hours a day in lectures, 6 hours a day in labs, 2-3 hours a day writing up reports and problem sheets, and 8 hours a day whinging about it. Sometimes we even sleep. I could be wrong but I'm pretty sure most courses at IC have at least that workload by the start of the second year. Hence, when you're actually not just skiving, being forced to miss large chunks of college is worrying, especially if you're actually planning on coming out of all this with a degree.

My boyfriend then. He has Crohn's disease (yes, I know you've all figured out who I am now, shut up for a sec). The other weekend I had to take him into hospital for a major flare up, where we were terrified his intestines had ruptured. This week, he's in for major surgery, and there's not much which can really be done about it. Both times we were majorly fucked around

by the hospitals - not really anyone's fault, but no less annoying for having to sit around waiting for 3 days, each night being told they'd definitely have a bed for us by tomorrow morning. There's been stress, there's been sleepless nights, there's been tears. This isn't a request for sympathy, you understand, just an explanation of the situation to emphasise the next point.

When I found out, last Friday, that I was probably going to spend a lot of the two weeks after that up and down from Oxford, I sent an email to a bunch of people in my department, explaining the situation, and that I would probably be sporadically absent for a while. It took them until Monday for even ONE person to reply, and I quote:

"I am sorry to hear of your boyfriend's unfortunate medical condition. However, it is difficult to give you very much leeway as you are not the one who is actually ill."

Ok, this is an angry article, so I should probably also note that I was given a "few extra days" to hand in my next report, but still. The idea that it's only if you're ill that you should be upset? Bullshit. His parents, obviously, have time off work. The institutions which are PAYING them for a service

are prepared to let them off because, obviously, they're upset that someone they love is going under the knife. The institution I am paying to educate me can't be flexible for two damn weeks. I'm prepared to bet that if I was a married, mature student whose husband was having surgery, they'd feel differently. In fact, I know this is the case, because it happened to my mum.

Another example: I don't know about your department but mine has always rammed it down my throat that if you don't revise/work over Easter you'll do significantly less well in your summer exams. During my first year, a member of my immediate family attempted suicide over the Easter holidays, which definitely damaged my attempts to work. The response of college? "You have the whole of the summer term to revise." The whole of the summer term? We have LECTURES in summer term! We have new shit to learn, never mind revising the old stuff.

I get there are rules. I get that the academic and administrative staff are just doing their jobs. I also get that undergrads at Imperial are treated like a fucking afterthought. I'll admit I'm not the best student, even when healthy and in college, but speaking

as someone whose university time has been plagued with illnesses and family emergencies I can tell you that the general attitude of the institution is one of contempt. They act as if giving you full credit retakes should remove all your worries - as if it's not doubly stressful doing the exams twice AND having other issues in your life. The first assumption is always that the student is trying to get something for nothing. The stereotype is that we're lazy, selfish, immature... - fuck that.

I don't want this to be taken as an attack on the staff, who by and large are sympathetic on a personal level and in any case just doing their jobs, but the frustration of having metaphorical eyes rolled every time you have to explain something is draining to say the least. Particularly if it's not like you're not proposing to make up the work.

Imperial students are, in the majority, either hardworking or bright enough that it doesn't matter. I don't personally know anyone who doesn't, when it gets right down to it, work their asses off for the best grade they can achieve. It'd be really nice if the people who write the rules could stop treating us like snotty teenagers. And now I'm off to make up some time in labs.

askthepresident

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Student Television of Imperial College



Spanky Pants

Not so happy with Healthy Living Week

So, who thinks Healthy Living Week was a success? Oh, did you not know it was on? You know those hideous pastel yellow t-shirts that were dotted around college last week? Yeah, they were for HLW, organised by our DPCS and Sport Imperial. When I say organised though, I am using it in the loosest possible terms.

That's right, this is going to be a bit of a rant peeps so take this as your warning; I'm a woman scorned and I've had a lot of caffeine!! It's a long story folks and I'm liable to go off on one about it given half a chance but I'll try and keep this concise if only to keep you reading...

All sports clubs were given the opportunity to run a session as part of HLW. Netball girls vs. Rugby boys – the grudge match – seemed like a great suggestion to me and original feedback from the “powers that be” was equally positive. We were envisioning a similar event to the one we ran last year for charity where the boys wore dresses and got majorly put in their place by a bunch of girls who like to wear pink, happy times :) Everyone that I spoke to was looking forward to it.

Fast-forward to Wednesday 6th, the day before the session we'd been allocated. Whilst conversing with a friend, and after checking a HLW flyer, I realised there was a clash: Netball/Rugby and Kondi were scheduled at the same time – quelle horreur!! I immediately got on the phone to SI to alert them of this most disastrous discovery!!

Cue lots of shizzle “behind the scenes” (this I'm still investigating into as everyone involved is being oddly secretive, hmmm...). Eventually I was called late on Wednesday evening with some alternative offers:

- Kondi were given preference and we were booted out of our original slot, no room for questions.

- Then we were offered an area the size of a Badminton court (bearing in mind that we need a space four times that size and netball court markings) so that was a definite no from my end straight away.

- Finally we were told we could share Handball's slot (great idea – drag another sports team into the mess you've created. Have they been apologised to? I doubt it). This would involve sharing for half the session and then being able to have the full court for a game after that.

Ultimately when I turned up on the day I was told this had been changed yet again though to us only having 10 minutes of full court game time. Clearly lots more shizzle had happened behind the scenes. Is it too much to ask that if I'm running a slot I be kept informed and be consulted on decisions? Apparently yes.

To top it all off I was told that we were actually supposed to be running a “come and try” session and that our planned event did not comply with the intended criteria of HLW. Where was this opinion of us two months ago when I originally suggested it? Who knows, least of all the DPCS or SI.

Basically – sort your lives out people!! If you want to masquerade as some sort of professional unit then please do attempt at least a vague level of organisation and communication.

Sport Imperial have offered to pay for the umpire we hired and are coming round to the idea of an alternative slot but the proposal is accompanied by many conditions that still need to be finalised so watch this space; you know if I'm not happy I'll be back for further bitching.

In conclusion though, what we hope to receive is a proper apology for being messed around and another hour-long slot in Ethos for free where we can run our session as originally intended.

It will be for charity so if I promise to keep you informed you guys have to promise to attend and support. Guess I'll see you all soon at Netball vs. Rugby – the grudge match (take II).

PS. I'm sure I was supposed to get one of those granny-yellow tops for running a session? Holla back to me on that note too pls whilst you're at it SI.

PPS. Imperial Girl, whadafuh? I love the idea of a *Sex and the City* style article but if that's going to be the concept behind it then I want to see it written by someone who's getting more action than me or it's not what I'd call entertainment. Plus, it's not like there's a shortage of guys at Imperial so you've no excuse!!



The rugby boys before they got embarrassed by the girls

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A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

- Lao Tzu

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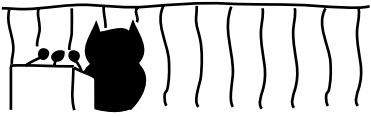
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Politics

Politics Editors – James Goldsack & Katya-yani Vyas

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In honour of communism

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

I have a poster of Stalin on my wall.

I don't actually; I just wanted to see how you would react. I also don't have a poster of the hero of communism Ernesto "Che" Guevara like all those pretentious university jerks who think it is cool even though they have no damn clue what he stood for. That includes you, yes you. Nice one.

If I were to choose one communist to parade on my wall, it would be Lenin. Or Trotsky. At any rate I prefer my dictators benevolent to tyrannous.

If I were to have a poster of Hitler on my wall not only would I be disgracing my whole Jewish heritage (if you hadn't guessed from my money-grabbing Jew name) and my communist nature but there would be outrage.

Let's not dwell on the two fellow Fulham-inhabiting Germans saluting in the corner.

It is painfully clear that World War Two was no more than a bet between Stalin and Hitler as to who could kill more Russians.

As far as I can understand, Stalin was better at killing people than Hitler. So why the hatred for the Kraut? Hitler rampaged through Europe wiping out a race because of a ridiculous ethnic cleansing program whereas Stalin did what he had to do in order to stay in power of his own country and keep communism alive.

Because those lives were worth losing. Long live the revolution.

It is horrifying to think that at the next General Election, voters will have the choice between 3 right-wing main parties, one of which has sucked into itself the communist party and disregarded all it stood for. Perhaps I am being harsh on the Liberals. They try.

New Labour is simply what the conservatives should always have been. You stuck-up, pipe-smoking fools, you were beaten at your own fascist game by a Scot.

And a dirty lying one with awfully grating mannerisms at that.

All the parties are trying to find ways of lowering taxes to help working families and it is a theme that was found throughout the US election campaigns. Stop jumping on the bandwagon people and start jumping on the European bandwagon instead. You know you want to; they have better food, better weather...hell, even better fascist dictators than us.

What do we have? Bad schools, bad public transport, no national secrets (what is it with our idiot civil service and trains that combines so badly?), an ex-PM guilty of war crimes, a failing economy; evidently 10 years of New Labour has done great things for us.

The preceding Conservative years and those which will probably follow the next election are not much of an improvement.

I personally hope the spirit of the communist revolution can spread through this failing nation and prosperity will be ours again.

Recession in 2009

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

Gordon Brown has announced his support for "unfunded" tax cuts to combat the recession this country is headed for. He told a news conference that "fiscal stimulus" is necessary to "get the economy moving again".

These cuts would "initially" be unfunded which drew criticism from the Tories who accused him of planning a borrowing "splurge".

The Conservatives have proposed "targeted" tax cuts which they claim will not need rises in borrowing to fund them. Conservative leader David Cameron said the proposals to give tax breaks to small businesses who take on unemployed workers were "fiscally responsible" as they would be paid for by savings from benefits.

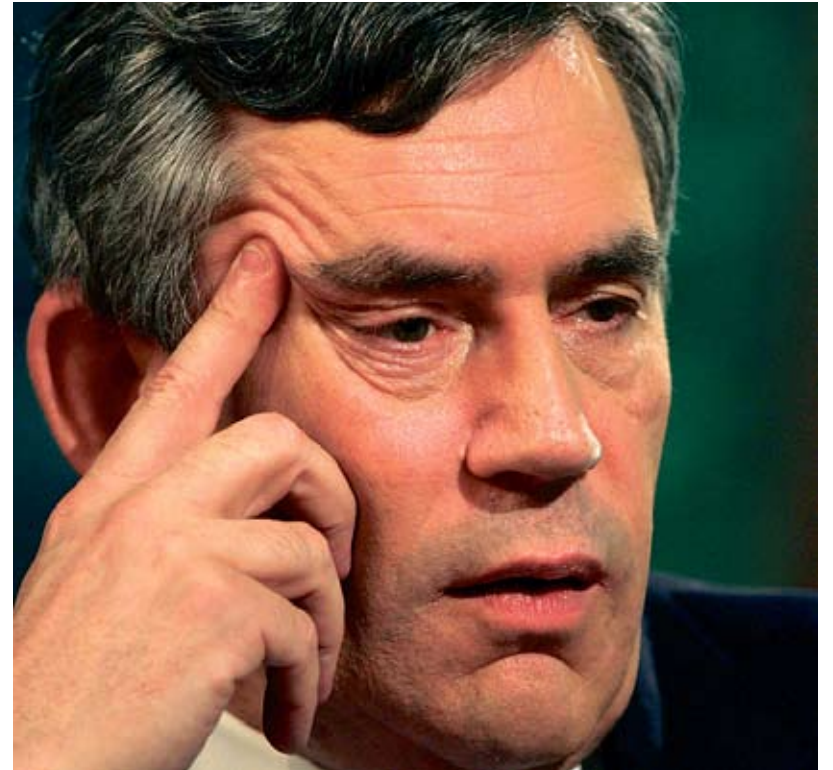
The government's plan to borrow even more money not only goes against Brown's own golden rules but would throw Britain into deeper debt at a time when owing money is not a good economic policy.

But Mr Brown said Mr Cameron's proposal was "an expensive one that doesn't necessarily guarantee that more jobs will be created overall".

Pressed on whether there would be unfunded tax cuts in the pre-Budget report, expected next week, he said: "You have to take action that is initially unfunded because that is actually how you do a fiscal stimulus."

"The aim is to get the economy moving forward by higher levels of economic activity and that is precisely what we are doing."

Employment minister Tony McNulty said that any "tax cuts or adjustments" would be "funded in a transparent fashion, albeit from borrowing" while



Gloomy days for Brown as parties clash over his "unfunded" tax cuts

the Conservatives' plans were "pie-in-the-sky on a hope and a prayer".

He said if the economy recovered quickly and receipts to government "shoot up" "then the balance, if there is a balance, may need to be found from taxation".

The Liberal Democrats have promised tax cuts to those on low and middle incomes. Those on low incomes spend more proportionally of their income than middle-income earners.

Lowering taxes for the lowest paid will help boost the economy as it is this

group who will spend the money saved from taxation bringing economic stimulus to Britain.

These plans come as the Bank of England warn of a recession in 2009. Governor Mervyn King said that the UK probably entered a recession in the middle of 2008.

In the Bank's quarterly inflation report, it says that the UK economy could shrink by 2% over the next year, on a par with the Thatcher-era recession.

The governor said: "we have seen the biggest banking crisis since WWI"

Defense Intelligence cuts "risk another Iraq"

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

The government is cutting its Defence Intelligence Staff, despite warnings it could lead to serious mistakes.

Former defence chief John Morrison says the move makes a repeat of the errors which produced flawed intelligence ahead of the Iraq war more likely.

In 2004, the Lord Butler inquiry into the scandal called for the DIS budget to be increased as well as extra jobs created to prevent further failings, but now 122 jobs are to be lost.

The current head of DIS insisted the department was still of "critical importance".

Defence Intelligence currently has 590 people working in central London. These are both civilian and military personnel and are the government's largest organisation for analysing secret information about our security and the world.

They are the main source of expertise within the intelligence community on subjects such as the science and technology of weapons systems and arms proliferation.

They also provide direct support to UK operations overseas, including those in Afghanistan and Iraq

in the run-up to the Iraq war, the DIS was the only part of government that seriously questioned the way the case was being argued, showing a grasp of the information not found in other departments, certainly not Downing Street.

The Butler report said the department needed to be integrated "more closely" with the rest of the intelligence services in order to serve "wider national priorities".

At the time, ministers said they accepted those recommendations, but critics say they now appear to be ignoring them.

In a statement, Air Marshal Stu Peach, Chief of Defence Intelligence, said: "The Defence Intelligence Staff remains of critical importance to defence and security and is recognised across Whitehall as a key asset."

"The area is funded for what it is being asked to do from the central defence budget and will continue to support the armed forces and contribute strongly to the intelligence community's work across government."

Prospect, the trade union representing many of the civilian intelligence analysts, said the MoD was hoping to shrink the staff so far to allow it to close the Whitehall DIS headquarters altogether.



The DIS, a department of the MoD, has its home on Whitehall but maybe not for too much longer

Calls for referendum over EU's Lisbon Treaty

Neil Dhir

On the 17th of September 1778 men of exceptionally high stature attended the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There they laid out the fundamental guidelines which were to rule state and people for centuries to come. Guidelines which could not be crossed yet not set in stone but set in the hearts and minds of the populace. Naturally The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual union have been amended no less than twenty three times to follow the course of time and the ever changing zeitgeist. The European Union set out to copy the Americans by adopting a similar stance for the federation of Europe. The story of the European constitution starts with the Laken declaration in 2001. The Laken declaration derives its name from the European council meeting which was held in Laken, Belgium in December 2001. The declaration introduced the European Convention which was a body set up to produce a draft of the European constitution (now known as the Treaty of Lisbon) it was chaired by the former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and this is where our story begins.

In 2004 the then 25 member strong union signed the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (TCE) but is more commonly referred to as the European Constitution. Establishing a constitution is a messy business by any standards, this any barrister with training in constitutional law will tell you. Furthermore it is ironic to say the least that the Americans managed to, 230 years ago, compose a document that was more comprehensible than what the supposedly learned citizens of Europe compiled in the 21st century.

In true democratic fashion something so substantial and which affects the state as much as a constitution has to be ratified by the people (though most countries preferred to adopt what some call 'backdoor democracy' whereupon the parliament denies the people a say, through parliamentary representation, on an issue which will have a considerable impact upon their lives). The first country to put the



With the influx of new member states, the European Union must adapt by developing a new treaty, or constitution, governing the organisation

constitution to the people was France on the 29th of May 2005 the people voted. Three days later the electorate of the Netherlands were called upon to deliver their judgement. Rather embarrassingly for Brussels both nations delivered a resounding 'no' (54.68% against in France and 61.54% against in the Netherlands). Alas the constitution was dead. Or so it was believed...

In view of the fact that such a significant member of the EU (France) had rejected the final piece of the European federation project they could not be bullied into voting again, apparently smaller nations, however, are not allowed to speak their minds (like Ireland) and have to be politically beaten into submission i.e. by having a second referendum for daring to defy the powers that be. Consequently Mr. d'Estaing and his team had to go back to the drawing board to appease the people of France and the Netherlands. What they produced was the Treaty of Lisbon. The workings of the former treaty and the latter are difficult to understand, as we shall see later, for good reasons. But just to give a good example of how arrogant and ignorant the EU is consider this: one of the problems the people had with the

constitution was that it gave too much prominence to the notion of the EU as a state. Thus all references to the flag, anthem, motto and a public holiday were removed (the treaty is still 231 pages long as opposed to ten pages for the American constitution). But in true EU fashion they reinstated them in October this year in the midst of the financial crisis – when one would have thought that they would have better things to do. Former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato succinctly sums up the mood of the EU towards the people: "They decided that the document should be unreadable. If it is unreadable, it is not constitutional, that was the sort of perception... Should you succeed in understanding it at first sight there might be some reason for a referendum, because that would mean that there is something new."

From the continent to the "sceptical little isle"; in their 2005 manifesto the Labour party promised, if they won a third term in office, they would put the constitution to the people. Looking at their manifesto from this period further reinforces this pledge: "The new Constitutional Treaty ensures the new Europe can work effectively... we will put it to the British people in a refer-

endum". As previously stated the TCE was thrown out by voters in France and the Netherlands and was thus judged dead by politicians in the UK hence a referendum on a dead constitution is illogical and the issue was not further pursued. As always with the EU a 'no' is considered a complete rejection of the entire European project and is thus deemed unacceptable (Ireland was made to revote on the Nice treaty in 2002 so was Denmark on the Maastricht treaty in 1993 – for having rejected both initially). Hence the 'Draft Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community' more commonly known as the Treaty of Lisbon was put before the world in July last year.

Little time passed between the announcement of the treaty and the calls for a referendum. Most voters were shocked, as was the media, to learn that the government, now lead by Mr. Brown, did not consider the Treaty of Lisbon equivalent to the European Constitution. There are a few reasons for this: the constitution attempted to replace all earlier EU treaties and start afresh, whereas the new treaty amends the Treaty on the European Union (Treaty of Maastricht) and the Treaty Establishing the European Community (Treaty of Rome) – the UK was particularly adamant for a modest "amending treaty", which could be ratified by means of a parliamentary vote, like earlier EU treaties, i.e. circumventing their 2005 manifesto pledge to hold a referendum on the constitutional treaty. Another reason being that Euroscepticism is very much alive in the UK, for example recently the Bedfordshire town of Luton, in a mock election, voted 54% to 35% to leave the EU, thus the prospects of winning a referendum on a treaty which effectively creates the state of Europe are slim. In conclusion their stance became as such: since it is not the same constitution New Labour does not have to honour their manifesto, indeed YouGov (a market research firm) poll for the Telegraph in October 2007 showed that 94% of the people did not believe the Government's argument that the Treaty is different to the constitution. This breach of trust between the government and the people would turn out to be particularly embarrassing for New Labour and Gordon Brown.

In 2008 Paul Stephenson and Lorraine Mullally of I want a referendum (iWar) wrote an article for the Spectator where they address the key issue of the government's broken promise; that the treaty is not the same as the con-

stitution. In their article we find that no less than twelve heads of state regard the treaty the same as the rejected constitution yet the omniscient British prime minister appears to running an entirely different agenda by contradicting his European counterparts by stating that the two documents are fundamentally different. Angela Merkel, German Chancellor, Telegraph, 29 June 2007: "The substance of the Constitution is preserved. That is a fact". Guy Verhofstadt, Belgian Prime Minister, Agence Europe, 24 June 2007: "[the new treaty] takes up the most important elements of the Constitutional Treaty project." Even a European Commission representative in the form of Margot Wallstrom had something cheerful to say about the resemblance of the two documents: "It [the Treaty of Lisbon] is essentially the same proposal as the old Constitution."

Open Europe (a think tank) published a mammoth 263 page-by-page comparison of the Lisbon Treaty and the TCE. In 2005, Brown in an interview with the Evening Standard told the reporter in regards to the EU treaty "It's not as though this is being imposed on the country. People will have the chance to put their views." This is in stark contrast with "[if it] were the old constitutional treaty, we would be having a referendum" yet the iWar campaign along with Open Europe found that the treaty contains 96% of the old content and only 6 articles of the original 448, relating to symbols, had been removed – but they have already been reinstated as shown (articles of symbols) and the 448 articles have been amalgamated into 70 larger ones yet with the same content.

Regrettable is not a strong enough word to describe this great deception for never before have so few decided so much for so many. This should be enough compelling evidence to convince anyone that the treaty is in fact the same as the old constitution and that the government with Mr. Brown at its helm should honour their manifesto. However just to make it irrevocably unambiguous consider the words of the chief architect of both documents Mr. d'Estaing "The treaty of Lisbon is the same as the rejected constitution. Only the format has been changed to avoid referendums". Davy Crockett once said that "I would rather be politically dead than hypocritically immortalized". Mr. Brown clearly does not share this sentiment for in October 2007 he was quoted as saying "The manifesto is what we put to the public. We've got to honour that manifesto. That is an issue of trust for me with the electorate".



The European Parliament, an important political arena or a greedy, undemocratic body?

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Improved Postgraduate Representation

Despite Postgraduates making up over one third of our student population, they have traditionally been under-represented by the Union. This has meant improvements in Postgraduate provision have been slower in coming about than at Undergraduate level, and your views have not been aired effectively at the top College Committees that discuss issues such as PhD grants, amendments to MSc courses or the Transferable Skills courses that are available to you.

Student representation is the most effective way to make positive changes to your course and make the most out of your time at Imperial. We are changing things so that Departmental PhD and Masters Rep's views are collected by Postgraduates Reps and discussed at the highest level in College Committees. These can range from introducing a new Transferable Skills course, more advice about careers in research, which speakers you'd like at Graduate School events and whether you think someone should be organising a Christmas party. We are currently recruiting the following

positions to sit on the occasional GSEPS or GSLSM Committee and work with the GSA Chair and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) to improve the Postgraduate experience at Imperial:

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- Physical Sciences Postgraduate Rep
- Business School Postgraduate Rep
- Medical School Postgraduate Rep
- Life Sciences Postgraduate Rep

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Hannah Theodorou
Deputy President
(Education & Welfare)
dpew@imperial.ac.uk

Halls of Residence

Back in October, over 3,000 of you moved into Imperial Halls of Residence across London. Now the exhilaration and exhaustion of the big move and back-to-back events is over we're keen to hear your views on your new home. I'll be heading over to each Halls before Christmas, armed with biscuits and drinks to speak to students about life in Halls including the events, social and study spaces, hall rules and anything else you think is important. It will be totally informal, with no Wardens invited so you can be as honest as you want to

be. I'll be grouping Halls together in the following way:

- Southwell, Holbein and Willis Jackson, Fisher, Bernard Sunley
- Beit Hall, Garden and Weeks
- Falmouth and Keogh, Selkirk and Tizard
- Picadilly
- Orient

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S.H.A.G. Week 2008

**S.H.A.G.
WEEK**

24 - 28 NOVEMBER 2008

For more details and advice
on sexual health visit
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S.H.A.G. Week is the Union's annual Sexual Health awareness campaign. There will be a range of educational events including information stalls, chlamydia testing, an STI Treasure Hunt, Sex Bingo and some great films. We're also running fundraisers for sexual health charities in association with Medsin including a S.H.A.G. party at the Union with loads of games and prizes plus a concert to be held at our St. Mary's campus. If you're interested in helping run the week let us know (email dpew@imperial.ac.uk)- all volunteers get a special S.H.A.G. approved T-shirt!

Great Start to the Year for Clubs & Societies

It's been another busy start to the year for Clubs & Societies as memberships have already passed 8,000 representing our most successful start to a College year ever!

Imperial's largest Freshers' Fair took place on the Tuesday of Freshers' Week and since then our Clubs & Societies have been signing up new members at an amazing rate. Memberships are already up 16% on last year with 8,404 sold as of Monday 10 November. This time last year we had sold 7,198 and the year before that 5,405!

Most pleasing however is that almost three-quarters of memberships have been purchased online from imperialcollegeunion.org. Purchasing Club & Society memberships online benefits the Clubs & Societies Officers as well as the Union by immeasurably speeding up the time it takes to process every new membership. We are looking to even further streamline this process in the future by improving the payment process for potential new members.

Club & Society product sales have also increased as a result of the first full year of our online suite of tools for Club & Society Officers. Workbench enables the officers to manage the sales of their products quickly and easily. The take up of this has been much greater than we could have expected. As a result around £45,000 of online sales can be attributed to non-membership products made available by Clubs & Societies through Workbench.

Thanks again must go to all the Club & Society Officers for their hard work which goes into running all off these Clubs & Societies. And also to all the members that have already joined this year. Remember you can have a look at all the available Clubs & Societies (over 300!) online at imperialcollegeunion.org or in our Clubs & Societies Handbook 2008/09.



Culture & The Arts

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

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



Caz Knight
Arts Editor

My recent trips to the Design Museum and to the *Cold War Design* exhibition at the V&A got me thinking about design. I find it to be a bit of a confusing word and unless you are a “designer” yourself, it can be difficult to know one exactly means.

“Art” is a term very much instilled in us since those days of macaroni artwork and glue munching in kindergarten. So, for someone who thinks she knows a little more about art, design and culture than the average Joe Imperial, I was still struggling to imagine what I would encounter in an exhibition entitled *Cold War Design*. Strolling through the rather redundant exhibition *Design Cities* at the Design Museum, I came to my own conclusions about what I think design is.

Design is, in a sense, art with a function; something that strives to be useful, attractive (even beautiful) that requires skill and creativity to make. Designers bridge a gap between the methodical approach commonly found in the Sciences and the creativity of art. Except what design lacks (which art often has), is a supposed meaning—a message and a richness of emotion. That is not to say design cannot conjure these things for certain people. Everything in the world is subjective to a certain extent. I am certain there are those who see the sublimity in physics, I think I certainly would if I were a little less ignorant.

So, design can include a panoply of ‘things’: furniture, crockery, cutlery, kitchenware, fashion, patterns used in decorating the above, technology and even cars. All of the above serve a function but a certain style and allure is required of them to give pleasure as they are used and to attract the consumer.

One thing I appreciated from *Design Cities* was the huge gap created by the Industrial Revolution. We went from craftsmanship where everything was made by hand, resulting in a significantly less amount of product, to mass production with consumer culture in mind. Craftsmen had to rethink their design and patterns: a pattern easily etched by hand would not be as easily undertaken by machine.

Design (exhibitions) gives us an insight into historical context, the culture of a time. Perhaps it is the modern equivalent of unearthing ancient artifacts at a dig, a snapshot of an age. This is certainly true of the other exhibition currently showing at the Design Museum, a retrospective of the work of illustrator Alan Aldridge which goes a long way to evoking the saccharine, sugar cube-filled days of the 60’s. All this has me wondering why people ever stopped taking acid.

My own private Gethsemane

Benedict Fraser relives the good times of New Labour at the National Theatre

The hypocrisy of political life, and existential crises when faced with the stifled individualism of the modern world: themes running through the heart of David Hare’s latest political offering – and occasionally jumping up to slap us in the face, with mixed results. Meredith Guest (Tamsin Greig), the Home Secretary has a couple of problems, in the form of a teenage daughter looking to get herself expelled from the private school she’s been put into and an over-anxious party fundraiser (the ominously named Otto Fallon, played by Stanley Townsend), conveniently a governor of the school, who has made moves to stop that from happening – specifically a new gym. Ideal fodder for the ever-loving press, the face of a judgmental public.

Hare does well to create that rare

sense of the politician as human being, at ease away from the soap box. The play asks questions about morality in political life (where does the boundary lie between public and private, party and individual?), but gives few answers; Meredith, through her own private Gethsemane, comes to terms with her driven political nature but there is no final resolution with her daughter, and we are left with a lingering lack of sympathy for such an intelligent yet emotionally detached character. This is not helped by one-dimensional portrayal of bullyboy Blair, complete with drum kit and weights bench. Yes, she is sympathetic in comparison, but is that really saying much?

The subplot, however, centred around Meredith’s daughter Suzette (Jessica Raine) and her mentor figure Lori (Nicola Walker), who goes through her own crisis of conscience, remains

genuinely touching. Her husband has become a fundraiser for the party. His disenchantment grows culminating in that tried and tested technique, the extended-diatribes-from-nowhere, which felt like *deus ex machina*, Hare himself bursting onto stage. Though bewildering in the extreme, this is one of a few borderline absurdist elements to proceedings, within the context of a finely wrought balance between the subtle and the stylised. This is a good play. With more character development it could be very good.

The set design is impressive and exciting: a cosmopolitan modernist cube-like shifting structure, dancing with tinsel-town lights (at the first scene change I thought I’d entered a modern art exhibit). Tamsin Greig handles things well from the excellent opening scene, although she is ultimately let down by a part which trails

off towards the end of the play. Jessica Raine is excellent as her daughter: by turns acid-tongued, by turns delicate, thoughtful and genuine, I couldn’t imagine a better harmony between writer and actor. She deals admirably with a script (otherwise pitch perfect) whose knowledge of teenage dialect stretches to fitting the word ‘like’ into appropriate places in the sentence – thankfully the audience were uniformly over 40, but I felt for the actress. Stanley Townsend, playing the amoral Otto, the most consistent character, dominates his scenes to imbue proceedings with the pout and swagger of New Labour in its heyday. “Remind me why we shouldn’t be in power forever?” he asks. A line about the booming economy immediately dates the piece; see it now as a reminder of the good times, before that ticket money goes on your mortgage.



That guy. You know – he was kinda important at some point. He was good at beating around the bush. I think.

Retro tripping on the Shad Thames

Caz Knight embarks on an epic voyage to see an Alan Aldridge retrospective at the Design Museum

Added 'psychedelic' to any sentence, phrase or word and I'm there. So it was with Alan Aldridge's retrospective at the Design Museum. The *Independent's* Information the previous weekend advertised the exhibition as "psychedelic images and designs" and that is all the persuading I needed. A quick peruse on Google images and my intrigue turned into excitement as I made my way over to Shad Thames, located right next to the bastion of English Heritage: Tower Bridge and the formidable Tower of London. The world I was about to visit couldn't have been further removed from the medieval nostalgia just a river's breadth away.

Please pardon my hideously unimaginative turn of phrase but this trip was seriously far out...man. One climbs the two flights of stairs to be greeted by a huge version of one of Aldridge's bold creations, serving to half conceal the entrance of what we are about to receive. One step in and already we are in another dimension. The very high ceilings of the space are made use of, to cover wall and floors completely with blown-up versions of his work. The effect is warren-like – making us feel strangely small, dwarfed by the giant Aldridge himself, and many others, set against a black background.

Aldridge had an auspicious start to his career by managing to pass off another's work as his own to establish himself in a career until his natural talent as an illustrator impressed Penguin publishers, when they asked him to redesign covers for their fiction books. It would be the start of a long career in which he always strived to seek new challenges and styles, pushing himself further.

As well as working on album cover art with many bands such as the Rolling Stones and Elton John, one of his better works includes illustrating the Beatles lyrics book with each song translated into a beautiful, surreal and colourful image. Aldridge describes them as illustrations of the 60's, conveying the decade's social and cultural history.

The second "Beatles" room changes the tempo and feel of the exhibition as we emerge from the dark and into the considerably lighter. Again, every inch of walls and floors are white, covered with all the illustrations.

The effect is like being suspended in the clouds with these dream-like creations encircling you rather than them being a 2D decoration and encased in frames on the walls. In each drawing he has managed to encapsulate the very essence of each song whilst adding more of his own interpretations into their meaning.

In awe of Tenniel's illustrations accompanying Lewis Carroll's (magic) mushroom-inspired novel, *Alice in Wonderland*, Aldridge decided he wanted to illustrate a Victorian children's novel as well. *The Butterfly Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast* put a previously unheard of novel to the forefront of public attention and looking at the illustrations through an adult eye's, I was delighted at the world he has created to bring the book alive. In homage to this effort, a funhouse-style room has been installed in the exhibition with green, mirrored walls and larger-than-life sized cutouts of hanging butterflies and insects to recreate this fantasy land.

There is nothing childish about this

exhibition but it has all the optimistic innocence which characterises Aldridge's work and childhood itself; a place where the mundane is forgotten and replaced by a sense of ease, a sense of exploration and a hankering for the strange. Perhaps the very antithesis of the society in which we live which doles out pressure, encouraging us to conform, be in control and be normal.

Throughout my meanderings back and forth and round the space, I felt like I was getting a treat and as if I was on the brink of an amazing new discovery and in a way I was. A feeling I always get when I see or hear of or

unearth some fantastic new thing. I felt the same way when I was introduced to the art of H.R. Giger for the first time. Put into artistic terms, to quote H.S. Thompson, "it just never [gets] weird enough for me". There is just so much going on, so much colour, vibrancy, freshness and beauty but without ever making one feel overwhelmed.

Aldridge shares a quality with Giger of being able to be intensely dark, twisted and masculine. Yet he also possesses a quality of the intensely ethereal, mystical and feminine which is not necessarily evident in each of his illustrations.

One of the more memorable pieces was a Mini decorated in true hippy, 60's style encompassing both a feminine energy on one side and masculine style on the other. The piece is a commemoration to both the 1965 Mini Aldridge designed for the *Sunday Times* cover as well as Mini's own 50th anniversary in 2009. Just to make me even more content was an animated compilation of Aldridge's art work with a sublime Pink Floyd soundtrack, projected onto the wall taking us hurtling through vortexes with kaleidoscopic effects: think iTunes visualiser on a kooky concoction of psilocybin, acid and mescaline!

I left feeling elated but deflated too, frustrated that I live in a decade in which it sucks to be young, where music, fashion and youth culture are trite and where no one cares anymore about being original and outrageous. True, the hippy ideals of the 60's could not be maintained in any progressive society or beyond one's twenties, but the kids then did appear to have a lot more fun.

If Shad Thames is just too far east for you then check out www.alanaldridge.net or purchase his autobiographies *Phantasia*, or the recently published *The Man With the Kaleidoscope Eyes*.



No wonder the dodos are extinct, if that's the way they used to carry on. Is that a patchwork-backed cow-turtle?

Warning: may cause adverse effects

Substance-fuelled creativity – up to the hype or a sorry cliché? Rosie Milton explores what happens when Russian artists get on the hallucinogens at *Mushrooms of the Russian Avant-Garde*



I'm sure the exhibition won't look this terrifying when you go. Also, despite appearances, the exhibits are not edible.



The last time I wrote for felix, it was regarding the Cold War Modern: Design exhibition at the V&A museum. From this perspective we were able to see the direct impact the Cold War had on the creatively-minded of the era – domestically in terms of propaganda and most importantly, the strong impression of nationalism which it implied.

Moving along a few years, Igor Makarevich and Elena Elagina reveal to us the strong connections that they 'experienced', whilst under the influence of psilocybins, to the culture and history of their Russia.

Through the creative media of sculpture, photography, film and painting they have chosen to share with the public the truths (and lies, should we say) that the world of magic mushrooms presents to those who choose to indulge in a trip down the rabbit hole with them. Not being someone who can at first-hand share the visions of a "mycophilic menace", as artistically described by

the exhibition's curator Nadim Julien Samman, I can only reveal to the reader my interpretation from a critical point of view.

About the mushroom: *Amanita muscaria*, or the fly agaric (the most well recognised of the basidiomycete fungi), is effectively a poisonous, yet psychoactive toadstool – instantly recognisable for its deep red mushroom with white spotted spores on its surface and its white stalk. Reactions from ingestion vary in individuals and can range from nausea, euphoria and relaxation to delirium – in the case of severe poisoning. It is made very clear to visitors of the exhibition that the artists not only ingested but encourage the use of mushrooms for recreational and revelatory purposes.

Mushrooms & Russia: the connection? There is certainly a lot of history behind the exhibition, implied through multiple depictions of Russian architecture, the realised and the 'fantasized' also, including especially Vladimir Tatlin's constructivist, utopian tower – 'Monument to the

Third International' (1919).

"the exhibition offers a fresh and understandable version of events far removed from the dusty accounts of historians"

To Makarevich and Elagina retrospectively, the idea of the 'tower' was a dark and oppressive image. It was Tatlin's design for a new headquarters of a world communist government. The implication therefore is that Tatlin was acting in the spirit of irrationality, yet simultaneously was driven by the force of objectivity.

Makarevich and Elagina want us to understand what they have understood from the past, from their perspective. Although ideas filtered through psychedelics are not exactly stable, it offers a fresh and bizarrely understandable version of events from history that are far removed from the dusty and factual accounts of historians.

Turning now to the works themselves, we are presented with a room of several similar paintings – roughly cut, grainy photographs are used to frame silhouettes of the iconic fly agaric – in the thinking of these artists it has become symbol for their own (mind) revolution.

There are wooden toadstool sculptures like the onion (or mushroom)-shaped domes of Russian churches and one with the Tatlin tower set upon it, with an ornamental Corinthian column base – further suggesting the direct relation to architecture.

These images raise all kinds of ironic and interpretive questions regarding

religion and the social systems of Russia, inviting consideration. In a featured fascinating video recording, Sergei Kurehin proceeds to inform us, in all seriousness, that he has proof that Russian revolutionary and communist Vladimir Lenin was a mushroom.

Through simple, technical diagrams he shares his claim (available to view on YouTube if you need convincing) and in turn allows us to understand the structure of Makarevich and Elagina's work more clearly. Out of the mushrooms grow ideas and it is this method of presentation that the artists have chosen, all the time in keeping with the notion that 'seeing is believing' and with the inspiration provided by the hallucinogenic power of mushrooms, we can see the world through Makarevich and Elagina's eyes.

Mushrooms of the Russian Avant-Garde will be on view at Club Row, E2 until 22 November. Admission is free.

Six Characters in Search of an Author

The Gielgud's latest production offers a modern slant on a classic. Natalia Jardon King reports back

Rupert Goold and Ben Power have produced another classic with a twist. After combining the Chapman Brothers with 'Dr Faustus', they have re-interpreted Pirandello's 'Six Characters in Search of an Author'.

In the 1921 original, six characters storm into a stage rehearsal and demand that their story be told. Abandoned by their creator, this is their only hope of release. The modern production at the Gielgud Theatre sees

the family intrude on a TV drama-documentary about assisted suicide in Denmark.

Before the six characters invade the scene, the producer and her colleagues are striving to construct an engaging but faithful representation of death. Once interrupted, the family introduce the more controversial debate as to who is real in the play- the characters themselves, the actors hired for dramatic reconstruction in the Danish documentary, or the producer?

This is definitely a fresh interpreta-

tion, but the engrossing tragedy of Pirandello's family steals the lime-light. Suicide, sibling murder and incest seem more interesting when compared to a discussion concerning levels of reality in art.

There are moments when the audience squirm silently in their seats- in particular at the re-enactment of the Father's assault on his own step-daughter.

We are entranced as McDiarmid sinisterly snips Denise Gough's suspenders before transforming her into

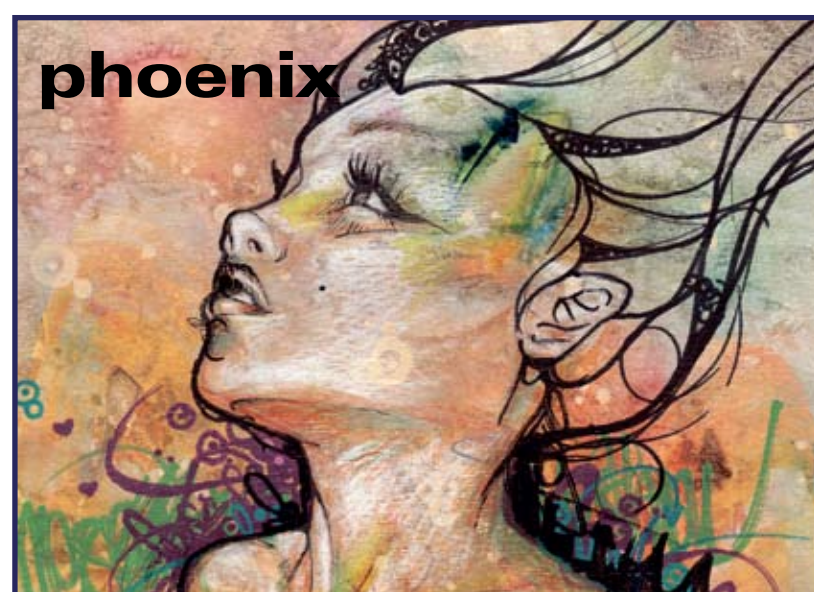
a doll-like child. It shocks and justifies the previous accusations that the Father had exposed his paedophilic preference by his daily visits to the girl's school gates. McDiarmid and Gough give the best performances by capturing the guilt and desperation that inhabit their lives. The scene is brilliantly capped off by the mother's interruption and sudden rendering of pain through an operatic aria.

But it fails to present an awe-inspiring production. Perhaps because the subsequent tragedy of the producer is

dwarfed by that of the family or maybe because as clever as the producer's wandering backstage is, stumbling all the way to next door's Les Misérables seemed redundant, time-consuming and even absurd. It's a pity, for the 20 minute stretch was in fact a detriment to what should have been a very moving end. That's not to say however that Noma Dumezweni doesn't give her character force. And it's worth the visit- if only for the beautiful depiction of chaos, pain and dark fears of the Pirandellian family.



The modern take reinterprets and gives Pirandello's (r) work a decidedly fresh and modern slant. It seems they've carried his classic and impeccable sense of style too.



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Stanford

Saturday 29th November

Symphony Number 4
Brahms

Slavonic Dances
Dvorak

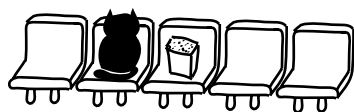
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Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak & Jonathan Dakin

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Already sick of Bond

Zuzanna Blaszcak
Film Editor

I'm wondering whether like me you are sick and tired of the newest James Bond film. If you are, well I'm very sorry but I'm going to reap the benefits of this English blockbuster finally coming out and I'm going to take an example from the 'proper' media and continue with the same story until you either know it by heart or want to slash your wrists any time you even hear the word quantum (which, when you're a physicist like me and the majority of the *felix* staff, can become quite dangerous). So this week we have yet another review of *Quantum of Solace* and quite unsurprisingly the critique isn't very favourable. There seems to be a general consensus reached about the movie – rubbish editing of action sequences, lack of proper story line and no chance for Daniel Craig to use his acting skills. And since I am not a particularly vigorous Bond fan (read: I probably care more about what my biophysics lecturer had for dinner than whether they ever make another movie in the series), I'll take any chance I get to see the film run down by reviewers.

But don't you just hate it when movies disappoint? Guess that's what parents feel when their kid does something stupid and shows up pregnant (unless they are Juno's parents that is). Other highly anticipated films that turned out to be cold, bland dishes include, well, almost every sequel ever made (apart from the *Godfather* maybe, and even

that's still not certain) or originals like *Troy*, *Oliver Twist* and countless others that have conveniently escaped my mind at this particular moment in time. Now let me tell you who's to blame, so that you can join me in my loathing and scathing (even though I rather doubt our joint effort will amount to anything seeing as we can't even get the Union to notice us). No, it's not the directors, it's not the actors, not the editors, nor the producers – on the whole they work hard, as long as they detach themselves from perusing the 'Suns' of the world for any mention of their humble personas for long enough. I hold the publicists responsible.

They are the ones who get paid ridiculous money to sell you a product that doesn't exist, a film so gripping, so new, so exhilarating that you've never seen one like it before. And that's probably true, but what is rarely mentioned is that you will, in fact, never see a movie like that. Because the truth of the matter is that the PR people have quite remarkably realised that our imaginations are our best worst enemy. So long as something stays only a vague idea in our tiny brains we can't become disillusioned about it. It's no secret that the more publicity a film gets, the more we think about it. But beware, cause the moment you start thinking about a movie before having seen it, you effectively sabotage it. P.S. Did you know that they use CG effects to blot out Keira Knightley's spot marks?

Saw I, Saw V, saw them all

Jonathan Dakin
Film Editor

Imagine you are a convicted murderer and you wake up one day in a squalid room, strapped down to a mechanical machine. A video begins playing on a monitor adjacent to your face and a scary clown toy tells you that because you were let out of prison early on a 'technicality' you have not paid for what you have done. You then have a minute to decide whether or not to crush your own hands in a rusty grinder, and by doing so survive the ordeal, or chicken out and so let a swinging axe cut you in half. What do you?

This life or death scenario is the first one of many presented to the audience in the fifth paint-by-numbers sequel to the popular *Saw* franchise. Having begun immediately where the forth instalment left off, *Saw 5* immediately lets rip, both figuratively and metaphorically, and quickly descends into another bland and torturous hour and a half.

The plot involves the serial killer Jigsaw's protégé continuing his work of forcing people into sick games in which they have to torture themselves or others to survive, the purpose being that if they are successful in their plight their survival will allow them to truly appreciate their lives. The plot focuses on the new killer (Mandylor) and a cop (Paterson) trying to catch him, but while this cat and mouse chase plays out five criminals have to work their way through a series of rooms, each containing a survival game, until only one of them is left standing at the end. Violence ensues. Heads roll. People are torn, shredded, electrocuted and blown apart. Then it ends.

The plot is only interesting when it tells you how Jigsaw originally recruited the new victimiser, but the new 'games' that are played out are tired and dull, mainly because we have seen them all before. This film will only make sense to those of you who have already seen the first four *Saw* films, because if you haven't then you will have no idea what is going on, as no exposition is presented.

The advertising campaign for this film states that 'you won't believe how it ends'. And I agree with this, because the ending is of such a poor, predictable and disappointing quality you will leave the cinema not quite believing

just how awful the denouement really was. It is this reviewer's opinion that the *Saw* series should have stopped after the second one, as the first two were both original and intelligent, but each subsequent film is just the same thing, but worse, repeated over and over again.

Why pay to see this film? Well if watching random people dying in disgusting ways is your cup of tea, then I recommend it. But for the rest of us who like to watch something with a bit of originality, written by someone with half a brain who isn't just trying to cash in on a popular idea, then I would say don't bother.



This guy has clearly gone over the top for the Masquerade Ball

Once more, but with a bit more feeling please

We give the newest Bond film another chance, but will the new reviewer be kinder than last weeks?

Quantum of Solace ★★☆☆

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

Priya Garg

Two sexy spies (one named Strawberry Fields) a brush with the Bolivian secret service, a fighter jet spinning out of control, two memorable car chases and a body count climbing with every scene. Pistols, fist fights, explosions, a white shirt that seems to never get stained, jet-setting from London to Haiti to Bolivia and to top it all off, a villain named Dominic Greene with lank hair, a manic expression and a sadistic streak who is determined to take over the world. What could be more Bond than that?

This film takes up where the brilliant *Casino Royale* left off, with James (Daniel Craig) vowing revenge against

the men who caused him to lose the only woman he ever loved, and the woman who eventually betrayed him, Vesper (the beautiful Eva Green). He discovers that the men who blackmailed Vesper into deceiving him, control an organisation (Quantum) more complex than the CIA or MI5 had ever imagined. Thus, he sets out on a confusing mission to uncover the truth behind Quantum and prevent Dominic Greene who heads this criminal group, from exploiting the world's natural resources. Absurdly, there is also a flimsy sub-plot, which Bond gets caught up in, involving a General Medrano and a attractive young spy for Bolivia (Camille) who is on her own personal assassination mission. Both are tied up somehow, in relations with the treacherous business of Quantum.

So why was I so very disappointed with *Quantum of Solace*? It had all the elements of a 'true Bond' but the pieces were put together without any feeling or wit. It was clumsily arranged and too focussed on the shaky camera action during the fight scenes to get back any

of the fun and exhilaration that *Casino Royale* had left us with. We were expecting a tantalising new type of Bond, hot, sexy and ready to go. This brings us back to the old Bond who was failing to raise an audience and ready to be shelved. I wanted to be on the edge of my seat, but instead I was half-asleep. It was mediocre and left me longing to be watching its predecessor.

The storyline is poorly thought out and its translation onto screen is even worse. There is little or no dialogue worth remembering in this film and Daniel Craig's acting talents seemed to be limited to a few grimaces and numerous encounters with M. The Bond girls are limited in their roles and far too clichéd. It feels rushed, over-produced and too concerned with its own flashy exterior to worry about the story it is trying to tell. This should have been the film of the year, and it could have been!

Quantum of Solace, all style and unfortunately, little substance. Bring back Martin Campbell and let's have some proper Bond direction.



This time Bond is overshadowed by mindless violence and lack of plot.

What if you *could* smell napalm in the morning?

At one point you could, but incorporating smell into movies is an old and tried idea that simply didn't work.

Mičo Tatalović

From the early origins of cinema people toyed with the idea of synchronised smell. In 1906, even before sound was introduced to cinema, a family theatre in Forest City, Pennsylvania used scents to accompany their newsreel of the Pasadena Rose Bowl. They dipped cotton wool into rose essence and then used an electric fan to waft the scent towards the audience.

Then in 1929 a cinema in Boston added a lilac fragrance to their ventilation system while the opening credits were rolling for *Lilac Time* and the same year at the premiere of *Broadway Melody*, a New York cinema released orange blossom fragrances from the ceiling during the screening. But these early experiments did more to distract the audiences than to add to film experience.

Adding to the film experience was also the idea behind 'feelies: cinemas of the future envisaged by Aldous Huxley in his cult novel *Brave New World* (1932).

Alongside 3D vision and sound, these cinemas would offer the physical sensation of touch and movement ('feely' effects) and "synchronized scent-organ accompaniment", all of which were intended to enhance the spectator's immersion into the film by increasing the

illusion of reality.

In the 1940s a Swiss scientist, Hans Laube, who studied 'osmics', the science of olfaction (smell), developed a machine he called Scentavision. This was eventually picked up by a film producer, Mike Todd Jr., who re-named it Smell-o-Vision and used it for a film called Scent of Mystery in 1960. "First they moved (1895). Then they talked (1927)! Now they smell!" went the advertising slogan for Smell-o-Vision. The machine had a central 'brain' with a rotating drum that housed the bottles of different scents.

This was connected to the film tape, which contained markers that would indicate when the scents were to be released. The scents would then travel through a system of plastic pipes until they reached the audience, and were then released from under their seats.

A similar contraption known as Aroma-Rama was invented by Charles Weiss: it released scents through the cinema's ventilation system and over 30 scents were used in the 1959 film *Behind the Great Wall*. Aroma-Rama was advertised with the slogan, "You must breathe it to believe it"

Neither of these technologies were accepted by audiences or critics. One New York Times film critic said, "if there is anything of a lasting value to be learned from Michael Todd's Scent

of a Mystery it is that motion pictures and synthetic smells do not mix." Time magazine similarly slammed Aromarama: "most of the production's 31 odours will probably seem phoney even to an average, uneducated nose. A



beautiful old pine grove in Peking, for instance, smells rather like a subway restroom on a disinfectant day." The

main problems were that the scents, once released, would linger about and mix with other scents, causing unpleasant smells, allergic reactions and nausea for some people in the audience.

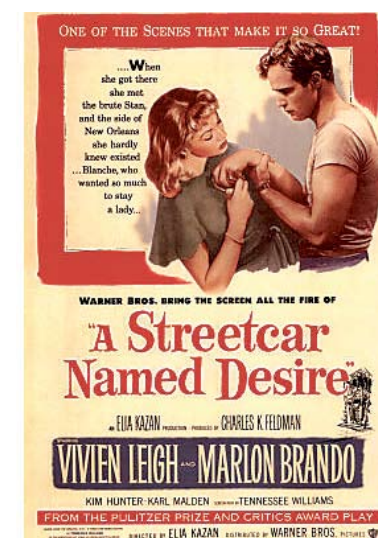
The release of these scents were also accompanied by a hissing sound which would distract from the movie, and in the case of Aroma-Rama, the scent took a while to diffuse (although freon gas was used to facilitate this diffusion) and would reach some people too late, when the appropriate moment in the movie had already passed. Although the media hype predicted scents to be as important as sound in cinema's evolution, the first public appearance of 'smellies' also marked their immediate demise.

Paying homage to Scent-o-Vision, John Waters used system called Odorama in his 1981 film Polyester, with the ad slogan, "Smelling is believing!" In Odorama, the audience would receive scratch-and-sniff cards as they entered the cinema. The cards had 10 scents covered by 10 numbers and the audience would have to wait until a number would flash on the screen to scratch and sniff a scent related to that moment in the movie.

The scents included pizza, leather, flowers, a skunk, natural gas and farts. The cards were printed with an emulsion of essential oils containing an aro-

ma-forming chemical. The emulsion contains millions of tiny scent bubbles only microns in diameter. Once the cards are scratched, the bubbles rupture and release volatile scents that then find their way to people's noses.

Smell-o-Vision and Odorama have only been used in a handful of films since, including the 2006 screening of *The New World* with Collin Farrell in cinemas in Osaka and Tokyo, and several in amusement parks such as Disneyland.



At the Film Cynic Clinic

Stuart Higgins

This week it was suggested that as part of this column, I might actually consider reviewing a film. True, over the past few weeks I've tended to avoid commenting on current films and instead focussed on some of the other aspects of cinema in general. However this week I will try my hardest, to produce a succinct, accurate and fair judgement on a new release.

I mean, to quote a popular BBC car and caravanning show, "how hard can it be?" All one has to do is to pick a film at random from the week's deluge of celluloid and string together an array of outlandish archaic adjectives, interspersed like tiny gravel islands in a river of contrived metaphor. As long as you don't state: "It was nice, I had a real good time, and I would probably say that you ought to see *Shrek 3* too", then you should be fine.

But what is the critics' role? What purpose should a review serve to the reader? Is it a mere quantitative assessment of a film, based on a number of discrete well-defined categories that allow the generation of a meaningful integer between 1 and 5? Sure we can rank the thousands of films out there with a dynamic range of 5. The silliness and frivolities *Hot Fuzz* easily place it as a firm 5, alongside the achingly beautiful (damn those darn pesky adjectives again) *Lost in Translation*, with its elegantly composed scenes (and lack of ending/purpose). Hang on a minute, so the Cornetto-munching, shotgun-toting cops, are numerically the same as Bill Murray's masterfully disparate character? It doesn't make any sense. If you take the review and shine the infallible *cough* beacon of science upon it, then things get even worse. So you've got this experiment and each time you change this variable called



“the film”, and you then change the variable called “the reviewer”, which incidentally means that pretty much none of your results are recorded on comparable scales. Are the results repeatable? Ah well, that depends on what mood the experimenter is in on the day. At least there’s no danger that the result, or the review in this case, could bias future data. Actually, well no, that could also happen. It follows logically that someone reading a good review about a movie will be more encouraged to see it, thus making it more popular and therefore leading to more good reviews. Most critics are unlikely to turn around and criticise something that is blatantly doing well, and this all leaves us in a rather muddled situation.

It is likely therefore that my initial prognosis was wrong. A review cannot be a numerical assessment of a film; this system simply doesn't work due to the

subjective nature of pretty much every aspect of the process. So what should a review be? Perhaps it is simply entertainment. Something to read, perhaps trusting the writer's judgement a little in your own decision making. Perhaps not. Either way however you interpret it, enjoy this weeks' reviews and normal, more cynical service will resume shortly.

Comments? Please respond to:
not_gavin@hotmail.com.

This Week:
Imperial Popcorn Recipe
Ingredients: 400g of Popping Corn
2 Cans of Red Bull
4 Cups of JCR Coffee
10 ml Union Dregs

Place all ingredients together in a suitable container, subject to intense pressure for 3-4 years and serve on a bed of lost hope.

Coming Out Soon

Teenage thrills with *Twilight*?

Jonathan Dakin
Film Editor

A teenage girl falls in love with a vampire in this romantic-fantasy. Wait a minute. Did you just read that correctly? A chick flick about vampires? Are you losing your sight? Are you crazy? No you aren't, but if you haven't heard about *Twilight* until now, then you should be questioning your awareness of the outside world.

Twilight, the novel this film is based on, is an extremely popular and successful series of books for young adults, mainly aimed at girls who like a little bit of horror on the side. Isabella (played by Kristen Stewart, who you

might remember as the girl who looks like a boy in *Panic Room*), a seventeen-year-old who moves to a new town is immediately smitten with vampire Edward (Robert Pattinson, who is famous for being Cedric Diggory in the awful *Harry Potter* films), but their forbidden love threatens to destroy their lives and tear them apart.

Although *Twilight* is a hugely anticipated film within a certain community (Buffy fans I'm looking at you) it has such wide mainstream appeal that it should be worth a gander. And if the romance is too schmaltzy for you, then hopefully there will be enough action and horror in it to appeal to the masses.



Maybe this young cast can do a better job at entertaining us than their older colleagues.



phoenix

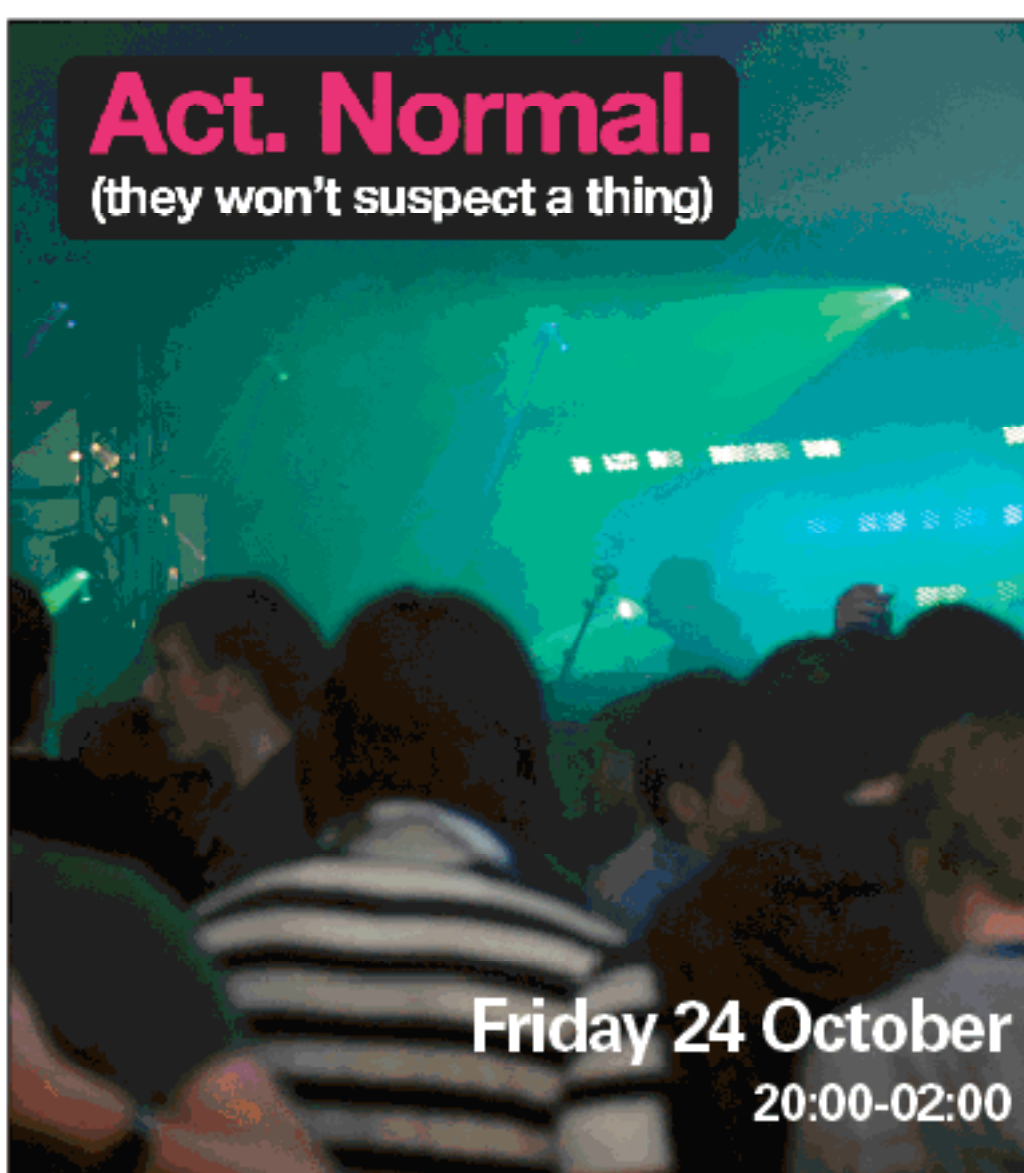
OUT NEXT WEEK!

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with next week's
issue of *felix*



Friday 14 November
20:00-02:00

Act. Normal.
(they won't suspect a thing)



Friday 24 October
20:00-02:00

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The Union encourages responsible drinking. R.O.A.R. Student I.D. Required.





Picture of the Week

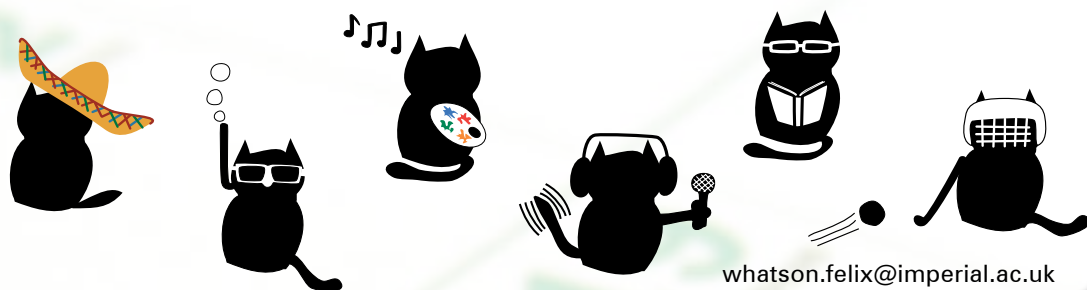
Mill Bridge, by William Turner
BSc Geology

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

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro



whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Monday

PPS Talk

What Changes is Obama Bringing to the USA? Political Philosophy Society hosts William D. Barnard, Chair of Democrats Abroad UK, in an informal discussion on the recent victory of Barack Obama in the USA and what change this heralds for the country and the world.

Time: 6pm
Place: Room 344, Huxley
Price: Admission Free

Aunties & Uncles

Meet your Uncles and Aunties at the Reynolds with Indian Society! There's fun for all the "family" with wholesome activities like karaoke, games and the feared Chilli Contest...

Time: 8 till late
Place: Reynolds, Charing Cross
Price: £3/£4 (members/non-members)

Tuesday

Christian Union

Hasn't Science Disproved Christianity? Come and hear a brief yet logical and balanced response to this question, accompanied by tea, coffee, scones and jam with a chance to ask questions and discuss.

Time: 12:15pm - 1:30pm
Place: Seminar Room 1, Beit
Price: Admission Free

Games Night

Enjoy a fun Caribbean themed Games Night with West Indian Society. Games for the evening include poker (with a prize up for grabs!), cranium, Caribbean card games and free light refreshments.

Time: 6pm - 10pm
Place: Room 315, Chem Eng
Price: £2/£3 (Members/Non-Members) £2 each if you bring a friend.

Jazz & Folk Night

A chance to chill out with Jazz & Rock. Headliners include the John Randall Quintet with special guests Yveage, and Jacob and the Hillbillies.

Time: 8pm
Place: dB's, Beit
Price: Admission Free

Wednesday

Improvisation Workshop

Try out a free improvisation workshop courtesy of Dram-soc. Anyone is welcome – no prior experience necessary!

Time: 2pm - 5pm
Place: Union Dining Hall, Beit
Price: Admission Free

Welcome to the new-look What's on! We're trying out a new layout so please let us know what you think.

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:

- Club name
- Event name
- Date(s) & Time
- Place
- Price (if applicable)
- Short description of the event (max. 30 words)

Deadline for submissions for next week's edition is midnight on **Monday 17th 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.

Email: whatson.felix@ic.ac.uk

Thursday

A Crisis of Interest

Islamic Society invites you to explore a feasible & growing ethical alternative to interest-based finance; with Tarek Diwany & Baron Junaid Bhatti.

Time: 6pm
Place: G16, SAF
Price: Admission Free

Pakistan Soc

"High Stakes: The Battle on the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border." A discussion followed by an open Q&A session.

Time: 6pm
Place: Pippard LT, Lvl 5 Sherfield
Price: Free/£2 (members/non-members)

Classical Guitar Concert

In Memory of Francisco Tárrega. Come and enjoy the best of classical guitar music.

Time: 7pm
Place: Read LT, Lvl 5 Sherfield
Price: £3

iCU Cinema

Film: Superbad
Time: 6pm

Film: You Don't Mess With The Zohan
Time: 9pm

Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: Free (members)

Friday

EWB Talk

"Climate Healers brings together action on climate change & poverty reduction with new technology and microfinance to help rural communities in India - and you!" A talk by Sailesh Rao for anyone who's interested in development or global warming issues.

Time: 12:30pm - 2pm
Place: LT 342, Mech Eng
Price: Admission Free

iCU Cinema Double Bill

A special double showing with free entry for all iCU Cinema members. If you're not already a member, come along anyway - membership will be available on the door, and you'll get a free voucher for the next iCU Cinema showing.

Films courtesy of Sony and Sublime Promotions.

Film: Step Brothers
Time: 6pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: Free (members)

Film: Pineapple Express
Time: 9pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: Free (members)

Saturday

Art Exhibition

SIFE Imperial invites you to the Unheard Voices of Africa Arts Exhibition in conjunction with the TEKUA project, which provides economic and intellectual opportunities to students in Tanzania.

Time: 1pm - 5pm
Place: dB's
Price: Free

ICSM Choir Concert

Get into the festive spirit with ICSM Music Society! Repertoire includes parts of Handel's Messiah and A Celebration of St. Cecilia's Day.

Time: 7:30pm
Place: St. Stephen's Church, SW7
Price: Free/£5 (students/non-students)

Sunday

Orienteering

Paradise Wildlife CHIG Regional is a large orienteering event with several hundred participants of all levels, incl. beginners. Come along for a fun day out in lovely Broxbourne Woods, only 40 min from London! Contact: orienteering@imperial.ac.uk for more information.

Time: 10am - 2pm
Place: Broxbourne Woods, Herts
Price: £7 - £10

The Lord City and Guilds College Union



In 1215, King John allowed the City of London's residents the right to elect their own mayor, or the first time. The new Mayor was to be presented to the Sovereign, and so was accompanied by his supporters in a parade through the city. This was the first Lord Mayor's show, which has been an annual feature ever since.

The modern Lord Mayor's show has evolved into a grand parade that includes the old and new livery companies, charities, various armed services and representatives of Londoners from all walks of life. The 3-mile long parade winds its way past the sights of the city of London, converging on the Royal Courts of Justice, where the Lord Mayor takes an oath of allegiance to the sovereign.

This year's Lord Mayor is Ian David Luder, born and educated in London, it is his role to promote the City of London, both at home and abroad, as the world's leading financial centre. Officially, he also takes on a number of other roles, including Admiral of the Port of London, Chancellor of City University and presides over the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council.

As the constituent college of the original livery companies, City & Guilds College Union enter a float in the Lord Mayor's show. This year's entry was conceived and created by Owen Connick and Tom Murray from the Aeronautics department. Owen tells felix about the float, the theme and the day itself:

Every year the City & Guilds College Union enters a float into the Lord Mayor's Show. In the last few years, the theme has involved; an MRI scanner, a suspension bridge, a mock-up of 'The Queen's Tower' and a football goal. So, we thought it was about time Aero chipped in to remind everyone

how cool aeroplanes can be! With that in mind and the 100th anniversary of the first British powered flight occurring in October we thought it a fitting tribute to build a replica of that original plane complete with wooden wing spars, stretched canvas wing coverings and simple riveted propellers.

Work began on the organisation back in June, securing sponsorship from BP and registering our entry with the Pageantmaster. Tom worked tirelessly to set up a top-notch CAD model using his solidworks skills to create a set of drawings and part-numbers which proved invaluable during the build stages.

We waited until coming back to London for the new term to start construction. After we were kindly loaned some garage space from the motor club we ordered the timber, screws and bolts, begged and borrowed tools and favours and finally the construction began. Many a long night was spent measuring, marking, cutting, gluing and screwing in our cold but homely garage tucked away underneath the ACEX building. Bit by bit and assembly by assembly the model began to take shape, first the fuselage, then the wings, then the tail and finally on a cold Thursday evening the canvas went on and the Cody Flyer replica was complete.

Aside from the main build we had to sort out lorry hire, design banners and leaflets, make playlists, hire speakers and post off essential security paperwork. We ordered Helium balloons, paper aeroplane flyers and had matching T-Shirts and scarves. The Cody Flyer would be accompanied on the float by the C&G motor club mascot Bo' and

Mayor's Show: celebrate 100 years of British aviation

following proudly behind would be the RCS motor club fire engine Jez.

The motor club also made themselves useful by giving Tom and Owen a lift to collect the generator and speakers in the back of the RSM motor club mascot Clem, a 1926 1-Tonne truck. Cruising down Kings Road we managed to get the Ferrari driver in front pretty annoyed as people stopped to take pictures of us completely ignoring his £100,000 pride and joy.

When the day of the parade came around months of hard work and effort came together and with the help of willing and enthusiastic volunteers the day went off with barely a hitch. By the time we arrived at our start point the balloons had been blown into a single tangled mass of red and white and the chalk boards had been washed clean by driving rain. The boards were quickly addressed by John and Sam with some rapid chalk overwriting and the balloons were sorted out by Suzie and Amanda who settled on large bundles on each corner of the float.

Nobody could've predicted how effective a fake moustache and some long coats could be to transform Harry and Veronica, two 21st Century Londoners into the spitting image of Mr & Mrs Samuel Cody, but I saw it with my own eyes and it was so. With the finished plane, Sam Cody himself and a stiff breeze we were more than tempted to cut the ties and let her fly, the Marshals however were not quite so keen so we erred on the side of caution and kept everyone and everything on board the lorry. It was for the best really.

Through some combination of Dam-busters, Top Gun and paper aeroplanes we won over the hearts of the watching crowds. Owen provided entertainment alongside the lorry trying to catch paper aeroplanes thrown from on board the float and even attempting to aquaplane a large puddle which inevitably ended in a wet foot and much laughter. Suzie and Betty also braved the crowds

and discovered just how demanding 8-year-old children really can be when they think they might get something for free.

The procession passed by many City of London landmarks including The Bank of England, Mansion House, St Paul's Cathedral and Embankment. Impressively large crowds braved the weather to ensure that the entire route was lined with cheering and smiling faces. Lunch was provided by the girl guides (no joke) and many people chose to supplement their sandwiches with a warm glass of mulled wine although Phil Lui opted for something a little stronger.

It was at the signature point of the whole parade, right in front of the Grandstands that Phil (call him Richard) picked as his 2 minutes of fame. Sighting out an unsuspecting lady in the crowd, Phil lined her up and with an aeroplane flight of pinpoint accuracy and managed to spear her right between the eyes. Much to the bemusement of the target and her husband, the entire population of our float simultaneously swivelled on the spot to look the opposite way and deny all knowledge of the incident.

The day ended with the rather strange picture of Sam Cody in full 1908 costume happily riding around Moorgate on a Segway, we held up the army for a few minutes so that we could take some pictures and then we went home. Via the pub of course.

Special thanks go to all who helped with the organisation, and most of all to everyone who came along and made it a day to remember.

Article written by Owen Connick
Design: Alice Rowlands

For more information see
www.sfcody.org.uk
www.codyflyerproject.com



**Samuel Franklin
Cody**

Born: 6th March 1867 (Davenport, Iowa)

Early life: Cody grew up on the plains of Iowa, living the life of cowboy.

1898-1901: Cody became interested in kites while touring Europe giving shooting and horse riding displays.

1901: Cody patented his kite design and offered it to the War Office for use in the second Boer war.

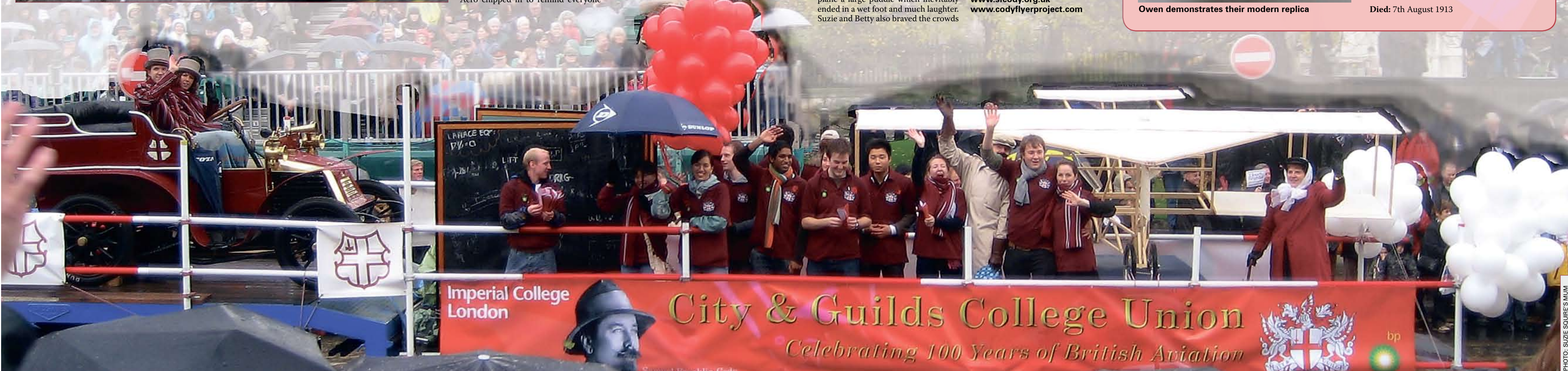
1905: Cody begins to work with kites for the Royal Engineers. He later works on airships, which were the British armed forces' primary interest for flying machines at the time.

1908: Working for the armed forces allowed Cody to develop an aeroplane. On 16 October, 1908 made the first powered, controlled flight in the UK of a heavier than air machine.

Died: 7th August 1913



Owen demonstrates their modern replica





Clubs & Societies

Clubs & Socs Editor - Alice Rowlands

Is your club cooler than the cat that got the cream? Write to us.

clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Blessed by sunshine in the Lake District



Nathaniel Bottrell
Fellwanderer

It all began on one still Friday evening with twelve brave Fellwanderers lining up outside the union ready to venture to the Lake District.

Unrest was in the air, will the weather be a repeat of last weekend causing many people to be rescued as a months rain fell in a few hours, or will it just rain like the last two Lakes trips. Gareth and Jon got the minibus away with all ready for their seven hour drive. President Nathaniel wasn't so clever getting stuck in traffic on the M3 as he was bringing the car to collect another four unsuspecting victims on this Halloween night.

Even with the car leaving an hour and a half later than the minibus it still arrived in High Wray Village Hall, our 5* accommodation for the weekend, before the minibus. Nathaniel wasn't sure where he had overtaken the minibus, never mind he must have been half asleep at the wheel. In the wait for the minibus the hall heating, yes it had heating, was cranked up to the max along with the stereo and it's slightly off-putting record collection.

Saturday's weather was calm, sunny and just plain gorgeous for the Lakes in November. It was decided to try and bag Helvellyn and Striding Edge making the most of the weather. Helvellyn seemed like a great idea until we arrived at the car park, £12 for a minibus

with the machine only accepting £1 coins, which genius decided that. With all pockets emptied everyone set off up towards a snow, ice and cloud covered summit. A change to the route was made as Striding Edge wasn't passable due to ice. Nathaniel managed to miss the summit of Helvellyn arriving at the trig point one meter below. On the way down Nathaniel slipped, landed in a puddle and took out Evelyn making her new trousers muddy, she wasn't pleased.

Most awoke on Sunday with a slight hang-over to beautiful clear skies and a 15km walk ahead of them. Nathaniel decided to beast everyone around the Conistone Fells which includes The Old Man, Swirl and Wetherlam with a small amount of scrambling in between. The views from the top were brilliant stretching from Lake Windermere to Scafell Pike making the hours of pain in the minibus worthwhile. Jon celebrated at the top of the Old Man with a cup of Pims, something that's becoming quite a tradition.

Leaving later than planned and getting stuck in endless M6 roadwork traffic our weekend of fantastic weather finished with a gourmet meal from either KFC or Burger King at Warwick Services. All in all a great trip, check the photo's at www.fellwanderers.com.

If you fancy a trip to the countryside any time soon, come and join us; 12:30 in Beit Quad on a Tuesday for more information.

Intervarsity Debating Competition at IC

Kadhim Shubber

For those of you who were somehow unaware, Saturday 1st November saw the IC Debating Society play host to the IC Intersvarsity Debating Competition (IV), sponsored by Glencore and the IC Finance Society. Universities from across the buzzing debating scene were invited to participate. Teams from as far afield as the European Business School near Frankfurt along with more familiar faces from institutions such as Oxford and Cambridge all competed for the highly coveted title of the "Master-debater".

Thought provoking, amusing and at times bizarre points of view were heard along with numerous opinions that were more often than not stated as facts! A variety of subjects were explored in depth, including the legitimacy of public funding in science and the evaluation and reassessment of the role that our democratic system should play.

The final rounds saw Sam Block and Aliyah Akram of Cambridge (A) triumph over Middle Temple, King's College and LSE on the motion that 'This house would be pacifist', by arguing that the United Kingdom should disband HM Armed Forces and adopt a new defence policy of passive resist-



Does anyone else think I look like Mussolini

ance "as Gandhi would have wanted". Fred Cowell and James Prior of Middle Temple also took home the title of best team on the tab; James Prior also clinched 'the best speaker' position.

If you have read this far down the article and any of it sounded provocative and of interest (or perhaps you just feel compelled to have your point of view heard on any number of controversial topics) then do come along to one of our meetings at 6.00pm every Wednesday in the Sir Alexander Fleming building - room 119, or email debate@imperial.ac.uk. This year promises to be

an active one for the Debating Society, presenting members with the opportunity to receive coaching from world-class debaters and participate in many competitions at different universities nationwide. We also have a team going to Cork in the Republic of Ireland this New Year to partake in the World Universities Debating Championships, so all in all it looks set to be an exciting year.

Thank you, once again, to our generous sponsors, Glencore and the IC Finance Society - without their support the IV would not have taken place.

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The Union isn't all bad

Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

You may notice this week that things are looking different. That's right the editors columns have become less column like and more like an editorial. We here at *felix* like to think we're constantly striving for perfection. Always thinking about how we can make the paper better. I hope you agree with me when I say it's the little things we change every now and then make the paper that bit better.

Things in the FUCWIT league are really flying. Since we started to bribe you with a free iPod, entries are still flying in left right and centre. This weeks Sanky B is an obvious choice, which we happened to forget about until one dedicated reader emailed us (pointing out how idiotic we've been). Please do give us suggestions. It'll help out a lot.

Now to use this section for what it is meant to be for. A rant. Now I love the Union. I pretty much live there. There has been many a time where a day of intense lectures has resulted in what can only be described as carnage in the Union. Cheapest drinks in South

Kensington, so why go anywhere else. It also makes me happy to see more and more people turning up to the Union to drink, socialise and even eat the "excellent" cuisine offered during the week days. Of particular note, the Union entertainments have been awesome as of late. This has been the best freshers' week, and even first time in IC history. I find it a shame though that there was such a conflict between the faculty unions and the central union over the masquerade ball, which was highlighted in last week issue of *felix*. It seems that a great misunderstanding between the two cause such an upset. Sure things were not timetabled in the greatest way, but I assure there is no war between the Union and the other parties. I personally didn't think that last weeks article came out a little unjust toward the efforts both sides made for their events. I hope that now things have "blown over" the faculty unions can work with the central union to better co-ordinate events. This can surely result in bigger better and higher attended events.

Stuff IC Students Like!?! :)

7. Whisky:

Now i'm not sure if everyone agrees with us here. But damn do we love whisky, and as students of Imperial College we can be a bit presumptuous and assume that all student at IC students also love whisky. Except those

who don't drink obviously. Back to the topic in hand (no pun intended), whisky is a fine drink with plenty of flavour, kick and a reasonable level of alcohol. Some people are fans of Jack Daniels, not us. We're fans of other, non - American, brands such as chivas regal, Jamesons or the Famous Grouse.



Drink with me, I'm Snaky B and this week I'm dressed as Mr T. If it got wheels I can fix it.



What up fools!. I said quit you jibber jabber. I'm Snaky B dressed as one bad mother funky. That's right Mr T! I believe in the Golden Rule - The Man with the Gold.. rules! That's right jive turkey. Get up and eat that snickers fool, or I'm going to hit you so hard I'll knock you into next week. That's right people I'm going to teach you suckas a lesson. You better not be talkin' to no invisible animals! Ain't nobody gonna say, shut up fool ain't got no secret weapon. He's

just crazy! Just a minute, now let me lay down the rules of this establishment. I deal with every kid with an even hand. Ain't nobody givin' me no back talk. Now go play. I'm just tryin' to pull you of the streets little brother. Maybe you can do us some good, and maybe we can do you some good. Don't be thinkin' "how long we gonna listen to this jive. When can we get something to eat?"

I have one last thing to say, I ain't gettin in no plane. Quit druggin' my milk Murdock!


Photoshop Competition - 7



This weeks winner. Team Rubbish



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



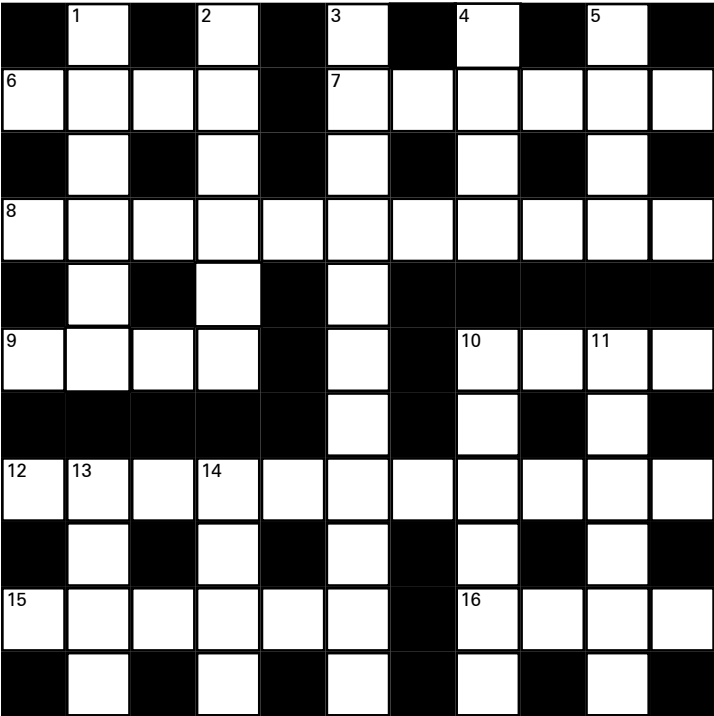
Congratulations to this week's winner, Team Rubbish. This week you've outdone yourselves. Ypu were almost beat by "Top of the tables" entry, but lets face it the ligh saber through the face was mega awesome. Again with

the laser eyes, but the physicists here tell me light doesn't bend. Oh well. Also whadufuh is David Cameron doing there eh? Keep up the good work, and please enter again next week. We like.

This week's image is of ACC Vice Chairman Chaz Murdoch. While getting drunk on Wednesday night, IC hockey club decided to tape him to this tree of woe. I particularly find the expression on his face hilarious.

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.

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,415



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 6 Loyal or faithful (4)

7 Illegally take something (5)

8 Obvious: of conclusions (11)

9 Prevent a plan; type of sword (4)

10 A fine deposit in waterways (4)

12 The Lord's Prayer (7,4)

15 Becoming more receptive or aware (6)

16 Get the ball through the hoop (4)
- 1 Mexican term for an American (6)

2 Member of the stoat family (6)

3 Excavator powered by water vapour (5,6)

4 Prima donna; Tina Turner (4)

5 Completely immoral (4)

10 Break away (6)

11 Mourn (6)

13 Small amount; scintilla (4)

14 Miserable (4)

Right the, you guys wanted a quick crossword, so you've got one. Thanks to **Enoch** for the grid and the questions.

Don't worry though everyone, even though the crossword is done by the same person who does the cryptic crosswords, it won't be as difficult. **Enoch** dumbed it really down so that every can do it, but after being told it was too easy, he kicked it up a notch.

As every puzzle in the paper, correct answers bring points which will go towards the FUCWIT League. So get your answe in to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Good luck!

FUCWIT League Table

Top of the Table	24 Points
Möchten sie mein Manschaft?	18 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	13 Points
Team Turner Gobels	12 Points
Giramondo	12 Points
Team Rubbish	10 Points
Yu-Xi Chau	10 Points
Martin '08	8 Points
Team Rapid Bunnyz	5 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 eventual 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!


Ho-dizzle-ro-tizzle-scopes. Brace yourselves.

Informal, factual, funny.... Just three things that these Horoscopes won't be.




Aquarius

You probably want to skip this one- it's an inside joke. Shipman... what's occuring? Really would you make sweet love to you ideal girl if you were more likley to get AIDs than not... 70%, that's *quite* high. If anyone's as ruthless as this man please send you story to felix@imperial.ac.uk but remember it could get messy....




Taurus

This week you sit in your fluid dynamics lecture trying to figure out what type of bellend you have to be to actually enjoy this. You look at your HB pencil and curse the nanny state who forced the powers that be to remove Lead from pencils. A few licks and BOOM! lead poisoning and escape from this hell hole into the realtive joys of A&E.




Leo

Leo, you poor sods. You now share something in common with those useless arseholes the Blair family. Or if we use there stage name, "The Massive Mouth". It's like a fucking circus in that family- one likes to cut out the middle man and vomit directly into the waterways and there is an ageing rockstar in the mix too? Whadafuh??



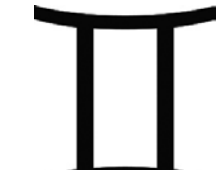
Scorpio

Word Up my Scorpio bitches!! This week it's my birthday, that means people you don't know will ring you up, people you don't like will buy you a pint and people you do know and like will buy a horrific dirty pint. Why? I don't really want either of these things- I want to sit in the corner, shake my fist at the young generation and chunder into a Biffa bin on the way home.




Pisces

Did you know that a pint is not actually 1 unit? I went to the Health Centre the other day with a stomach pain and hope that the nurse was hot (trust me shes banging) and she ask me "Do you consume more than 21 units a week?" After pondering for a bit I replied "Yer I think I do 21 pints a week." To which she said, "No, a pint is not 1 unit. You are going to die." Oh shit!




Gemini

I think I am beginning to love tube drivers. The other day on the District at Earls Court I heard this, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I do apologise for the delay to your service. I know you're all dying to get home, unless, of course, you happen to be married to my ex-wife, in which case you'll want to cross over to the Westbound and go in the opposite direction."




Virgo

Guys, the gym is the place to go if you want to check out some ass. You can gently pedal away on the cycle machine whilst there is a whole host of ass right in front of you. They even line them up, how thoughtful is that of Ethos? Those bros know how to handle their hoers. However once they turn round... all that sweat, nah so good. Anyway you probably look shite too.




Sagittarius

Today you spend £200 on cock crushing skinny jeans thinking you'll look less of a twat. Unfortunately for you, you're wrong. In a fit of rage you douse them in petrol (BP Ultimate 102) and set fire to them... But you emo image will be lost without them. Quick as a flash you whip out your cock and piss on them. You burn your cock and have to go to Hospital. It'll be a bad week.




Aries

Unfortunatly for you Aries this week does not bode well. Years of stress will finally push you over the edge. Yes you will take performance enhancing drugs... and by performance enhancing drugs I do mean Viagra. But don't use the stuff from the men's shithouse in the Union, they don't work, infact I've have better effects with Smarties.




Cancer

Imperial. We are supposed to be intellegent aren't we? Then why the fuck do catering provide us with forks to eat our jacket potatoes with that mealst whilst you eat your lunch? It just so inconvinent that your fork ends up as bent as Elton John, have you ever tried to spike your 'tatoe when all 4 prongs point different ways?



Libra

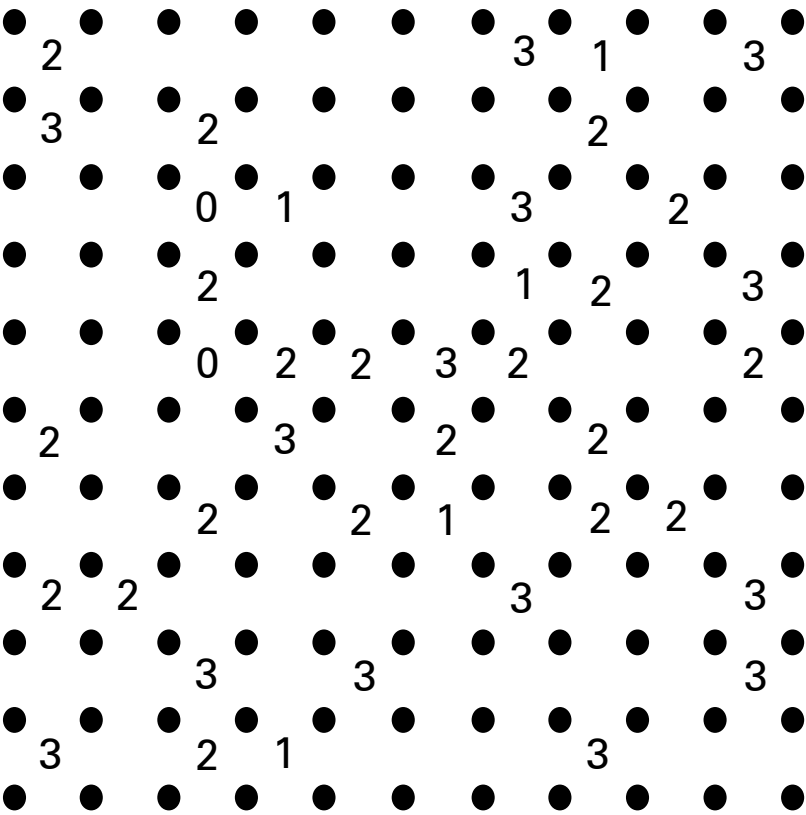
Anyone been to union recently? No didn't think so, why? Well I only have 11 lines here so I'll just bring up the major one. Did you know that when the fosters barrel runs low and the ever helpful barstaff say that they are off to change it, they don't. What actually happens is that they top it up with a bit of homebrew, i.e. piss. (*Alledgely. Ed*)



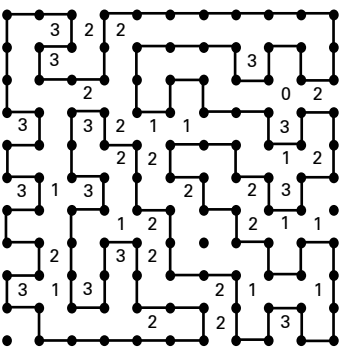
Capricorn

I need to apologise all the Capricorn Crew out there. Your Horoscope is the last one in the mixer and by now I'm completly out of ideas and well up for a pint. Or 10. But really if you want to do your own please feel free to write in to *felix* at the usual address- it'll save me about 30 minutes- yes that is how much effort this took. Pint?

Slitherlink 1,415



1,414 solution



The winner of Slitherlink 1,413 was **Top of the Table**. 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. Almost too good.

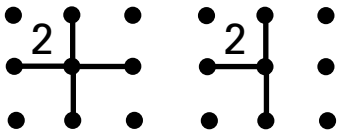
How to play:

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:

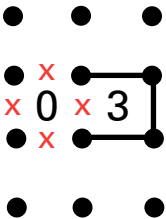


Cells which don't contain a number can be surrounded by any number of lines. Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:

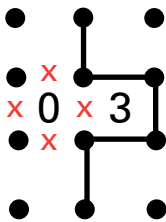


Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink. So, where do you start? The most common place to start on a Slitherlink

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:

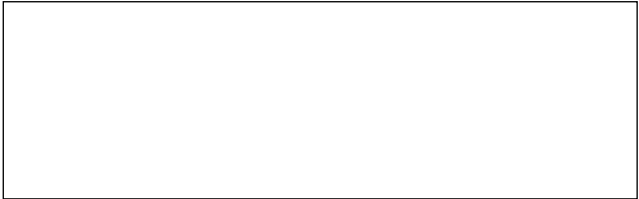


Now the lines can only continue in the following directions:



Wordoku 1,415

					S	I		
K	C				H	S	D	
				C		K	T	
C					R			
I	R	O				D	H	S
			O					I
	O	K		R				
	S	R	H				I	K
		C	T					



1,414 Solution

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

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** Oh Hai! These promises of iPods have ensured that there's stiff competition, as apposed to no competition which we previously had. Anyhoo the winner was **'Top of the Table'** who found BRUTALSEX. Trust me, it's fun.



07980 148 785

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

This week's texts:

"Guys, it's a fail of epic proportions this week." - Jov

"Did you see chaz taped to a tree last night? Was awesome."

"Whatdafuh"

"A mouse doing another mouse in a mouse trap. HOT!!!"

"If your awake give me a call, kinda need to get my rugby stuff. My phone ain't recieveing texts right now, currently on its period."

"I was being a spaz, still working. How r you?"

"Smash up soon. Complete with coat. Or I'll have your knees"

Tamara asks: did you know stoic tv is available on youtube?



How I miss naked centrefold!

Dear Tamara
I think I'm going through my mid-life crisis! My mood is up and down faster than an excited electron and I have no idea why! It's beginning to affect all aspects of my life and I don't know how to deal with it! Please help me before I completely lose the plot!
Rollercoaster Baby

Dear **Rollercoaster Baby**,
Calling it a mid-life crisis is a tad melodramatic, don't you think? Perhaps when you start losing your rag at someone who bumps you in the tube station accidentally you should pause a second and think about whether this is a fight you are likely to win. There's no point getting into conflict unless you're sure you'll come out as the winner. If you're generally feeling the inevitable midterm stress and wondering how on Earth we ended up mid November when Freshers' week was only last week then perhaps you should take some time to pamper yourself a bit. I don't necessarily mean the facial and manicure type of pampering but why not get your arse off the sofa and get to Ethos – exercise it the best way to de-

stress. Apparently, drinking and junk food also affect your mental condition but I'm not sure that kind of gruesome sacrifice is entirely justified.

Dear Tamara,
I can't stay awake in lectures! I've tried everything – biting the back of my hand, stabbing it with a sharp pencil. Nothing works. As soon as the lights dim for the powerpoint slides my eyes my eyes fall shut. Is there anything I can do?
Eyes wide shut

Dear **Eyes wide shut**,
Less hanky panky at night would be good, then you wouldn't be so tired. You could develop a crush on someone in the lecture theatre and then you'd be too preoccupied with pulling sexy facial expressions to think about sleep. On the other hand, what difference does it make if you nap anyway? No one listens to the words in a lecture so you may as well nap while the lecturer fills a board and then copy it down. Next board – next nap. It'll help avoid those pesky eye bags. You can combine the two and fall asleep on your crush's shoulder for maximum effect.

Dear Tamara,
I signed up to rowing in my Freshers' week and now I can't be bothered to get out of bed and drag myself all the way to the boat house. I'll just end up sitting in a cold wet boat with other half dressed boys and that doesn't really appeal to me before the sun is even up.
Lazy Boatman

Dear **Lazy Boatman**
What can I say? Pull your finger out.

Dear Tamara,
At home I used to live far away from school and my home life and school life were very separate. At uni, I'm in Beit and all my friends come to my room after lectures and hang out all night there. I love my newfound friends but I need some time to be alone and pluck my eyebrows and things! Aargh!
Crowded

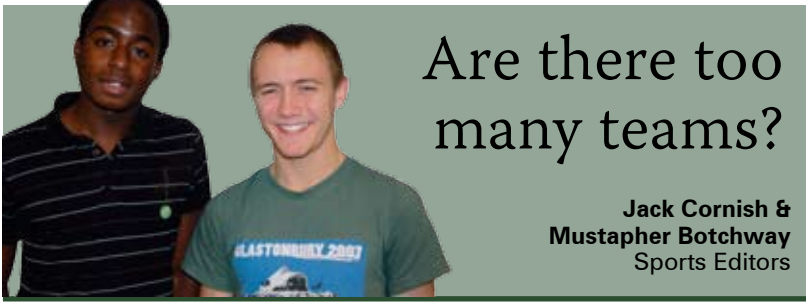
Dear **Crowded**,
Why not just politely tell your friends to get the fuck out of your room because you need some space? Unless they're complete idiots, they'll understand and move their procrastinating a

few metres away to the union . If they are idiots then why are you freinds with them in the first place? Pity? You could of course come up with a cunning plan involving a contagious airborne illness so they will avoid your room but I reckon the honest approach is best.

Dear Tamara,
Should I spend my money on going to Fabric or on food? Eating is important but partying is even more so. That's what I'm here for after all. What do you think?
Starving Party-Boy

Dear **Starving Party-Boy**
Food will only make you fat and nobody likes a porker – whatever chance you once had of pulling will be lost. On the other hand – going out is your best bet on finding a girl willing to accompany you to your room so you can show her your collection of C++ codes. You will get laid and you will be happy. Easiest problem I've ever had!

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



Are there too many teams?

Jack Cornish & Mustapher Botchway
Sports Editors

So RSM have one week of glory and then the lowest ranked IC football team demolishes them. Are the faculty sports teams really still neccessary? Why is it that we have multiple teams in football, hockey, rugby and more. We can still have our yearly inter-faculty competitions where we can stand up for the traditions of the engineer/scientist/miner. On my last count there were 13 football teams, 12 rugby teams and 13 hockey teams! They would all consider themself under the banner of Imperial College and so why not compete together? Why are faculty unions attempting to start up new sports clubs for an annual piss up and match against the guys in the building opposite? The union funding is stretched enough as it is.

'13 football teams, 12 rugby teams and 13 hockey teams!'

People play their sport for different reasons. Some for the social aspect, some for a highly competitive match every week, and from my experience the bigger clubs provide both. The argument that 'I play RSM for the social side' is bollocks. I play 1st XI hockey for the social side...I just happen to be good enough to be there! This could all be taken one step further. God forbid

it happens in my time at Imperial, but why do IC compete against the Medics. Don't quote me on this, but they are not half bad at most sports and if they combined with the IC teams we would not only have huge clubs but also a chance to make the social and standard immense.

This may solve the problem I addressed last week - we cannot sustain any teams in the current format at the highest level. There is huge amounts of funding, first class facilities, top notch coaching and a university that has its highest student population of all time. A very simple, but maybe contravercial, mix up of the format of IC teams could proove to be the answer, Let me know your views...!

In other news we have the cycling club who managed to to put a smile on our face with their publicity stunt with a copy of *felix*. Nice. There will be a prize of the best *felix* photo...it may be a pint or two!

Coming up next week we have the next round of BUCS matches where most teams have a sturn test ahead of them. Fencing and Volleyball have tournaments to compete in and the new BUCS set up seems to be providing all us sportspeople with all the competition we need.

Finally I am going to cry out once again for photos of high resolution and reports to accompany them. If you have not got much to say then just give me some highlights to include in this column...this is your newspaper and so give us something to publish. Good luck!

Imperial 7ths drill a whole into the Miners' net

Football		L'OREAL PARIS
Imperial Men's 7th	4	
Royal School of Mines 1st	1	

Edward Hughes

Two football teams from Imperial College squared up against each other last Saturday. The IC 7's were up against literally the best eleven players in the Royal School of Mines but Cletus, Wayne and the rest of the inbred hick Geologists were no match for the might and intelligence of the IC boys.

RSM even called on their primitive knowledge of nature, using wind, fire (the sun), and rain in a vain attempt to get the upper hand. Initially it paid off as the IC boys, captained by James Brown, struggled to get the ball down and play the brand of football for which they are famed and the RSM used their brute strength to force an opener. The game started poorly and the ball was stuck in midfield but with the wind behind them and the sun in the eyes of the IC boys, RSM pressed on winning a succession of corners and throw ins.

From an inswinging corner about half an hour in, they broke the deadlock. The dangerous corner was dipping into the front post and was palmed back out to the corner taker by Goalkeeper Ed Hughes, who, hassled by Greg "wild west" Tainter found an unmarked, web-footed team mate at the near post who powered the ball towards the bottom corner only for Brown, intent on getting himself up and running in fantasy football, lifted it high into the roof of his own net, 1-0 RSM.

But this only seemed to gee up the

IC boys and they started to get the ball down, Ryan Wilson gave their left back a torrid afternoon, twisting this way and that and he set up the equaliser. Having found space, Wilson slid in Mike Turrell, who, surprised by the lack of a very willing offside flag, calmly rounded the Goalkeeper and stroked the ball calmly into the empty net.

IC pressed on and Luca Laraia and Turrell were frequently put through only to be denied by the RSM captain (i.e. the one who was literate) running the line. The midfield duo of Rory "Delap" Fleming and Alvin "the chipmunk" Chan started to dominate the centre of the park and Mo Muwahid on the left wing was showboating with mixed results.

Half time seemed to have come at a bad time for IC as they were clearly in the ascendancy but they made it 2-1 straight after the restart. Fleming beat about 20 men and then squared

to Muwahid who cooly slotted home. Then RSM came back into the game and could have twice equalised but for two important saves from Hughes and good defending from Chris Tennant and Tainter kept them at bay. IC then ended the game as a contest as Henry "superman" Balston scored a bullet diving header from another Wilson cross, but later contrived to miss an open goal. Muwahid tried to score with an audacious rainbow flick before Tennant scored the best goal ever.

Picking the ball up at the half way line Tennant hit it first time over the gigantic goalkeeper to score a ridiculous goal and was mobbed by his team mates accordingly. IC saw out the rest of the game although substitute Xavier Scott probably destroyed their left back with his superior intellect.

Full time, 4-1. Oh and Mit Patel played and did some throw-ins or something.



RSM taking on Kings, I mean IC 7ths. Yes it is an archive photo!

Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership

Saturday 8th November

Football

Men's 2s ULU 2-5 UCL 1s ULU
Men's 3s ULU 1-4 Goldsmiths 1s ULU
Men's 5s ULU 4-3 UCL 5s ULU
Men's 6s ULU 0-0 King's Medicals 4s ULU
Men's 7s ULU 4-1 RSM 1s ULU

Sunday 9th November

Badminton

Women's 1st 2-6 LSE 1st
Mixed 1s ULU 6-3 Royal Holloway ULU

Volleyball

Tournament

Men's 1st 0-2 University of Kent 1st
Men's 1st 2-0 University of Reading 1st
Men's 1st 0-2 University of Essex 1st
Women's 1st 2-0 University of Kent 1st
Women's 1st 2-0 UCL 1st

Monday 10th November

Netball

Women's 3s ULU 4-53 Imperial Medicals 2s ULU

Squash

Men's 2s ULU 2-3 King's College 1s ULU
Men's 3s ULU 3-2 LSE 2s ULU

Wednesday 12th November

Badminton

Men's 1st 4-4 Brunel University 1st

Men's 2nd 4-4 University of Hertfordshire 2nd
Women's 1st 5-3 UCL 1st

Fencing

Men's 1st 153-53 University of Reading 1st
Men's 2nd 103-135 Royal Holloway 1st

Football

Women's 1st 1-3 Middlesex University 1st
Men's 5s ULU 1-2 LSE 4s ULU
Men's 6s ULU 5-0 Imperial Medicals 3s ULU
Men's 7s ULU 1-2 King's College, Men's 6s ULU

Hockey

Men's 1st 6-2 Imperial Medicals Men's 1s
Men's 2nd 10-1 University of Kent 3rd
Men's 3rd 1-1 University of Surrey Men's 2nd
Men's 4th 4-1 University of Portsmouth 5th
Women's 1st 2-1 Kingston University 1st
Women's 2nd 0-7 Imperial Medicals 2nd

Netball

Women's 1st 27-35 King's Medicals 1st
Women's 2nd 30-21 St George's Medicals 3rd
Women's 3rd 12-7 Uni of the Arts London 2nd

Rugby

Men's 1st 3-16 Swansea University 1st
Men's 2nd 36-35 LSE 1st
Men's 3rd 10-29 University of Chichester 2nd
Men's 4th 10-37 University of Hertfordshire 2nd

Squash

Men's 1st 5-0 University of Sussex 1st
Men's 2nd 5-0 King's College 2nd
Men's 3rd 3-0 City University London 1st
Women's 1st 2-2 UCL 1st

Tennis

Men's 1st 9-1 Imperial College 2nd
Women's 1st 10-0 University of Reading 1st

Saturday 15th November

Fencing

Tournament

Women's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st
Women's 1st vs Oxford University 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

Football

Men's 6s ULU vs SOAS 2s ULU
Men's 5s ULU vs LSE 5s ULU
Men's 2s ULU vs UCL 2s ULU
Men's 1s ULU vs St Barts 1 ULU Men's 7s ULU vs St Barts 3 ULU

Sunday 16th November

Football

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

Lacrosse

Mixed 1s ULU vs Royal Holloway 2s ULU

Rugby

Women's 1s ULU vs King's College Medics 1s ULU

Volleyball

Tournament

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

Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

Monday 17th November

Basketball

Men's 2nd ULU vs IC Medicals 1s ULU

Netball

Women's 3s ULU vs Queen Mary 4s ULU
Women's 2s ULU vs St Barts 2nd ULU

Squash

Men's 2s ULU vs IC 1s ULU
Men's 3s ULU vs IC Medicals 1s ULU

Wednesday 17th November

Badminton

Men's 1st vs Uni of Portsmouth 1st
Women's 1st vs London South Bank Uni 1st
Men's 1st vs Uni of East London 1st

Fencing

Men's 1st vs Uni of London 1st
Women's 1st vs Uni of Kent 1st

Football

Men's 3rd vs King's College London Medics 2nd
Men's 4s ULU vs Queen Mary 3s ULU
Men's 6s ULU vs Queen Mary Men's 4s ULU
Men's 1st vs UCL 1st
Men's 2nd vs Roehampton Uni 3rd
Men's 7s ULU vs IC Medicals 4s ULU

Hockey

Women's 2s ULU vs UCL 3s ULU
Men's 1st vs UCL 1st
Men's 3rd vs Canterbury Christ Church 1st
Women's 1st vs UCL 2nd
Men's 2nd vs Uni of Reading 1st

Lacrosse

Women's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

Netball

Women's 1st vs Kingston Uni 1st

Rugby

Men's 2nd vs Uni of Portsmouth 3rd
Men's 3rd vs Unis at Medway 1st
Men's 1st vs Cardiff Uni 1st

Squash

Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 2nd
Men's 1st vs Uni of Kent Men's 1st
Men's 3rd vs King's College2nd
Women's 1st vs King's College 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st vs UCL 1st
Women's 1st vs London Met 1st
Men's 1st vs LSE 2nd

Tennis

Women's 1st vs London Met Uni 2nd
Men's 2nd vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 1st

Volleyball

Men's 1st vs Uni of Kent 1st

Tempers fly as controversy overshadows rivals' clash

Table Tennis	
Brunel Men's 1st	8
Imperial Men's 1st	6

Darius Atashroo

On paper, this fixture was going to be the toughest of our season so far. Both teams were sitting joint top of the league, having played three and won three. Superb performances recently against LSE (14-3) and Reading (15-2) meant that we were going into this match on a high.

The day started with some anxiety due to confusion over our line-up. Eventually with the team assembled, we set off only to find that a long journey awaited us.

When we finally reached the stunning Brunel sports facilities, we were slightly disappointed to find that our match was to be played in a less-than-ideal dance studio with an incredibly slippery wooden floor.

Having informed us that they had intended to start at 1.30pm, (even though some of us did not finish lectures until 12.30, before having to travel for over an hour!) the Brunel team forced us to start the matches, barely giving us enough time to hit a ball, let alone warm up.

As a result of this we started slowly, however we certainly kept up with our title rivals. In fact after our first four matches we led 3-1, thanks to a fantastic win by Eddie Liu over Brunel's Number 1, eventually taking it 11-6 in the final game.

The next 4 matches also went to us 3-1, meaning that we had taken a very

encouraging 6-2 lead at the halfway stage.

Eddie Liu continued his winning ways, going on to take all four of his singles matches and providing a strong foundation for what seemed like it was going to be an IC win.

The match took a twist when Brunel's Number 4 rallied to beat both Heng-Kai Lee and Yan (our new-found 'consistency man') with some ferocious attacking table tennis. Unfortunately I went down to Brunel's Number 1 in a very tight match, losing 12-10 in the final game.

With the score standing at 8-6 to IC with three matches left we were informed that play could not continue as our hosts had only booked the hall until 5.00pm. Chaos ensued.

Our opponents seemed to suggest that the remaining three matches should be forfeited to them, as it was our team who had arrived late (thus conveniently enabling them to win the tie 8-9).

We as a team felt very hard done by, especially seeing as Brunel chose only to use two tables for matches, in a space not too dissimilar to our own in Ethos where we use at least three. When I, as acting captain refused to sign the scorecard, I was confronted by a member of the opposition in a somewhat aggressive manner.

Eventually both teams agreed to let the score remain as it was at 8-6 and leave the decision up to higher powers.

Our next fixture sees us take on bottom of the league Middlesex University in what should hopefully be a comfortable victory. Once again thanks and congratulations go to the team for a very spirited performance.

Cycling club brown nose *felix* and tackle the Peaks

Mr. B Nose

'Can you get that van to go faster? James wants to go faster' Not really the sort of thing you want to hear at 9:30 on a Friday night, somewhere on the M1. The plan didn't seem quite as fool proof now. The plan involved a hasty exit from London in order to get to the Edale campsite before its 11 o'clock closing time. Having attended lectures in somewhat inappropriate footwear we clipped in and set off for the van rental place in Notting Hill. After a quick cruise across Hyde Park, and a regroup in the pub we loaded up the van and got ready to go. All we needed was Nathan to arrive and we would be off. Things were looking rosy. Then a phone call was made containing the words 'dérailleur' and 'Upside down'. To cut a long story short, the lights of Edale appeared through the van windshield with 15 minutes to spare.

And so Saturday dawned well, wet and cold to be honest, but we had come a long way, and I was determined to show the guys what 'proper' northern trails were about. After a quick spin along the road, we hit the first climb and ascended to the top of the Beast, a twisting ribbon of wet rock dropping down to the Snake Pass road. Things started off in a relaxed fashion, the faster kids boosting of the rocky outcrops that covered the trail. However, it was only in the trees where things got interesting. The fast kids had stopped. 'Is it down there?' Being the 'local' I dropped in first. You don't get this kind of trail within a train ride of Imperial. Just a rocky, slabbed, greasy, drop off laden mess. I loved it.

The rocks eased a little and despite a gritty climb, we were soon bombing down steep singletrack, with the burger van lunch stop in sight. The final flagstone descent tested people's faith in their tyres, and ensured everyone had earned their lunch. Carbed up, the penultimate climb was despatched at an epic pace by Roger, evidently there was something in his bacon sandwich.

A broken chain in the rain at the top didn't dampen spirits, aided by the discovery of that weeks Felix amongst the spare tubes in my bag. Chain repaired, and Imperial issues digested we set off on a naturally bermed, rock-laden descent back down to Snake Pass.

The revelation that we would have to carry/push our bikes back up the Beast led to a fairly grumpy half hour, although things were quickly righted on the final drop. With a gradient that just urged you to go faster, and ample opportunity for air time there were smiles all round at the bottom. We changed out of riding gear and decamped to the pub. After 40 km and over 1000 meters of ascent and descent, drinks and much Yorkshire pudding-based scoff felt deserved. Usefully some doctors at the bar also diagnosed Dave T's massively swollen hand from an earlier crash. Wouldn't get that in London would you, eh?

Sunday dawned grim to say the least. After much deliberation over a somewhat calorific breakfast we decided to head up the road to the top of the valley and hit up the singletrack descent back down. After half an hour of winching up the murderous 1 in 5 gradient we hit the sodden dirt and contoured up to the top of Rushup Edge. More sketchy flagstones lead to the where the singletrack dropped off the ridge. Once again I dropped in first, and immediately scored the weekend's most hilarious crash. Despite this inauspicious start, the trail was a beauty, alternating between gnarly rock gardens and rutted greasy singletrack. Stopping half way down I perfected my 180 skid/crash routine.

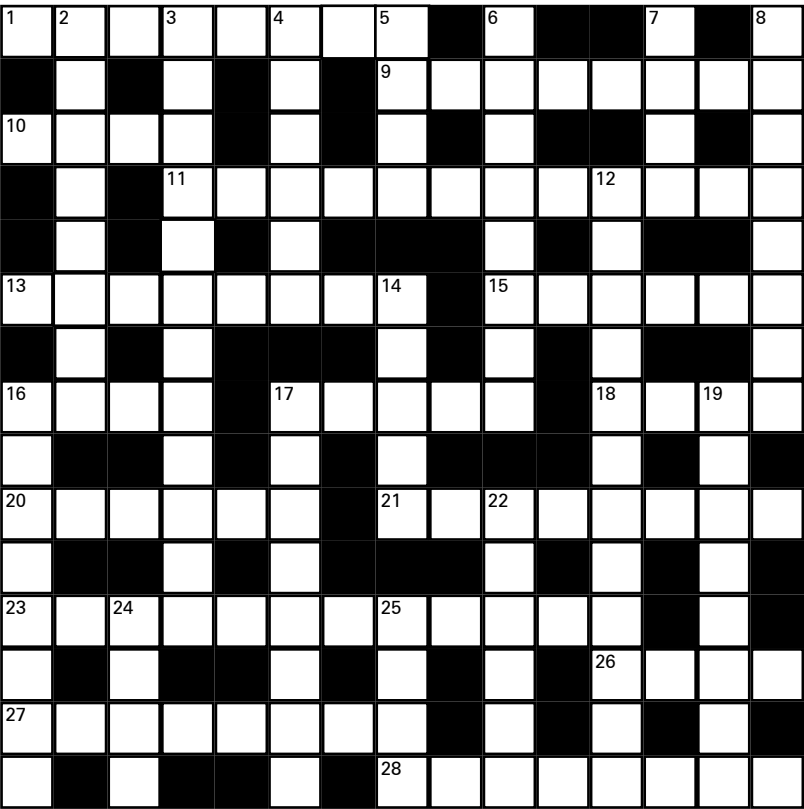
The trail was so good we decided that despite swollen hands, painful knees and the odd bit of dented pride it was worth hitting up once more before heading back to the big smoke. An hour or so later, caked in Derbyshire dirt, we rolled into Edale for the final time. For a weekend riding I reckon it had it all; Rocky gnar, sweet singletrack, shitty weather and a few good stories for the pub, I just hope it isn't the end of your mountain bike career, Nathan. We sure did throw you in at the deep end.



James is riding on a hut...bizare...sleep in it maybe?

Crossword No. 1,415

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



ACROSS

- 1 Separates Lassie to carry out reconstructive surgery (8)
- 9 Actor reaches one of a set of peaks, now a fallen icon (2,6)
- 10 A people and their last word to God (4)
- 11 A very soft selection of creams can make rendezvous... (12)
- 13 ... out of this world. Desirable – if you can only get rid of the bachelor and make your move (8)
- 15 Spot a tourist unearthing root in the New World (6)
- 16 Type of security important in cricket (4)
- 17 As the sea withdraws, soldier gets protection (5)
- 18 Particularly important type of support structure (4)
- 20 Evil dictator sped to destruction (6)
- 21 Violent, jagged crevice has nothing (8)
- 23 A system to assign names to unclear men having experienced severe trauma (12)
- 26 Holiday season: failing exams. No point (4)
- 27 Incline to include gambling tool in

- donation (8)
- 28 Landmark way of greeting Jew or Arab (8)

DOWN

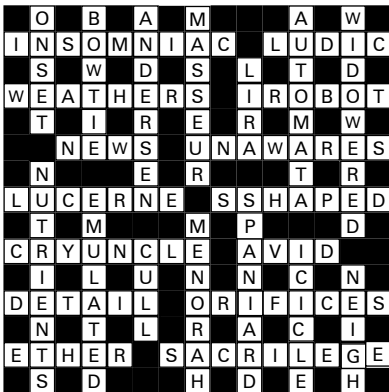
- 2 E-mail son about hard grains of flour (8)
- 3 8 phenomenon: cure all spine injuries (5,7)
- 4 Place of worship has part-time learner becoming expert in the same way (6)
- 5 Traditional dress tsarists take to heart (4)
- 6 Witty phrases go over your head? (8)
- 7 First lawyer in the family used to fire ceramics (4)
- 8 Bad sort of exclamation. Not much used, at any rate! (8)
- 12 No longer morning after charm pass can get you in (8,4)
- 14 Reason exclamation of discovery is at the heart of tragicomedy (5)
- 16 Small talk: unpleasant in latter part of life (8)
- 17 Embassy official head of state seizes on (8)
- 19 Agreement with empty,

- hypocritical talk over what 7 is (8)
- 22 Avoids the end of introductions to Bach's fugues (6)
- 24 Alcohol made improperly (4)
- 25 Pretending to have some artistic merit at the end of a party (4)

At last! There are signs of intelligent life out there. **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** answered last week's crossword correctly. Congratulations.

A quick note about this week's: the bold, italicized numbers are not a mistake!

Enoch





Brown nosing...

...we like it, read all about in on page 31

Fencing on form again!

Fencing

Imperial Men's 2nd	103
Royal Holloway 1st	135

Maurice Berk

Imperial went in to this game 2nd place in the league behind their opponents Royal Holloway but with a game in hand. With both teams unbeaten thus far this season, this match was highly anticipated as setting the tone for the outcome of the entire competition and, only three foil matches in to the game, it was clear the tone would not be set in Imperial's favour.

Vice-captain Nathan "Badger" Harmston, Alex "Leukemia" Bishop and Nathan "Bicycle" Blundell all found themselves on the wrong end of 0 - 5, 2 - 5 and 3 - 5 defeats respectively. Alex again faltered in his second match, suffering an even worse 1 - 5 loss before Badger clawed some pride back for Imperial in an 11 - 5 win that

left him exhausted and in severe respiratory distress. The joy was short lived however as Nathan B. proceeded to lose the following match 1 - 5. Alex was clearly inspired by Badger's heroics and managed a 10 - 5 win, but with Nathan and Badger following this up with 1 - 5 and 0 - 5 losses respectively, it was not nearly enough and Imperial were a massive 17 points behind at the end of foil, scores standing at 28 - 45.

Epee was up next and the epeeists set themselves the lofty target of improving upon the foilists' performance, even if victory seemed impossible. Tim Harford-Cross set hearts a-fluttering with a fine 5 - 3 win in the opening match before Sjoerd "Eye of the Tiger" Miedema reminded Imperial their cause was hopeless with a 1 - 7 defeat against the infamous Tom Bennett. Chris and Sjoerd continued to drop points with 4 - 5 and 3 - 5 losses before Tim actually put Imperial into the lead for epee with a stunning 12 - 2 victory. Chris failed to capitalize, going down to a 2 - 8 loss and Bennett again proving impossible to handle. Sjoerd and Chris kept Impe-

rial in it right until the end with 7 - 5 and 5 - 4 wins before it was Tim's turn to face Bennett's unrestrained wrath, crumpling to a 0 - 6 defeat to leave the final epee scores at 39 - 45 and Imperial's chance of victory vanishingly slim.

Charlie Hennings opened the sabre in much the same fashion, losing 3 - 5 to a Bennett who seemed unperturbed fencing an unfamiliar weapon, and Nathan B. ensured Imperial stayed on the inexorable path to defeat by then suffering a 1 - 5 loss. Team captain Maurice Berk gave Imperial one last glimmer of hope with a resounding 9 - 5 win in his first appearance of the game before Nathan B's 3 - 5 defeat finally put the result beyond doubt. Charlie and Maurice compounded Imperial's misery with 4 - 5 and 1 - 5 losses respectively, and neither Nathan B's following 5 - 5 draw nor Maurice's 6 - 5 win proved any consolation. Charlie went down to a 3 - 5 defeat in the final match to a backdrop of Imperial's hope and dreams going up in flames - final scores for the game standing at 103 - 135.



System down, generic photos are great. Slash slash you are dead!